

# From Dust to Digital

Ten Years of the  
Endangered Archives Programme



EDITED BY MAJA KOMINKO

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Ten Years of the  
Endangered Archives Programme

*Edited by Maja Kominko*

## Chapter 12



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## 12. Digitisation of Islamic manuscripts and periodicals in Jerusalem and Acre<sup>1</sup>

*Qasem Abu Harb*

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This chapter provides an overview of three digitisation projects supported by the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP). The first, EAP119, digitised the collection of historical periodicals in al-Aqṣá Mosque Library in Jerusalem (Al-Quds) in 2007.<sup>2</sup> Two subsequent projects recorded manuscripts in al-Jazzār Mosque Library in Acre (‘Akkā) (EAP399 in 2010) and al-Aqṣá Mosque Library in Jerusalem (EAP521 in 2012).<sup>3</sup> After tracing a short history of the two libraries and outlining the development of the early Arabic press in Palestine, this contribution makes the case for the urgency of digitisation and provides a brief account of the digitisation process along with the challenges that the projects had to overcome.

### The Mosque Libraries of al-Aqṣá in Jerusalem and al-Jazzār in Acre

In Islam, books and book collections have always been seen as a mark of faith, learning and wisdom that lent prestige to their owners. Islamic rulers

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- 1 The transliteration of Arabic words in this chapter is based on the LOC transliteration system.
  - 2 EAP119: Preservation of historical periodical collections (1900-1950) at the al-Aqṣá Mosque Library in East Jerusalem, [http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP119](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP119)
  - 3 EAP399: Historical collections of manuscripts located at al-Jazzār mosque library in Acre, [http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP399](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP399) and EAP521: Digitisation of manuscripts at the al-Aqṣá Mosque Library, East Jerusalem, [http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP521](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP521)

sought to outdo their predecessors by founding libraries with vast collections of magnificent quality, whilst mosques and madrasahs created impressive book collections in order to enhance their reputation as centres of learning, and scholars achieved fame for their private libraries.<sup>4</sup> The late Ottoman Palestine was no different: the mosques and Muslim courthouses contained collections of religious literature and many large private collections were held in the city homes of distinguished families.<sup>5</sup>

The older of the two libraries where the digitisation projects supported by the EAP took place is located in the northern city of Acre. Al-Jazzār Mosque Library (al-Aḥmadīyah) is a part of a *waqf*, a pious foundation of Ahmad al-Jazzār, the eighteenth-century Ottoman governor (*pasha*) of the provinces of Acre. Al-Jazzār's *waqf* was the largest such endowment in the history of Acre. It was the only *waqf* in this city which was publicly administered under the Ottoman Ministry of Waqf and later, during the British Mandate rule, under the Supreme Muslim Council.

The *waqf* was created in May 1786 and the endowment included: a mosque, Jami al-Anwar, "the Mosque of Lights", an Islamic college with fifty rooms for the lodgings for students from the four schools of Islamic law, a large library, a public fountain, an underground water reservoir, a ritual bath, a sundial, a garden and 29 stores surrounding the mosque courtyard.<sup>6</sup> The mosque and adjacent buildings, which were heavily damaged by Napoleon's bombardment in 1799, underwent renovations in the early nineteenth century.<sup>7</sup> Throughout the rest of the century the library attracted many visitors, not only from the Muslim community since — unlike in the

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4 Houari Touati, *L'armoire à sagesse: bibliothèques et collections en Islam* (Paris: Aubier, 2003); Ami Ayalon, *Reading Palestine: Printing and Literacy, 1900-1948* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2004), pp. 43-44; Youssef Eche, *Les bibliothèques arabes publiques et semi-publiques en Mésopotamie, en Syrie et en Égypte au Moyen-Âge* (Damascus: Institute Français de Damas, 1967); and Abdul Latif Ibn Dohaish, "Growth And Development of Islamic Libraries", *Islamic Quarterly*, 31 (1987), 217-29.

5 Dov Schidorsky, "Libraries in Late Ottoman Palestine between the Orient and Occident", *Libraries and Culture*, 33.3 (1998), 261-76 (p. 263), [https://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~lcr/archive/fulltext/LandC\\_33\\_3\\_Schidorsky.pdf](https://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~lcr/archive/fulltext/LandC_33_3_Schidorsky.pdf); and Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, pp. 45-47 and 93-103.

6 Bernhard Dichter, *Akko: Sites from the Turkish Period* (Haifa: University of Haifa, 2000), p. 108. Yitzhak Reiter, "The Waqf in Israel Since 1965: The Case of Acre Reconsidered", in *Holy Places in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Confrontation and Co-existence*, ed. by Marshall J. Breger, Yitzhak Reiter and Leonard Hammer (London: Routledge, 2009), pp. 104-27 (pp. 112-14).

7 Dichter, *Akko*, p. 109; and Nathan Schur, *A History of Acre* (Tel Aviv: Dvir, 1990), pp. 173-76.

case of other mosques — Christians were allowed to enter al-Jazzār Mosque and adjacent buildings.<sup>8</sup>

Al-Jazzār Mosque was one of the many buildings damaged by the Egyptian bombardment of Acre in 1831-1832. The mosque's library was looted and the Egyptian army used the yard as a camp.<sup>9</sup> After the defeat of the Egyptians and the liberation of the city, the library was re-opened and remains open to this day.

The newer of the libraries, al-Aqṣá, is located at the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem, in the southwestern corner of the al-Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) complex. Founded in 1922 by the Supreme Muslim Council in Palestine under the leadership of the *mufti* of Palestine, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the library brought together the books that had been kept in al-Aqṣá and the Dome of the Rock buildings, and gradually also acquired books from private libraries in Jerusalem, in Palestine and even from abroad.<sup>10</sup> In 1923, Adel Jabre became the first director of al-Aqṣá Library and, at the same time, the director of the Islamic Museum. The al-Aqṣá archive preserves his correspondence with the intellectuals in the Middle East and Europe he approached for book donations.<sup>11</sup> The uniquely revered status of al-Aqṣá had brought it endowments of private book collections and book gifts, including publications on modern science and literature and donations of local journals.<sup>12</sup>

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8 Ulrich Jasper Seetzen, *Reisen durch Syrien, Palästina, Phönicien, die Transjordan-länder, Arabia Petraea und Unter-Aegypten* (Berlin: Reimer, 1854), pp. 82-83, <https://archive.org/details/ulrichjaspersee03seetgoog>; and Ali Bey al-Abassi [Domingo Badia Y Lebllich], *Travels of Ali Bey in Morocco, Tripoli, Cyprus, Egypt, Arabia, Syria, and Turkey, Between the Years 1803 and 1807* (London: Longman, 1816), <https://archive.org/details/travelsalibeyps01beygoog>, pp. 249-50.

9 Thomas Skinner, *Adventures During a Journey Overland to India*, 1 (London: Richard Bentley, 1837), p. 145, <https://archive.org/details/adventuresduring01skin>; Edward Hogg, *Visit to Alexandria, Damascus, and Jerusalem, During the Successful Campaign of Ibrahim Pasha*, 2 vols. (London: Saunders and Otley, 1835), 1, pp. 162-63. [https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Edward\\_Hogg\\_Visit\\_to\\_Alexandria\\_Damascus\\_and\\_Jerus?id=g9G3dRviOv0C&hl=en](https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Edward_Hogg_Visit_to_Alexandria_Damascus_and_Jerus?id=g9G3dRviOv0C&hl=en),

10 Joseph Asad Dagher dates the library's foundation to 1927 and attributes it to the Superior Islamic Council (Majlis al-'Awqāf al-'Islāmī). See Joseph Asad Dagher, *Repertoire des bibliothèques du proche et du Moyen Orient* (Paris: UNESCO, 1951), p. 68. See also Geoffrey Roper, *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts* (London: al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1991), pp. 574-76; and Tia Goldenberg and Areej Hazboun, "Old Manuscripts Get Face-Lift at Jerusalem Mosque", *The Big Story*, 31 January 2014, <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/old-manuscripts-get-face-lift-jerusalem-mosque>

11 Mona Hajar Halaby, "Out of the Public Eye: Adel Jabre's Long Journey from Ottomanism to Binationalism", *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 52 (2013), 6-24, [http://www.palestine-studies.org/sites/default/files/jq-articles/JQ-52-Hajar\\_Halaby\\_Out\\_of\\_the\\_Public\\_Eye\\_4.pdf](http://www.palestine-studies.org/sites/default/files/jq-articles/JQ-52-Hajar_Halaby_Out_of_the_Public_Eye_4.pdf)

12 Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, p. 94; Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), p. 54.



