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Nomen est Omen

Authority control, manuscripts and Digital Humanities

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Editor of FIHRIST, **Union Catalogue of Manuscripts from the Islamicate World** - <https://www.fihrist.org.uk/>

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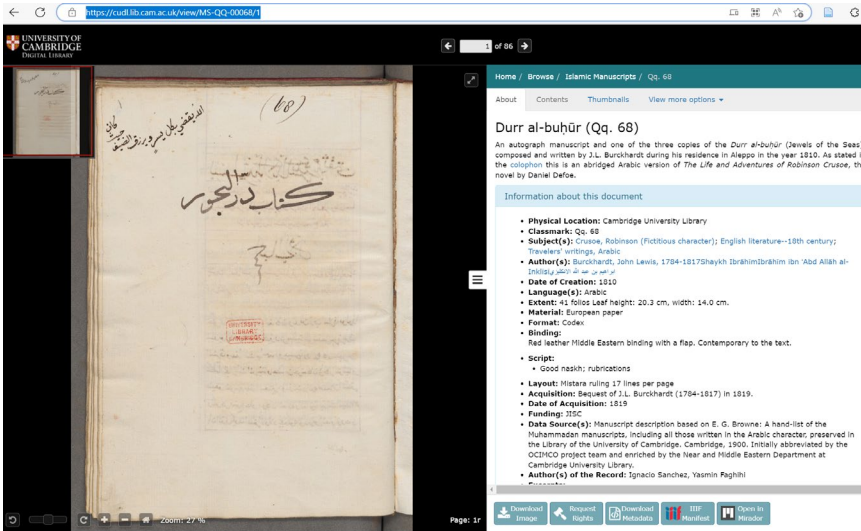
Where I am coming from...

Personal names in manuscripts

For example:

Colophon of Qq.68

[Islamic Manuscripts : Durr al-buhūr \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.dam.ox.ac.uk/MS-QQ-00068/)



Written by Ibrāhīm
b. 'Abdū Nāh al-
Inghīzī, who came
to Aleppo, A.D. 1810.

من هذه القصة مثالا جزيل لاعتبار على ان الانسان مهما
حصل في اخطار في هذا العالم فلا يتطير رجاء من كرم ربه بل
يبذل جهده في الامد ويتكل على معونة خالقه وربنا يزيل
عنه كل شر ويمنحه الفرج بعد المشقة كما قال الشاعر
شعر لطيف
درج الايام تندرج وبيت الهم لا تلج
رَبُّ امرِضاقٍ مَحْرُجُهُ وسعته ساعة الفرج
قال الدردي واستقام رويسون مع عيلته في هذا العيش
الحني الى ان اتاهم هادم اللذات ومزق الجماعات فماتوا اسجنان
الحى المذرى لا يموت غير ان سلسله هذا البيت لم تنزل
موجودة في يهودك والجزيرة على اسمهم
وهم في ثروة عظيمة زهدا خيلها
والحمد لله وحده
امين
وهذا من كتاب المسما در البحر من مختصر سيرة الشريف يوسف
رويسون من مدينة بوردك
قدم مختصر ونقل هذه السيرة المشهورة على يد اهل القرى
الفترا اليه بقا من شأنه ابراهيم بن عبد الله الانكليزي الوارد الى
مدينة حلب في شهر حزيران 1810م

Legacy data

358

درّ البحور

Qq. 68

An abridged Arabic translation of Robinson Crusoe, written by *Ibrāhīm b. 'Abdu'llāh al-Inglāzī*, who came to Aleppo in A. D. 1810, and entitled *Durru'l-Buḥūr* ("The Pearl of the Seas"). [Ff. 41 of 20·3 × 14·0 c. and 17 ll.; good naskh ; rubrications.]

Union Catalogue of Manuscripts from the Islamicate World

Search the catalogue of manuscripts from the Islamicate world



[ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

OR BROWSE BY

[CLASSMARKS](#)

[WORKS](#)

[PEOPLE](#)

[SUBJECTS](#)

Institutions

Oxford University	Cambridge University	British Library	The University of Manchester	School of Oriental and African Studies
Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland	University of Birmingham	King's College Cambridge	Eton College	Wellcome Trust
Wadham College (University of Oxford)	Trinity College Cambridge	University of St Andrews	Arabic Commentaries on the Hippocratic Aphorisms project	Jesus College (Cambridge)

"Authority control remain one of the main library functions that maintain and safeguard the flow of information between library data and users."

