

***41st MELCom International Annual Conference,  
18-20/06/2019  
Naples, Italy***

***United Arab Emirates National Archives:  
Prospects and Challenges and the Role of  
Zayed University in Filling the Gap***

***Muneer Abu Baker***

***Zayed University***



جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY



## **(The National Archives NA)**

A leading research and archival institution based in Abu Dhabi charged with reserving and documenting the history and heritage of the United Arab Emirates and the Persian Gulf Region in general.

Established in 1968 - The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan- under the name of **Center for Documentation and Research (CDR)**.

Law No. 7 for 2008 - HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan- designating the Center as the official National Archives of the UAE, under the name **National Center for Documentation and Research (NCDR)**.

Later in 2014, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued the federal law no. (1) of 2014, changing the name to **National Archives (NA)** and, since 2004, it has come under the control of the Ministry for Presidential Affairs. Since the Federal Law in 2008, its mission has been to record the history of the UAE and the region and **to oversee the preservation of all UAE Government records.**



## **The National Archives Objectives**

### **Build a contemporary national archiving system**

Provide consulting and training services for government entities;  
Enhance the performance of archives in governmental entities;  
Establish an accreditation center in governmental records management

### **Provide integrated intellectual research and services**

Issue original research and studies about the history of UAE and the Arab Gulf countries; Build Integrated oral history archives; Develop a database for UAE tribal roots

### **Build the National Archives' holdings and enhance their accessibility**

Collect, preserve and restore documents, manuscripts and books about UAE and the Arab Gulf countries; Technical processing of its holdings in accordance with the best international standards and practices; Provide best applications to enhance accessibility of the National Archives holdings in accordance with the policies adopted

### **Enrich corporate and community outreach**

Enhance external trust and strengthen employee loyalty; Provide media and community programs to develop the relationships with the National Archives stakeholder; Build strategic partnerships with cultural and educational institutions



## The National Archives Partnership

The National Archives is a member of several international organizations; most important of which are:

- International Council on Archives (ICA)
- Arab Regional Branch of International Council on Archives (ARBICA)
- Secretariat General for Centers of Documents and Studies of G.C.C. States
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Arab Historians Association
- GCC Society for History and Archaeology
- Middle East Studies Association
- Center of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies (CGAPS)
- Association of Moroccan Historians
- Société Egyptienne des Études Historiques
- Association of Historians and Archaeologists in Iraq
- American Oral History Association (OHA)
- International Oral History Association
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI)



# The National Archives

## Government Archive

Legislative Provisions, International Archives Specifications and Standards, Policies, Procedures, Manuals, Archive Publications

## Historical Periods

United Arab Emirates Civilization, Portuguese Era, Dutch Era, British Era, The formation of the Union

The United Arab Emirates Civilization

UAE Civilization in Prehistoric Times:

1. UAE Civilization in the Neolithic Age (6000 B.C. - 3500 B.C.)
2. UAE Civilization in the Bronze Age (3200 B.C. - 1300 B.C.)
3. UAE Civilization in the Iron Age (1300 B.C. - 300 B.C.)

Portuguese Era

Dutch Era

British Era

The Formation of the Federation (August 6, 1966 -February 10, 1972)



# The National Archives

## Oral History

### Introduction to Oral History:

Oral history records and documents the history and intangible heritage of the United Arab Emirates through oral narratives and firsthand accounts stored in the memories of elderly people and witnesses to the times. Oral history monitors historical events and lifestyles in the past to preserve the material and moral characteristics of the UAE society for future generations by conducting audio and video interviews, which are subsequently classified and indexed to enrich the National Archives' holdings.

### Interview Subjects

The interview focuses on recording and documenting the biography of the narrator, then moves on to other topics, such as **genealogy and family tree, social life, administrative and political life, economic life, religious life, cultural and academic life, science, arts and traditional architectural styles.**

Sample Interview : Al Qabilah = The Tribe



# The National Archives

## Historical Archives

### Airport, Maqta Bridge

Agreement between H .H. Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and Mr. Raymond Frigon from Consult Ltd., Canada, for constructing Abu Dhabi airport and Maqta bridge, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1962.

