Development of an Arabic Multilanguage Thesaurus MELCOM 42nd Annual Conference Online May 19, 2021

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Agenda

- Background

- Creating the thesaurus

- Multilingual Thesaurus: Arabic subject headings

- Demonstration of the thesaurus

Background -1

- The ALCTS Steering Committee to Oversee the Implementation of the Recommendations Contained in the Report of the ACLTS Task Force on Non-English Access 2007-2009

- http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/ianda/nonenglish/0510_final_report.pdf

Recommendation #11 - Charge

- Assign the ALCTS Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) to work with appropriate library organization, to study the needs of library users for multilingual subject access in the appropriate script(s), and to propose steps to address those needs

Issues with the Charge

- Extremely vague.

- Too broad.

- A research project that might never be completed.

- Is outside SAC's scope. SAC doesn't do much research on end users or their needs.

- **Promote research on the non-English subject access.**

OSUL Pilot Project

- The pilot project to assign subject headings in Non-Roman languages

  - Users' ability to search the library catalog by subject terms in their preferred languages, e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, etc. No need to translate or transliterate.

Examples

Left column:

650	0	Goldwork ǂz Japan ǂv Exhibitions.
650	0	Silverwork ǂz Japan ǂv Exhibitions.
650	0	Art objects, Japanese ǂv Exhibitions.
650	0	Gold in art ǂv Exhibitions.
650	7	日本美術品 ǂ2 local/osu
650	7	Art objects, Japanese. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst008157
650	7	美術の中の金 ǂ2 local/osu
650	7	Gold in art. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst00944439
650	7	金細工 ǂ2 ndlsh ǂ0 (JTNDL)001270758
650	7	Goldwork. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst00944612
650	7	銀細工 ǂ2 ndlsh ǂ0 (JTNDL)001270761
650	7	Silverwork. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01119016
651	7	日本 ǂ2 ndlsh ǂ0 (JTNDL)00568158
651	7	Japan. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01204082
655	7	展覧会カタログ ǂ2 local/osu
655	7	Exhibition catalogs. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01424028
710	2	徳川美術館, ǂe editor, ǂe host institution.
710	2	Tokugawa Bijutsukan, ǂe editor, ǂe host institution.

Middle column:

245	0 0	موسوعة جمال عبد الناصر في الفقه الاسلامى.
245	0 0	Mawsūʻat Jamāl ʻAbd al-Nāṣir fī al-fiqh al-Islāmī.
246	1	ǂi Volumes 11-30 have title: ǂa موسوعة الفقه الاسلامى
246	1	ǂi Volumes 11-30 have title: ǂa Mawsūʻat al-fiqh al-Islā
264	1	القاهرة : ǂb المجلس الاعلى للشؤون الاسلامية، ǂc 1386- [19
264	1	al-Qāhirah : ǂb al-Majlis al-A'lá lil-Shu'ūn al-Islāmīyah,
650	0	Islamic law ǂv Encyclopedias.
650	0	Islamic law ǂv Terminology.
650	0	Islamic law ǂx Dictionaries ǂx Arabic.
650	7	الفقه الإسلامى. ǂ2 qrmak
650	7	Islamic law. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst00979949
655	7	معاجم. ǂ2 qrmak
655	7	Dictionaries. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01423826
655	7	دوائر معارف. ǂ2 qrmak
655	7	Encyclopedias. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01423798
655	7	مصطلحات. ǂ2 qrmak
655	7	Terminology. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01423880
710	1	مجلس الأعلى للشؤون الإسلامية ǂb مصر.
710	1	Egypt. ǂb Majlis al-A'lá lil-Shu'ūn al-Islāmīyah.