Al-Aqṣá Library was first housed in Qubbat al-Nahwiyyah, a building that lies in the southwestern corner of the Haram al-Sharif compound and was once home to a thirteen-century school of literature. The library was subsequently moved to the sacred compound, and the manuscripts were stored in a building nearby.<sup>13</sup> The development of the library was also stifled by the events of 1948 and their aftermath, when Palestinian libraries were closed, suspended or had their holdings divided among other institutions. Between May 1948 and the end of February 1949, the staff of the National Library of Israel and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Library collected some 30,000 books and manuscripts that had been left behind by the Palestinian residents of western Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> Of these, about 24,000 were disposed of because they were considered irrelevant or hostile material.<sup>15</sup> The remaining 6000 books have not been returned, despite a clear statement by the 1954 Hague Convention for the Preservation of Cultural Property, and despite the fact that the National Library of Israel — an internationally leading cultural institution and the recipient of many books stolen in the Holocaust — is well-placed to recognise the importance of acts of restorative justice.<sup>16</sup>

After a long period of inactivity from 1948 to 1976, the Waqf Administration decided to revive the library in early 1977. The library's collection was moved from the Islamic Museum to the ground floor of the monumental fifteenth-century Ashrafiyya madrasa.<sup>17</sup> In 2000, the library was relocated

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13 Yusof Natsheh, "Al-Aqṣa Mosque Library of al-Haram as-Sharif", *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 13 (2001), 44-46, [http://www.jerusalemquarterly.org/images/Articlespdf/13\\_Review.pdf](http://www.jerusalemquarterly.org/images/Articlespdf/13_Review.pdf) and Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, pp. 94 and 128.

14 Gish Amit, "Ownerless Objects? The Story of the Books Palestinians Left Behind in 1948", *Palestine Studies*, 33 (2008), p. 7, <http://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/jq/fulltext/77868>

15 Larry Stillman, "Books: A Palestinian Tale", *Arena*, 120 (2012), 35-39; and Amit Gish, "Salvage or Plunder?: Israel's 'Collection' of Private Palestinian Libraries in West Jerusalem", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 40/4 (2011), 6-23. See The Great Book Robbery project (<http://www.thegreatbookrobbery.org>) to identify books which had been collected by the prestigious Jewish National and University Library (National Library) in 1948 and stamped as "Alien Property". See also PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, *Nakba: The Untold Story of a Cultural Catastrophe*, <http://www.nad-plo.org/userfiles/file/New%20Publications/NAKBA%20BOOK%202013.pdf>

16 Hannah Mermelstein, "Overdue Books: Returning Palestine's 'Abandoned Property' of 1948", *Jerusalem Quarterly* (Autumn 2011), <http://thegreatbookrobbery.org/overdue-books-returning-palestine's-abandoned-property-1948-hannah-mermelstein>. See also Ofer Aderet, "Preserving or Looting Palestinian Books in Jerusalem", *Haaretz*, 7 December 2012, <http://www.haaretz.com/weekend/week-s-end/preserving-or-looting-palestinian-books-in-jerusalem.premium-1.483352>

17 Salameh Al-balawi, "Libraries of Al-Quds: from the Ayyubi Conquest to the Zionist Violation", paper presented at the Twelve AFLI Conference, Al-Sharqa University, 5-8

again to its current position, the building of “Jami’ al-Nisa”, or “Women’s Mosque”, between al-Aqṣá Mosque on the east side and the Islamic Museum on the west.<sup>18</sup> The most valuable part of the library’s collection consists of approximately 2,000 manuscripts and 74 historical Arabic newspapers and magazines titles from the region.<sup>19</sup>

## The urgency of digitisation

The digitisation of the holdings of al-Aqṣá Mosque Library and al-Jazzār Mosque Library was urgently needed in order to document the collection and preserve its content. The manuscripts and the newspapers have been deteriorating rapidly due to the poor environmental conditions in libraries which lack proper humidity and temperature control. The lack of a preservation programme, and the shortage of staff trained in conservation and preservation methods were also a serious threats.<sup>20</sup> This issue has now been addressed by the joint project of UNESCO and the Waqf, Jordan’s Islamic authority, initiated in 2014 to restore al-Aqṣá Library’s manuscripts, old maps, Ottoman population and trade registers and hand-written documents from the Mamluk period.<sup>21</sup>

The fragile condition of the documents has been aggravated by scholars and students handling the materials.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, because of the unstable political situation in Jerusalem, the location of al-Aqṣá Library in the Old City presents not only a significant threat to the collection, but also makes access difficult. Palestinians from the West Bank or the Gaza Strip have to obtain permits from Israel to enter Jerusalem. Students and scholars are

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November 2001.

18 Natsheh, “Al-Aqṣá Mosque Library of al-Haram as-Sharif”, p. 45.

19 For the partial catalogues of the collection see Khader Salameh, *Fihris makhtūṭāt Maktabat al-Masjid al-Aqṣá*, 1 (Al-Quds: Idārat al-Awqāf al-‘Āmmah, 1980); idem, 2 (Ammān: al-Majma’ al-Malakī li-Buḥūth al-Ḥaḍārah al-Islāmiyah, 1983); and idem, 3 (London: Al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1996).

20 Majed Khader, “Challenges and Obstacles in Palestinian Libraries”, in *Libraries in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century: An International Perspective*, ed. by Ravindra N. Sharma, 2 (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2012), pp. 425-44 (pp. 432-33).

21 Goldenberg and Hazboun.

22 For a broader discussion of the situation of Palestinian libraries in the early twenty-first century, see Kader, “Challenges and Obstacles in Palestinian Libraries”; Françoise Lefebvre-Danset, “Libraries in Palestine”, *IFLA Journal*, 35/4 (2009), 322-34; and Erling Bergan, “Libraries in the West Bank and Gaza: Obstacles and Possibilities”, paper presented at the 66th IFLA Council and General Conference, Jerusalem, 13-18 August 2000.

frequently unable to access the library because of the curfews imposed due to political unrest in the Old City.

Consequently, all three digitisation projects supported by the EAP had a dual aim: to help the preservation of the materials by creating digital surrogates, and to facilitate access to the materials and make them available to scholars and students in Palestine and worldwide. Each of the three projects created digital photographs in TIFF format. One set remains in al-Aqṣá Library and al-Jazzār Mosque Library, while another has been transferred to the British Library and made accessible via the Internet to scholars worldwide.<sup>23</sup>

## Digitising the collection of historical periodicals in al-Aqṣá Mosque Library

Al-Aqṣá Library contains more than seventy Arabic language newspaper and journal titles, published in Palestine and other Arab countries as well as a selection of periodicals published by the Arab communities in Europe and North and South America. Copies of the historical Palestinian periodicals and newspapers are extremely rare and for many of the titles, the library holds the only copy available in the region.<sup>24</sup>

The region's first privately published journals appeared in Beirut in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. By 1880 new presses opened in Cairo, Alexandria and other Egyptian towns, reaching a total of 627 different newspapers with a circulation of perhaps 100,000 copies by 1908.<sup>25</sup> In Palestine, printing was first undertaken by Christian religious institutions, starting with a Franciscan press established in Jerusalem in 1846. The Armenian and Greek churches followed suit, but in all these cases printing was limited to evangelising materials.<sup>26</sup> The Arabic periodicals first appeared in Palestine only after the Young Turks rebellion in 1908,

23 See <http://eap.bl.uk/database/results.a4d?projID=EAP119>, <http://eap.bl.uk/database/results.a4d?projID=EAP399> and <http://eap.bl.uk/database/results.a4d?projID=EAP521>.