#### AGREEMENT

This agreement has been entered into on 2nd December 1962 corresponding to 8th Shaaban 1385 A.H. between His Highness Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan Ruler of Abu Dhabi and Mr. Raymond Frigon representing Consult Ltd., Ottawa, Canada referred to in respect of :-

1. a) The construction of a International Airport, in Abu Dhabi with all its ancillary buildings.  
b) The construction of a bridge over the creek between Abu Dhabi Island and the mainland.
2. Consult will undertake complete consultant engineering services and supervision of the execution of the work referred to above and will give to High Highness the Ruler advice and take his instructions at all stages of the work. Drainage, all municipality works, and town planning are also among their responsibilities. They are to be diligent and use always their best endeavours and are to put forward constructive proposals in all that concerns the Sheikhdom.
3. High Highness will pay to Consult Ltd. a fee amounting to 5% of cost of completed works. This fee will be paid after the approval of drawings, plans, specifications and the commencement of constructors work, on the basis of the certified payments at regular instalments agreed with the contractor carrying out the work.
4. Consult Ltd. is to provide the requisite staff to carry out works entrusted to them and to provide the said personnel with houses, offices, and transport at their own expense.
5. Consult Ltd. undertake to devote to the Ruler all their efforts and to perform their work with honesty, sincerity and in good faith. They will not enter into collusion with any contractor nor deceive the Ruler in any way.
6. Should His Highness the Ruler discover lack of proper attention or negligence on the part of Consult Ltd. in carrying out the projects entrusted to them this agreement will then be considered cancelled. In this event His Highness will determine the value of works done by Consult Ltd. and sympathetically consider due compensation.
7. If Consult is asked to carry out projects other than those mentioned above these works will be subject to separate negotiation and agreement.
8. In witness to this agreement the two contracting parties have appended their signatures below.





# The National Archives

## Historical Archives

### Exchange Greetings

شركة تليفون و تليفون أبوظبي المحدودة Abu Dhabi Telegraph & Telephone Co. Ltd.						
OFFICE STAMP & DATE	NO. الرقم	CHARGE الرسوم		OUTWARD	DATE	TIME
		BD.	FILE			
1 1970/2/18	NO. OF WORDS عدد الكلمات	CASH CHECK TEL/OFFICE	SIGN.	RECEIVED AND PRICED		
		CASH	ACCOUNT E & Q.E	PROCESSED AND DESPATCHED		
OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS تعليمات ادارية		PLING DATE	TIME	INVOICED		
INSTRUCTIONS TO BE SIGNALLLED تعليمات للإرسال						
<p>Notes: In the absence of any indication to the contrary it will be assumed that this telegram is to be charged at full rate and treated accordingly. Please write the NAME AND ADDRESS in CAPITAL LETTERS.</p>		<p>مذكرة: في حالة عدم أية اشارة تسجيل وتعتبر الرقبة كعادية وتخط عليها اجرة كاملة. الرجاء كتابة الرقبة بخط واضح ويظهر الاشارة: بهاد ص/ العنوان: صاحب السفارة الرئيس جمال عبد الناصر رئيس الجمهورية العربية المتحدة المحترم القاهرة</p>				
<p>CLASS AND ADDRESS</p>		<p>بمناسبة حلول عيد الاضحى المبارك نتقدم الي سيادة الاخ ماجد تها نينا القلمة مشرفة بأحسن تهيئتها الطيبة راجين الله ان يحيدد وأطال عليكم وعلى العرب والمسلمين بالخير واليمن والبركات وكل عام وأنتم بخير</p>				
<p>Signature, Telephone and address of sender. (Not to be telegraphed)</p>		<p>أكتب أقباطي بالشروط المطبوعة خلف هذه الرقبة وأرجو ان تقبل الرقبة معنا ذلك اسم و عنوان المرسل كاملين مع الانشاء والماتيف: (ليس للإرسال)</p>				

