

# MELA Notes

**MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION**

**NUMBER 52**

**WINTER 1991**

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### **Editor's Note**

My apologies to the members for the delay in getting this first issue from Mountain View out. It is always disruptive to move an operation across the continent. I hope to get the publication back on a regular schedule by the Fall issue.

At the last meeting of the Association there was an expressed desire to have the notes revamped and redesigned. This issue reflects a cautious approach to this desire with the addition of two new special features and two members drafted to help with the improvements. Ed Jajko has agreed to serve as the book review editor for future issues. Nancy Pressman has agreed to serve as Reference Outline Series editor. You will be seeing the fruits of their labors in future issues.

To launch the new Reference Outline series, we have included a reprinting of the landmark work by Richard Cooper on how to use the GAL. Nancy will be looking for similar works to be included with future issues of the Notes. The format is intended to be kept at hand in a binder with future aids as reference tools. Please address any correspondence concerning reference aids to Nancy Pressman, Reference Department, Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey 08544.

In support of Ed's efforts to improve our book review coverage, I have sent letters to many of the publishers of books about the Middle East asking them to forward review copies to Ed. If any of you would like to volunteer as book reviewers and can meet a tight time table for publication, please contact: Ed Jajko, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305-6011.

At the last conference in San Antonio a committee was formed to advise me on further improvements in content and format for the Notes. We will be instituting these changes as the committee reports them. Please address all suggestions to: Brenda Bickett, Arab Studies Bibliographer, Lauringer Library, Georgetown University, P.O. Box 37445, Washington, DC 20013.

**ASSOCIATION NEWS****Treasurer's Report  
November 1, 1989-October 31, 1990**

Balance March 26, 1990                   \$2,769.65  
INCOME

Membership, subscriptions	2,100.00
Mailing List Rental	100.00
Publication Sales	133.96
Interest	59.70

TOTAL INCOME                               \$5,163.31

## EXPENDITURES

Notes 49 (Winter 1990)	\$ 600.00
Notes 50/51 (Spr/Fall 1990)	800.00
1989 Meeting (food)	103.38
1990 Meeting (room rental)	100.00
Postage	123.50
Checks	33.00
Bank Fees	4.00
Photocopying	37.42
Supplies	20.55

TOTAL EXPENDITURES                       \$1,821.85

BALANCE                                     \$3,341.46

[Minutes of the November 1990 meeting will appear in the next issue of Notes]

## **Notes on the Meeting of the Council of National Resource Center Directors held on February 4th, 1991.**

Dale Eickelman, President of MESA, and MESA's Executive Secretary, Dr. Ann Betteridge, asked me to represent Middle Eastern library interests at the meeting of the Council of National Resource Center Directors (CNRC) that was convened in Washington, D.C. at the Library of Congress, on February 4, 1991.

I was eager to attend because I knew the meeting would have historic significance. Some real "earth-shakers" [veritable Tamerlanes] of the foreign area studies establishment would be present, and I felt I could serve both MELA and Harvard by attending. The President of MELA, Mr. Fawzi Khoury, kindly agreed and designated me to be the official representative of our professional association. In addition, the administration of the Harvard College Library generously agreed to cover most of my expenses.

Present at the meeting were eleven directors of national resources centers (among whom was Dr. Lisa Anderson of Columbia representing the Middle East), seven presidents or representatives of major area studies associations (among them was Dr. Anne Betteridge, Executive Director of MESA), eight representatives of foreign area library associations, and about ten representatives from organizations such as ARL, ALA, ACLS, the American Council on Education, and the Association of American Universities.

The CNRC is just about one year old and is designed to focus attention on the needs of higher international education in general and in particular it is concerned with directing Federal funding towards the most appropriate programs that support graduate-level area studies.

CNRC has two co-chairmen: Gilbert W. Merkx, head of the Latin American Institute at the University of New Mexico, and David Wiley, African Studies Center at Michigan State University. The February 4th meeting was called to direct attention towards the legislation known as "Title VI--International Education Programs," which is due to expire on September 30, 1991 and which is up for reconsideration by Congress. (There is an automatic one-year extension so there is time for lobbying). It is important to distinguish between the process of authorizing and the process of funding legislation.

Because Title VI is the main vehicle for funding international education, numerous groups see it as their one great hope to get a slice of the federal pie. Therefore, to make funding for "our" purposes more attractive to the legislators, the CNRC wants to change or affect the authorizing legislation. Merx and Wiley devised the February 4th meeting to build a consensus of opinion within a broad coalition of groups so that definite, well-defined proposals can be presented in the re-authorization and funding processes for Title VI.

But there was also a secondary purpose for the meeting--one of great interest for MELA members--that revolved around the plans being formulated by the Association of Research Libraries to address the problems of foreign resources in American research libraries.

Actually the ARL initiative at the meeting complemented the CNRC's agenda to institutionalize cooperation in the core foreign studies community. To me, the February 4th meeting took on real significance because, for the first time, MELA and other organizations of working-level library subject specialists were included in national-level discussions and plans of the leaders of foreign area studies. It was the presence of Mr. Jeff Gardner, director of ARL's Office of Research and Development, and his holding of a "caucus" of the librarians present, that provided a separate legitimacy for the participation of library groups in the CNRC discussions. In the words of Jeff Gardner, the "meeting at L.C. ended with a recommendation that the formation of a Council of Library Area Studies Groups...similar and parallel to the Council of National Resource Centers would be a useful organization for developing cooperative strategies for furthering the interests of area studies...in academic and research libraries." To carry on the momentum of the February 4th meeting, I intended to ask MELA to make a formal statement of cooperation and support for the aims of the CNRC with respect to Title VI and to declare our readiness to cooperate fully with ARL's planned project respecting Middle Eastern resources in American research libraries. [I shall be glad to send anyone a copy of ARL's current draft for a proposed study of the state of access to foreign materials in American research libraries.]