24 For a discussion of the digitisation project, see Krystyna K. Matusiak and Qasem Abu Harb, "Digitizing the Historical Periodical Collection at the al-Aqṣa Mosque Library in East Jerusalem", in *Newspapers: Legal Deposit and Research in the Digital Era*, ed. by Hartmut Walravens (The Hague: DeGruyter, 2011), pp. 271-91.

25 Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, p. 48; Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, pp. 54-55 and 227 (note 63); and Ami Ayalon, "Modern Texts and Their Readers in Late Ottoman Palestine", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 38/4 (2002), 17-40.

26 Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, p. 57.

when political changes in the Ottoman Empire brought about the abolition of censorship.<sup>27</sup> As many as fifteen periodicals appeared in 1908, another twenty were published before the outbreak of World War I, and nearly 180 more before the end of the British Mandate.<sup>28</sup>

Launching a newspaper was easier than sustaining its publication for long, and the majority of papers started in Palestine and elsewhere in the region turned out to be ephemeral.<sup>29</sup> Moreover, the presence of Egyptian and Lebanese publications throughout the region resulted in a weakening of local presses, which found it hard to compete with the quality of the products flowing from Cairo and Beirut.<sup>30</sup> In 1936 Zionists attempting to set up an Arabic newspaper to counter anti-Zionist propaganda, acknowledged that it was difficult to compete with the quality of imported Egyptian publications like *al-Ahrām* [*The Pyramids*] and *al-Jihād* [*The Struggle*].<sup>31</sup>

The Zionist settlement represented an additional incentive for the emergence of Arabic publications, many of them opposed to the new Jewish presence in Palestine.<sup>32</sup> The three leading papers of the pre-war period voiced Palestinian Arab emotions and they all were published by the Palestinian Christians. Jurji Habib Hananya's *al-Quds* [*The Holy*, epithet for Jerusalem] was first published in that city from 1908, was moderate.<sup>33</sup> Najib Nassar's *al-Karmil* [*Carmel*, after Mount Carmel] which appeared in Haifa in the same year, and the Jaffa paper *Filasṭīn* [*Palestine*], established by the cousins Yūsuf al-ʿĪsā and ʿĪsā al-ʿĪsā in 1911, were outspokenly anti-Zionist.<sup>34</sup>

With the outbreak of World War I publishing activities in Palestine were suppressed, but re-emerged in 1919 with the establishment of British control over Palestine, and two of the leading pre-war papers, *al-Karmil* and

27 Adnan A. Musallam, "Arab Press, Society and Politics at the End of the Ottoman Era", <http://www.bethlehem-holyland.net/Adnan/publications/EndofTheOttomanEra.htm>

28 Ami Ayalon, *The Press in the Arab Middle East: A History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 66; and idem, *Reading Palestine*, p. 60.

29 Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, p. 61

30 Ibid., p. 60.

31 Ibid., p. 52.

32 For a discussion of the role of Zionism in the development of Palestinian identity under the British Mandate, see Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, "The Pitfalls of Palestinology", *Arab Studies Quarterly*, 3/4 (1981), 404-05.

33 Mary Hanania, "Jurji Habib Hanania History of the Earliest Press in Palestine, 1908-1914", *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 32 (2007), 51-69.

34 Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, p. 66; Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2007), pp. 91-95; and Qustandi Shomali, *The Arabic Press in Palestine: Bibliography of Literary and Cultural Texts, "Filastin" Newspaper (1911-1967)*, 2 (Jerusalem: Arab Studies Society, 1990).

*Filasṭīn*, re-opened. Overall, the publication landscape in Palestine during the British Mandate (1917-1948) was more diverse than in the pre-war period. The press increasingly reflected rising national consciousness and different political factions.<sup>35</sup> By the mid 1930s, according to one survey, over 250 papers in Arabic and 65 in other languages were in circulation throughout the country.<sup>36</sup>

Most of the newspapers appeared weekly and their print run increased gradually. Rather than the few hundred copies of the pre-war era, individual papers in Palestine of the 1920s typically circulated at 1,000-1,500 copies. *Filasṭīn*, the most popular publication, reportedly sold circa 3,000 copies per issue towards the end of the decade.<sup>37</sup> In the 1920s, some twenty papers were established in Jerusalem, most importantly *Mir`at al-Sharq* [*Mirror of the East*] which Būlus Shihādah, a Christian, founded in September 1919, and *al-Jāmi` al-`Arabīyah* [*Arab Union*], the voice of the Supreme Muslim Council, which appeared in December 1927, and was edited by Munif al-Husayni. Around five or six papers were founded in Jaffa in the 1920s in addition to *Filasṭīn*, and approximately twelve in Haifa, with some in Gaza, Tulkarm and Bethlehem.<sup>38</sup>

Although the British adopted the Ottoman Press Law, which required licensing and submitting translations of press extracts to the government authorities, they rarely interfered until 1929.<sup>39</sup> The Buraq Uprising of that year, which was followed by violent confrontations between Arabs and Zionists, brought a radicalisation of the Arabic language press. The most outspoken papers established in the 1930s in Jaffa, were *al-Difā`* [*Defense*], a voice of the Istiqlal Party, and *al-Jāmi`ah al-Islāmīyah* [*Islamic Union*] (Fig. 12.1) which appeared from 1932 to 1937. *Al-Liwā`* [*The Flag*] (Fig. 12.2), representing the dominant Arab Party, was established in Jerusalem in 1933.<sup>40</sup>

35 Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, p. 97. See also Adnan Musallam, "Turbulent Times in the Life of the Palestinian Arab Press: The British Era, 1917-1948", [http://www.bethlehem-holyland.net/Adnan/publications/Turbulent\\_Times.htm](http://www.bethlehem-holyland.net/Adnan/publications/Turbulent_Times.htm)

36 Ayalon, *Reading Palestine*, p. 51.

37 *Ibid.*, p. 62.

38 Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, pp. 96-97; and Zachary F. Foster, "Arabness, Turkey and the Palestinian National Imagination in the Eyes of *Mir`at al Sarq* 1919-1926", *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 42 (2011), 61-79.

39 Musallam, "Arab Press, Society and Politics"; Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, p. 98; and Qustandi Shomali, *Mir`at al-Sharq: A Critical Study and Chronological Bibliography* (Jerusalem: Arab Studies Society, 1992).

40 Adnan Abu-Ghazaleh, "Arab Cultural Nationalism in Palestine during the British Mandate", *Journal of Palestinian Studies*, 1/3 (1972), 37-63; and Ann Mosely Lesch, *Arab Politics in Palestine: The Frustration of a Nationalist Movement* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1979), pp. 65-67.



Fig. 12.1 Front page of *al-Jāmi'ah al-Islāmiyah* [Islamic Union] newspaper, 27 July 1937 (EAP119/1/12/480, image 1), CC BY.



Fig. 12.2 Front page of *al-Liwā'* [*The Flag*] newspaper, 16 December 1935 (EAP119/1/17/2, image 1), CC BY.

The attitude of the British authorities to the vociferous Palestinian press was initially benign, as they assessed the public impact of newspapers to be minimal. Nevertheless, as the press's radicalisation and impact grew, the British authorities responded with increasingly harsh measures. The new Publication Law, issued in January 1933, gave the authorities powers to deny or withdraw publication permits, suspend or close down papers, and punish journalists, was amended and new regulations were introduced which restricted the freedom of the press even further.<sup>41</sup> Many major newspapers, *Filāṣṭīn*, *al-Difā'*, *al-Liwā'* and *al-Ṣirāṭ al-Mustaḳīm* among others, were suspended from circulation for extended

<sup>41</sup> See Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, pp. 98-100; and Musallam, "Arab Press, Society and Politics".

periods of time in 1937 and 1938.<sup>42</sup> With the outbreak of World War II and the introduction of new emergency laws, the British ordered the closure of almost all newspapers. Only *Filasṭīn* and *al-Difāʿ* were able to survive by adopting a moderate nationalist tone and publishing closely censored news.<sup>43</sup>

The periodical collection at al-Aqṣá Mosque Library consists of historical newspapers, journals and magazines in multiple formats. We selected 24 of these (thirteen magazines and eleven journals) for digitisation, on the grounds of their rarity and importance of the events they covered.<sup>44</sup> In addition to *Filasṭīn*, we have digitised such papers as *al-Jāmiʿah al-Islāmīyah*, published by Shaykh Sulayman al-Taji al-Faruqī in Jaffa.<sup>45</sup> The newspaper was deemed to be in opposition to the Supreme Islamic Council led by Muhammad Amin al-Husayni. The first issue of the newspaper was published on 16 July 1932, and by the beginning of its second year, the newspaper, which had started on 5 July 1933, had reached issue number 297. *Al-Jāmiʿah al-Islāmīyah* continued to publish its eight-pages for a period of two years. At the end of the same year the newspaper closed with the issue 588, at the order of the British Mandate authorities. We have also digitised *al-Jāmiʿah al-ʿArabīyah* published in Jerusalem from 20 January 1927.<sup>46</sup> The publisher and chief editor was Munif al-Husayni, who worked as a spokesman for the Supreme Islamic Council, which indicates that the Islamic Council was the funder for the newspaper. The slogan of the newspaper, which was written below the title, was a prophetic saying: “If the Arabs are humiliated, then Islam is humiliated (إذنا ذلت العرب ذل الاسلام)”. Amil al-Ghuri joined the editorial staff of the newspaper responsible for the foreign affairs section, and Muhammad Tahir al-Fityani for domestic news. The last issue of the newspaper appeared on 22 July 1934.

The collection of historical newspapers in al-Aqṣá is an important source of information about Palestine, its history, and its people in the first half of the twentieth century. The newspapers constitute important sources on the

42 Aida al-Najjar, *The Arabic Press and Nationalism in Palestine, 1920-1948* (Ph.D. thesis, Syracuse University, 1975), ch. 2; and Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, p. 100. See also “Suppression of the Arabic Press During the British Mandate”, *Endangered Archives Blog*, 18 January 2010, <http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/endangeredarchives/2010/01/suppression-of-the-arabic-press-during-the-british-mandate.html#sthash.fUYyVklB.dpuf>

43 Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, p. 102.

44 For a list of the circulation of Arabic Newspapers in the region, see Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, pp. 148-51.

45 Weldon Matthews, *Confronting an Empire, Constructing a Nation: Arab Nationalists and Popular Politics in Mandate Palestine* (New York: I. B. Tauris, 2007), pp. 52 and 143; and Ayalon, *Press in the Middle East*, p. 99.

46 Matthews, p. 82.



Arab nationalist movement, Palestinian reactions to Jewish immigration and the establishment of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. They cover many important historical events, such as the Balfour Declaration of 1917 (Fig. 12.3), the 1929 Buraq Uprising (Fig. 12.4), the al-Qassam unrest of 1931 (Fig. 12.5). They discuss Palestinians political parties (Fig. 12.6), the Palestinians armed forces, the 1936 strike, the 1936-1939 revolution (Fig. 12.7), British policy against Arab leaders, The British Mandate policy toward Palestinians journalism (Fig. 12.8) and the region's social, economic and cultural development.



Fig. 12.3 Front page of *Mira'at al-Sharq* [The Mirror of the East] newspaper, on the Balfour Declaration, 2 November 1917 (EAP119/1/24/1, image 1), CC BY.



Fig. 12.4 Front page of *al-Jāmi'ah al-'Arabīyah* [The Arab League] newspaper, on the Buraq uprising, 16 October 1929 (EAP119/1/13/260, image 1), CC BY.



Fig. 12.5 Page three of *al-Jāmi'ah al-'Arabīyah* [The Arab League] newspaper, on al-Qassam unrest, 22 November 1935 (EAP119/1/13/1504, image 3), CC BY.



Fig. 12.6 Front page of *al-Iqdām* [*The Courage*] newspaper, on political parties, 30 March 1935 (EAP119/1/23/34, image 1), CC BY.



Fig. 12.7 Front page of *al-Difa'* [*The Defence*] newspaper, on the great strike of 1936, 17 June 1936 (EAP119/1/21/169, image 1), CC BY.



Fig. 12.8 Page three of *al-Jāmi'ah al-'Arabīyah* [The Arab League] newspaper, on the Palestinian press under the Mandate, 3 April 1930 (EAP119/1/13/338, image 3), CC BY.

Table 12.1 Selected titles and their publication dates

NO	Transliterated Title	Title in Arabic	Periodical Type	Coverage
1	<i>Majallat Rawḍat al-Ma'ārif</i>	مجلة روضة المعارف	Magazine	1922-1923; 1932; 1934
2	<i>al-Kullīya al-'Arabīyah</i>	الكلية العربية	Magazine	1927-1938
3	<i>al-Ḥuqūq</i>	الحقوق	Magazine	1923-1928
4	<i>al-Muqtabas</i>	المقتبس	Magazine	1907-1912
5	<i>al-'Arab</i>	العرب	Magazine	1933-1934
6	<i>al-Jinān</i>	الجنان	Magazine	1874
7	<i>al-Maḥabbah</i>	المحبة	Magazine	1901
8	<i>al-Ḥasnā'</i>	الحسنة	Magazine	1909-1912
9	<i>al-Zahrah</i>	الزهرة	Magazine	1922-1926
10	<i>Rawḍat al-Ma'ārif</i>	روضة المعارف	Magazine	1326-1327 AH
11	<i>al-Fajr</i>	الفجر	Magazine	1935
12	<i>al-Jāmi'ah al-Islāmīyah</i>	الجامعة الإسلامية	Newspaper	1932-1938
13	<i>al-Jāmi'ah al-'Arabīyah</i>	الجامعة العربية	Newspaper	1932-1938
14	<i>al-Ṣirāt al-Mustaqīm</i>	الصراط المستقيم	Newspaper	1928-1936
15	<i>Ṣawt al-sha'b</i>	صوت الشعب	Newspaper	1928-1930; 1934
16	<i>al-Awqāt al-'Arabīyah</i>	الاقوات العربية	Newspaper	1935
17	<i>al-Liwā'</i>	اللواء	Newspaper	1935-1937
18	<i>Taṣwīr Afkār</i>	تصوير افكار	Newspaper	1909
19	<i>al-Muqtabas</i>	المقتبس	Newspaper	1908-1912; 1915-1916
20	<i>al-Qabas</i>	القبس	Newspaper	1913-1914
21	<i>al-Difā'</i>	الدفاع	Newspaper	1934-1951
22	<i>Filasṭīn</i>	فلسطين	Newspaper	1923-1937; 1947-1951
23	<i>al-Iqdām</i>	الاقدام	Newspaper	1935-1936
24	<i>Mir'at al-Sharq</i>	مرآة الشرق	Newspaper	1922-1936





Fig. 12.9 Damaged page of *Filasṭīn* [Palestine] newspaper, 30 December 1947 (EAP119/1/22/1802, image 1), CC BY.