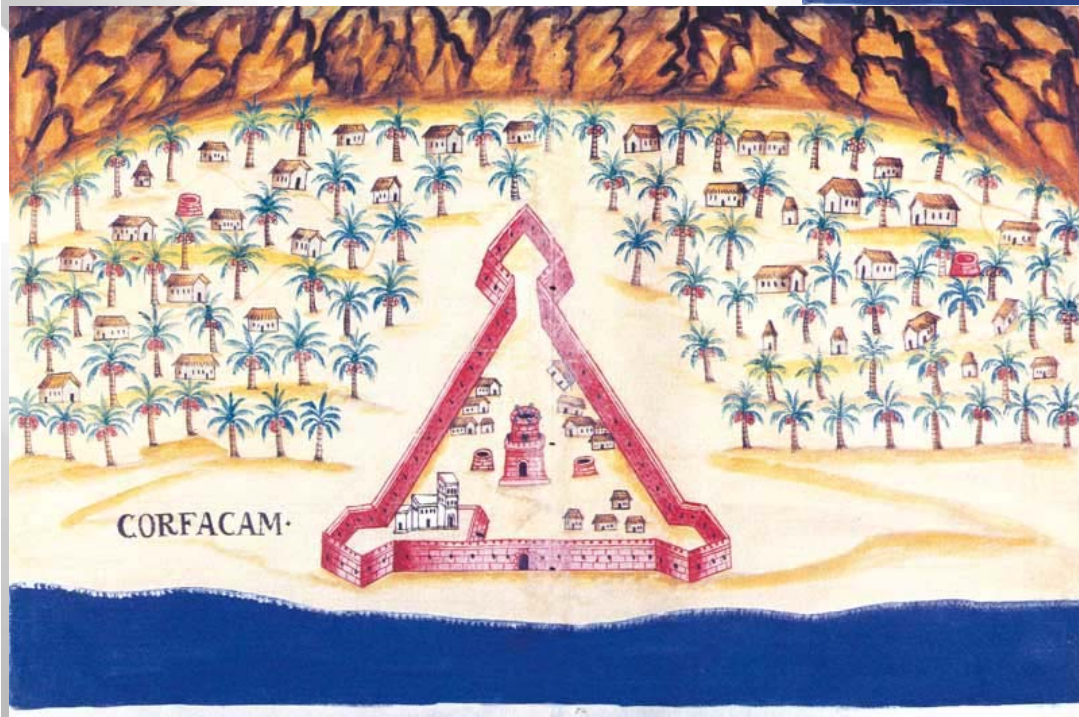
Greetings from H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi to President of Egypt Gamal Abd ElNasir on the occasion of Eid AlAdha, 24/02/1970.

# The National Archives

## Historical Archives

### Fort

The Portuguese fort of Libedia is located along the eastern coast of the present town of Bidyah, UAE, from the book of Prof. Rui Carita, Livro de Plantaforma das Fortalezas da India.



The Portuguese fort of Corfacam is located on the eastern coast of UAE which is known now by the city of Khor Fakkan, from the 1635 Antonio Bocarro's atlas "Livro das Plantas de todas as fortalezas, cidades e povoações do Estado da Índia Oriental" (Book of plants of all fortresses, cities and settlements of Oriental India).

# The National Archives

## Historical Archives

### Oil

Restricted annual economic report of the first cargo of oil exported from Abu Dhabi in July 1962.

RESTRICTED

14

### ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT FOR ABU DHABI

1962

#### General

The first cargo of oil was exported from Abu Dhabi in July 1962. This was the most important event of the year, since it is the presence of this oil that is inducing the development of Abu Dhabi and is giving it an important place in the economic world.

2. There was a marked increase in activity in Abu Dhabi, particularly in the latter half of the year. This activity however was tempered by the Ruler's obvious reluctance to take more than a few essential steps towards development. In spite of this, a number of British and foreign firms set up offices in Abu Dhabi, a third British bank was established in the town of Abu Dhabi, two of the British banks opened branches in the Abu Dhabi sector of the Buraimi Oasis, the first modern hotel was opened, and this obviously encouraged a large number of businessmen to visit Abu Dhabi. The number of visitors was much greater than in previous years. Cargo ships started making regular stops at Abu Dhabi and although the bulk of cargo off-loaded was consigned to the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company Ltd., there were encouraging signs that Abu Dhabi merchants were beginning to ship goods direct from United Kingdom.

3. The increasing activity in the state provided to the Ruler the necessity for the formation of a government. While progress in this sphere was not so encouraging, the Ruler had a British Secretary, a Sudanese Town Clerk and a Director of Customs (Jordanian) working for him by the end of the year. The Ruler still adamantly refused to publish Customs statistics and it has proved impossible to produce accurate figures for Abu Dhabi's trade.