Right column:

264	1	台北縣中和市 : ǂb INK印刻文學生活雜誌出版有限公司, ǂc 2017.
264	1	Taibei Xian Zhonghe Shi : ǂb INK yin ke wen xue sheng huo za zhi chu ban you xian gong si, ǂc 2017.
300		279 pages : ǂb illustrations ; ǂc 22 cm.
336		text ǂb txt ǂ2 rdacontent
337		unmediated ǂb n ǂ2 rdamedia
338		volume ǂb nc ǂ2 rdacarrier
490	1	陳芳明作品集 ; ǂv 1
490	1	Chen Fangming zuo pin ji ; ǂv 1
600	1 4	陳芳明, ǂd 1947-
600	1 4	Chen, Fangming, ǂd 1947-
650	0	Chinese literature ǂz Taiwan ǂx History and criticism.
650	0	Chinese literature ǂy 20th century ǂx History and criticism.
650	0	Authors, Chinese ǂz Taiwan.
650	7	中国作家. ǂ2 cct
650	7	Authors, Chinese. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst00821889
650	7	中國文學. ǂ2 lcstt ǂ0 http://catId.ncl.edu.tw/subject/sh0001074
650	7	Chinese literature. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst00857595
651	7	臺灣. ǂ2 lcstt ǂ0 http://catId.ncl.edu.tw/subject/sh0015571
651	7	Taiwan. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01207854
648	7	二十世紀. ǂ2 lcstt ǂ0 http://catId.ncl.edu.tw/subject/sh0000147
648	7	1900-1999 ǂ2 fast
655	7	批評, 解釋等. ǂ2 csht
655	7	Criticism, interpretation, etc. ǂ2 fast ǂ0 (OCoLC)fst01411635
800	1	陳芳明, ǂc 1947- ǂt works. ǂf 2017.
800	1	Chen, Fangming, ǂc 1947- ǂt works. ǂf 2017.

The development of the Arabic thesaurus based on the linked-data approach

- Enhance access

- Created digital thesaurus

- Make thesaurus available globally

- Active community participation

Scope of the Thesaurus

- The thesaurus is a combination of general and specialized terms
- Arranged alphabetically in English with an Arabic equivalent
- Controlled vocabs
- Keyword search capability
- Use Boolean logic to qualify
- Sub-division should be searchable as well as the subject term
- Only two files:
  - Subject terms
  - Genre terms

Objectives

- Assigning Arabic subject headings in the vernacular

- A thesaurus of Arabic terms that are linked to their English equivalent authority record (LSCH, FAST, other)

- Standardized subject headings in Arabic (Like Arabic LCSH)

- Link each term to Wikipedia articles (if available) for additional subject background

Methodology

- Researching how to create a thesaurus

- How to construct a thesaurus that is comprehensive to cover the Middle East

- Creating an online thesaurus

- Programming

- Hardware and software

- Selecting the topics, e.g. Islam, Quran, politics, history, social, etc.

- Collecting the terms

  - LCSH

  - FAST

  - Wikipedia

  - **al-Maknaz al-kabīr : muʻjam shāmil lil-majālāt wa-al-mutarādifāt wa-al-mutaḍāddāt / iʻdād al-Duktūr / Aḥmad Mukhtār ʻUmar ; bi-musāʻadat farīq ʻamal**

  - Qāʾimat ruʾūs al-mawdūʻāt al-ʻArabīyah al-qiyāsīyah lil-maktabāt wa-marākiz al-ʻulūmāt wa-qawāʻid al-bayānāt / tawafar ʻalayhi

  - https://quizlet.com/27707842/islamic-architecture-vocabulary-flash-cards/

  - **Oxford dictionaries. Arabic**

  - Qāʾimat ruʾūs al-mawdūʻāt al-ʻArabīyah , Ibrahim Ahmad al-Khzindar

  - Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics

Demonstration

- Sample searches

Benefits of the thesaurus

- First Arabic subject thesaurus

- Provides access in vernacular languages

- Consistent terminology

- On-line access

- Flexible – users can participate in its development

- Future plans for Persian and Turkish

- Additional subject areas – Example of architecure

In conclusion

- Give it a try

- Make it your own

- Contribute

- Provide feedback

- Work in progress

- Access: http://multilangthesaurus.com/home.php

- **Email me for password at el-Sherbini.1@osu.edu**

Thank you

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