Iman Dagher and Denise Soufi

People, places, works (titles)



- Authority control
- Otorite kontrolü
- Autorité (sciences de l'information)
- ضبط استنادي
- Normdatei
- زانياريه کتبخانه پييه کان
- Нормативный контроль
- 典拠管理
- داده های کتابخانه ای

Parameters:

- ISNI
- VIAF
- LCCN
- GND (former PND)
- ORCID
- ...

The issue

What name?



Names and identity

Authority and truth



Absence of proof

- Omission, illegibility, loss
- (Lack of) knowledge of authority
- Focus on content vs authorship

Neglect or cultural colonialism

- Prioritising content for classification
- Disregard (who knows the author anyway?
Someone from faraway lands...)
- Irrelevance (why would the user want to know?)
 - Self-assignment of authorship

methodologies and best practices

for creating authority files in memory institutions



GLAM* institutions of the Global North

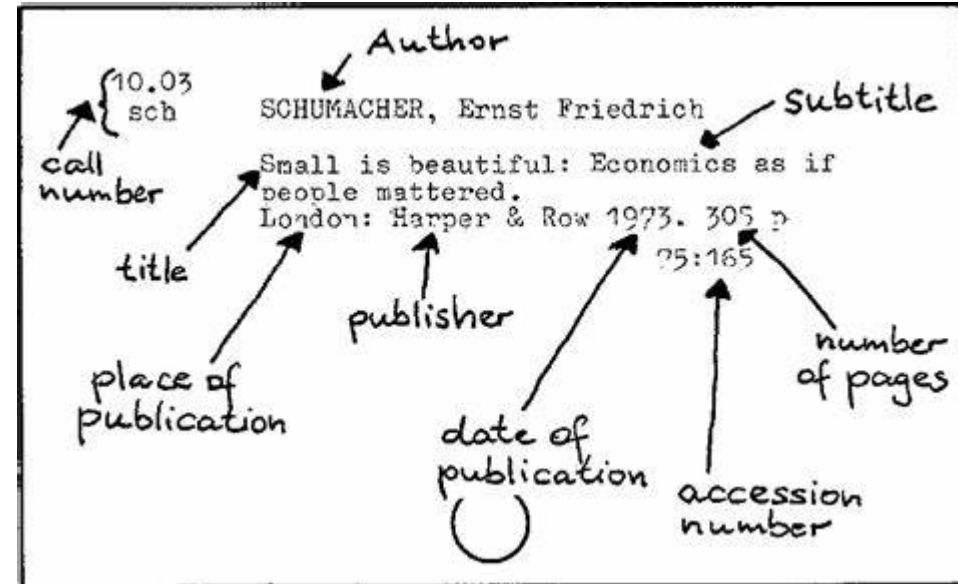
Galleries

Libraries

Archives

Museums

'Standard' Library cataloguing (AACR2)



- 100 1 ⚙️ †a Schumacher, E. F. †q (Ernst Friedrich), †d 1911-1977.
- 245 1 0 †a Small is beautiful : †b a study of economics as if people mattered / †c E.F. Schumacher.
- 260 †a London : †b Blond and Briggs, †c 1973 †g (1978 printing)
- 300 †a 288 p. ; †c 23 cm.
- 504 †a Includes bibliographical references.
- 650 4 †a Social economics.

'Standard' Library authority record

100 1 †a Schumacher, E. F. †q (Ernst Friedrich), †d 1911-1977

370 †a Bonn (Germany) †b Switzerland †2 naf

372 †a Statistics †a Economics †a Appropriate technology †2 lcsh

373 †a University of Oxford †a Columbia University †2 naf

373 †a British National Coal Board †2 naf †s 1950 †t 1970

373 †a Intermediate Technology Development Group †2 naf †s 1966

374 †a Authors †a Statisticians †a Economists †2 lcsh

377 †a eng

378 †q Ernst Friedrich

400 1 †w nnaa †a Schumacher, Ernst Friedrich

400 1 †a Schumacher, Ernst Friedrich, †d 1911-1977

400 1 †a Schumacher, Fritz, †d 1911-1977

670 †a His Export policy and full employment ... 1943.

670 †a Data from Bullfrog Films for Small is beautiful ... [MP] 1981, c1979 †b (Fritz Schumacher)

Authority (98163548500000041)

Bibliographic Records(2)

100 1 †a Mu'allimī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Yaḥyá

400 1 †a Ma'lamī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Yaḥyá

400 1 †a 'Utmī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Yaḥyá

400 1 †a Yamānī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Yaḥyá

400 1 †a Makkī, 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Yaḥyá

400 1 †a Mualeimi, Abd-Arrahman bin Yehya

400 1 †a Utmi, Abd-Arrahman bin Yehya

400 1 †a Yamani, Abd-Arrahman bin Yehya

400 1 †a Makki, Abd-Arrahman bin Yehya

400 1 †a المعلمي، عبد الرحمن بن يحيى a†

400 1 †a عبد الرحمن بن يحيى المعلمي اليماني a†

400 1 †a معلمي، عبد الرحمن بن يحيى a†

400 1 †a المعلمي، عبد الرحمن بن يحيى a†

400 1 †a معلمي، عبد الرحمن بن يحيى a†

667 †a Machine-derived non-Latin script reference project.

