

# University Libraries Projects

*updated November 2023*

## **Al-Ādāb Magazine Archives: Digitization, Preservation and Access**

The AUB Libraries, in collaboration with “Dar al-Ādāb”, are building [al-Ādāb Digital Archives](#). The project includes the digitization, Arabic Text OCRing (recognizing printed text within a digital image), indexing, adding descriptive metadata, and preservation of the entire run of al-Ādāb magazine (1953-2012). It also includes developing a searchable interface for the magazine’s archives.

**Date:** 2015-2019

### **Project Team:**

- Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Zeinab Hachem, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Elie Abu Haydar, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
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## **Arabic Collections Online (ACO)**

The AUB Libraries have joined the Arabic Collections Online (ACO) Project, a five-year project funded by New York University-Abu Dhabi which aims to digitize and make accessible worldwide a large collection of Arabic books that are out of copyright. Partners in this project include the libraries of New York, Columbia, Cornell, and Princeton universities. The AUB Libraries, which are the first outside the United States to join the project, will contribute several thousand titles from their growing, rich, and historical Arabic collections in all subjects and disciplines.

**Date:** 2015-2020

### **Project Team:**

- Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Lokman I. Meho, University Librarian
  - Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Hala Succar, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Batoul Morgan, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Razan Harake, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Elie Abu Haydar, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
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## **AUB in Print**

The aim of this project was to collect citations and publish a catalog of publications related to AUB’s history, evolution, impact, role, and people. The catalog includes published materials in the

form of books and articles, as well as university dissertations and theses, and was published on AUB's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in 2016.

**Date:** 2016

**Project Team:**

- Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
  - Samar Mikati, Archives and Special Collections
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**AUB ScholarWorks**

The University Libraries have created an institutional repository named [AUB ScholarWorks](#) to retain the intellectual output of the university's students and faculty and support open access trends in scholarly communication and publishing. The UL are collecting, preserving, and persistently making accessible a variety of scholarly digital materials from around the University. Faculty members, staff, and graduate students can deposit their unpublished work - and, in many cases, published - directly into the repository. Departments and administrative units can use the repository to store and make accessible their working papers, technical reports, annual reports, data sets, and other materials.

**Date:** 2010

**Project Team:**

- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Dalal Rahme, former Library Systems and Applications
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**Automation of RSSC-Lebanese Army Library**

The University Libraries provided consultation and support to the Strategic Research and Studies Center (RSSC) of the Lebanese Army in automating their library using KOHA, the open-source library system, including installation, set-up, and implementation.

**Date:** 2013

**Project Team:**

- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
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**Automation of SMEC Education Library**

The University Libraries provided consultation and support to the Science and Mathematics Education Center (SMEC), Faculty of Arts and Sciences in automating their library using KOHA, the open-source library system, including installation, set-up, and implementation.

**Date:** 2013-2014

**Project Team:**

- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
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## **History of Arab and Islamic Medicine and Science**

In support of the newly launched Islamic Studies Program at AUB, and of the Khawarizmi Center, the AUB Libraries are actively collecting material in the areas of Islamic science and the history of science and medicine in the Middle East, including publications, rare books, and manuscripts.

### **Project Team:**

- Mariette Atallah, former Collection Development
  - Lokman I. Meho, University Librarian
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## **Kamal Joumblatt Digital Library**

The University Libraries developed the [Kamal Joumblatt Digital Library](#) to make primary and secondary resources on Joumblatt freely and conveniently accessible to scholars, students, and general readers. The digital library includes, among others, all the material donated to the University Libraries by MP Walid Joumblatt.

**Date:** 2014-2020

### **Project Team:**

- Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
  - Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Mariette Atallah, former Collection Development
  - Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Hicham Zahnan, Library Systems and Applications
  - Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
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## **Lebanon News and Reports Index**

The team at the University Libraries developed the Lebanon news and Reports Index, which included general news and the "Lebanese Corner" (a local database covering medical topic about Lebanon) in the same index. Metadata was reviewed and authorities updated. The articles cover current conditions in Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, the Middle East. Indexed materials are drawn from local journals and newspapers, and from websites of public sector and international organizations. Indexing is mostly concerned with major political events, important social, economic, and medical issues, statistical data, and primary sources. The index provides access to citations of materials in English, French and Arabic. The database includes the full-text of some articles.

**Date:** 2015-2021

### **Project Team:**

- Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
- Joyce Aways, former Research and Academic Collaboration Services
- Hicham Zahnan, Library Systems and Applications
- Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
- Batoul Morgan, Cataloging and Metadata Services

- Nina Ghannam, Saab Medical Library
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### **Lotus**

Led by a few faculty members at AUB, the Lotus Project aims to document and examine the legacy, impact, and present-day relevance of the work of the anti-colonial writers of the Afro-Asian Writers' Association and their journal Lotus, which was published in Arabic, English and French from Cairo and Beirut between 1960s and the late 1980s. In support of this initiative at AUB, the AUB Libraries are seeking to collect a full run of the magazine, in all the languages in which it was published, and are trying to identify and archive any primary source and complementary documents that could give further context and depth to the Lotus archive. This includes reaching out to key writers, thinkers and editors who were at some point involved with Lotus or with the Afro-Asian Writers' Association, to collect papers, archives, writings, documents, photos, and art associated with the cultural production and cultural activities of this anti-colonial movement. This project will also seek to digitize selective items from the Lotus archive, in support of scholarly research and dissemination of this most important cultural movement.