Digitisation of newspapers is especially challenging because of the large format, complex page layout, and poor quality of print (Fig. 12.9). This often causes the libraries to outsource the scanning process.<sup>47</sup>

The historical nature of the collection and the location of al-Aqṣá Mosque Library meant outsourcing was not an option and the digitisation had to be performed in-house. It is worth noting that due to this location the project had to overcome problems with environmental conditions as well as restrictions from the police at the al-Aqṣá gates. For the scanning process we have followed the guidelines of the National Digital Newspaper Program.<sup>48</sup>

## Digitisation of manuscripts

In 2010, with the support of the EAP, we initiated the project to digitise the historical manuscript collection in the holdings of al-Jazzār Mosque Library (al-Aḥmadiyah), in Acre. The materials selected for digitisation included a collection of 53 Arabic language manuscripts dating from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. The manuscripts cover aspects of the Islamic religion, but also Arabic literature, the Arabic language, logic, mathematics and Sufism (Figs. 12.10-14). They provide a unique insight into centuries of Arabic culture in Palestine. A catalogue of the manuscripts, published in 1983, documents circa ninety manuscripts in the library.<sup>49</sup> The manuscripts are tightly bound and have been damaged through constant use. Due to preservation challenges — and because of their uniqueness and high value — digitisation had to be conducted on the premises of al-Jazzār Mosque Library. The project resulted in the creation of high-quality digital archival copies of 53 rare manuscripts, consisting of 17,965 pages.

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47 See, for example, the State of Michigan's "Guidelines for Digitizing a Newspaper", [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal/GuidelinesForDigitizingANewspaper\\_181557\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal/GuidelinesForDigitizingANewspaper_181557_7.pdf)

48 See the EAP's "Guidelines for Photographing and Scanning Archive Material", June 2014, [http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/pdf/09guidelines\\_copying.pdf](http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/pdf/09guidelines_copying.pdf) (accessed 22 October 2014); and the National Digital Newspaper Program's "Technical Guidelines for Applicants", 26 September 2014, [http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/guidelines/NDNP\\_201517TechNotes.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/guidelines/NDNP_201517TechNotes.pdf)

49 Mahmoud Attalah, *Fihris Makhtūṭāt Maktabat al-Aḥmadiyah fi 'Akkā* (Amman: Mujma'at al-Lughah al-'Arabiyyah al-Urdunnī, 1983).



Fig. 12.10 Damaged paper of *Bāb sharḥ al-shamsīyah*, work on logic, 1389 CE (EAP399/1/23, image 4), CC BY.



Fig. 12.11 *Ashraf al-Wasā'il*, biography of the Prophet, 1566 CE (EAP399/1/12, image 4), CC BY.



Fig. 12.12 *Khālīṣ al-talkhīṣ*, on the Arabic language, seventeenth century CE (EAP399/1/42, image 5), CC BY.



Fig. 12.13 *al-Wasilah fī al-Hisāb*, on mathematics, 1412 CE (EAP399/1/14, image 18), CC BY.



Fig. 12.14 *Taṣrīf al-Šāfiyah*, on the Arabic language, 1345 CE (EAP399/1/34, image 85), CC BY.

Table 12.2 List of selected titles (EAP399)

NO	Transliterated Title	Title in Arabic	Dates of original material	Scope and Content	Physical condition
1	<i>Sharḥ al-Muḥallī Matn Jam 'al-Jawāmi'</i>	شرح المحلي على متن جمع الجوامع	1369	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
2	<i>Mu 'rib fī al-Naḥw</i>	معرب في النحو	1706	Grammar	Bad
3	<i>al-Jazā 'īyāt</i>	الجزائيات	1429	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable
4	<i>Mughannīy al-Labīb 'an Kutub al-A 'arīb</i>	مغني اللبيب عن كتب الاعاريب	1359	Grammar	Fair
5	<i>Sharḥ al-Quṭr li-Ibn Hishām</i>	شرح القطر لابن هشام	1359	Grammar	Acceptable
6	<i>Ḥāshiyat al-Bājūrī 'alá al-Samarqandī</i>	حاشية الباجوري على السمرقندي	1836	Grammar	Good

7	<i>al-Taṣrīḥ fī Sharḥ al-Tawdūḥ</i>	التصريح في شرح التوضيح - جزء ثاني	1419	Grammar	Good
8	<i>Sharḥ 'Azwāmil al-Jirjānī</i>	شرح عوامل الجرجاني	1081	Grammar	Good
9	<i>Sharḥ al-Alfīyah li-Ibn Mālik lil-'Ullāmah Ibn 'Aqīl</i>	شرح الالفية لابن مالك للعلامة بن عقيل	1367	Grammar	Acceptable
10	<i>Kitāb al-Taḥrīr</i>	كتاب التحرير	unknown	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable
11	<i>Hāshiyat al-Bājūrī 'alā Maṭwīd al-'Ullāmah Ibn Ḥajar</i>	حاشية الباجوري على مولد العلامة بن حجر	1860	Grammar	Good
12	<i>Ashraf al-Wasā'il ilā Fahm al-Shamā'il</i>	اشرف الوسائل الى فهم شمائل	1566	Prophet's biography	Fair
13	<i>Naẓm al-Khalāfiyāt</i>	نظم الخلافيات	1142	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
14	<i>al-Wasīlah fī al-Ḥisāb</i>	الوسيلة في الحساب	1412	Mathematics	Bad
15	<i>Anwār al-'Āshiqīn</i>	انوار العاشقين	1451	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Good
16	<i>Hāshiyat al-Malawī wa-al-Bājūrī 'alā al-Samarqandīyah</i>	حاشية الملوي والباجوري على السمرقندية	1768	Arabic language	Fair
17	<i>Sharḥ al-Waraqāt: Fuṣūl min Uṣūl al-Fiqh</i>	شرح الورقات - فصول من اصول الفقه	1085	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair
18	<i>Hāshiyat al-Ṣabbān 'alā al-Sharḥ al-Ashmūnī</i>	حاشية الصبان على شرح الأشموني - جزء ثاني	1791	Arabic language	Fair
19	<i>Tuḥfat al-Murīd 'alā Jawharat al-Tawḥīd</i>	تحفة المرید على جوهرة التوحيد	1860	Arabic language	Acceptable
20	<i>al-Jāmi' al-Ṣaḡhīr</i>	الجامع الصغير	n.d.	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable
21	<i>Qur'ān Karīm: Muṣḥaf Sharīf 'Uthmānī</i>	قران كريم - مصحف شريف عثمانی	1245	Holy Quran	Fair

22	<i>al-Futūḥāt al-Makkīyah</i>	الفتوحات المكية - جزء ثاني	1240	Sufism	Fair
23	<i>Bāb sharḥ al-shamsīyah</i>	باب شرح الشمسية	1389	Mantiq (Logic)	Bad
24	<i>al-Fawā'id al-Mus'idīyah fī Ḥall al-Muqaddimah al-Jazarīyah</i>	الفوائد المسعدية في حل المقدمة الجزرية	n.d.	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Acceptable
25	<i>al-Durrah al-Sanīyah 'alā Sharḥ al-Alfīyah</i>	الدرة السنية على شرح الالفية	n.d.	Arabic language	Fair
26	<i>Ḥāshiyat al-Amīr 'alā al-Shudhūr</i>	حاشية الامير على الشذور	1761	Arabic language	Fair
27	<i>al-Jāmi' al-Kabīr</i>	الجامع الكبير ج2	n.d.	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair
28	<i>Faṭḥ al-Bārī bi-Sharḥ al-Bukhārī</i>	فتح الباري بشرح البخاري - الجزء الثاني	n.d.	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Fair
29	<i>Ḥāshiyat al-Amīr 'alā Matn al-Shudhūr</i>	حاشية الامير على متن الشذور	1359	Arabic language	Good
30	<i>Ḥāshiyat 'alā Sharḥ al-Alfīyah</i>	حاشية على شرح الالفية	17th century	Arabic language	Acceptable
31	<i>Kitāb Adhkār</i>	كتاب انكار	1278	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Bad
32	<i>Ḥāshiyat Faṭḥ al-Mujīb wa-al-Qaṣṣ al-Mukhtār</i>	حاشية فتح المجيب والقول المختار	n.d.	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable
33	<i>al-Fawā'id al-Shanshūrīyah fī Sharḥ al-Manzūmah al-Raḥbīyah</i>	الفوائد الشنشورية في شرح المنظومة الرحبية	1591	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable
34	<i>Taṣrīf al-Šāfiyah</i>	تصريف الشافعية	1345	Arabic language	Good
35	<i>Ḥāshiyat Muhammad al-Amīr 'alā al-Samarqandīyah</i>	حاشية محمد الامير على السمرقندية	n.d.	Arabic language	Good
36	<i>Risālah fī al-Mughārasah</i>	رسالة في المغارسة	n.d.	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable

37	<i>Hāshiyat al-Baqrī 'alá al-Sabṭ</i>	حاشية البقري على السبب	1733	Arabic literature	Acceptable
38	<i>Matn al-Manāsik fī al-Ḥajj al-Navawī</i>	متن المناسك في الحج –مناسك النووي	1278	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
39	<i>Hāshiyat al-Baqrī 'alá al-Sabṭ al-Mārdīnī: Sharḥ al-Manzūmah al-Rahbīyah</i>	حاشية البقري على سبب المارديني -شرح المنظومة الرحبية	n.d.	Arabic literature	Fair
40	<i>Hāshiyat al-Zayyāt 'alá al-Shanshūrīyah</i>	حاشية الزيات على الشنشوري	n.d.	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair
41	<i>Hāshiyat al-Sharqāwī 'alá al-Hudhudī am al-Barahīn</i>	حاشية الشرقاوي على الهددي ام البراهين	1194	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable
42	<i>Khāliṣ al-Talkhīṣ</i>	خالص التلخيص	17th century	Arabic language	Good
43	<i>Thamarat al-Iḥnām: Manzūmat Kifāyat al-Ghulām</i>	ثمرات الافهام - منظومة كفاية الغلام	n.d.	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
44	<i>Fath al-Mubīn: Sharḥ Manzūmat Ibn al-Imād fī al-Najāsāt</i>	فتح المبين -شرح منظومة بن العماد في النجاسات	1623	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable
45	<i>Tanbih al-Anām: Shifā' al-Asqām wa-Maḥw al-Āthām</i>	تنبيه الانام -شفا الاسقام ومحو الاثام	1553	Prophet's biography	Good
46	<i>I'rāb al-Qur'ān al-Karīm</i>	اعراب القران الكريم - جزء ثاني	949	Arabic language	Acceptable
47	<i>Hāshiyat al-Ṣabbān 'alá Sharḥ al-Ashmūnī 'alá al-Alfiyah l-Ibn Mālik</i>	حاشية الصبان على شرح الاشموني على الالفية لابن مالك -جزء 1	1791	Arabic literature	Acceptable
48	<i>al-Mulakhkhaṣ min al-Wāfi bi-Kanz al-Daqāiq</i>	المخلص من الوافي بكنز الدقائق	818	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable
49	<i>Sharḥ Mukhtaṣar al-Wiqāyah</i>	شرح مختصر الوقاية	949	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable

50	<i>Kitāb al-Itqān fī 'Ulūm al-Qur'ān</i>	كتاب الاتقان في علوم القرآن	1505	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Acceptable
51	<i>Qiṣṣat al-Mi'rāj</i>	قصة المعراج	1576	Prophet's biography	Acceptable
52	<i>Jam' al-Jawāmi'</i>	جمع الجوامع	1370	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Bad
53	<i>al-Tuḥaf al-Kayrīyah 'alā al-Fawā'id al-Shanshūrīyah</i>	التحف الخيرية على الفوائد الشنشورية	1236	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable

In 2012 the 2012 EAP project digitised a collection of 119 manuscripts in al-Aqṣá Mosque Library, dating from the twelfth to the nineteenth century. The selection includes manuscripts from the collections of well-known Palestinian scholars, such as Fayd Allah al-'Alami, the Shaykh Khalil al-Khalidi and from the private collection of Shaykh Muhammad al-Khalili. The digitisation of manuscripts was carried out using the ATIZ BOOK Drive system, with two digital cameras to capture images of manuscripts. The initial output of the ATIZ BookDrive system is in RAW format, which required conversion to TIFF format for archiving purposes.<sup>50</sup> The digitisation guidelines for the project assumed a use-neutral approach and are based on digital library standards, best practices, and general principles for building digital collections. The goal of the project was to build a repository of digital master files in TIFF format for archiving purposes and to provide derivative files in PDF format for current use. Digital, high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) master files were created as a direct result of the scanning process. A consistent file naming convention was established in order to manage the project effectively.<sup>51</sup> Derivative files in PDF format were created for access and are available for browsing and reading.

The project resulted in the creation of high-quality digital archival copies of 119 rare manuscripts ranging in date from the thirteenth to the twentieth century consisting of 33,000 pages (Figs. 12.15-18).

50 The EAP specifications consisted of the following devices and software: Device: Atiz BookDrive Pro; Cameras: Canon EOS 600D + Lens EF-S18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS II; Capturing Software: BookDrive Capture; Colour Checker: x-ritecolorchecker Passport; Converting Program: Adobe Photoshop CS6 for converting images from RAW to TIFF; CheckSum: Checksum Tool version 0.7; Storage: External Hard Disk WD My Passport 1TB.

51 File names for digital masters and PDF derivatives were established prior to the scanning process. Each title was assigned a four letter Scan ID. For this digitisation project the following file naming convention has been established: project code\_ three letter Scan ID + \_page numbers (two or three digit page number starting with zero); EAP521\_four letter Scan ID + three digit page number starting with zero, for example: EAP521\_bada\_01 for the first page of the *Badae' al-burhan* manuscript.





Fig. 12.15 *al-Rawḍah*, on jurisprudence and matters of doctrine, 1329 CE (EAP521/1/90, image 4), CC BY.



Fig. 12.16 *Ma'ālim al-Tanzīl*, exegesis, 1437 CE (EAP521/1/6, image 3), CC BY.



Fig. 12.17 *Ṭabaqāt al-Shāfi'īyah*, on history, 1542 CE (EAP521/1/26, image 33), CC BY.



Fig. 12.18 *al-Nawādir al-Sulṭānīyah*, on the history and biography of Salāh al-Dīn al-Ayyūbī, 1228 CE (EAP521/1/24, image 29), CC BY.

The physical condition of the manuscripts varies from volume to volume, but a significant number of selected titles are in poor condition.

Both projects faced a number of challenges due to external factors, such as political upheavals, as well as those related to digitisation. Among the latter were issues such as quality of the original paper, irregular fonts, text density, torn or smudged pages, and a variation in layout. Although they posed many challenges to the digitisation process, we have been successful in overcoming them. We are proud that this important heritage has been preserved and made accessible to scholars.