Subsequent to the discussions with Mr. Jeff Gardner (ARL) I gave him a statement about Middle Eastern library matters. I admit this statement has a Harvard bias.

1. Instead of MELA members endeavoring to expand collections to match the increase in publications from the Middle East I suggest as an alternative that we consider better selection efforts by better qualified librarians. We need great depth as well as great breadth. At the same time, greater diversification is also needed: the PL-480 Program, whose contribution to our field cannot be over-estimated, is creating about 25 more or less similar collections in this country and it can be expected to continue and even expand its broad coverage of our area. Nevertheless, a plan for specialization would enhance the nation's library resources and provide the base for advanced research. This program of specialization would perhaps be most easily realized if it were tied in with the Office of Education's funding of area centers. That is, the OE, perceiving that Program "X" has great interest in Syria, allocates an additional \$5,000 per year to university "X" for in-depth library purchases.

2. MEMP, the Middle East Microforms Project, issues a "Union List of Middle East Microforms." This Union List is prepared by a volunteer effort at the University of Washington, Seattle. This project deserves adequate funding to fulfill its great potential for service to librarians and scholars. MEMP, by the way, grew out of the Middle East Librarians' Association and is administered by the Center for Research Libraries.

3. Manuscripts. Scholars in America need a national register of Islamic manuscripts in a national database.

4. Manuscript Institute. An institute for collecting copies of manuscripts from the Islamic world is needed, preferably at an existing focal point of Islamic research such as Harvard, to film and record the vast Arabo/Islamic cultural heritage. This would enhance scholarship, rationalize the collecting of copies of manuscripts, and assist in preserving the intellectual heritage of the Arab or Islamic worlds. Combined funding from the USA and Islamic countries would make this an international venture. [The famous Arabic Manuscript project of the Arab League is in limbo, with its film archives stored, so far as I know, in Kuwait City.] The work of this institute would specialize in classical/medieval Arabic manuscripts to avoid competing with or overlapping with the work of MEMP.

5. The Retrospective Conversion of existing card catalogs that major research libraries such as Harvard's, Princeton's, Michigan's and Chicago's should receive top priority for federal funding. To be sure most general retrospective conversion projects are funded by library-related organizations, but I suggest that federal funding for foreign area

studies expand its library component to include large-scale conversion projects. Retrospective conversion also has obvious implications in the area of access, collection development, and for preservation.

**Notes.** I subsequently was reminded by Jeff Gardner that Title II-C money is applied to retrospective conversion projects.

Also Abazar Sepehri, our MELA colleague in Texas, urges that concrete steps be taken to promote the cataloging and processing of the less-known Islamic languages, such as Azerbaijani, and Kurdish. He also sees great need for a union list of ME serials.

**David H. Partington - Harvard**



## NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

**Magda El-Sherbini** has published an article entitled: "Terrorism: Current Readings," in *Reference Services Review*, v. 18, no. 4 (1990), pp 49-63.

**Adam Gacek** has published *Arabic Manuscripts in the Libraries of McGill University: Union Catalogue*. Montreal, McGill University Libraries, 1991. It is available from: McGill University Libraries, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, P.Q., H3A 1Y1, Canada for Can\$56.00 plus Can\$4.00 for shipping and handling.

**Salwa Ferahian** has published *Handlist of M.A. and Ph.D. Theses Submitted to the Institute of Islamic Studies*. Montreal, Islamic Studies Library, McGill University, 1990. It is available for US\$5.00 from the Islamic Studies Library, Morrice Hall, McGill University, 3485 McTavish, Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3A 1Y1.

## HELP WANTED

The *Bulletin of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians* has an immediate opening for a Middle East editor. Duties include writing or commissioning articles and book reviews for this semiannual (in fact, annual) publication. Editor is also responsible for providing short news items from and about the Mideastern book world. IAOL is affiliated with the International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (the quondam International Congress of Orientalists). If you are interested, please contact Michael Albin, 5603 Ventnor Lane, Springfield, Virginia 22151, (703) 978-3022.

## POSITION WANTED

Para-professional library assistant working in a major Middle East Collection is seeking a similar position in another location. Has performed copy and original cataloging of Arabic monographs and serials for the most part of past ten years, but has also been involved in coordination of technical processing for other languages of the Middle East. Has been supervising clerical assistants and work study employees in on-line bibliographic searching on OCLC, serials check-in and binding, and in generating acquisition orders. Fluent in Arabic and Armenian, is totally dependable. Please write to P.O. Box 8244, Austin, TX 78713, if interested.

## ACQUISITIONS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

**T**he Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (al-Mamlakah al-`Arabiyah al-Su`udiyah) covers an area of 2.2 million square kilometers and has a population of 11 million (90% Arabs, 10% Afro-Asians). The present ruler is King Fahd ibn `Abd al-`Aziz. The average temperature in the capital city of Riyadh is: January (14 C, 57 F); April (24 C, 75 F); July (33 C, 91 F); October (24 C, 75 F). The best time for acquisition trips is between November and March. Office hours for government organizations are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday - Wednesday, with a prayer break at noon. Commercial hours are between 7:00/8:00/9:00 and 12:00/1:30 and again between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. with breaks for prayer time.