#### Development

4. After a great deal of discussion and negotiation, the Ruler agreed to the appointment of two firms of British Consulting Engineers to supervise works on an initial development project devised by them at the Ruler's request earlier in the year. The Consulting Engineers are co-operating on this venture and have formed a joint office under the name of Abu Dhabi Consultants.

5. The initial bridging scheme for the project included the construction of a small jetty at the north eastern end of Abu Dhabi island, the construction of a road from jetty into town to the Ruler's Palace and from the Palace to the causeway which links the island to salt flats lying between the island and the mainland, and across the salt flats to the mainland, a total distance of 25 miles, the creation of some office and living accommodation and a small scale ground water investigation. The contract for this work was awarded to the Lebanese owned Contracting and Trading Company. Their price was approximately \$420,000. Work is to be completed by the end of August 1963. Many other proposals were put to the Ruler, but the only other one he accepted was for the construction of another water distillation plant, to be in operation by May or June of 1963...

RESTRICTED



جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY

# The National Archives Historical Archives

## Union

Abu Dhabi/Dubai union agreement between H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1968.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اتحادیة اتحاد امارتی أبو ظبی ودبی

ان صاحب العظمة الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان حاكم امارة أبو ظبي  
وأخاه صاحب العظمة الشيخ راشد بن سعيد المكنم حاكم امارة دبي ،

في سبيل المحافظة على استقرار بلديهما ،

وسعيًا وراء خير شعبيهما ونسائيهما ،

وتحقيقًا للمستقبل الأمثل ،

قد اتفقت بعونه تعالى على ما يلي :-

( ١ ) تكوین اتحاد يضم البلدين يكون له علم واحد .

( ٢ ) تتناط بالاتحاد المسائل الآتية :-

( أ ) الشؤون الخارجية .

( ب ) الدفاع والامن الداخلي في حالة الضرورة .

( ج ) التعليم والصحة .

( د ) الجنسية والهجرة .

( ٣ ) تتناط بالاتحاد السلطة التشريعية في الشؤون الموكولة للاتحاد بموجب هذا

الاتفاق وفي المسائل الاخرى المشتركة بين البلدين .

( ٤ ) الشؤون التي لم توكل للاتحاد بموجب هذا الاتفاق تظل كما كانت من اختصاص

حكومة كل بلد .

وإقرارًا بما اتفق عليه الطرفان المتعاقدان فقد وقعنا بأسميهما على

هذه الوثيقة في السبعين في هذا اليوم الأحد الواقع في ١٨ فبراير سنة

١٩٦٨م الموافق ٢٠ ذوالقعدة سنة ١٣٨٧هـ .

زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان  
حاكم امارة أبو ظبي

راشد بن سعيد المكنم  
حاكم امارة دبي

وذلك بحضور صاحبي السمو الموقعين أدناه ،

الشيخ مكنم بن راشد المكنم  
الشيخ حمدان بن محمد آل نهيان



جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY

# The Crucial Need

At present, UAE information centers and libraries are mostly run by expat managers and staff.

UAE has to choose either to continue in this staffing pattern using expats or to launch an initiative to increase the capacity of Emiratis to manage and work in archives, libraries and museums.

Educating Emiratis to work as information managers requires a professional, graduate program in information management in the country.

In December 2008 the UAE government passed Federal Law Number 7 of 2008, Article 5, mandating the preservation of all national and historic documents. The law has generated the need to establish archives within each government agency and has stimulated interest in hiring trained archivists and records managers for government offices.

Over the past years, many librarians, archivists and library/archive managers in the United Arab Emirates, such as the National Archives, the National Library, the Petroleum Institute and the UAE University, have approached representatives of Zayed University (ZU) requesting it to offer masters-level archive and library education. **Because of its solid academic reputation, its international accreditation, ZU is seen as the appropriate institution to lead this effort.**



Zayed  
University,  
Abu Dhabi



Zayed  
University,  
Dubai



Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680  
267-284-5000  
USA

Internationally Zayed University is accredited by the [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#) (MSCHE), one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States. The university was first accredited by the MSCHE in 2008, renewed in 2013 and 2018 (five years periodic review)

# Research

1. One study by Dr. Janet Martin under the title of “*Feasibility study: The development of Graduate Programs in Information Management at Zayed University, UAE.*”, July 2013

## Data Analysis – Employers

Almost without exception, there was strong support within the library community for the development of an internationally recognized, good quality LIS program at ZU.