Table 12.3 Description of the physical conditions of the manuscripts in EAP521

NO	Transliterated Title	Title in Arabic	Dates of original material	Subject	Physical condition
1	<i>Badā' i ' al-Burhān</i>	بدائع البرهان	18th century	Qirā' ah (Reciting the Quran)	Good
2	<i>Tartīb Zībā</i>	ترتيب زيبا	1713	Quranic Sciences	Acceptable
3	<i>Jāmi ' al-Kalām fī Rasm Muṣḥaf al-Imām</i>	جامع الكلام في رسم مصحف الامام	1650	Quranic Sciences	Bad
4	<i>Aqd al-Durrah al-Muḍī ' ah</i>	عقد الدرّة المضيئة	1682	Quranic Sciences	Good
5	<i>al-Asrār al-Marfū ' ah fī al-Aḥādīth</i>	الاسرار المرفوعة في الاحاديث	1665	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Good
6	<i>Ma ' ālim al-Tanzīl</i>	معالم التنزيل	1437	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Good
7	<i>Silsilat al-Khājkān</i>	سلسلة الخاجكان	1769	Sufism	Acceptable
8	<i>al-Tuḥfah al-Marḍīyah bi-al-Arāḍi al-Miṣrīyah</i>	التحفة المرضية بالاراضي المصرية	18th century	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
9	<i>Ghayth al-Mawāhib</i>	غيث المواهب	1617	Sufism	Acceptable
10	<i>Jāmi ' al-Fuṣūlīn fī al-Furū '</i>	جامع الفصولين في الفروع	1456	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
11	<i>Sharḥ Mukhtaṣar al-Muntahā</i>	شرح مختصر المنتهى	16th century	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good

12	<i>Īdāh Kashf al-Dasā'is</i>	ايضاح كئف الدسائس	1466	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
13	<i>Kashf al-Dasā'is fī Tarmīm al-Kanā'is</i>	كئف الدسائس في ترميم الكنائس	1466	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
14	<i>Rahmat al-Ummah fī Ikhtilāf al-A'imma</i>	رحمة الامة في اختلاف الائمة	1697	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair
15	<i>Ghunyat al-Mutamallī</i>	غنية المتملي	18th century	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Acceptable
16	<i>al-Shifā'</i>	الشفاء	1788	Prophet's Biography	Good
17	<i>Sharḥ Miftāḥ al-'Ulūm</i>	شرح مفتاح العلوم	1454	Arabic Language	Acceptable
18	<i>Ḍaw' al-Misbāḥ</i>	الضوء على المصباح	17th century	Arabic Language	Fair
19	<i>Hāshiyat al-Qalyūbī</i>	حاشية القليوبي	1712	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
20	<i>Adab al-Kitāb</i>	ادب الكاتب	1693	Arabic Literature	Acceptable
21	<i>al-Iftitāḥ fī Sharḥ al-Miṣbāḥ</i>	الافتتاح في شرح المصباح	1443	Arabic Language	Bad
22	<i>al-Shaqā'iq al-Nu'māniyah</i>	الشقائق النعمانية	17th century	History & Biography	Acceptable
23	<i>Nashq al-Azhār</i>	نشق الازهار	17th century	History & Biography	Fair
24	<i>al-Nawādir al-Sulṭāniyah</i>	النوادر السلطانية	1228	History & Biography	Acceptable
25	<i>al-Muṭṭala'</i>	المطلع	1874	Mantiq (Logic)	Fair
26	<i>Ṭabaqāt al-Shāfi'iyyah</i>	طبقات الشافعية	1542	History & Biography	good
27	<i>'Ināyat Ūlī al-Majd</i>	عناية اولي المجد	1902	History & Biography	good
28	<i>Taḥbīr al-Taysīr</i>	تحرير التيسير	16th century	Quranic Sciences	Fair
29	<i>Ddah Jonki</i>	دده جونكي	1769	Arabic Language	Good
30	<i>Jamīlat Arbāb al-Marāṣid</i>	جميلة ارباب المراد	1566	Quranic Sciences	Fair
31	<i>Sharḥ al-Maṣābiḥ</i>	شرح المصابيح	1350	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable
32	<i>al-Adab al-Mufrad</i>	الادب المفرد	19th century	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Good

33	<i>Tafrīd al-I 'timād fi Sharḥ al-Tajrīd</i>	تفريد الاعتماد في شرح التجريد	15th century	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Good
34	<i>Sharḥ al- 'Aqā 'id al- 'Aqdīyah</i>	شرح العقائد العضدية	15th century	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Acceptable
35	<i>Sharḥ Qawā 'id al- 'Aqā 'id</i>	شرح قواعد العقائد	1608	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Bad condition
36	<i>al-Musāmarah fi Sharḥ al-Musāyarah</i>	المسامرة في شرح المسايرة	1501	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Good
37	<i>Tahqīq al-Zawrā '</i>	تحقيق الزوراء	1716	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Acceptable
38	<i>al-Madad al-Fā 'id wa-al-Kashf al- 'Ariḍ</i>	المدد الفائض والكشف العارض	1704	Sufism	Good
39	<i>Qūt al-Qulūb</i>	قوت القلوب	1655	Sufism	Good
40	<i>Ḥāshiyah 'alā al-Talwīḥ</i>	حاشية على التلويح	1672	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
41	<i>al-Nubdhah al-Alfiyah fi al-Uṣūl</i>	النبهة الالفية في الاصول ج 1	1463	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Good
42	<i>al-Nubdhah al-Alfiyah</i>	النبهة الالفية ج 2	1463	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Good
43	<i>Sirāj al-Uqūl fi Minhāj al-Uṣūl</i>	سراج العقول في منهاج الاصول	1397	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Fair
44	<i>Mukhtaṣar Ghumyat al-Mutamallī</i>	مختصر غنية المتملي	1705	Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	Fair
45	<i>Khulāṣat al-Mukhtaṣar</i>	خلاصة المختصر	14th century	Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	Good
46	<i>al-Sharḥ al-Kabīr 'alā al-Jāmi ' al-Ṣaghīr</i>	الشرح الكبير على الجامع الصغير	1746	Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	Fair
47	<i>al-Mubtagḥā fi Furū ' al-Fiqh</i>	المبتغى في فروع الفقه	1464	Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	Fair
48	<i>al-Furūq fi al-Furū '</i>	الفروق في الفروع	1447	Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	Acceptable
49	<i>Fatāwā al-Sabkī</i>	فتاوى السبكي	1347	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
50	<i>Irshād al-Ghāwī ilā Masālik al-Hāwī</i>	ارشاد الغاوي الى مسالك الحاوي	1758	Jurisprudence (Fiqh)	Good

51	<i>Ta'sīs 'alā al-Binā'</i>	تأسيس على البناء	18th century	Arabic Language	Good
52	<i>Sharḥ al-Tuḥfah al-Ḥamawīyah</i>	شرح التحفة الحموية	1640	Arabic Language	Acceptable
53	<i>Taj al-luḡha wa siḥah al-Arabi'a</i>	تاج اللغة وصحاح العربية	1407	Arabic language	Good
54	<i>Sharḥ Mukhtaṣar Ibn al-Khaṭṭāb</i>	شرح مختصر ابن الحطاب	18th century	Falak (Astronomy)	Good
55	<i>'Ujālat al-Bayān fī Sharḥ al-Mīzān</i>	عجالة البيان في شرح الميزان	1653	Arabic Language	Acceptable
56	<i>al-Ṣāfiyah fī Sharḥ al-Shāfiyah</i>	الصفافية في شرح الشافعية	18th century	Arabic Language	Good
57	<i>Sharḥ al-Shāfiyah</i>	شرح الشافعية	1580	Arabic Language	Acceptable
58	<i>Risālah fī al-Khayl</i>	رسالة في الخيل	1902	Arabic Literature	Good
59	<i>Ḥāshiyat Mīrzā Khān</i>	حاشية ميرزا خان	1715	Mantiq (Logic)	Fair
60	<i>Miftāḥ al-'Ulūm</i>	مفتاح العلوم	1347	Arabic Language	Fair
61	<i>al-Dībāj al-Mudhahhab</i>	الديباج المذهب	16th century	History	Acceptable
62	<i>al-Ghunyah li-Ṭālibī Ṭarīq al-Haqq</i>	الغنية لطالبي طريق الحق	1500	Sufism	Good
63	<i>Ḍiyā' al-Anwār</i>	ضياء الانوار	1888	History & Biography	Good
64	<i>al-'Ushāriyāt</i>	العشاريات	1461	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Fair
65	<i>Tārīkh Nāzir</i>	تاريخ ناظر	1738	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Good
66	<i>Risālah fī Khalq al-Qur'ān</i>	رسالة في خلق القرآن	1617	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Fair
67	<i>Sharḥ Qaṣīdat Bad' al-Amalī</i>	شرح قصيدة بدء الامالي	19th century	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Good
68	<i>Maljā' al-Quḍḍāh</i>	ملجأ القضاة	1864	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
69	<i>al-Mawlid al-Sharīf</i>	المولد الشريف	1847	History & Biography	Good
70	<i>al-Fawā'id al-Jalīlah</i>	الفوائد الجليلة	1731	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable
71	<i>Maḥātib al-Ghayb</i>	مفاتيح الغيب	16th century	Sufism	Good