#### **Project Team:**

- Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Samar Mikati, Archives and Special Collections
  - Hiba Farhat, Archives and Special Collections
  - Batoul Morgan, Cataloging and Metadata Services
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### **Online Access to Consolidated Information on Serials (OACIS)**

Re-launching the Yale-initiated OACIS project, a union list of serials from and about the Middle East listing titles and pointing to holding institutions, this project hopes to facilitate scholarly access to these periodicals throughout the world. OACIS was hosted at Yale University until early 2014, when ownership of the project was transferred to the AUB Libraries who are currently working on redesigning a new system for the Serials Union List, developing new submission guidelines for participating institutions, and creating a state-of-the-art website and a user-friendly search engine.

**Date:** 2016-2020

#### **Project Team:**

- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
  - Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
  - Hiba Farhat, Archives and Special Collections
  - Layale Bassil, former IT Software Engineer
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## Online Exhibits

This project seeks to curate and post permanent online exhibits highlighting key components of the AUB Libraries' special and archival collections, in an effort at outreach and education. The permanent online exhibits are hosted on the library's website, and are curated through customized, open-source software that allows us to showcase and highlight some of our holdings and collections.

**Date:** 2012

### Project Team:

- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Samar Mikati, Archives and Special Collections
  - Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
  - Hicham Zahnan, Library Systems and Applications
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## Palestinian Oral History Archive

The [Palestinian Oral History](#) Archive is an archival collection that contains more than 1,000 hours of testimonies with first generation Palestinians and other Palestinian communities in Lebanon. The project will digitize, index, catalog, preserve, and provide access to the material through the creation of a state-of-the-art digital platform. It aims to expand and include additional oral history collections documenting varied aspects of the Palestinian experience in Lebanon and the region. The project is being completed by the AUB Libraries in partnership with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at AUB, the Nakba Archive and the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (AL-JANA).

Specifically, the project works under three rubrics (1) Catalog and index the material: catalog the collection, and create a specialized bilingual thesaurus tailored for indexing the collection; (2) Build the digital infrastructure: adapt software to enable segmenting of interviews into thematic parts and indexing the segments; also develop tools for the display, effective retrieval, and long-term preservation of the material; (3) Conduct Outreach Activities: engage scholars, educators, artists, and community organizations through outreach activities such as workshops, exhibitions, and conferences.

**Date:** 2014-2019

### Project Team:

- Kaoukab Chebaro, former Archives and Special Collections
  - Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications
  - Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
  - Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Sara Jawad, Library Systems and Applications
  - Elie Abu Haydar, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
  - Layale Bassil, former IT Software Engineer
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### **Peer Reviewed Journals in the Arab World**

This project will create a comprehensive list of peer reviewed journals, which are published in the Arab world. The list will be a unique and valuable resource for researchers and librarians, given the very scarce information available about publications in the Arab world. The list will include currently active journals, journals published in print and/or online, restricted, and open access journals. It will provide bibliographic, contact, and access information about the journals.

#### **Project Team:**

- Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
  - Joyce Aways, former Research and Academic Collaboration Services
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### **Re-cataloging and Transliteration of Arabic books**

To enable non-Arabic speaking researchers to search for Arabic books more efficiently and to ensure better visibility of our Arabic collections at the international level, the University Libraries are adding English transliteration to all its 100,000 Arabic titles and providing more detailed subject headings to each title in both Arabic and English using the RDA new rules of cataloging.

#### **Project Team:**

- Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Hala Succar, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Batoul Morgan, Cataloging and Metadata Services
  - Razan Harake, Cataloging and Metadata Services
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### **Safeguarding the Issa Iskandar al Maalouf manuscript collection**

The University Libraries have received a grant as part of the British Library's "Endangered Archives Programme" which is supported by the Arcadia fund.

The major fund of £49, 832.00 aims to catalog and digitize the 'Isa Iskandar al Ma'luf unique historical Manuscript Collection, which was written between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Stored in a much-neglected storage condition for around 60 years, the collection, which is suffering from chemical and physical deterioration, was bought by, and is currently housed at the AUB University Libraries. The Collection includes 100 physical manuscripts that are essential for the study of the cultural, social, and religious history of the Middle East. The project will involve the cataloging and digitizing of the collection as well as making all available online for researchers and scholars to access.

Read more about the Endangered Archives Programme here: <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP1423>

**Date:** 2021-2022

#### **Project Team:**

- Mariette Atallah, former Collection Development
- Basma Chebani, Cataloging and Metadata Services
- Elie Kahale, Digital Initiatives and Scholarship
- Samar Mikati, Archives and Special Collections

- Yasmine Younis, Archives and Special Collections
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### **Union List of Arabic Periodicals**

The goal of this project is to compile and maintain a list of Arabic periodical titles and identify holdings information across universities and research institutions in Lebanon. The project was launched in December 2011 in partnership with the Bibliothèque Orientale at the Université Saint-Joseph, the Orient Institute of Beirut Library, the Lebanese National Library, the Arab University of Beirut, and the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK). Discovery of Arabic periodicals and access to their content is a challenge that most interested scholars face and this project is trying to alleviate this challenge.

#### **Project Team:**

- Fatme Charafeddine, Research and Academic Collaboration Services
- Mona Assi, Library Systems and Applications