Saudi Arabia has seen a noticeable and rapid growth in book publishing in the past ten years. The Saudi Government has played a major role in supporting this publishing. In 1984 a Royal Decree was issued requiring government agencies to purchase 100 copies of each book published by any Saudi author. The quality, in terms of papers, design, and artistic production, is one of the best in the Arab world. The number of publishers have increased from 44 in 1980 to 93 in 1987, 56 of these are in Riyadh.<sup>1</sup> *Dalil al-Matabi` wa-al-Suhuf wa-al-Majallat wa-Dur al-Nashr wa-al-Maktabat wa-Sharikat al- Tawzi` fi al-Duwal al-`Arabiyah* 1986-1987 listed some 179 presses, 93 publishers, 286 bookshops, 46 newspapers and magazines, 105 promotional and information agencies, and 17 paper production industries.<sup>2</sup> Although it is difficult to estimate the total number of books published in Saudi Arabia, a number of Saudi writers have estimated the number to be 3903 titles published between 1300 - 1405 H.<sup>3</sup> This number does not include government publications. I am sure that this number has sharply increased since 1985. By the end of 1985, the Literary Clubs in the Kingdom have collectively published 277 titles. In 1987, Dar al-`Ulum in Riyadh listed some 207 titles and al-Dar al- Su`udiyah lil-Nashr wa-al-Tawzi` in Jeddah listed 282 published titles.<sup>4</sup> These are a few examples of the rapid increase in Saudi publications.

Despite this rapid growth in both the quality and quantity of Saudi publications, the acquisition of these publications by libraries and even book dealers from outside the Kingdom remain a major problem. In fact the marketing of books within the Kingdom itself is also a problem. In many cases, a book published in one city is difficult if not impossible to

acquire in another city. Many Saudis do not want to make book publishing a business or industry in the Kingdom. They fear that such an attempt will flood the market with non-scholarly publications. Those Saudis who are in the book publishing business claim that it is a losing business.<sup>5</sup> Some are arguing for a governmental and non-profit organization financial support for book publishing. They are asking for the establishment of special funds similar to those already in the Kingdom such as the Saudi Industrial Development Fund and the Saudi Agricultural Development Fund.<sup>6</sup> They argue that this will help make book prices affordable and encourage the people to buy more books. Books for the mind are like food for the body and should be subsidized by the government and other non-profit organizations.<sup>7</sup> Business or no business, Saudi book publishing is facing three major problems.

Marketing the Saudi book is a major problem within Saudi Arabia. Promotion, advertising and publicity are very much ignored by Saudi publishers. "Someone once said that the difference between printing a book and offering it for sale and really publishing it lies in the quality of the job done by the promotion, advertising, and publicity managers."<sup>8</sup> Saudi publishers and distributors are either not interested or unable to inform the public about their publications. Analytical book reviews are not regularly published in newspapers and magazines. "Sadar hadithan" (recently published) is the phrase most commonly used to advertise new publications. Many Saudi educational and scientific organizations continue to market their own publications through gifts and exchange or on very restricted sale terms, thus making the acquisition of these publications very difficult or impossible. Many Saudi authors are also publishing and marketing their own books and these authors are not good marketing agents. Saudi publishers need to promote and advertise their publications not just to sell them but also to create more readers.

Lack of readers is the second major problem facing the Saudi book. A great number of Saudis spend time reading newspapers and magazines, but very few read books. The younger generation are spending a great deal of their time watching TV and video tapes rather than reading books. This lack of interest in reading in Saudi Arabia as well as in the Arab countries is a major reason that publishers limit the number of copies they publish of each book to 5000. This is a very low rate compared, for example with Japan where a publisher might print some 240 thousand copies of a certain publication.<sup>9</sup>

The third major problem in Saudi book publishing is high prices. Saudi books are the most expensive books in the Arab world. This is also true

of other books sold in the Kingdom. Saudi publishers and book sellers are taking advantage of the financial ability of the Saudis and other people living and working in the Kingdom in pricing their publications. This has backfired and a great number of people are not buying as many books as they would have liked. Many do wait for book fairs to take advantage of the discounts. Outside the Kingdom, the situation is worse and the Saudi book is purchased by very few readers. An average Saudi book would cost SR20. If this book is to be sold in Syria, for example, its cost would be around SP220. This amounts to 1/5 the monthly salary of the average Syrian employee. This is a major problem that should be addressed by the Saudi publishers. Inside the Kingdom, Saudi writers are making jokes about a very serious problem. Muhammad Ahmad al-Hassani (or al-Hasani) and Yahya Tawfiq said: "*Anna aqalla al-nas dakhlan qad yashtari hidha'an bi-mi'at riyal wa-la yashtari kitaban bi-'ashrat riyalat ka'anna qadamayh ahamm min 'aqlihi al-kabir*".<sup>10</sup> (A low income person would buy a pair of shoes for a SR100 and would not buy a book for SR10 as if his feet are more important than his mind). The blame should actually fall on the publishers and on the readers. I have personally seen people arguing and refusing to buy a certain title because of its unreasonable price.

The acquisition librarian visiting the Kingdom should be very aware of these problems. Since Saudi publishers limit the number of copies of each publication, Saudi books go out of print fast. The Saudi book market is controlled by foreigners who are in the Kingdom to make money. The already high price of a book might even go higher when you buy it. Make sure to compare the list price to the price you are paying. I once went to a publisher and prepared a list of the new publications with the prices. Later I came back to buy the books and was shocked to see that the prices on the invoice were almost double the original listed prices. One must also compare the prices at different bookshops and believe me there is anywhere from \$2 - \$4 difference in the price of the same book. Many bookshops mark up their prices to make more and more profit, but others are making reasonable profit. One last piece of advice, do not ever speak in English to a book dealer even if he is a Pakistani or non-Arabic speaker. When you speak in English they tend to take advantage of you. Good luck on your acquisition trip. I will now give you some tips on your preparation for this trip.

I hope that by now we can agree that the best way to acquire Saudi publications and for that matter most Arabic publications is to get it yourself. I do not mean to denigrate the work of many good people who are helping us acquire Arabic materials. The LC office in Cairo, Leila

Bookshop in Cairo, Sulayman's Bookshop in Beirut, and Dar al-Mahjar in Massachusetts are doing a very good job in serving the needs of Middle East collections in the US and other countries. If your library is willing to support your trip, on-site acquisitions is the best way to acquire Saudi publications and the Saudi market is out of limit to many of us.

One must face and overcome many problems before entering Saudi Arabia. In order to obtain a visa, one should have a Saudi sponsor and must prove that he is not an atheist or a Zionist. Saudi authorities say Judaism is acceptable but not Zionism. You can show your religious faith affiliation by a Baptismal certificate or a letter from a local Minister or a Shaykh. After you cut through this red tape and obtain a visa you are on your way to Saudi Arabia. There is a long list of items that you should not take with you into the Kingdom. Make sure to check with your sponsor or the authorities. No alcohol is allowed and if you are taking regular medications you should have a statement from your doctor or you might not be able to get it in. Do not bring any books in or out of the Kingdom. Books are allowed, but they are subject to censorship by the Ministry of Information and this might delay your entry or departure. Mail your books or ship them out. This service is very good in the Kingdom. The same is true for films, records, video tapes and electronic items.

After clearing through customs, make sure you have some Saudi Riyals in change. You need 2 ten hallah coins to make a phone call. If your sponsor has arranged to meet at the airport you should be OK. Otherwise you will need between SR30-SR50 to get to your hotel. Saudi Arabia now has some of the best and most expensive hotels available anywhere. There are also very reasonable and clean hotels. After a good night rest, depending on where you are coming from, you should be ready for acquisitions in the morning.

By now you should have done your home work and prepared well for this trip. Like most countries in the area, Saudi Arabia has no national bibliography and complete bibliographic control of Saudi publications does not exist. That is why you are here. However, there are many bibliographic tools that should be consulted, reviewed, and studied before coming to the Kingdom. If you do not have them in your library, you should add them to your acquisition list. These sources are:<sup>11</sup>

1. ***Adab al-'Arabi fi al-Mamlakah al-'Arabiyyah al-Su'udiyah : Bibliyujrafiya.*** Riyad : Dar al-'Ulum, 1399 H. (A bibliography of literary works by Saudi authors)

2. ***Bawakir al-Tiba'ah wa-al-Matbu'at fi Bilad al-Haramayn al-Sharifayn*** / i'dad Ahmad Muhammad al-Dubayb. Riyad : Maktabat al-Malik Fahd, 1987. (A list of 211 books published in Mecca, Medinah and Jeddah from 1300-1342)
3. ***Dalil al-Matbu'at al-Su'udiyah*** / i'dad Mustafa `Attar. [Riyadh] : Wizarat al-Ma'arif, 1964. (A list of some 231 titles. It also include 73 titles published and paid for by King `Abd al-`Aziz and some 24 titles paid for by other distinguished Saudis)
4. ***Harakat al-Ta'lif wa-al-Nashr fi al-Mamlakah al-`Arabiyah al-Su'udiyah*** / i'dad Yahya Sa'ati. Riyad : al-Nadi al-Adabi, 1399 H. (A list of 796 titles of Saudi and non-Saudi authors published in the Kingdom)
5. "Jadid fi al-Maktabah al-Su'udiyah". (A section in *Majallat Kulliyat al- Adab*, Jami'at al-Malik Su'ud in Riyadh that publishes reviews of new Saudi publications. This section started in 1970- )
6. ***Matbu'at al-Hukumiyah : al-Ihsa'at wa-al-Taqarir wa-al-Nasharat al-Dawriyah : Bibliyujiyati Mukhtarah*** / i'dad `Imadat Shu'un al-Maktabat fi Jami'at al- Malik Su'ud. Riyad : al-`Imadah, 1981. (Arabic/English) (A list of 297 titles published by some 51 government agencies)
7. ***Matbu'at al-Hukumiyah fi al-Mamlakah al-`Arabiyah al-Su'udiyah : Dirasah wa-Qa'imah Bibliyujiyati*** / Ta'lif Nasir Muhammad al-Suwaydan. Riyad : Dar al- Marrikh, 1986. (Includes a list of 4656 titles of government publications)
8. ***Matbu'at al-Rasmiyah fi al-Mamlakah al-`Arabiyah al-Su'udiyah : Bibliyujiyati Mukhtarah*** / Ma`had al-Idarah al-`Ammah, al-Idarah al-`Ammah lil-Maktabat, Markaz al-Watha'iq. Riyad : Ma`had al-Idarah, 1984. (A list of 2527 titles of government publications issued by 58 government agencies)
9. ***Mu'jam al-Matbu'at al-`Arabiyah : al-Mamlakah al-`Arabiyah al-Su'udiyah*** / `Ali Jawad al-Tahir. Baghdad : al-Maktabah al-`Alamiyah, [1985]. 2 vols. (The best work on Saudi publications. It is an analytical, historical and annotated bibliography of Saudi publications)
10. ***Mu'jam al-Matbu'at al-Su'udiyah*** / i'dad Shukri al-`Anani. Riyad : Wizarat al-Ma'arif, [1393]. (A bibliographic survey of Saudi publications from the beginning of printing to the end of 1393 H. It includes some 1638 titles divided into three parts. The first part is a list by subject area, the second is a list of government publications and the third is a list of text books used by the Ministry of Education)

There are a number of other acquisition tools that one could use. The lists provided by the various Saudi Book Fairs, several Saudi universities publish bibliographies of their own publications, and many publishers are publishing lists of their publications. The best source for the acquisition

of Saudi periodicals is a recent guide published by Maktab al-Tarbiyah al-`Arabi li- Duwal al-Khalij. *Dalil al-Dawriyat al-Khalijiyyah al-Jariyah : al-Suhuf wa-al- Majallat wa-al-Nasharat al-Sadira fi duwal al-Khalij al-`Arabiyyah*. Riyadh : Maktab al-Tarbiyah, 1988. This guide listed some 194 Saudi periodicals.

The acquisition librarian can save money, time, and travel within the Kingdom if he can arrange to take his trip during the Riyadh International Book Fair. All major publishers, book dealers, private and government organizations take advantage of this annual event to market their publications at discounted prices. In 1987, 112 of them attended this event.<sup>12</sup> The best way to handle a book fair is to buy the guide for the fair which usually list all available titles. If you are interested in only Saudi publications, go around all the booths and gather the lists of each publisher and book dealer and go to your hotel and make your selection. Return the next day and buy what you have selected. Do not wait too long to make your purchases, because publishers will start running out of some titles in the first few days of the fair. People buy a lot of books during the fair.

While in Saudi Arabia, one should try to cover as many publishers and bookshops in as many cities as possible. This is the best way to save money and time. But if you have both money and time, you can work out an agreement with the manager of a major bookshop and he will collect all the books you need. This will cost you more money and will take a lot longer. Should you decide to do it yourself, you will need a good map, a good driver and a good, updated list of the major publishers. Do not attempt to drive in Saudi Arabia, especially if you have never been there before and if you do you will end up spending your acquisition time on the road or in a police station.

Remember, in Saudi Arabia a publisher is in fact a printer. He might also be a bookseller and a distributor. This will help you locate a lot of books in one place. The following list should provide very good coverage of the places you should visit during your acquisition trip.

1. **Dar `Alam al-Kutub**  
P. O. Box 6460  
Riyadh 11442  
Tel.: 463-1722 / 463-1336

2.     **Dar al-Liwa'**  
P. O. Box 2856  
Riyadh 11461  
Tel.: 405-1745 / 402-8084
3.     **Dar al-Marrikh**  
P. O. Box 10720  
Riyadh 11443  
Tel.: 464-7531 / 465-7939
4.     **Dar al-Nasir**  
P. O. Box 15119  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 465-3278
5.     **Dar al-Shuruq**  
P. O. Box 4146  
Jeddah 21491  
Tel.: 644-3518 / 642-6610
6.     **Dar al-Su`udiyah lil-Khadamat al-Istishariyah**  
P. O. Box 1267  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 448-4588 / 448-4533
7.     **Dar al-Su`udiyah lil-Nashr wa-al-Tawzi`**  
P. O. Box 2043  
Jeddah 21451  
Tel.: 642-4043 / 643-2821
8.     **Dar al-`Ulum**  
P. O. Box 12050  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 477-7121 / 477-1952
9.     **Dar al-Yamamah**  
P. O. Box 137  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 477-0094 / 402-0714



10. **Dar ibn Qayyim**  
P. O. Box 1865  
Dammam  
Tel.: 826-8343
11. **Dar Thuqayf lil-Nashr**  
P. O. Box 1590  
Riyadh 11441  
Tel.: 478-6532 / 476-5422
12. **Dar Tibah**  
P. O. Box 7612  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 435-9740
13. **Darat al-Malik `Abd al-`Aziz**  
P. O. Box 2940  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 441-2316 / 441-2317
14. **Ghurfah al-Tijariyah wa-al-Sina`iyah**  
P. O. Box 11480  
Jeddah  
Tel: 647-1100  
(Other branches in other cities)
15. **Jam`iyah al-`Arabiyah al-Su`udiyah lil-Thaqafah wa-al-Funun**  
P. O. Box 3659  
Riyadh 11481  
Tel: 477-9059 / 477-2311
16. **Jami`ah al-Islamiyah**  
P. O. Box 170  
Medinah  
Tel.: 24080 /24402
17. **Jami`at al-Imam Muhammad ibn Su`ud al-Islamiyah**  
P. O. Box 4124  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 404-2909

18. **Jami'at al-Malik `Abd al-`Aziz, Kulliyat al-Adab**  
P. O. Box 9032  
Jeddah  
Tel.: 689-0416
19. **Jami'at al-Malik Fahd lil-Bitru'ul wa-al-Ma`adin**  
Dhahran 31261  
Tel.: 860-3000
20. **Jami'at al-Malik Faysal**  
P. O. Box 2397  
Dammam  
Tel.: 857-8207
21. **Jami'at al-Malik Su`ud, `Imadat Shu'un al-Maktabat**  
P. O. Box 22480  
Riyadh 11495  
Tel.: 476-1155 / 477-4379

Many other colleges at the above listed universities publish periodicals and books that might be of interest to some libraries.

22. **Ma`had al-`Arabi li-Inma' al-Mudun**  
P. O. Box 6892  
Riyadh 11452  
Tel.: 401-8620 / 405-4596
23. **Ma`had al-Idarah al-`Ammah**  
P. O. Box 205  
Riyadh 11141  
Tel.: 476-1600
24. **Maktab al-Tarbiyah al-`Arabi li-Duwal al-Khalij**  
P. O. Box 3908  
Riyadh 11481  
Tel.: 477-4727 / 478-9889
25. **Maktabah al-`Alamiyah**  
P. O. Box 307  
Khobar  
Tel.: 864-1393 / 864-1784

26. **Maktabat al-Ma`arif**  
P. O. Box 3381  
Riyadh 11471  
Tel.: 401-3708
27. **Markaz al-`Arabi lil-Dirasat al-Amniyah wa-al-Tadrib**  
P. O. Box 6830  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 491-9444
28. **Markaz al-Bahth al-`Ilmi wa-Ihya' al-Turath al-Islami**  
P. O. Box 3713  
Mecca  
Tel.: 564-770  
(Part of Jami`at Umm al-Qura)
29. **Markaz al-Malik Faysal lil-Buhuth wa-al-Dirasat**  
P. O. Box 51049  
Riyadh 11543  
Tel.: 465-2255
30. **Mu'assasat al-Jiraysi lil-Tawzi`**  
P. O. Box 1405  
Riyadh 11431  
Tel.: 402-5573 / 403-9328  
(This is one of the few local distributors. It stock a great number of Saudi publications. It also has a good collection of publications from Kuwait and other Gulf States.)
31. **Nadi al-Ta'if al-Adabi**  
P. O. Box 1202  
Taif  
Tel.: 733-5916 / 732-3776  
(There are a number of other literary clubs in all major cities in the Kingdom. Their publications are free.)
32. **Ri'asah al-`Ammah li-Idarat al-Buhuth al-Islamiyah wa-al-Ifta' wa-al-Da`wah**  
Shari` al-Kabari  
Riyadh  
Tel.: 458-0633

33. **Sharikat Dar `Ukaz**  
P. O. Box 5941  
Jeddah  
Tel.: 672-1000
34. **Tihamah lil-Nashr wa-al-Tawzi`**  
P. O. Box 5455  
Jeddah  
Tel.: 644-4444 / 651-9988

The Saudi government itself is a major publisher. Almost every government agency has its own publications of annual reports, statistical information, studies related to its activities and other publications.

Midhat Abraham - University of Arizona

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>*Dalil al-matabi` wa-al-suhuf wa-al-majallat wa-dur al-nashr wa-al-maktabat wa-sharikat al-tawzi` fi al-duwal al-`Arabiyah, 1986-1987.* Bayrut, Dar al-Nadwah al-Islamiyah, [1988], pp. 104-112.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.* pp. 95-196.

<sup>3</sup>Sa`ati, Yahya. *al-Nashr fi al-Mamlakah al-`Arabiyah al-Su`udiyah: madkhal li-dirasah.* Riyad, Maktabat al-Malik Fahd, 1987. p. 40.

<sup>4</sup>See the 1987 catalogs of these publishers.

<sup>5</sup>"Azmat kitab...am azmat muthaqafin", *al-Majallah al-`Arabiyah*, January, 1989, p. 82.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.* p. 83.

<sup>8</sup>Grannis, Chandler B., editor. *What happens in book publishing*, 2nd ed. New York and London, Columbia University Press, 1967. p. 182.

<sup>9</sup>Azmat Kitab. *op. cit.*, p. 82.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 84.

<sup>11</sup>Sa`ati, Yahya. *op. cit.*, pp. 57-61.

<sup>12</sup>*Fihrast ma`ard al-Riyad al-dawli al-sadis lil-kitab, fi al-fitrah min 10-19/2/1408 H al-muwafaq 3-12/10/1987.* Riyad, Jami`at al-Malik Su`ud, `Imadat Shu'un al-Maktabat, 1987. pp. 6-13.

## NOTES ON A RECENT TRIP TO TUNISIA

**H**aving travelled to Tunisia over the New Year, after an absence of over two years, I found several new developments which might be of interest to the Middle East librarianship community.

These past couple of years seem to have been good ones for publishing in Tunisia. Quite a number of new studies were available, though it is important to remember that printing runs are often limited and that it is therefore important to buy a title while it can still be found.

Alif has evolved from a producer of high quality postcards, posters and glossy travel books for tourists (which it does still produce) to a publisher of serious studies such as *Pouvoir colonial et mouvement national: La Tunisie des années trente* by Mustapha Kraiem (1990) (ISBN 9973-716-42-6) and of catalogues and source books such as *Le manuscrit* (Arabic and French) an illustrated catalogue of an exhibition of manuscripts from the collection of the Tunisian National Library, published jointly with the National Library (1989) (ISBN 9973-905-00-8) and Abdelhamid Lagueche's *L'abolition de l'esclavage en Tunisie à travers les archives 1841-1846* (1990) (ISBN 9977-716-24-8). Alif's address: is 3 rue de Hollande, Tunis.

The **Société Tunisienne de Diffusion** (5 ave. de Carthage, Tunis) carries a wide selection of Tunisian and foreign books (mostly from France and elsewhere in the Arab world). It is often possible to find out-of-print Tunisian books that are no longer available elsewhere. It is worth mentioning that they still have copies available of their 1983 *Documents secrets du 2ème bureau: Tunisie-Magreb dans la conjoncture de pré-guerre 1937-1940* by Ahmed Khaled (886 p.), a real must for researchers on French colonial relations with the Maghreb during that period.

The **Institut Supérieur de Documentation (ISD)** has a new address (10 rue de Kelibia, Tunis) and a new director, Dr. Khalifa Chaater. The ISD has now regularized the sale of its publications. A price list is available upon request. The ISD is also very interested in establishing exchange relations with American institutions. Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Chaater. Besides their periodical *Revue Maghrébine de Documentation* (ISSN 0330-9274) (Arabic, French and English), the ISD has published a series of monographs. About a third of these are historical studies, such as:

Gdoura, Wahid. *Le debut de l'imprimerie arabe à Istanbul et en Syrie: évolution de l'environnement culturel (1706-1781)* (Tunis: STD, 1985) (French)

Zidi, `Ali. *L'historique de l'Experience Educationelle de la Branche Moderne de la Zitouna (1951-1965)* (Arabic)

Temimi, Abdeljelil (ed.). *La littérature aljamiado-morisque: hybridisme linguistique et univers discursif.* (Tunis: ISD, 1986) (Arabic, Spanish, French)

The rest of the series is devoted to library science topics such as:

al-Din, Mustafa Husam. *National bibliographical control of Arab imprints.* (Tunis: ISD, 1986) (Arabic)

Jum`ah, Nabilah Khalifah. *International Standard Bibliographic Description: a study for its application to Arabic books.* (Tunis: ISD, 1986) (Arabic)

Abdeljaoued, Mohamed. *Les bibliothèques en Tunisie: les bibliothèques scolaires: situation, insertion dans le réseau, guide de fonctionnement.* (Tunis: ISD, 1989) (French)

While **ALECSO** and its library remain in Tunis, **ALDOC** is in the process of packing up and joining the Arab League in Cairo. Arab League documentation and publications must now be obtained from Cairo.

The last few years have brought quite a number of changes in both the addresses of institutions in Tunisia and in their administrative personnel. An important aid for the library planning to do business with Tunisia, or for the researcher is the *Guide des services d'information en Tunisie* (French and Arabic), due to be released shortly by the **Centre de Documentation Nationale** (77 rue Ibn Khaldoun, Tunis), an update to its 1985/86 edition. This will be available for sale. The center is also willing to accept exchanges for this and other publications such as the annual chronology that it has published since 1986, generated by its database **TANIT**, which is available for use on-site by researchers. Those interested should address themselves to Mme. Latifa Ghannouchi, Chef du Département de l'Exploitation Documentaire et de l'Informatique.

## USING A PERSONAL COMPUTER TO PREPARE AND PUBLISH CONTENTS OF ARABIC PERIODICALS

**P**reparing Contents of Arabic Periodicals. Definition: CAP is a monthly documentation magazine processing the titles and names of authors of articles published by Arabic monthly, quarterly and semi-annual periodicals using free direct indexing language.

An issue of it contains the following regular sections:

1. Alphabetical listings of the names of periodicals covered.
2. Indices of the contents of the periodicals covered in each issue.
3. A subject index whose entries are key words extracted for the titles of articles.
4. An author index.

Opposite each entry in the two indices are two numbers. The one on the right indicates the page number in CAP, while the one on the left indicates the page number in the magazine which published the article.

This documentation material is produced by using the following software and hardware:

1. An IBM or IBM-compatible personal computer.
2. A dot matrix printer and a laser printer.
3. A data base written in Cobol.
4. The Wordstar 2000(R) word processing programme, which is Arabised by using the Nafitha programme.
5. The "Abjad" programme as a bilingual desktop publisher.

The Preparation. The tables of contents of publications are photocopied and arranged manually, then the key words are extracted from them and the authors' names are determined. After that the process of entering data begins as follows:

The key words extracted from the titles and authors' names are entered in the "key word" column (see Table 1), followed by data of the "internal pages" whose numbers indicate the page numbers in CAP, and then the data of the "external pages" whose numbers

indicate the page numbers in the magazine which published the article.

Author entries are differentiated from subject entries by adding the number (1) to the author column, as in the case of the name "Radwan, Shafiq." The letters alif and lam are differentiated when they are part of the root of the word, as opposed to being the definite article "al", by adding the number (1) to the definite article "the" column, as in the case of the key word "al-alwan al-zahiya." An author whose name begins with the letters alif and lam, when these are not a definite article, is differentiated by adding the number (1) twice in the definite article "the" and the author column, as in the case of the author "Al-Alusi, Thabit."

KEY WORD	INTERNAL PAGE	EXTERNAL PAGE	DEFINITE ARTICLE	AUTHOR THE
Orientalists al-mustashariqun	61	106		
Radwan, Shafiq Radwan, Shafiq	37	46	1	
Al alwan al zahiya 23 al-Alwan al-zahiyah		30	1	
Al Alusi, Thabit al-Alusi, Thabit	30	5	1	1

**Table 1: Compatible with Data Base entry screen.**

After completing the entry of data, the Data Base carries out the following functions (according to the need of the person using it or any one of them):

1. Creating a "subject index" file.
2. Creating an "author index" file.
3. Converting each of these two files separately into a file which the word processing programme can read and process according to the traditional functions which the programme offers.



4. Retrieval of either of these two files or a part of them onto the screen in order to edit, correct and delete. Subjects or authors' names can be retrieved, beginning with a particular letter, or beginning with one letter and ending with another.
5. Printing either or both of these files or any part of them which may be selected, on the dot matrix printer.

After the entry of all data has been completed and "subject index" and "author index" files have been created independently, they are both converted into two separate files which the Arabised word processor can read and make all the necessary changes (to either of them) which were not available in the functions of Data Base, particularly some functions of sorting and arranging alphabetically. After that, they are printed on the dot matrix printer, for the first final revision which precedes the import of them to the desktop publisher "Abjad," for arrangement and printing on the laser printer so as to carry out the last final correction before beginning the process of typesetting and production.

#### Problems and Difficulties.

In the context of these stages, several problems and difficulties emerge, among the most important of which are:

a) Linguistic problems. These are varied and ramified in the preparation of such documentation material, but we may confine ourselves to those related to the use of a personal computer in the framework of the following problems:

i) Differences in the way Arabic names are written: Anyone who prepares Arabic documentation needs an authority file, information directory or a reference such as *Who is Who in the Arab World* to standardize the way in which the names of Arab public figures, or names in Arabic are written.

A name like Salim Bou Yahia is written more than one way. Sometimes it is **Bu Yahya, Salim, or Abu Yahya, Salim.** A name like Said Ahmad Lutah is also written in different ways like: **Al Lutah, Said or Lutah, Said.**

The same problem exists with regard to historical Arab names. There is no agreed single way to write the **Prophet Muhammad's** name: Sometimes it is: **al-Nabi Muhammad, or Muhammad Rasul Allah, or Bin Abd Allah, Muhammad, or al-Sirah al-Nabawiyah.**

The same goes for the first four Khalifas. Thus **Abu Bakr Al Siddiq** is sometime written as: **Abu Bakr al-Sadiq**, and sometimes: **Bakr, al-Sadiq**.

It is no better with foreign names, which can also be written in more than one way. Thus a name like **Maxim Gorky** is sometimes written: **Ghurki, Maksim**, or **Jurki, Maksim**.

A name like **Mikhail Gorbachev** has several different forms, the most common of which are: **Ghurbatshuf** (with a long a), **Mikha'il, Jurbatshuf** (with a long a), **Mikha'il, Ghurbatchuf** (with a short a) **Mikhai'il, Jurbatshuf** (with a short a), **Mikha'il**.

The negative implications of the lack of standardization in the way names are written needs no more elucidation. It is enough that it prevents data available from being obtained by a user who is looking for them, because he cannot envisage the form of the name which an institution has decided to use.

Cross references are not the best way of dealing with such a problem. Their results are negative in some cases, particularly if they are too numerous.

ii) Differences in the way the same Arabic letter is written. Even if a single way is adopted for writing Arabic or transliterated names, that will not solve the problem of certain letters being written in different ways. There are four forms for the letter *alif* to take but one example: with madda, with fatha, with kasra, and in its single form.

The four forms mean four different keys on the keyboard, hence four different places in the table of ASCII CODES, and so four different positions when arranging in alphabetical order.

These four different forms become only one form if we confine ourselves to using *alif* in its single form to express them all.

However, lumping the other forms together in one form infringes one of the basic rules of Arabic grammar. But observing it strictly creates some confusion since many Arabic periodicals, including academic ones, do not give these rules the care they deserve. And a fair proportion of users are not well versed in these rules.

There is a wide gap between observing and disregarding them, which can be detected from the following examples: Words like: *ayat*, *injaz* and *awraq* are arranged: *ayat*, *awraq* and *injaz* if the *rue* is being observed, and *injaz*, *awraq*, and *ayat* if it is being disregarded.

iii) The definite article "al" in the middle of a word. While the problem of the definite article "al" at the beginning of a word is solved, it continues to be a problem when it comes in the middle of a term or a word, like *Abd al Quddus*, or *Abd al Karim*. Particularly if we take into consideration that many key words are phrases, not just one word. The problem is the same for a word within a sentence.

iv) Plurality of languages in the title or author's name. Some Arabic periodicals publish researches or translations in a language other than Arabic. The titles and authors' names may be in more than one language. This means that an author's name, and perhaps names of other people, may appear as a subject in more than one language, which involves including the name under two different entries. This requires a programme that can sort and arrange alphabetically on a bilingual basis, not by only a single language as is the case with the programmes available at present.

#### b) Software and Hardware Problems.

In view of the interrelatedness that now exists between software and hardware, it is better to deal with their problems simultaneously.

i) Incompatibility. Arabised programmes lack the minimum degree of required compatibility which is available in single-language programmes. This makes it difficult, sometimes impossible, for them to talk to each other, making it necessary to repeat some operations or use another programme as an intermediary to undertake the operations of translation that would be unnecessary if there had been compatibility.

For example, Data Base regards the letter **lam alif** as two letters joined together, classified alphabetically after the letter **waw**, whereas the Arabised word processing programme regards it as one letter which comes after **kaf** and before **mim**.

ii) Slowness in processing. Many bilingual programmes suffer from slowness in processing files. Preparing a subject index

file takes up to 12 hours for the alphabetical classification and arrangement of no more than 12,000 entries in a text not exceeding 40 pages.

It takes another 20 hours to print the same file using an Arabised word processor, because the programme does not provide the draft printing, but only high-quality printing.

iii) Limited nature of software and hardware. Scanners save a lot of effort and time, and consequently expense, if they are used to scan tables of contents of periodicals and convert them to files of graphics so that another programme can accept them and convert them into text files which the Arabised word processor can read. But this operation, apart from not being available on Arabised software and hardware, confronts a number of difficulties, the most important of which are:

1. Scanners need disk drives with memories of no less than 350 megabytes to scan the tables of contents of a number of Arabic periodicals of no more than 150 pages. A single page requires no less than 1.2 megabytes. This means it is very expensive and beyond the normal capacity of a personal computer.

Reading and saving the contents requires an average of three minutes per A4 page, and about 5 more minutes to recover it onto the screen of a programme for desktop publishing. This means no less than 40 hours' work to complete material spread over about 180 pages.

In addition, there is still no scanner available with a programme capable of converting graphics to texts, so that they are ready for processing with an Arabised word processor or one of the desktop publishers. These two should have the capacity to carry out the functions of alphabetical classification and arrangement and indexing, as is possible in programmes in single languages other than Arabic.

### Proposal for Solutions

To confront these problems and their negative effects, it is necessary, after determining their sources, to try to limit them and reduce these effects as a first step towards arriving at final solutions to them.

As a result of practical experience, this paper offers proposals for solving the problems in all phases of production of this documentation material.

a) Linguistically.

i) To prepare an authority file or bilingual dictionary, both printed and available for online use on a personal computer, and having the following characteristics:

- \* A precise definition of the way in which Arabic names are written and spelt.
- \* Rules for transliterating foreign names and the way to write the most common of them, to use as a standard.
- \* The possibility of adding, deleting and updating.
- \* Provision of the necessary cross references which can be deleted, added to or updated.

ii) To build up an authority file which includes all the words beginning with the letters **alif** and **lam** which are part of the root of the word and not the definite article "al." The number of these words is limited, and this simplifies the operations of compiling them to start with, and updating them later.

This will help greatly and make it easier from programmes to perform the functions of sorting and arranging alphabetically, even when words with the definite article appear in the middle of a phrase or a sentence.

iii) To unify criteria and forms, sizes and fonts of letters in words used for printing tables of contents of Arabic periodicals, in order to encourage the use of scanners in forming them and converting them into texts to be processed later.

There is nothing to prevent this page from being additional, so as not to conflict with the wishes of periodicals to reserve their right to design the pages of their contents so as to conform with the policy of the establishment which publishes them, and facilitate aspects of the practical uses of this category.

b) In terms of Hardware and Software.

i) Standardization of equipment and programme systems, in order to make tasks easier for users and encourage the spread of personal computers in the Arab World, single standardized criteria should be laid down, to govern the specifications of equipment. (a single keyboard, for example), as well as the basis for building up computer systems and programmes. This standardization must be flexible and comprehensive, so that it does not stifle individual initiative and inventive creativity.

ii) Developing bilingual programmes and equipment. These programmes have to include functions which are available in comparable single-language programmes. An Arabised word processor must be capable of sorting and indexing, and the same goes for an official publication programme.

The size of memory required by scanners must be reduced, and also programmes must be provided which are able to convert Arabic graphics into texts.

It is expected that some time and much effort will be needed to solve these problems, as well as expenditure, but a start has to be made and a decision taken if it is desired that the systems and production of Arab thinking should be developed, making use of the possibilities and services of personal computers.

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