72	<i>al-Fukūk</i>	الفكوك	16th century	Sufism	Good
73	<i>Ijāzāt li- 'Ullāmā' min 'Ā'ilat al- 'Ilmī</i>	اجازات لعلماء من عائلة العلمي	1600	Ijāzāt (certificates of learning)	Fair
74	<i>al-Arīb fi Ma 'ná al-Gharīb</i>	الاريب في معنى الغريب	1174	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Fair
75	<i>Fath al-Rahmān bi-Kashf mā Yaltabisu fi al-Qur 'ān</i>	فتح الرحمن بكشف ما يلتبس في القران	1612	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Acceptable
76	<i>al-Intiṣār li-Samā' al-Ḥajjār</i>	الانتصار لسماع الحجار	14th century	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Fair
77	<i>al-Thulāthiyāt al-Wāqī 'ah fi Musnad Ibn Ḥanbal</i>	الثلاثيات الواقعة في مسند ابن حنبل	1728	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Good
78	<i>Fath al- 'Allām bi-Sharḥ al- 'I lām</i>	فتح العلام بشرح الاعلام	1893	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Fair
79	<i>al-Tanqīḥ li-Alfāz al-Jāmi ' al-Ṣaḥīḥ</i>	التنقيح لالفاظ الجامع الصحيح	1411	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Fair
80	<i>al-Majālis al-Yamānīyah</i>	المجالس اليمانية	1350	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Fair
81	<i>al-Musnad al-Ṣaḥīḥ</i>	المسند الصحيح	1239	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Fair
82	<i>Lisān al-Ḥukkām fi Ma 'rifat al-Aḥkām</i>	لسان الحكام في معرفة الاحكام	1681	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Acceptable
83	<i>al-Yawāqīt wa-al-Jawāhir</i>	اليواقيت والجواهر	1548	Tawhid (On Monotheism)	Fair
84	<i>al-Muwaḥḩa'</i>	الموطأ	1721	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable
85	<i>Ḥādī al-Asrār ilá Dār al-Qarār</i>	حادي الاسرار الى دار القرار	1465	Sufism	Acceptable
86	<i>Dhakhā 'ir al- 'A lāq</i>	دخائر الاعلاق	1644	Sufism	Acceptable
87	<i>Qam ' al-Nufūs wa-al-Raqīyat al-Ma 'yūs</i>	قمع النفوس ورقية المأيوس	1465	Sufism	Fair
88	<i>Ikhtilāf al- 'A 'immah</i>	اختلاف الائمة	1650	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair

89	<i>al-Tamhīd fī Tanzīl al-Furū`</i>	التمهيد في تنزيل الفروع	1450	Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine (Fiqh & Tawhīd)	Fair
90	<i>al-Rawḍah</i>	الروضة	1329	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Acceptable
91	<i>Sharḥ al-Mughnī</i>	شرح المغني	1437	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Bad
92	<i>Fatāwā al-Khalīlī</i>	فتاوى الخليلى	1740	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Acceptable
93	<i>Fatāwā al-Shaykh al-Khalīlī</i>	فتاوى الشيخ الخليلى	1740	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Acceptable
94	<i>Fatāwā al-Khalīlī (part two)</i>	فتاوى الخليلى	1740	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Fair
95	<i>Maqāli` al-Madhāhib wa-Jawāmi` al-Mawāhib</i>	مطالع المذاهب وجوامع المواهب	1346	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Acceptable
96	<i>Mu`īn al-Muftī</i>	معين المفتي	1678	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Acceptable
97	<i>Nukat al-Nabīh `alā Aḥkām al-Tanbīh</i>	نكت النبيه على احكام التنبيه	1388	Fiqh & Tawhīd (Jurisprudence & Matters of Doctrine)	Acceptable
98	<i>Sharḥ Maqāmāt al-Ḥarīrī</i>	شرح مقامات الحريري	1558	Arabic literature	Fair
99	<i>Asmā` Ruwāt al-Kutub al-Sittah</i>	اسماء رواة الكتب الستة	1738	History & Biography	Acceptable
100	<i>Nuzūl al-Ghayth</i>	نزول الغيث	1607	Arabic literature	Good
101	<i>Hāshiyah `alā al-Mawāhib al-Ladunīyah</i>	حاشية على المواهب اللدنية	18th century	History & Biography	Good
102	<i>Qiṣṣat Ibn Sinā</i>	قصة ابن سينا	1870	History & Biography	Good



103	<i>al-Kawākib al-Durrīyah fī Tarājim al-Ṣūfiyah</i>	الكوكب الدرية في تراجم الصوفية	18th century	History & Biography	Bad
104	<i>Murshid al-Zuwwār ilá Qubūr al-Abrār</i>	مرشد الزوار الى قبور الابرار	1605	History & Biography	Fair
105	<i>Manāqib al-Imām 'Alī wa-Baqīyat al-'Asharah</i>	مناقب الامام علي وبقية العشرة	1578	History & Biography	Acceptable
106	<i>Nahj al-Taqdīs 'an Ma'ānī Ibn Idrīs</i>	نهج التقديس عن معاني ابن ادريس	1552	History & Biography	Fair
107	<i>al-Asbāb wa-al-'Alāmāt</i>	الاسباب والعلامات	17th century	Medicine	Acceptable
108	<i>Kitāb al-Aghdhiyah wa-al-Ashribah</i>	كتاب الاغذية والاشربة	1346	Medicine	Acceptable
109	<i>al-Wajīz lil-Ghazālī</i>	الوجيز للغزالي	15th century	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair
110	<i>al-Safwah al-Tibbīyah wa-al-Siyāsah al-Ṣiḥḥīyah</i>	الصفوة الطبية والسياسة الصحية	1679	Medicine	Fair
111	<i>Fī 'Ilāj al-Amrād</i>	في علاج الامراض	17th century	Medicine	Acceptable
112	<i>al-Wajīz lil-Ghazālī (part two)</i>	الوجيز للغزالي ج2	15th century	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Fair
113	<i>Tuhfat al-Aḥbāb fī 'Ilm al-Hisāb</i>	تحفة الاحباب في علم الحساب	1686	Arithmetic	Fair
114	<i>al-Tadhīb fī Sharḥ al-Tahdhīb</i>	التذهيب في شرح التهذيب	17th century	Mantiq (Logic)	Fair
115	<i>Sharḥ 'alá Matn al-Silm</i>	شرح على متن السلم	1866	Mantiq (Logic)	Good
116	<i>al-Ilbās fī Funūn al-Libās</i>	الالباس في فنون اللباس	16th century	Clothes	Good
117	<i>Aḥkām al-Awānī</i>	احكام الاواني	18th century	Fiqh (Jurisprudence)	Good
118	<i>al-Jāmi ' fī 'Ulūm al-Qur'ān</i>	الجامع في علوم القران	15th century	Tafsir (Quranic exegesis)	Acceptable
119	<i>Mabāriq al-Azhār</i>	مبارق الازهار	1718	Hadith (Prophetic traditions)	Acceptable

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