Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) Digital Scholarship Interest Group

Resource List

Last updated 2019.7.18

This is an evolving sampling of digital scholarship related communication channels, collections, corpora, training opportunities, tools (including Arabic OCR), projects & initiatives - by no means an exhaustive list.

We will continue to expand the list & invite your suggestions for additional projects & other resources via the following form

Suggest a Resource

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Blogs / Social Media / Listservs

- [MELA DSIG discussion list](#)
- [Middle East Digital Humanities Digest](#)
- [Digital Orientalist](#)
- [dh+lib (where the digital humanities and librarianship meet)](#)
- [Resources Shared During #DH2018 via Twitter](#)
- [dss-l [ACRL Digital Scholarship Section (DSS) Discussion List]](#)

Digital Libraries / Collections

- [Arabic and Middle Eastern Electronic Library (AMEEL)](#)
  Web-based portal and a digital collection of information for the study of the Middle East, including its history, culture, development, and contemporary face.

- [MENAdoc Digital Collections (MENALIB)](#)
  Open Access digital documents with regard to the MENA-region and to Islamic studies

- [Arabic Collections Online](#)
  Publicly available digital library of public domain Arabic language content

- [Qatar Digital Library](#)
  Growing free & open digital archive which covers modern history and culture of the Gulf and wider region. Provides access to Archival files, Letters, Maps, Manuscripts, Photographs.

- [Archnet](#)
  Open access curated collection of images, drawings, publications, seminar proceedings, articles, and other resources on the built environment of Muslim societies

MELA DSIG Resources 1
**AUC Rare Books and Special Collections Digital Library**
Digitized historical photographs and other resources from the Rare Books and Special Collections Digital Library at the American University in Cairo

**Digital Library of the Middle East**
Worldwide effort to federate all types of cultural heritage material, including archives, manuscripts, museum objects, media, and archaeological and intangible heritage collections

**IRCICA Farabi Digital Library System**
Includes several important collections of digitized periodicals (including Ottoman official yearbooks ie salnameler), photographs, maps, and other material

**Database of Ottoman Inscriptions (DOI)**
Searchable digital database comprising information about, as well as transliterations and pictures of, all the Turkish, Arabic and Persian architectural inscriptions created in the Ottoman lands during Ottoman times

**Persian Literature in Translation (Packard Humanities Institute)**
Search or browse by author or title

**Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran Digital Archive**
Provides bilingual access to thousands of personal papers, manuscripts, photographs, publications, everyday objects, works of art and audio materials

**Nashriyah: digital Iranian history | آرشیو آنلاین نشریات دانشگاه منجستر**
Digital versions of Iranian newspapers and periodicals held by the University of Manchester

**المكنیة الشاملة | Shamela**
Thousands of Arabic books (including various editions of important classical texts) available for browsing, download, search

**موقع المكتبة الشاملة الجديدة**
مشروع تقني يهدف لتوفير خدمات بحث وتصفح متقدمة لمحتوى المكتبة الشاملة

**Al-Waraq: Source for Arabic Books | مكتبة الوراق**
المكتبة التاريخية، المكتبة المحققة، الخ

**Online collections and catalogues for Islamic manuscripts (Evyn Kropf)**

**ACOR Photo Archive**
Photos from the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. Photos primarily of Jordan and also including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Syria and Iran from a span of almost 70 years

**Etc**
Corpora / Data sets

- **Open Islamicate Texts Initiative (OpenITI) Corpus releases**
- **OpenArabic Project (Maxim Romanov)**
  NB: Eventually being relocated to Open Islamicate Texts Initiative (OpenITI)
- **Digital Archive for the Study of pre-Islamic Arabian Inscriptions (DASI)**
- **Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia (OCIANA)**
- **Quranic Arabic Corpus**
- **arabiCorpus (Dil Parkinson, BYU)**
- **Gumar Corpus = Gulf Arabic Corpus (CAMeL lab NYUAD)**
- **Digital Corpus for Graeco-Arabic Studies**
- **Glossarium Græco-Arabicum**
- **TS Corpus Project (Turkish corpora)**
- **Iran Data Portal (socioeconomic data etc)**
- **Etc**

Tools / Schemas

- **Arabic OCR**
  - **Automatic Transcription of Historical Handwritten Arabic Texts** (British Library)
  - **QATIP “QATIP – An Optical Character Recognition System for Arabic Heritage Collections in Libraries”**
    DAS 2016 (Felix Stahlberg, Stephen Vogel, Qatar Computing Research Institute)
  - **OCRopus v Tesseract “Optical Character Recognition of Historical Arabic Text”** (Qatar Computing Research Institute)
  - **Kraken** open source OCR solution (Open Islamicate Texts Initiative = OpenITI) of **“Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR)”** 2016 (Maxim Romanov)

  OCR for handwritten Arabic text **“The Ground Truth: Transcribing historical Arabic Scientific Manuscripts for OCR research”** 12 March 2018 (BL Digital Scholarship - Nora McGregor, Daniel Lowe, Bink Hallum, etc)

  Digital platform initiatives that have made or are making pioneering use of Arabic OCR include **BA Digital Assets Repository** (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) & **AMEEL project** (Yale) as well as **Arabic Collections Online** (NYU et al, ongoing) and **SHARIASource** (Harvard)
Schemas
Fihrist customized TEI P5 Manuscript schema for Islamic manuscripts

OpenITImARkdown (in EditPad Pro)

Other Tools
OpenRefine (open source tool for cleaning messy data)

Gephi (Open Graph Viz Platform)

TRANSKRIBUS (collaborative transcription tool)

From the Page (collaborative transcription tool)

Alpheios Reading and Learning Environment (tools to enhance text reading in browser)
>> includes subset for Classical Arabic & Persian

TEI XML editors

ImageJ (image processing and analysis)

retroReveal (image processing algorithms to discover hidden content)

Zotero (bibliographic tool for citation management)

Training Opportunities

Digital Humanities Institute Beirut = DHI Beirut
https://dhibeirut.wordpress.com/

Digital Humanities Abu Dhabi
https://wp.nyu.edu/dhad/

Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI)
http://www.dhsi.org/
Note that partner institutes are offered around the world as part of the DH Training Network (including HILT, DH@Oxford, DH@Leipzig, DHI Beirut)

Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School = DH@Oxford
http://www.dhoxss.net/

European Summer University in Digital Humanities = DH@Leipzig
http://www.culingtec.uni-leipzig.de/ESU_C_T/

ARL Digital Scholarship Institute (Association of Research Libraries)
Digital Pedagogy Institute DPI (Brock University)  

HILT (Humanities Intensive Learning & Teaching)  
http://dhtraining.org/hilt/

NEH Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities  

Humanities Without Walls  
http://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/index.html

HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory)  
https://www.hastac.org/

Personal Digital Archiving (PDA)  
PDA18 https://sites.lib.uh.edu/pda18/

Online Tutorials

The Programming Historian  
https://programminghistorian.org/

TEI: Learn the TEI  
http://www.tei-c.org/support/learn/

Markdown Guide  
https://www.markdownguide.org/

Sample Projects / Initiatives

Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)  
http://www.tei-c.org/

Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO)  
http://adho.org/

Digital Islamic Humanities Project (Elias Muhanna)  
https://islamicdh.org/

Open Islamicate Texts Initiative (OpenITI) (Sarah Savant, Maxim Romanov, Matthew Thomas Miller)  
https://openiti.github.io/

SHARIAsource  
https://ilsp.law.harvard.edu/shariasource/

KITAB (Sarah Savant et al)  
http://kitab-project.org/
Persian Digital Humanities Initiative (Matthew Thomas Miller)
http://persdig.umd.edu/

The Baki Project (Selim Kuru et al)
http://www.thebakiproject.org/main/

OpenOttoman (Amy Singer et al)
https://openottoman.org/

HAZİNE (Heather Hughes, N. A. Mansour, Nir Shafir, Christopher Markiewicz)
http://hazine.info/

Digital Muqtabas (Till Grallert)
http://www.sitzextase.de/digital-muqtabas/

Proso (Will Hanley)
http://prosop.org/

al-Ṭurayyā Project (Maxim Romanov)
https://alraqmiyyat.github.io/althurayya/

Linguistic Landscapes of Beirut (DJ Wrisley et al)
http://llb.djwrisley.com/

Bibliotheca Arabica (Verena Klimm et al)

Bridging the Gap: Digital Humanities and the Arabic-Islamic Corpus (Christian Lange, Melle Lyklema, Umar Ryad et al)
https://sensis.sites.uu.nl/digital-humanities/
Overview from Digital Orientalist

Corpus Coranicum (Angelika Neuwirth et al)
https://corpuscoranicum.de/