667 †a Non-Latin script references not evaluated.

670 †a Author's al-Anwār al-kāshifah ... 1959.
†a al-Rinā' 'alá al-ḡubūr. 1006: th t n. (al-Shaykh 'Abd al-F

More examples

100 1	‡a Ibn Fāris al-Qazwīnī, Aḥmad, ‡d active 10th century	100 1	‡a Qazwīnī, Muḥammad Kāzīm
400 0	‡a Aḥmad ibn Fāris al-Qazwīnī, ‡d active 10th century	400 0	‡a Muḥammad Kāzīm al-Qazwīnī
400 0	‡a Aḥmad ibn Fāris ibn Zakarīyā al-Rāzī, ‡d active 10th century	400 1	‡a Qazvīnī, Muḥammad Kāzīm
400 1	‡w nnea ‡a Ibn Fāris al-Qazwīnī, Aḥmad, ‡d 10th cent.	400 1	‡a قزوینی، محمد کاظم a‡
400 1	‡a Rāzī, Aḥmad ibn Fāris ibn Zakarīyā, ‡d active 10th century	400 1	‡a قزوینی، محمد کاظم a‡
400 1	‡a ابن فارس القزوینی، أحمد a‡	400 1	‡a قزوینی، محمد کاظم a‡
400 1	active 10th century d‡ ابن فارس القزوینی، أحمد، a‡	400 1	‡a محمد کاظم القزوینی a‡
400 1	10 القرن d‡ ابن فارس القزوینی، احمد، a‡	400 1	‡a محمد کاظم قزوینی a‡
400 1	active century th10 d‡ ابن فارس القزوینی، أحمد، a‡	667	‡a Machine-derived non-Latin script reference project.
400 1	‡a ابن فارس اللغوي a‡	667	‡a Non-Latin script references not evaluated.
400 1	‡a بن فارس، القزوینی أحمد a‡	670	‡a His Fāṭimah al-Zahrā' min al-mahd ilá al-laḥd, 1977: ‡b t.p. (al-Sayyid Muḥammad Kāzīm al-Qazwīnī) p. 11 (Karbalā' al-'Irāq, Muḥammad Kāzīm al-Qazwīnī)
667	‡a Machine-derived non-Latin script reference project.	670	‡a His Islām va ta'līmat-i tarbiyatī, 1974?: ‡b t.p. (Sayyid Muḥammad Kāzīm Qazvīnī)
667	‡a Non-Latin script references not evaluated.		
670	‡a His Ḥilyat al-fuqahā', 1983: ‡b t.p. (Abū al-Ḥusayn Aḥmad ibn Fāris ibn Zakarīyā al-Rāzī, d. 395H.)		

NACO (Name Authority Cooperative)

- Shared data base of the global library community
- over 10 million descriptions for persons, families, corporate bodies, jurisdictions, works, and expressions
- MARC Authority Format
- LC Transliteration standards

NACO for Arabic names

- Establishing an author
 - Modern –post 1900
 - Classical –past 1900
- Consulting reference works
 - Brockelmann; Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur
 - Zirikli; al- A'lām - الزركلي الدين لخير الأعلام
 - Kahalah; Mu'Jam al-Mu'allifin - الصوفيين المؤلفين معجم
- Transliteration standards
- Determining the various elements of a name

Bibliotheca Alexandrina approach

- Originally a local authority file
- Towards a universal authority file for Arabic names
- Based on NACO policies with adjustments
- Linked files of various scripts locally
- MARC Authority Format
- LC Transliteration standards

Bibliotheca Alexandrina- references

Reference works

- Various authors; Madākhil al-asmā' al-'Arabīyah al-qadīmah - مداخل الأسماء العربية القديمة
- Kahalah; Mu'Jam al-Mu'allifīn - معجم المؤلفين الصوفيين
- Zirikli; al- A'lām - الأعلام لخير الدين الزركلي
- Sarkis; Mu'jam al-maṭbū'āt al-'Arabīyah wa-al-mu'arrabah - معجم المطبوعات العربية والمعربة
- Celebi; Kashf al-ẓunūn 'an asāmī al-kutub wa-al-funūn - كشف الظنون عن اسامي الكتب والفنون
- Brockelmann; Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur

Arabic classical names

- **Ism** - اسم given name (forename)
- **Nasab** - نسب patronymic/matronymic - ibn- ابن/ bint- بنت
- **Nisbah** – نسبة attribution (occupational, descent, geographical)
- **Kunyah** - كنية a mark of distinction applied to prominent figures to honor them. For example, “Abū-Yūsuf” (أبويوسف) is often used for someone who is called Ya'qūb (يعقوب)
Nisbah -
- **Khitab**: - خطاب an honorific name, which is usually ended by the suffix al-Dīn (الدين)
- **Laqab**: - لقب a word or an expression applied to an eminent person to evoke a real or an assigned quality

Technology

Facility and obstacle



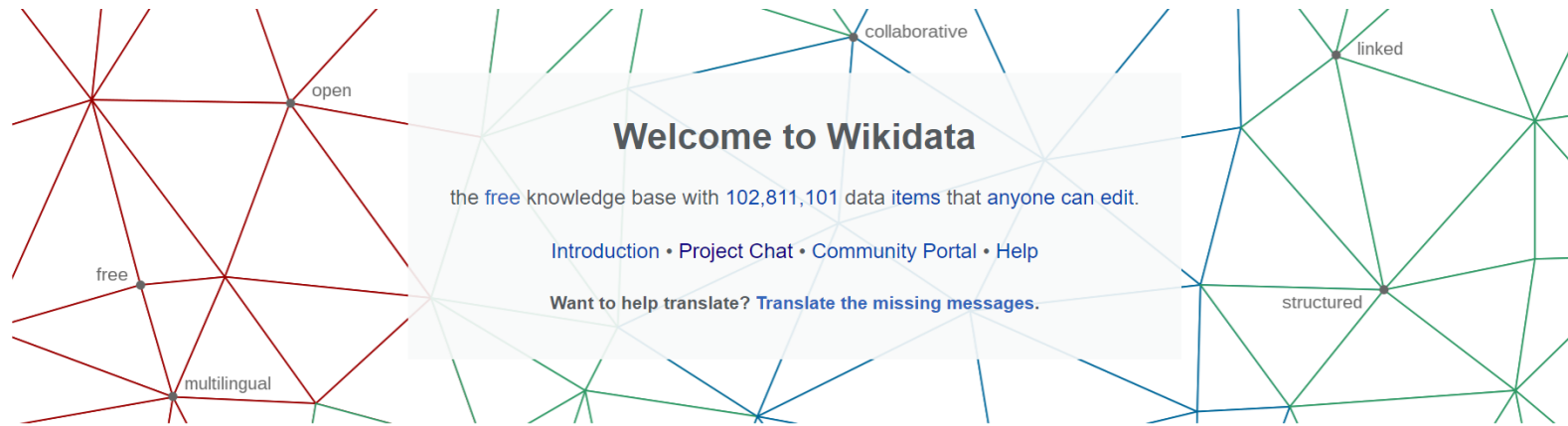
Librarianship and print culture

- Paper production (13th C.)
- Printing (15th C.)
- Library Standards (19th C.)

Identity management system

- ISNI
- ORCID
- WIKIDATA
- GND
- ...





- Main page
- Community portal
- Project chat
- Create a new Item
- Recent changes
- Random Item
- Query Service
- Nearby
- Help
- Donate

- Lexicographical data
- Create a new Lexeme
- Recent changes
- Random Lexeme

- Tools
- What links here
- Related changes
- Special pages
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Wikidata item

- In other projects
- Wikimedia Commons
- MediaWiki
- Meta-Wiki
- Multilingual Wikisource
- Wikispecies
- Wikibooks
- Wikimania
- Wikinews

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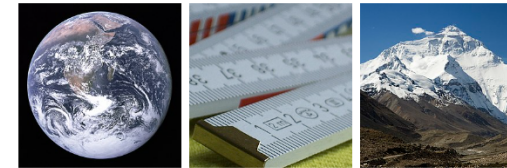
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- What is Wikidata? Read the [Wikidata introduction](#).

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Item: [Earth \(Q2\)](#) Property: [highest point \(P610\)](#) custom value: [Mount Everest \(Q513\)](#)

Current highlights

A network graph with nodes and edges, overlaid with a white wavy line. The nodes are represented by small circles and are connected by thin lines. The nodes are labeled with numerical values. A prominent white wavy line is drawn across the center of the graph, partially obscuring some nodes and edges. The text "Is authority control still a valid term?" is overlaid on the graph in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Is authority control still a valid term?