Reservations were expressed by some potential employers about:

Desire of Emirati students to work in libraries/archives

Understanding within the UAE about the value of libraries/archives

## Data Analysis – Students

SAMPLE of 699 potential students

86% Emirati

45% “interested” or “very interested” in undertaking further studies in LIS

50% of these interested in Masters level

66% of these would begin within 2 years

# Research

2. One bilingual survey for prospective students for graduate program in Library and Information Studies done by Zayed University Library sent out via the ILN and other platforms for prospective MLIS students in the GCC (December 2018 – Jan 2019)

## Data Analysis – Students

SAMPLE of 288 potential students excluding school librarians

40% Emirati

60% “interested” or “very interested” in undertaking further studies in LIS

Most interested in Masters level.

Most interested in higher education, archives, government or company employment.





# Proposal for Master of Science in Library and Information Management (MSLIM)

The proposal is to launch a program that prepares library and information professionals for the demands of the information world of the 21st Century, boosting the number of courses that the university is already offering while preparing leaders in libraries and information management, an area that is in serious need of professionals.

## OBJECTIVE

- Starting a Zayed University School of Library and Information Science
- This will be a part of the College of Education with essential courses shared within College of Technological Innovation and College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## PROGRAM NAME AND DEGREE AWARDED

Master of Science in Library and Information Management (MSLIM)

ماجستير في علم المكتبات وإدارة المعلومات



جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY

## 1. Scope of Services

### Procedures

- Creation of course modules
- Faculty recruitment in addition to the existing number
- Full-time and adjunct library Faculty
- Local and international accreditation of qualification, e.g. with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) or the American Library Association (ALA), and recognition by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
- Partnerships with other already established regional and international library schools



## 2. Requirements

Apply requirements in ZU Course Catalog for Graduate Studies. In addition, for this program accept ILETS 5.5. to 5.9 with condition to achieve a 6 within a semester. Enhancement support available through Zayed University Academic Bridge Program.

## 3. Courses available

The following are compulsory coursework modules:

### First Year, First Semester

Proposed Course Name	Credits
Organization of Materials	3
Resource Selection and Evaluation	3
Information Technology- Digital Technologies for Information Professionals	3

### 3. Courses available

The following are compulsory coursework modules:

#### First Year, Second Semester

Proposed Course Name	Credits
Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Learning (from College of Education)	3
Information Seeking Behaviour, Retrieval and Use	3
Research Methods and Data Analysis Techniques (Introduction to Educational Research, from College of Education)	3
Internship	3



### 3. Courses available

#### Second Year, First Semester: Electives for Specializations (choose 3)

Proposed Course Name	Credits
Knowledge Management and International Trends	3
Network Technologies - Computing in Perspective	3
Marketing Information Services	3
Scholarly Communication	3
Information Ethics	3
Records Management	3
Digital Curation and Preservation	3
School Library Management	3
Literature for Children	3
Adolescent Development	3
Diversity in a Multicultural Society	3

### 3. Courses available

#### Second Year, Second Semester

Dissertation - Project based and worksite internship	6
--	---

A total of 36 credit hours will be needed for students to graduate in the program with a master's degree.

Students completing 18 credits will be awarded a graduate diploma and may later on proceed to complete a master's degree upon completion of the remaining 18 credits.



#### **4. Career Prospects**

Graduates with Master of Science in Library and Information Management will be equipped to work in a wide network of settings including school libraries, academic libraries, public libraries, archives and museums, libraries based in government ministries and commercial organizations.

As students come from a variety of undergraduate academic disciplines, they can pursue many career pathways based on their own passions. Examples of positions that graduates may choose are: school librarians, archival librarians, information consultants, academic librarians, subject specialist librarians, information and library services managers.



## References

Martin, J. (2013) *Feasibility study: The development of Graduate Programs in Information Management at Zayed University, UAE*. Unpublished Report, Zayed University, UAE. Retrieved from <http://drjanetmartin.wordpress.com/projects/>

National Archives. (2019). Retrieved May, 2019, from <https://www.na.ae/en/>





***Thank You***

**[muneer.abubaker@zu.ac.ae](mailto:muneer.abubaker@zu.ac.ae)**



جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY