



# **Review of User Requirements for Digitised Resources in Islamic Studies**

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## Table of Contents

List of tables .....	4
List of figures.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
Executive Summary.....	5
1.1 Background.....	5
1.2 Aims and Objectives.....	5
1.3 Methodology and Implementation.....	5
1.4 Output and Results.....	6
1.4.1 Use of Resources .....	6
1.4.2 Access to Resources .....	6
1.4.3 Resources Current Unavailable Online .....	7
1.4.4 Weight Attached to Different Areas of Islamic Studies .....	7
1.4.5 Use of Websites, Gateways and Portals .....	7
1.4.6 Reading List and High-Use Book Survey .....	7
1.4.7 Survey of UK and Ireland PhD Theses .....	8
1.5 Outcomes .....	8
1.6 Summary of Recommendations.....	9
1.7 Recommendations in Full .....	9
1.8 National Gateway to Islamic Resources.....	9
1.9 Gateway to Primary Texts .....	10
1.10 Digitisation of UK Islamic manuscript catalogues.....	10
1.11 Open Access Repository for Islamic Studies .....	10
1.12 Electronic Versions of Doctoral Dissertations in Islamic Studies.....	10
1.13 Online Education Materials Feasibility Survey.....	10
1.14 Subsidy of Online Reference Works .....	11
1.15 Archiving of Websites of UK Islamic Organisations.....	11
1.16 Digitisation of Research Monographs in English.....	11
2 Background.....	12
3 Aims and Objectives.....	13
4 Methodology and Implementation.....	13
5 Output and Results.....	15
5.1 Use of Online Resources .....	15
5.2 Type of Resource Used, Frequency of Usage and Significance of Resources.....	15
5.3 Access to Institutional Resources .....	18
5.4 Resources Currently Unavailable Online .....	20
5.5 Relative Importance of Sub-Divisions of Islamic Studies.....	22
5.6 Use and Significance of Web Sites, Gateways and Portals in Islamic Studies .....	23
5.7 Reading List and High Use Book Surveys .....	25
5.8 Survey of Recent Doctoral Research.....	26
6 Outcomes .....	27
7 Conclusion .....	28
8 Recommendations .....	30
8.1 Summary of Recommendations.....	30

8.1.1	Recommendation 1:	30
8.1.2	Recommendation 2:	30
8.1.3	Recommendation 3:	30
8.1.4	Recommendation 4:	30
8.1.5	Recommendation 5:	30
8.2	Recommendations in Full	31
8.2.1	The Creation of a National Gateway to Islamic Resources	31
8.2.1.1	Gateway to Primary Texts	31
8.2.1.2	Digitisation of UK Islamic manuscript catalogues	32
8.2.1.3	Open-Access Repository for Islamic Studies	32
8.2.1.4	Digitisation of UK Theses in Islamic Studies	32
8.2.2	Undertaking an Online Education Materials Feasibility Study	33
8.2.3	Subsidy of Online Reference Works	33
8.2.4	Archiving of Websites of UK Islamic Organisations	34
8.2.5	Digitisation of Research Monographs in English	35
9	APPENDICES	36
A)	DigIslam Project Team	36
B)	Institutions Identified as Containing Expertise in Islamic Studies to which Questionnaires were distributed	36
C)	Focus Group Members and Telephone Interviewees	38
D)	Survey of Reading Lists and High Use Books in Islamic Studies in UK Universities	39
E)	Survey of Recent Doctoral Dissertations (1997-2006) in Islamic Studies in UK and Irish Universities	48
i)	PhD Theses in Islamic Studies, 1997-2006 Top 10 universities	50
ii)	PhD Theses in Islamic Studies 1997-2006, subject analysis	51
iii)	PhD Theses in Islamic Studies, 1997-2006 by Year	53
iv)	PhD Theses in Islamic Studies 1997-2006	55
F)	Survey of Existing Portals for Islamic Studies, Libraries of Online Primary Texts, Online Manuscript Catalogues and Islamic Digitisation Projects	58
i)	Gateways to General Sources	58
ii)	Gateways to Sources on Islam and Islamic History and Culture	59
iii)	Portals to Digitised Primary texts in Islamic Studies	60
iv)	Digitised Primary texts in Islamic Studies, not included in Virtual Libraries	62
v)	Digitised Islamic Manuscript Catalogues	64
vi)	Ongoing Digitisation Projects	65

## List of tables

Table 1 .....	15
Table 2 .....	15
Table 3 .....	17
Table 4 .....	18
Table 5 .....	18
Table 6 .....	19
Table 7 .....	20
Table 8 .....	22
Table 9 .....	23
Table 10 .....	25
Table 11 .....	25
Table 12 .....	40
Table 13 .....	41
Table 14 .....	42
Table 15 .....	43
Table 16 .....	50
Table 17 .....	52
Table 18 .....	54
Table 19 .....	57

## List of figures

Figure 1 .....	50
Figure 2 .....	51
Figure 3 .....	53
Figure 4 .....	55

## **Executive Summary**

### **1.1 Background**

In June 2007, the UK Government designated Islamic Studies a strategically important subject and asked HEFCE to develop a programme to support this field. As a consequence, JISC issued a call for a review of user requirements for digitised resources for researchers and teachers within higher education working in the field of Islamic Studies in December 2007. The project (acronym **DigiIslam**) to determine these user requirements was undertaken by a team at the University of Exeter and ran from March to May 2008.

For the purposes of the Project, Islamic Studies was fairly broadly defined and included Islamic History, Islamic Art and Architecture, Islamic Music, Islamic Law, Islamic Philosophy, Islamic Science and Medicine, Islamic Finance and Economics, Islamic Sociology and Anthropology and Modern Islamic Thought and Politics. The Project focussed geographically on the Middle East, but included researchers working in other areas of Islamic culture such as South Asia where possible.

### **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

- To landscape existing digitised resources for Islamic Studies.
- To identify gaps in the provision of digitised resources in Islamic Studies.
- To establish criteria to prioritise the potential materials and/or collections for digitisation.

### **1.3 Methodology and Implementation**

- An online questionnaire was set up on the Project website and 145 academics, researchers, librarians and archivists in 35 institutions were contacted by email. 53 people completed the questionnaire, a response rate of 36.5%.
- A Focus Group was set up drawn from academics, librarians and scholars from the UK Islamic Community and met on April 30<sup>th</sup> at JISC Headquarters in London.
- Telephone interviews were set up with several academics who were unable to attend the Focus Group.
- Reading lists were sought from UK institutions which teach substantive courses on Islam, Islamic Studies and related subjects. In addition three libraries were asked to

provide lists of the most heavily used books in Islamic Studies. These lists were then analysed to determine which textbooks were the most popular across a wide range of institutions, and whether they were already available in digitised format and at what cost.

- All UK theses completed during the past ten years were analysed in order to show trends in current research and to determine which areas were attracting the largest number of students.
- Gateways and portals to Islamic Studies were examined by using existing resources and an annotated inventory of the most significant was compiled. The web was also scrutinised in order to ascertain the number of gateways offering access to digitised primary texts in Islamic languages, and any to discover whether technical limitations existed which might hinder their use. Information was also collated on digitised catalogues of Islamic manuscripts and on current Islamic digitisation projects.

## **1.4 Output and Results**

### **1.4.1 Use of Resources**

Nearly all the respondents already used online resources in Islamic Studies (90.6%), with the main purpose of this use being research (92.1%), although use of these resources for teaching was also high (73.7%). The most heavily used resources for research were current online journals and journal backsets (e.g. JSTOR) = 94.7% of respondents (of which 68.4% used this resource frequently), followed by online reference works in English = 88.9% (of which 52.8% use the resource frequently), primary texts in translation = 75.6% (of which 27% frequently), and primary texts in Islamic languages = 72.2% (of which 25% frequently). Resources for teaching followed a similar pattern.

### **1.4.2 Access to Resources**

Regarding access to various kinds of resource, four out of five respondents had access to current journals online and journals backsets, while seven out of ten were able to use major online reference works, and these three categories were by far the most highly rated. (70% of all respondents rated them as of high importance for their teaching and research, compared to 23.1% for e-books and 32.5% for any kind of resource in an Islamic language). Cost was given as the principal reason for institutions not acquiring any particular resource.

### 1.4.3 Resources Current Unavailable Online

Looking at resources currently unavailable online, English-language research monographs were given the highest priority for digitisation (53.8%), mainly because many academics either were unable to borrow books to use in their office or at home, or because their libraries did not hold the required book. Other significant areas were bio-bibliographical reference works (43.6%), translations into English of primary texts (41.0%), Islamic manuscript catalogues (35.9%) , primary texts in Islamic languages (38.5%), current editions and backsets of periodicals in English (30.8% and 28.2% respectively), and backsets of periodicals in European languages (30.8%).

When asked to assign a priority to making individual resources digitally available for teaching (book, periodical title, reference work, etc.), some respondents considered open (i.e. free) access to resources such as the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, the *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an* and Esposito's *Oxford Dictionary of Islam* as top priority, although the majority chose individual textbooks or major works of research.

### 1.4.4 Weight Attached to Different Areas of Islamic Studies

Regarding the relative importance of different areas of Islamic Studies, the traditional staples of Islamic Studies dominated the survey, namely Islamic history (50%), Qur'anic studies (47.4%), Islamic law (42.1%) and Hadith studies (34.2%), but the relevance of Islam in the modern world is highlighted by contemporary Islamic thought (44.7%) in third position, and the importance attached to Islamic/Islamist politics (23.7%) and Islamic sociology and anthropology (28.9%). Given the relatively small numbers of specialists in these fields, it is significant that Islamic art and architecture, Islamic science and medicine (both 18.4%) and Islamic finance and economics (15.8%) were rated more highly than Sufism (13.2%) and Shi'ism (10.5%).

### 1.4.5 Use of Websites, Gateways and Portals

The use of websites was very high - 94.7% of respondents used websites produced by Islamic organisations in English frequently or occasionally, for example, but no single gateway or portal stood out as particularly significant. There was general agreement that archiving websites in Islamic studies is important (81.6% considered this very or fairly important).

### 1.4.6 Reading List and High-Use Book Survey

The High-Use Book Survey showed little correlation between the most heavily used books in Islamic Studies in the libraries of Exeter, Leeds and SOAS. One high-use title is shared between Exeter and SOAS, and one high-use title between SOAS and Leeds, and only three titles are shared between the 63

most heavily used books in the three libraries and the 29 most common titles in the reading list survey. Well over 50% of the books in both the Reading List Survey and the High-Use Book Survey are currently not available in digital form. The results of these surveys show the grave difficulties in deciding which books to make available for free distribution, and it is not recommended that JISC support an Islamic E-Books Observatory project.

#### **1.4.7 Survey of UK and Ireland PhD Theses**

The number of PhD theses awarded in the area of Islamic Studies from 1906 to 2006 is around 2000 theses, of which almost half (860) were awarded between 1997 and 2006. During this ten year period, 97 higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland awarded theses in Islamic Studies, although almost half of these (374) were undertaken in just ten universities. Just over 50% of the theses awarded by the top ten universities (374) fall into six main subjects namely, Islamic Sociology/Anthropology including Gender Studies (50), Islamic Law (44), Islamic History (37), Islamic Politics (28), Islamic Finance (20) and Study and Documentation of Muslim Communities in the UK (20).

### **1.5 Outcomes**

- Landscape about how academics, researchers and librarians working in Islamic Studies in UK higher education establishments use existing online resources for teaching and research.
- In-depth information about what are perceived to be the gaps in online provision in Islamic Studies and recommendations as to how to fill these gaps.
- The creation of a list of the most popular textbooks used by a representative cross-section of UK universities, with indications of which books are already available in digital format.
- A survey of recent UK doctoral dissertations in Islamic Studies to ascertain trends in current research, so that any digital projects can be targeted to have maximum relevance.
- An inventory of existing portals for Islamic Studies, libraries of online primary texts, digital Islamic manuscript catalogues and Islamic digitisation projects to be used as the basis for a national gateway to Islamic resources.
- Recommendations on potential projects regarding digital Islamic Studies assets

## **1.6 Summary of Recommendations**

### Recommendation 1:

The creation of a National Gateway to Islamic Resources, including a gateway to primary texts, a full digitised set of UK Islamic manuscript catalogues, electronic versions of doctoral dissertations undertaken on Islamic Studies in the past the years, and an open-access repository for e-prints in Islamic studies.

### Recommendation 2:

A feasibility study should also be conducted into the creation a corpus of interactive online education materials, which could also be hosted by the national gateway

### Recommendation 3:

Continuation of the subsidies for major online works of reference in Islamic Studies. Consideration should also be given to increasing the subsidies to make the works more affordable, and to subsidising new digitised reference works in Islamic Studies as they become available.

### Recommendation 4:

The archiving of the websites of UK Islamic organisations, as an aid to scholarship and a means of preserving the heritage of the UK Muslim community.

### Recommendation 5:

Subsidising the acquisition of an online collection of research monographs in Islamic Studies, should such a collection be developed by a commercial organisation. It is not recommended that JISC should fund the digitisation of such material itself.

## **1.7 Recommendations in Full**

### **1.8 National Gateway to Islamic Resources**

The setting up of a national gateway to Islamic studies. Such a gateway should provide links to the whole gamut of digitally available materials: journals, e-books, reference tools such as dictionaries, Islamic websites, digital versions of Islamic manuscript catalogues, etc., and could also host the following projects recommended in this report.

## **1.9 Gateway to Primary Texts**

Primary texts are heavily used by researchers and teachers, but it is extremely difficult to know what is available online in Islamic languages. The creation of a database of primary texts, searchable by author and title, with links to the relevant website(s), would make available both to the UK higher education and to the UK Muslim community a wealth of invaluable and at present underused research material, and would also eliminate the need to digitise the texts themselves.

## **1.10 Digitisation of UK Islamic manuscript catalogues**

The creation of online versions of the catalogues of Islamic manuscripts in UK collections. The possibility of establishing a partnership with an expert external organisation to scan the Islamic manuscript catalogues of the major British libraries should be sought, as this would be the most cost-effective way of making this valuable resource available to both UK higher education and the UK Muslim community.

## **1.11 Open Access Repository for Islamic Studies**

The creation of an e-print knowledge-base for Islamic studies is recommended. This knowledge-base would not only play the role of a subject based repository for Islamic Studies, but would also increase usability, accessibility and visibility of Islamic Studies research output and resources by digitising, organising, archiving and disseminating e-print content for Islamic Studies.

## **1.12 Electronic Versions of Doctoral Dissertations in Islamic Studies**

To aid scholarship and to make research material widely available, JISC should consider a retrospective digitisation project for UK PhD theses in Islamic Studies awarded in the last ten years (excluding those already available online). Priority could be given to those areas considered most important in Islamic Studies, as defined by the questionnaire responses. It is further recommended that institutions that have not mandated e-theses should give priority to Islamic Studies PhD theses to be digitised and submitted to *ETHOSNet*.

## **1.13 Online Education Materials Feasibility Survey**

The creation of a corpus of contextualised, interactive, value-added texts in Islamic languages (mainly Arabic and Persian), through which Islamic Studies could be taught. The selection of teaching texts should reflect the importance attached to individual subjects in the questionnaire responses. The cost of such a project would depend on the number of textual extracts to be included, but the recommendation

is that a feasibility study be undertaken to see whether such a project would fulfil a major need, and whether it would be technically possible and financially cost-effective.

### **1.14 Subsidy of Online Reference Works**

Online reference works in Islamic studies are heavily used and are considered as a high priority by over 70% of academics. It is recommended that JISC continue to support major Islamic resources online, particularly the package published by Brill which includes the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, but also *Index Islamicus* and *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, and consider increasing subsidies, so that more institutions can afford these major resources which are currently beyond their means.

### **1.15 Archiving of Websites of UK Islamic Organisations**

Websites in English were heavily used in both research (43.2% use them frequently) and teaching (33.3% used them frequently), while over 90% of academics frequently or sometimes use the websites of Islamic organisations in English. There was also widespread support for the archiving of such websites in Islamic Studies (81.6% considered it very or fairly important). JISC might wish to offer support for any institution willing to archive the websites of UK Islamic organisations, British Muslim wikis and blogs, and British websites with substantial links to Islamic content. This would preserve valuable records for scholarship, and be a significant contribution to the heritage of the UK Islamic community.

### **1.16 Digitisation of Research Monographs in English**

Although this was rated as the top priority, with 50% of respondents listing them as the most important material to be digitised, the experience of the Reading List survey suggests that it would be almost impossible to determine which items should be digitised. It should also be noted that e-books received the lowest level of importance as a form of online resource (over a quarter of respondents gave them low priority), while their current level of usage was less than a third of online journals for research and teaching. It is not recommended that JISC support directly a project to digitise research monographs in English, although were such a project to be undertaken by a commercial organisation, JISC might consider assisting institutions to acquire the resulting digital package.

## **End of Executive Summary**

## 2 Background

In June 2007, the UK Government designated Islamic Studies a strategically important subject and asked HEFCE to develop a programme to support this field. In the light of this, staff from the JISC Digitisation Programme, with input from the Higher Education Academy, discussed with HEFCE the contribution that could be made to the development of Islamic Studies via the use of existing digitised resources and the digitisation of new ones. JISC acknowledged the widespread diffusion of online resources for Islamic Studies and the existence of numerous gateways, portals and reference sites, but identified numerous problems in exploiting such resources:

- Lack of content for specific areas of teaching and research.
- Difficulties in locating and searching within existing resources.
- The scholarly pedigree of many websites.
- The impermanence of many resources.

It was also clear that there was no single body overseeing the development of digitised resources in Islamic Studies in the UK.

Accordingly, JISC issued a call for a review of user requirements for digitised resources for researchers and teachers within higher education working in the field of Islamic Studies in December 2007. The project (acronym **DigiIslam**) to determine these user requirements was undertaken by a team at the University of Exeter and ran from March to May 2008. Details of the team members can be found in Appendix A.

For the purposes of the Project, Islamic Studies was fairly broadly defined and included Islamic History, Islamic Art and Architecture, Islamic Music, Islamic Law, Islamic Philosophy, Islamic Science and Medicine, Islamic Finance and Economics, Islamic Sociology and Anthropology and Modern Islamic Thought and Politics. The Project focussed on academics working on Islam in the Middle East and South Asia, but included researchers exploring the history, sociology and politics of the Islamic community in the UK.

### 3 Aims and Objectives

- To landscape existing digitised resources for Islamic Studies.
- To identify gaps in the provision of digitised resources in Islamic Studies.
- To establish criteria to prioritise the potential materials and/or collections for digitisation.

These aims formed the core of the **DigiIslam** Project.

### 4 Methodology and Implementation

Researchers in Islamic Studies were identified by using previous surveys, by examining the relevant web-pages of UK Higher Education institutions and by telephoning administrators in a number of universities.

The project team used three direct methods to determine user requirements for online resources in Islamic Studies:

- An online questionnaire was devised by the Project team, set up and run to professional standards using the specialist knowledge of the team's expert on marketing techniques to ensure confidentiality, anonymity and to eliminate bias. It was set up on *SurveyMonkey*<sup>1</sup> software and made public on March 21<sup>st</sup>, on the **DigiIslam** Project website<sup>2</sup>. Emails were sent to 145 academics in 35 institutions (for a list of the institutions targeted see Appendix B) and followed up by phone calls and further emails on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The questionnaire closed at midnight on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The questionnaire was completed by 53 respondents, a success rate of 36.5%. Of the 36 people who included personal details, academics (full-time and part-time) accounted for 63.9% of the sample, librarians and archivists 19.4%, research or post-doctoral fellows 5.6%, postgraduates 5.6% and others 5.6%. 48.6% of the respondents were male, and 51.4% female, and the majority of the respondents were aged between 40 and 59, with a surprisingly large percentage over 60 (18-29 = 5.5%; 30-39 = 61.2%; 40-49 = 29.7%; 50-59 = 31.6%; 60+ = 27%). As recent surveys such as OCLC's *Sharing, Privacy and Trust in Our*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.surveymonkey.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.projects.ex.ac.uk/digiIslam>

*Networked World*<sup>3</sup> have shown, age is no barrier to the use of the internet and the world-wide-web.

- A Focus Group was set up drawn from academics, librarians and scholars of the UK Islamic Community (for a list of the members see Appendix C). The Focus Group met on April 30<sup>th</sup> at JISC Headquarters in London and produced a valuable set of recommendations which have been incorporated into this report.
- Telephone interviews were set up with several prominent academics who were not able to attend the Focus Group (for a list of the interviewees see Appendix C).

Reading lists were sought from UK institutions which teach substantive courses on Islam, Islamic History, Islamic Philosophy, Art and Architecture, Science and Medicine and Islamic interactions with other disciplines such as Law and Economics. In addition three libraries were asked to provide lists of the most heavily used books in Islamic Studies. These lists were then analysed to determine which textbooks were the most popular across a wide range of institutions, and whether they were already available in digitised format and at what cost, so that information would be available for the setting-up of an Islamic E-Books Observatory, if desired; such a project would create digitised versions of the most popular books on Islamic Studies courses and make them freely available to UK higher education institutions for a period of years. Details of the analyses are available in Appendix D.

All UK theses completed during the past ten years were analysed by using keyword searching of *Index to Theses of Great Britain and Ireland*<sup>4</sup> in order to show trends in current research and to determine which areas were attracting the largest number of students. For more details of the study on doctoral dissertations see Appendix E.

Gateways and portals to Islamic Studies were examined by using existing resources and an annotated inventory of the most significant was compiled (see Appendix F). The entire web, including websites in Islamic languages, was scrutinised in order to ascertain the number of gateways offering access to digitised primary texts in Islamic languages, and to ascertain whether any technical limitations existed which might hinder their use. Information was also collated on digitised catalogues of Islamic manuscripts and on current Islamic digitisation projects.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oclc.org/reports/pdfs/sharing.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.theses.com/>

## 5 Output and Results

The results incorporate the responses of the questionnaire, the deliberations of the Focus Group and the information gleaned by the telephone interviews.

### 5.1 Use of Online Resources

Nearly all the respondents already used online resources in Islamic Studies (90.6%), with the main purpose of this use being research (92.1%), although use of these resources for teaching was also high (73.7%); 15.8% used these online resources for bibliographical work (cataloguing, checking orders, answering queries, etc.), which would indicate that these resources are equally valuable for librarians and archivists dealing with Islam and the Middle East.

*Do you already use online resources for Islamic Studies?*

<b>Yes</b>	<b>90.6%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

Table 1

*What is the purpose of using these resources?*

<b>For teaching</b>	<b>73.7%</b>
<b>For research</b>	<b>92.1%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>15.8%</b>

Table 2

### 5.2 Type of Resource Used, Frequency of Usage and Significance of Resources

The most heavily used resources for research were current online journals and journal backsets (e.g. JSTOR) = 94.7% of respondents (of which 68.4% used this resource frequently), which is a result mirrored by most other subjects in higher education, and by the experience of members of the Focus Group and telephone interviewees.

JISC-supported online reference works in English such as the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>5</sup> and *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*<sup>6</sup> = 88.9% (of which 52.8% use the resource frequently) were also very popular for research, as were English-language websites = 94.6% (of which 43.2% frequently), primary texts in translation = 75.6% (of which 27% frequently), primary texts in Islamic languages = 72.2% (of which 25% frequently), online secondary texts in English (e-books) = 64.8% (of which 21.6% frequently), and websites in Islamic languages = 63.9% (of which 25% frequently). On the other hand 66.7% of respondents never used Islamic languages web 2.0 resources for research, and 55.6% never used secondary works in Islamic languages.

A similar pattern emerges when considering online teaching resources. The most popular are online journals (current and backsets) = 83.8% (of which 54.8% used this resource frequently), online reference works in English = 80% (of which 33.3% frequently), and web-sites in English = 83.3% (of which 33.3% are frequent users). Categories not seen as front-line resources, but which were sometimes used for teaching were primary texts in translation = 76.7% (16.7% frequently), online secondary texts in English (e-books) = 63.4% (16.7% frequently) and web 2.0 resources in English = 56.6% (3.4% frequently). As with research, 80% of respondents never used Islamic languages web 2.0 resources for research, and 66.7% never used secondary works in Islamic languages for teaching. Given the pattern of usage, it is not surprising that English-language reference works, current journals and journal backsets were by far the most highly rated of online resources at 73.2%, 70.7% and 78.0% respectively.

*What is the frequency of your usage for research of the online resources listed below?*

	Not applicable	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
<b>Reference works in English</b>	2.8%	52.8%	36.1%	8.3%
<b>Online journals, current and backsets</b>	0.0%	68.4%	26.3%	5.3%
<b>Online primary texts in translation</b>	0.0%	27.0%	48.6%	24.3%
<b>Online secondary texts (e-</b>	2.7%	21.6%	43.2%	32.4%

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com>

<b>books) in English</b>				
<b>Web-sites in English</b>	0.0%	43.2%	51.4%	5.4%
<b>Web 2.0 resources in English</b>	0.0%	19.4%	47.2%	33.3%
<b>Online journals in Islamic languages</b>	2.7%	8.1%	56.8%	32.4%
<b>Online primary texts in Islamic languages</b>	2.8%	25.0%	47.2%	25.0%
<b>Online secondary texts (e-books) in Islamic languages</b>	2.8%	2.8%	38.9%	55.6%
<b>Web-sites in Islamic languages</b>	2.8%	25%	38.9%	33.3%
<b>Web 2.0 resources in Islamic languages</b>	5.6%	5.6%	22.2%	66.7%

Table 3

*What is the frequency of your usage for teaching of the online resources listed below?*

	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Frequently</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Never</b>
<b>Reference works in English</b>	3.3%	33.3%	46.7%	16.7%
<b>Online journals, current and backsets</b>	3.3%	54.8%	29.0%	12.9%
<b>Online primary texts in translation</b>	3.3%	16.7%	60.0%	20.0%
<b>Online secondary texts (e-books) in English</b>	3.3%	16.7%	46.7%	33.3%
<b>Web-sites in English</b>	3.3%	33.3%	50.0%	13.3%
<b>Web 2.0 resources in English</b>	3.3%	3.3%	53.3%	40.0%
<b>Online journals in Islamic languages</b>	3.3%	13.3%	16.7%	66.7%
<b>Online primary texts in Islamic languages</b>	3.3%	20.0%	20.0%	56.7%

<b>Online secondary texts (e-books) in Islamic languages</b>	3.3%	3.3%	26.7%	66.7%
<b>Web-sites in Islamic languages</b>	3.3%	13.3%	20.0%	63.3%
<b>Web 2.0 resources in Islamic languages</b>	6.7%	3.3%	10.0%	80.0%

Table 4

*Indicate the level of importance of the following categories of online resources for your teaching and /or research*

	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Online Reference Works in Islamic Studies in English</b>	73.2%	22.0%	4.9%	0.0%
<b>Current Online Journals</b>	70.7%	26.8%	2.4%	0.0%
<b>Online Backsets of Journals</b>	78.0%	17.1%	4.9%	0.0%
<b>E-Books dealing with Islamic Studies</b>	23.1%	38.5%	25.6%	12.8%
<b>Online Resources in Islamic Languages</b>	32.5%	42.5%	7.5%	17.5%

Table 5

### 5.3 Access to Institutional Resources

It was interesting to see how many respondents had access to the full range of online resources. Four out of five respondents had access to current journals online and journals backsets, while seven out of ten were able to use major online reference works, and these three categories were by far the most highly rated. (70% of all respondents rated them as of high importance for their teaching and research, compared to 23.1% for e-books and 32.5% for any kind of resource in an Islamic language). The results for the question on online reference works may have to be modified since it emerged through some of the interviews that "reference works" were (quite reasonably) interpreted to include those which are freely available such as *Encyclopedia Iranica*<sup>7</sup>, rather than JISC-supported subscription works such as the Brill package *Encyclopaedia of Islam* + *Encyclopedia of the Quran*<sup>8</sup> and *Oxford Islamic Studies*

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.iranica.com/newsite/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

*Online*<sup>9</sup>. Although the Brill package was seen as particularly useful for teaching and research, several respondents said that as Islamic Studies did not have a large complement of students in their institution, or was not the major thrust of research in their department, it was impossible to justify the cost. Even when the institution had a large number of students working on Islamic studies, it was often difficult to persuade the library or other funding body to subscribe to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>10</sup> or *Index Islamicus*<sup>11</sup>.

Technical and licensing issues also contributed to the failure of some institutions to buy particular online works ("I have had a LOT of trouble with Arabic – getting technical support from my University"), while several people reported lack of compatibility between CD-ROMs purchased in the Middle East and the equipment provided by their UK institutions, which resulted in several compendia of primary texts in Arabic remained unused ("no matter what we did, we could not get the CD-ROM to work"). In addition, some respondents did not know whether any resource specific to their research interests existed. It is also interesting to note that around one-third of respondents did not know whether their institution had any e-books dealing with Islamic Studies, or provided any web-based resource in an Islamic language.

*Does your institution offer subscriptions to any of these online resources?*

	Yes	No	Don't Know
<b>Online Reference Works in Islamic Studies in English</b>	70.7%	19.5%	9.8%
<b>Current Online Journals</b>	80.5%	9.8%	9.8%
<b>Online Backsets of Journals</b>	85.4%	9.8%	4.9%
<b>E-Books dealing with Islamic Studies</b>	35.0%	30.0%	35.0%
<b>Online Resources in Islamic Languages</b>	32.5%	37.5%	30.0%

Table 6

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www-uk1.csa.com/factsheets/islamicus-set-c.php>

*What are the reasons for your institution not offering subscriptions to any online resources which have requested by you or your colleagues?*

<b>Cost of the Resource</b>	50.0%
<b>Lack of Demand for the Resource</b>	31.6%
<b>Don't Know</b>	31.6%
<b>Technical Problems</b>	21.1%
<b>Unwillingness of Other Departments to Share Costs</b>	0.0%
<b>Other Reasons</b>	15.8%

Table 7

#### 5.4 Resources Currently Unavailable Online

It appeared from the survey that the digitisation of research materials was more important than teaching resources, although discussions with the members of the Focus Group and the individual telephone interviews modified this conclusion. In the questionnaire, English-language research monographs were given the highest priority for digitisation (53.8%), mainly because many academics either were unable to borrow books to use in their office or at home, or because their libraries did not hold the required book ("inter-library-loan is a slow process and having material available digitally would save a huge amount of time"). Other significant areas were bio-bibliographical reference works such as Brockelmann's *Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur*<sup>12</sup> and Sezgin's *Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums*<sup>13</sup> (43.6%) ("I like having the major reference works available via my computer"), translations into English of primary texts (41.0%), Islamic manuscript catalogues (35.9%) (an area where co-operation with *The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)*<sup>14</sup> was seen as a positive step), to primary texts in Islamic languages (38.5%), and current editions and backsets of periodicals in English (30.8% and 28.2% respectively). Interestingly, backsets of periodicals in European languages also scored highly (30.8%), although the Focus Group did not see this necessarily as a project to be funded by JISC. Selected articles in coursepack forms was not seen as particularly desirable (7.7%), members of the Focus Group arguing that this would unnecessarily restrict students' reading, although several respondents mentioned the use of e-books to meet large class sizes (25.6%). The Focus Group also supported the concept of digitising the Muslim community publications (e.g. periodicals such as *Islamic*

<sup>12</sup> Brockelmann, C., *Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur*, Leiden, Brill, 1937-49. 5 v.

<sup>13</sup> Sezgin, F., *Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums*, Leiden, Brill, 1967-84. 9 v.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/>

*Quarterly*<sup>15</sup> and Abdullah Quilliam's *The Crescent*<sup>16</sup>) and archives such as those held by the East London Mosque.

When asked to assign a priority to making individual resources digitally available for teaching (book, periodical title, reference work, etc.), some respondents considered open (i.e. free) access to resources such as the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>17</sup>, the *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*<sup>18</sup> and Esposito's *Oxford Dictionary of Islam*<sup>19</sup> as top priority, although the majority chose individual textbooks or major works of research (such as Arthur Upham Pope's *Survey of Persian Art*<sup>20</sup>, the architectural works of Sir Archibald Creswell<sup>21</sup>, or Wensinck's *Concordances et Indices* and his *Handbook of Muslim Tradition*<sup>22</sup>). As for research, Brockelmann<sup>23</sup> was cited by three respondents, Sezgin<sup>24</sup> by two, the English translation of Tabari's *History*<sup>25</sup> (already available digitally in *NetLibrary*<sup>26</sup>) was also cited twice, as was Geoffrey Roper's *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts*<sup>27</sup>, and the *Muslim World Book Review*<sup>28</sup>.

*Which materials not currently available electronically would you like to see digitised?*

<b>Research Monographs in English</b>	53.8%
<b>Bio-bibliographical reference works</b>	43.6%
<b>Translations into English of primary texts</b>	41.0%
<b>Primary texts in Islamic languages</b>	38.5%
<b>Islamic manuscript catalogues</b>	35.9%
<b>Current periodicals in English</b>	30.8%

<sup>15</sup> London, Islamic Cultural Centre, 1954-

<sup>16</sup> Liverpool?, Abdullah Quilliam, 1893-1908

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com>

<sup>20</sup> Pope, A.U., *A Survey of Persian Art from Prehistoric Times to the Present*, London, Oxford University Press, 1938-39. 7 v.

<sup>21</sup> Creswell, K.A.C., *Early Muslim Architecture*, Oxford, Clarendon Press. 1932-40. 2 v. ; Creswell, K.A.C., *A Bibliography of the Architecture, Arts and Crafts of Islam*, Cairo, American University in Cairo Press, 1973-84. 3 v.

<sup>22</sup> Wensinck, A.J., *Concordance et Indices de la Tradition Musulmane*, Leiden, Brill, 1936-88. 8 v. ; Wensinck, A.J., *A Handbook of Early Muhammadan Tradition*, Leiden, Brill, 1927.

<sup>23</sup> Brockelmann, *op. cit.*

<sup>24</sup> Sezgin, *op. cit.*

<sup>25</sup> Tabari, M.b.J., *The History of al-Tabari*, Albany, State University of New York Press, 1985-2007. 40 v.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.netlibrary.com/>

<sup>27</sup> Roper, G.J., *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts*, London, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1992-94. 4 v.

<sup>28</sup> Markfield, Leics., Islamic Foundation, 1980-

<b>Backsets of periodicals in European languages</b>	30.8%
<b>Research monographs in European languages</b>	28.2%
<b>Backsets of periodicals in English</b>	28.2%
<b>Current textbooks in English</b>	25.6%
<b>Language dictionaries</b>	25.6%
<b>Reference works in Islamic languages</b>	23.1%
<b>Individual manuscripts in Islamic languages</b>	23.1%
<b>Feature films and documentaries</b>	15.4%
<b>Materials on the Muslim community in the UK</b>	12.9%
<b>Archival material from UK collections</b>	10.3%
<b>Selected articles in coursepack format</b>	7.7%
<b>Secondary texts in Islamic languages</b>	2.6%
<b>Visual material including photographs</b>	2.6%
<b>Musical material</b>	0.0%

Table 8

### **5.5 Relative Importance of Sub-Divisions of Islamic Studies**

As one might expect, the traditional staples of Islamic Studies dominated the survey, namely Islamic history (50%), Qur'anic studies (47.4%), Islamic law (42.1%) and Hadith studies (34.2%), but the relevance of Islam in the modern world is highlighted by contemporary Islamic thought (44.7%) in third position, and the importance attached to Islamic/Islamist politics (23.7%) and Islamic sociology and anthropology (28.9%). Given the relatively small numbers of specialists in these fields, it is significant that Islamic art and architecture, Islamic science and medicine (both 18.4%) and Islamic finance and economics (15.8%) were rated more highly than Sufism (13.2%) and Shi'ism (10.5%). Christian-Muslim relations and interfaith dialogue (18.4%) and the study and documentation of Muslim communities in the UK (13.2%) also scored relatively highly, and were considered of importance by the Focus Group.

*In which areas of Islamic studies is it most important to digitise material?*

<b>Islamic history</b>	50.0%
<b>Qur'anic studies</b>	47.4%
<b>Contemporary Islamic thought</b>	44.7%
<b>Islamic law</b>	42.1%
<b>Hadith studies</b>	34.2%
<b>Islamic anthropology/Sociology of Islam</b>	28.9%
<b>Islamic philosophy</b>	26.3%
<b>Islamic/Islamist politics</b>	23.7%
<b>Islamic theology</b>	21.1%
<b>Islamic art and architecture</b>	18.4%
<b>Islamic science and medicine</b>	18.4%
<b>Christian-Muslim relations and interfaith dialogue</b>	18.4%
<b>Islamic finance and economics</b>	15.8%
<b>Study and documentation of the Muslim community in the UK</b>	15.8%
<b>Sufism</b>	13.2%
<b>Shi'ism</b>	10.5%
<b>Ritual and worship</b>	10.5%
<b>Other subjects</b>	10.5%
<b>Islamic sects and movements other than Sufism and Shi'ism</b>	0.0%

Table 9

## **5.6 Use and Significance of Web Sites, Gateways and Portals in Islamic Studies**

The use of websites was very high - 94.7% of respondents used websites produced by Islamic organisations in English frequently or occasionally, for example - but no single gateway or portal stood out as particularly significant. The favourite method of discovering information as revealed in the Focus Group discussion and telephone interviews was Google, although well over half the respondents frequently or sometimes used gateways in Islamic studies provided by universities (66.7%), or by individuals (58.6%). Most respondents had never used *MENALIB*<sup>29</sup>, a massive portal to Middle Eastern Studies maintained by the State- and University Library Saxony-Anhalt in Halle (Germany) (64.9%),

<sup>29</sup> <http://ssgdoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/vlib/html/index.html>

Gary Bunt's *Islamic Studies Pathways*<sup>30</sup> (78.4%) or *INTUTE*<sup>31</sup> (80.6%), but paradoxically, the only websites listed twice among those considered the most useful for teaching and research (Question 8) were *INTUTE* which is a "free online service providing you with access to the very best Web resources for education and research...created by a network of UK universities and partners", *Qantara*<sup>32</sup>, a trilingual (German, English, Arabic) portal, funded by the German Foreign Office, and designed to "promote dialogue with the Islamic world", and *Salaam*<sup>33</sup>, a "popular Muslim community web site". Other websites mentioned as significant were *al-Tafsir*<sup>34</sup>, which contains full-text commentaries on the Qur'an, the *USC-MSA Qur'an Database*<sup>35</sup>, *MENALIB*<sup>36</sup>, Alan Godlas's *Islam and Islamic Studies Resources*<sup>37</sup> and Columbia University's portal to Middle Eastern resources, *Middle East Studies Internet Resources*<sup>38</sup>. For an annotated inventory of the most significant gateways and portals to Islamic Studies, libraries of online primary texts, online Islamic manuscript catalogues and Islamic digitisation projects see Appendix D.

There was general agreement that archiving websites in Islamic studies is important (81.6% considered this very or fairly important), but no single website predominated (although two websites offering full-text version of Arabic and Islamic texts were mentioned, *al-Waraq*<sup>39</sup> and *Almeshkat*<sup>40</sup>, which may indicate particular importance attached to digitised version of primary texts). The Focus Group emphasized the importance of archiving the websites of the most important UK Islamic organisations, as well as related blogs and wikis.

*Please assign the level of your usage to the following portals and websites*

	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
<b>Gateways provided by universities</b>	15.4%	51.3%	33.3%
<b>MENALIB</b>	2.7%	32.4%	64.9%

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.lamp.ac.uk/cis/pathways/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.intute.ac.uk>

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show\\_softlink.php/\\_c-365/i.html](http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show_softlink.php/_c-365/i.html)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.salaam.co.uk>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.atafsir.com>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/reference/searchquran.html>

<sup>36</sup> <http://sbgdoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/vlib/html/index.html>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.godlas.myweb.uga.edu>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvlm>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.alwaraq.com>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.almeshkat.com/books>

<b>INTUTE</b>	2.7%	16.7%	80.6%
<b>Islamic Studies Resources (Gary Bunt)</b>	2.7%	18.9%	78.4%
<b>Websites produced by Islamic organisations in English</b>	28.9%	65.8%	5.3%
<b>Websites produced by Islamic organisation in Islamic languages</b>	13.2%	50.0%	36.8%
<b>Websites in English produced by individuals</b>	13.2%	47.4%	39.5%
<b>Websites in Islamic languages produced by individuals</b>	8.1%	27.0%	64.9%

Table 10

*How important is it to archive websites in Islamic Studies?*

<b>Very important</b>	57.9%
<b>Fairly important</b>	23.7%
<b>Not important</b>	7.9%
<b>Don't know</b>	10.5%

Table 11

## 5.7 Reading List and High Use Book Surveys

Reading lists were sought from UK institutions which teach substantive courses on Islamic, Islamic History, Islamic Philosophy, Art and Architecture, Science and Medicine and Islamic interactions with other disciplines such as Law and Economics. Ten institutions provided full or partial readings lists in Islamic Studies : Aberdeen, Aga Khan University (London), Birmingham, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Islamic Foundation (Markfield, Leics.), Leeds, Manchester, School of Oriental and African Studies (London) – it proved impossible to obtain reading lists from Oxford or Cambridge Universities ("trying to get blood from a stone" was the comment of one librarian regarding the availability of their reading lists). In addition, three libraries (Exeter, Leeds, SOAS) were asked to provide lists of the most heavily used books in Islamic Studies. These lists were then analysed to determine which textbooks were the most popular across a wide range of institutions, and whether they were already available in digitised format and at what cost, so that information would be available for the setting-up of an Islamic

E-Books Observatory if desired (for an explanation of this concept, see Section 4). Full details of the analyses are available in Appendix D, but of the 29 books which appeared in the reading lists of four or more institutions, only 10 or 34.5% are available in digital format and five of these form part of the *ACLS Humanities E-Books*<sup>41</sup> which is only available as a package.

Looking at the figures for the 20 most heavily used library books in Islamic Studies, there is interestingly little correlation between the three libraries. One title is shared between Exeter and SOAS, and one title between SOAS and Leeds, and only three titles are shared between the 63 most heavily used books in the three libraries and the 29 most common titles in the reading list survey. This would indicate a great deal of local variation among the most heavily populated classes in Islamic studies; in SOAS's case the majority of the high-use books are in Classical Islamic studies, at Exeter almost all the books deal with contemporary Islam and Islamism, while at Leeds there is a balance of texts on classical and modern Islam.

Of the 23 most heavily used books in Islamic Studies in the Library of SOAS, four or 17.4% are available for purchase as e-books; for Leeds the figure is four or 20% of the 20 most heavily used books (it should be noted that one of the books *The Oxford History of Islam* is only available within the package *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*<sup>42</sup>); for Exeter, the figure is eight or 40% out of the 20 most heavily used books.

These figures show the difficulty of deciding which books to make available for free distribution, were JISC to fund an Islamic E-Books Observatory, as the variations between institutions of the most popular books, the fact that these high-use books are poorly correlated with the evidence thrown up by the reading lists, and the relatively low number of texts available existing in digital form would make such a project difficult to realise.

## 5.8 Survey of Recent Doctoral Research

Through a study of *Index to Theses of Great Britain and Ireland*<sup>43</sup> theses in Islamic Studies submitted during the past ten years were analyzed by year, by awarding institution and by content, to see whether any particular patterns in research could be determined. In the last ten years, 97 higher education

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<sup>41</sup> <http://humanitiesebook.org>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.theses.com>

institutions in the UK and Ireland have awarded 860 PhD theses in a variety of topics of the area of Islamic Studies. Nearly half of this figure (374) has been awarded by ten universities (see the top 10 chart in Appendix E). The highest figure in the last ten years by Birmingham (81) is followed by SOAS, Oxford and Cambridge respectively. According to *Index to Theses* figures, the number of PhD theses awarded in the area of Islamic Studies from 1906 to 2006 is around 2000 theses. In other words, almost half of PhD theses in Islamic Studies have been awarded in the last ten years. The experience of the British Thesis Unit/British Library Theses Service<sup>44</sup> shows that 80% of theses supplied are from the past thirteen years, which show the concentration of demand for current and recent material<sup>45</sup>.

The number of theses awarded yearly ranges between 60 and 110, with the average being 86 per year. The highest number of theses awarded in a single year was 110 theses in 2003. This number decreased in subsequent years to 83 theses in 2006.

Just over fifty per-cent of the theses awarded by the top ten universities (374) fall into six main subjects namely, Islamic Sociology/Anthropology including Gender Studies (50), Islamic Law (44), Islamic History (37), Islamic Politics (28), Islamic Finance (20) and Study and Documentation of Muslim Communities in the UK (20), which shows that the main thrust of student research is on contemporary issues, although Islamic Art and Architecture (16), Islamic Philosophy (15) and Qur'anic Studies (14) were also popular areas of investigation. Further details, with charts and tables can be found in Appendix E.

## 6 Outcomes

- Landscape about how academics, researchers and librarians working in Islamic Studies in UK higher education establishments use existing online resources for teaching and research.
- In-depth information about what are perceived to be the gaps in online provision in Islamic Studies and recommendations as to how to fill these gaps.
- The creation of a list of the most popular textbooks used by a representative cross-section of UK universities, with indications of what books are already available in digital format.

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.bl.uk/britishthesis/>

<sup>45</sup> [http://ethostoolkit.rgu.ac.uk/?page\\_id=102](http://ethostoolkit.rgu.ac.uk/?page_id=102)

- A survey of recent UK doctoral dissertations in Islamic Studies to ascertain trends in current research, so that any digital projects can be targeted to have maximum relevance.
- An inventory of existing portals for Islamic Studies, libraries of online primary texts, digital Islamic manuscript catalogues and Islamic digitisation projects to be used as the basis for a national gateway to Islamic resources
- Recommendations on potential projects regarding digital Islamic Studies assets

## 7 Conclusion

The **DigiIslam** Project has enabled us to survey the digital needs and practises in Islamic Studies of teachers and researchers within the UK higher education establishment for the first time. It is clear that there is widespread and growing use of online resources among academics, particularly regarding digital reference works, journals, primary texts and websites. Many rely on online resources to provide timely, convenient and up-to-the minute information and many would use online resources more were they more affordable (the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>46</sup> and *Index Islamicus*<sup>47</sup> were specifically mentioned as examples), more widespread ("I strongly believe that it is of an immense importance to digitise the catalogue of Islamic manuscripts available and in any language, as at the moment they are just a lost treasure, and enormous volume of text-metadata that is unsearchable by students who may not be aware of their existence or how to access them") and easier to access (many researchers mentioned the difficulty of knowing which primary texts were available, although others mentioned the disadvantages of using them – "I strongly disapprove of electronic resources such as *al-waraq.com*<sup>48</sup> [being cited] in footnotes, since they [i.e. the editions] are normally untraceable.").

There was also evidence of the importance of digitising documents reflecting the history and current activities of the UK Muslim community and of archiving websites generated by British Muslims ("I think it is good that there is more and more awareness of the Web not just for research in general, but

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www-uk1.csa.com/factsheets/islamicus-set-c.php>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.alwaraq.com>

for research in ISLAMIC STUDIES, as this [i.e. the Web] is more and more becoming an important area where Muslim socialise, take their knowledge, etc.")

It was recognised by the Focus Group and also by some the telephone interviewees, that, as digitisation becomes more sophisticated, there was a strong need for interactive, contextualised teaching materials using primary texts in Islamic languages to be developed, on a par with what has occurred in other languages.

The Project has also shown that selecting a small number of textbooks in Islamic Studies to be digitised and made freely available to universities throughout the UK would be a challenging exercise, since there was little correlation between the materials used in different universities. Similarly, the idea of producing course packs of selected articles and chapters in books found little favour. Of more significance was the role that lesser-used journals and classic, but out-of-print monographs played in research, and the potentialities that partnership with other organisations might bring.

Finally, the growing volume of information available digitally and on the Web also highlighted the role of information literacy classes and the need to create virtual training suites in digital (and print-based) Islamic resources.

## 8 Recommendations

### 8.1 *Summary of Recommendations*

#### 8.1.1 Recommendation 1:

The creation of a National Gateway to Islamic Resources, including a gateway to primary texts, a full digitised set of UK Islamic manuscript catalogues, an open-access repository for e-prints in Islamic studies and electronic versions of doctoral dissertations undertaken on Islamic Studies in the past ten years.

#### 8.1.2 Recommendation 2:

A feasibility study should also be conducted into the creation a corpus of interactive online education materials, which could also be hosted by the national gateway.

#### 8.1.3 Recommendation 3:

Continuation of the subsidies for major online works of reference in Islamic Studies. Consideration should also be given to increasing the subsidies to make the works more affordable, and to subsidising new digitised reference works in Islamic Studies as they become available.

#### 8.1.4 Recommendation 4:

The archiving of the websites of UK Islamic organisations, as an aid to scholarship and a means of preserving the heritage of the UK Muslim community.

#### 8.1.5 Recommendation 5:

Subsidising the acquisition of an online collection of research monographs in Islamic Studies, should such a collection be developed by a commercial organisation. It is not recommended that JISC should fund the digitisation of such material itself.

## 8.2 Recommendations in Full

### 8.2.1 The Creation of a National Gateway to Islamic Resources

From the evidence of Table 10, it is clear that there is no single gateway to Islamic resources used by a majority of respondents. Indeed, some of the best-organised portals, such as *MENALIB*<sup>49</sup>, and *INTUTE*<sup>50</sup> are never used by over 60% of academics. It was also clear from Questions 10 and 11 of the Survey which asked respondents to list the three most important resources they would like to see digitised for teaching and research respectively, that there was widespread confusion about what was already available and what was not (for example, the *Journal of Islamic Studies*<sup>51</sup> was listed twice as a resource to be digitised although the bulk of it is already online, while the translation of Tabari's *History*<sup>52</sup> was listed three times, although it is available on *Netlibrary*<sup>53</sup>).

To rectify this situation, we recommend the setting up of a national gateway to Islamic studies in the way that *Qantara*<sup>54</sup> and *MENALIB*<sup>55</sup>, act as a focus for German scholarship. The gateway should provide structured links to the whole gamut of digitally available materials: journals, e-books, reference tools such as dictionaries, Islamic websites, digital versions of Islamic manuscript catalogues, etc., and could host the following projects which are all recommended by this report.

#### 8.2.1.1 Gateway to Primary Texts

The Focus Group felt that creation of searchable online database of existing online version of primary texts in and translations from Islamic languages would be valuable. Primary texts in original languages and translation are used for both teaching and research by over 70% of academics and researchers (Tables 3 and 4) and were listed as priorities three and four in Table 8, which asked "Which materials not currently available electronically would you like to see digitised". In fact, over 10,000 primary texts and translations are available in scanned versions scattered over around a dozen websites (see Appendix F), but it is almost impossible to know what is available where, without searching through all the sites. A database of primary texts, searchable by author and title, with links to the relevant website(s), would make available both to the UK higher education and to the UK Muslim community a wealth of

<sup>49</sup> <http://ssgdoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/vlib/html/index.html>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.intute.ac.uk>

<sup>51</sup> Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990-

<sup>52</sup> Tabari, *op.cit.*

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.netlibrary.com/>

<sup>54</sup> [http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show\\_softlink.php/c-365/i.html](http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show_softlink.php/c-365/i.html)

<sup>55</sup> <http://ssgdoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/vlib/html/index.html>

invaluable research material, at present underused and would also eliminate the need to digitise the texts themselves.

### 8.2.1.2 Digitisation of UK Islamic manuscript catalogues.

The creation of online versions of the catalogues of Islamic manuscripts in UK collections ranked as fifth priority in Table 8 and was felt by a number of respondents to be their top priority (see the comments in Section 7, above). Some UK catalogues have already been scanned in (Cambridge<sup>56</sup>, Wellcome<sup>57</sup>), and we recommend exploring whether a partnership with expert external organisations, such as *The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)*<sup>58</sup> might be a fruitful way to digitise the catalogues of the remaining institutions<sup>59</sup>, and make this valuable resource available to all UK academics and the UK Muslim community. Scanning rather than digitisation by OCR would reduce the expense and a partnership agreement could make this a very cost-effective project.

### 8.2.1.3 Open-Access Repository for Islamic Studies

The creation of an e-print knowledge-base for Islamic studies is recommended. This knowledge-base would not only play the role of subject based repository for Islamic Studies following the example of the Physics arXiv<sup>60</sup> administered by Cornell University and other subject based repositories, but would also increase usability, accessibility and visibility of Islamic Studies research output and resources by digitising, organising, archiving and disseminating e-print academic content in Islamic Studies.

### 8.2.1.4 Digitisation of UK Theses in Islamic Studies.

To aid scholarship and to make research material widely available, JISC could consider a retrospective digitisation project for UK PhD theses in Islamic Studies awarded in the last ten years (excluding those already available online). Priority could be given to those areas considered most important in Islamic Studies, as defined by Table 9. It is further recommended that institutions that have not mandated e-theses should give priority to Islamic Studies PhD theses to be digitised and submitted to *EThOSNet*<sup>61</sup>.

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/neareastern/collection.html#arabic>

<sup>57</sup> <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node273.html>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/>

<sup>59</sup> Digitising the Islamic manuscript catalogues of the British Library, Oxford, SOAS, Institute of Ismaili Studies, Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, Birmingham and completing the digitisation of the catalogues of Cambridge and the Wellcome Institute would make the contents over 90% of Islamic manuscripts known to both UK higher education and the UK Muslim community. Consideration should also be given to digitising the catalogues of the Chester Beatty Library (Dublin).

<sup>60</sup> <http://arxiv.org/>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.ethos.ac.uk/>

### 8.2.2 Undertaking an Online Education Materials Feasibility Study.

There was a strong feeling among the members of the Focus Group and among the telephone interviewees that the development of online educational materials in Islamic Studies would be of great importance. The importance of studying texts in their original language was emphasized by numerous respondents, of whom a fifth already used primary texts in their teaching (Table 4), while this category of material was rated fourth in importance of material to be digitised (Table 8). However, existing online texts in Islamic languages are rarely available on adequate editions ("I strongly disapprove of electronic resources such as *al-waraq.com*<sup>62</sup> [being cited] in footnotes, since they [i.e. the editions] are normally untraceable."), and hardly any have been adapted for teaching.

There was a recognition among the Focus Group that today's students expect something more than just plain text, and considerable enthusiasm existed for the creation of a corpus of contextualised, interactive, value-added texts in Islamic languages (mainly Arabic and Persian), through which Islamic Studies could be taught (in the manner of the *Cambridge Latin Course*<sup>63</sup> as one Focus Group member suggested). The selection of teaching texts should reflect the importance attached to individual subjects in Table 9 with emphasis being given to Islamic history (Tabari's *History*<sup>64</sup> was the only text mentioned more than twice in the questions asking for priorities regarding the digitisation of materials.), Qur'anic studies, contemporary Islamic thought, Islamic law and *hadith*. The cost of such a project would depend on the number of textual extracts to be included, but the recommendation is that a feasibility study be undertaken to see whether such a project would fulfil a major need (as the Focus Group perceived), and whether it would be technically possible and financially cost-effective.

### 8.2.3 Subsidy of Online Reference Works.

Online reference works in Islamic studies are heavily used (over half of UK academics use them frequently for research - Table 3) and are considered as a high priority by over 70% of academics (Table 5). The *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>65</sup> was by far the most heavily cited reference works in the Reading List survey (cited in reading lists by six different institutions, compared to the next highest figure of two for the *Encyclopedia of the Quran*<sup>66</sup>). Section 5.3 of the report highlights the dependence of the UK Higher Education community on these resources, but also shows that some institutions have not been found it possible to subscribe (usually on grounds of cost – see Table 7). It is recommended that JISC continue

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.alwaraq.com>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.cambridgescp.com/>

<sup>64</sup> Tabari, *op. cit.*

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>66</sup> Also available at <http://www.brillonline.nl>

to support major Islamic resources online, particularly the package published by Brill which includes the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*<sup>67</sup>, but also *Index Islamicus*<sup>68</sup> and *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*<sup>69</sup>, and consider increasing subsidies, so that more institutions can afford these major resources which are currently beyond their means.

Bio-bibliographical reference works were rated the second most important category of material to digitise (43.6% of respondents – see Table 8). The two most important resources in this area are the works by Brockelmann<sup>70</sup> and Sezgin<sup>71</sup> (see section 5.4), which were cited by several academics as the most important print-based resources to make available online. Both these works are published by Brill, and it is understood that the publishers are currently working on digitising these works. It is recommended that if they become available as an effective online resource, that JISC consider subsidising the subscription costs for UK higher education institutions.

#### 8.2.4 Archiving of Websites of UK Islamic Organisations

Websites in English were heavily used in both research (43.2% use them frequently - Table 3) and teaching (33.3% used them frequently - Table 4), while over 90% of academics frequently or sometimes use the websites of Islamic organisations in English (Table 10). There was also widespread support for the archiving of such websites in Islamic Studies (81.6% considered it vary or fairly important – Table 11). JISC might wish to offer support for any institution willing to archive the websites of UK Islamic organisations e.g. those listed on the websites *Muslim Directory*<sup>72</sup>, British Muslim wikis and blogs (such as those listed on *Islamic Blogosphere*<sup>73</sup>), and British websites with substantial links to Islamic content such as *Salaam*<sup>74</sup> (following the pattern of Library of Congress *MINERVA Project*<sup>75</sup>). This would preserve valuable records for scholarship, and be a significant contribution to the heritage of the UK Islamic community.

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.brillonline.nl>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www-uk1.csa.com/factsheets/islamicus-set-c.php>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com>

<sup>70</sup> Brockelmann, *op. cit.*

<sup>71</sup> Sezgin, *op. cit.*

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.muslimdirectory.co.uk/>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.lamp.ac.uk/cis/liminal/bloglisting.htm>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.salaam.co.uk/>

<sup>75</sup> <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcwa/html/elec2002/elec2002-overview.html>

### **8.2.5 Digitisation of Research Monographs in English**

Although this was rated as the top priority in Table 8, with 50% of respondents listing them as the most important material to be digitised, the experience of the Reading List survey (see 5.7) suggests that it would be almost impossible to determine which items should be digitised. It should also be noted that e-books received the lowest level of importance in Table 5 (over a quarter of respondents gave them low priority), while their current level of usage was less than a third that of online journals for research (Table 3) and teaching (Table 4). In addition, scanning in what could be potentially thousands of books would be very expensive and could run into severe copyright problems, which would raise the cost further. It is not recommended that JISC support directly a project to digitise research monographs in English, although were such a project to be undertaken by a commercial organisation, JISC might consider assisting institutions to acquire the resulting digital package.

## 9 APPENDICES

### ***A) DigIslam Project Team***

Paul Auchterlonie, Librarian for Islamic Studies at the University since 1981 and Chair of the Middle East Libraries Committee since 1995 (Project Manager)

Martin Myhill, Assistant Director for Collections and Research Support,

Ahmed Abu-Zayed, Librarian for the Arab World Documentation Unit at the University since 2001 and Digital Assets Manager for the University,

Dr. Sajjad Rizvi , Senior Lecturer, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

Dr. Sohret Howells, INTO, University of Exeter,

The team was assisted in the Reading Lists and High-Use Books Project by Anthony Lucas, Academic Services, University of Exeter.

### ***B) Institutions Identified as Containing Expertise in Islamic Studies to which Questionnaires were distributed***

Aberdeen University

Aga Khan University (London)

Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (London)

Al-Maktoum Institute, Dundee (University of Aberdeen)

Bath Spa University

Birkbeck College, London

Birmingham University

Bristol University

British Library

Cambridge University

Cardiff University

Central Lancashire University

Durham University

Edinburgh University

Exeter University

DigiIslam 37/66

Glasgow University

Heythrop College, London

Islamic Foundation (Markfield, Leics.)

Institute of Ismaili Studies (London)

King's College, London

Lampeter University

Lancaster University

Leeds University

Liverpool Hope University

London School of Economics

Manchester University

Nottingham University

Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

Oxford University

Royal Holloway College, London

St. Andrews University

School of Oriental and African Studies, London

The Islamic Manuscript Association, London

Warwick University

Westminster University

### ***C) Focus Group Members and Telephone Interviewees***

#### Focus Group Members

Professor David Thomas (University of Birmingham)

Dr. Charles Melville (University of Cambridge)

Dr. MuhammadIsa Waley (British Library)

Mr. Peter Colvin (SOAS)

Mr. Jamil Sherif (private scholar)

Mr. Ahmed Abu-Zayed (University of Exeter)

Mr. Paul Auchterlonie (University of Exeter) (moderator)

Mrs. Paola Marchionni (JISC)

#### Telephone Interviewees

Dr. Khaled El-Awaisi, Al-Maktoum Institute, Dundee

Dr. Robert Hoyland, University of St. Andrews

Dr. Lloyd Ridgeon, University of Glasgow

### ***D) Survey of Reading Lists and High Use Books in Islamic Studies in UK Universities***

Reading lists were sought from UK institutions which teach substantive courses on Islamic, Islamic History, Islamic Philosophy, Art and Architecture, Science and Medicine and Islamic interactions with other disciplines such as Law and Economics. Ten institutions provided full or partial readings lists in Islamic Studies : Aberdeen, Aga Khan University (London), Birmingham, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Islamic Foundation (Markfield, Leics.), Leeds, Manchester, School of Oriental and African Studies (London). In addition three libraries (Exeter, Leeds, SOAS) were asked to provide lists of the most heavily used books in Islamic Studies. These lists were then analysed to determine which textbooks were the most popular across a wide range of institutions, and whether they were already available in digitised format and at what cost. For the purposes of the research, all editions and co-publishings were treated as one title.

#### *The Most Widely Distributed Books in Islamic Studies in Reading Lists at Ten Institutions*

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>No. of Reading Lists</b>
Hourani, A.H.	<i>Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age</i>	Oxford U.P.	8
Esposito, J.L.	<i>Islam and Politics</i>	Syracuse U.P.	6
Hodgson, M.G.S.	<i>The Venture of Islam</i>	Chicago U.P.	6
Berkey, J.	<i>The Formation of Islam</i>	Cambridge U.P.	5
Donner, F.M.	<i>The Early Islamic Conquests</i>	Princeton U.P.	5
Esposito, J.L.	<i>Islam : the Straight Path</i>	Oxford U.P.	5
Hourani, A.H.	<i>A History of the Arab Peoples</i>	Faber, etc.	5
Lapidus, I.M.	<i>A History of Islamic Societies</i>	Cambridge U.P.	5
Lings, M.	<i>Muhammad</i>	Allen/Unwin, etc.	5
Ramadan, T.	<i>Western Muslims and the Future of Islam</i>	Oxford U.P.	5
Waines, D.	<i>An Introduction to Islam</i>	Cambridge U.P.	5
Abou El Fadl, K.	<i>Islam and the Challenge of Democracy</i>	Princeton U.P.	4
Brown, D.	<i>A New Introduction to Islam</i>	Blackwell	4

Delong-Bas, N.J.	<i>Wahhabi Islam</i>	Tauris	4
Donohue, J.J., ed.	<i>Islam in Transition</i>	Oxford U.P.	4
Esack, F.	<i>The Qur'an : a User's Guide</i>	Oneworld	4
Esposito, J.L., ed.	<i>Modernising Islam</i>	Hurst	4
Ettinghausen, R.	<i>Islamic Art and Architecture/The Art and Architecture of Islam</i>	Penguin/Yale U.P.	4
Goddard, H.	<i>A History of Christian-Muslim Relations</i>	Edinburgh U.P.	4
Holt, P.M., ed.	<i>Cambridge History of Islam</i>	Cambridge U.P.	4
Humphreys, R.S.	<i>Islamic History</i>	Princeton U.P.	4
Kennedy, H.	<i>The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates</i>	Longman	4
Martin, R.S., ed.	<i>Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies</i>	Arizona U.P.	4
Mernissi, F.	<i>Beyond the Veil</i>	Schenkman/Saqi	4
Rippin, A., ed.	<i>Muslims : Their Religious Beliefs and Practices</i>	Routledge	4
Schacht, J.	<i>An Introduction to Islamic Law</i>	Clarendon Press	4
Soroush/Surush, A	<i>Reason, Freedom and Democracy in Islam</i>	Oxford U.P.	4
Voll, J.O.	<i>Islam : Continuity and Change</i>	Syracuse U.P.	4
Watt, W.M.	<i>Islamic Philosophy and Theology</i>	Edinburgh U.P.	4

Table 12

*The Most Heavily Used Books in Islamic Studies in the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies*

*The Table is in Order of Number of Borrowings (Most Heavily Used Books at the Top)*

Author	Title	Publisher
Watt, W.M.	<i>The Formative Period of Islamic Thought</i>	Edinburgh U.P.
Azami, M.M.	<i>Studies in Early Hadith Literature</i>	American Trust

Boullata, I.J., ed.	<i>Literary Structures of Religious Meaning in the Qur'an</i>	Curzon
Crone, P.	<i>God's Caliph</i>	Cambridge U.P.
Crone P.	<i>Hagarism</i>	Cambridge U.P.
Goldziher, I.	<i>Introduction to Islamic Theology and Law</i>	Princeton U.P.
Hawting, G.R.	<i>The Idea of Idolatry and the Emergence of Islam</i>	Cambridge U.P.
Nasr, S.H., ed.	<i>Shi'ism : Doctines, Thought, Spirituality</i>	SUNY Press
Robinson, N.	<i>Discovering the Qur'an</i>	SCM Press
Rubin, U.	<i>The eye of the beholder</i>	Darwin Press
Watt, W.M.	<i>Islamic Philosophy and Theology</i>	Edinburgh U.P.
Zubaida, S.	<i>Islam, the people and the State</i>	Routledge/Tauris
Ayubi, N.N.M.	<i>Political Islam</i>	Routledge
Esposito, J.L.	<i>Islam and Democracy</i>	Oxford U.P.
Esposito, J.L.	<i>The Islamic Threat</i>	Oxford U.P.
Halm, H.	<i>Shi'ism</i>	Edinburgh U.P.
Knysh, A.	<i>Islamic mysticism</i>	Brill
Momen, M.	<i>An Introduction to Shi'i Islam</i>	Yale U.P.
Rahman, F..	<i>Islam</i>	Chicago U.P., etc.
Rippin, A., ed.	<i>Muslims : Their Religious Beliefs and Practices</i>	Routledge
Roy, O.	<i>The Failure of Political Islam</i>	Tauris
Rubin, U., ed.	<i>The Life Of Muhammad</i>	Ashgate
Wansbrough, J.	<i>Qur'anic Studies</i>	Oxford U.P.

Table 13

*The Most Heavily Used Books in Islamic Studies in the Library of the University of Leeds*

*The Table is in Order of Number of Borrowings (Most Heavily Used Books at the Top)*

Author	Title	Publisher
Waines, D.	<i>An Introduction to Islam</i>	Cambridge U.P.
Rahman, F.	<i>Islam</i>	Chicago U.P., etc.
Mernissi, F.	<i>Women and Islam</i>	Blackwell
Lewis, P.J.	<i>Islamic Britain</i>	Tauris
Esposito, J.L., ed	<i>The Oxford History of Islam</i>	Oxford U.P.

Ahmed, L.	<i>Women and Gender in Islam</i>	Yale U.P.
Robinson, N.	<i>Discovering the Qur'an</i>	SCM Press
Schimmel, A.	<i>Mystical Dimensions of Islam</i>	N. Carolina U.P.
Doi, A.R.	<i>Women in Shari'ah</i>	Ta Ha
Sirriyeh, E.	<i>Sufis and Anti-Sufis</i>	Curzon
Baldick, J.	<i>Mystical Islam</i>	Tauris
Daniel, N.	<i>Islam and the West</i>	Edinburgh U.P./Oneworld
Ruthven, M.	<i>Islam : a Very Short Introduction</i>	Oxford U.P.
Roald, A.M.	<i>Women in Islam</i>	Routledge
Ernst, C.W.	<i>The Shambala Guide to Sufism</i>	Shambala
Rippin, A., ed.	<i>Muslims : Their Religious Beliefs and Practices</i>	Routledge
Nielsen, J.S.	<i>Muslims in Western Europe</i>	Edinburgh U.P.
Murata, S.	<i>The Vision of Islam</i>	Paragon House
Watt, W.M.	<i>Muhammad : Prophet and Statesman</i>	Oxford U.P.
Haddad, Y.Y., ed	<i>Islam, Gender and Social Change</i>	Oxford U.P.

Table 14

*The Most Heavily Used Books in Islamic Studies in the Library of the University of Exeter*

*The Table is in Order of Number of Borrowings (Most Heavily Used Books at the Top)*

Author	Title	Publisher
Esposito, J.L., ed	<i>Political Islam</i>	Lynne Rienner
Esposito, J.L.	<i>Islam and Democracy</i>	Oxford U.P.
Guazzone, L., ed	<i>The Islamist Dilemma</i>	Ithaca Press
Ismail, S.	<i>Rethinking Islamist Politics</i>	Tauris
Ayubi, N.N.M.	<i>Political Islam</i>	Routledge
Beinin, J., ed.	<i>Political Islam</i>	Tauris
Ahmed, A.S.	<i>Postmodernism and Islam</i>	Routledge
Burke, E., ed.	<i>Islam, Politics and Social Movements</i>	California U.P.
Hussain, A., ed.	<i>Orientalism, Islam and Islamists</i>	Amana Books
Esposito, J.L., ed	<i>Voices of Resurgent Islam</i>	Oxford U.P.

Lewis, B.	<i>Islam and the West</i>	Oxford U.P.
Said, E.W.	<i>Covering Islam</i>	Routledge & Kegan Paul
Gilsenan, M.	<i>Recognizing Islam</i>	Croom Helm/Tauris
Eickelman, D.	<i>Muslim Politics</i>	Princeton U.P.
Abu Zahra, N.	<i>The Pure and Powerful</i>	Ithaca Press
Calder, N., ed.	<i>Classical Islam : a Sourcebook</i>	Reutledge
Starrett, G.	<i>Putting Islam to Work</i>	California U.P.
Ahmed, A.S.	<i>Islam, Globalization and Postmodernity</i>	Routledge
Abrahamov, B.	<i>Islamic Theology</i>	Edinburgh U.P.
Jansen, J.	<i>The Neglected Duty</i>	Macmillan

**Table 15**

Two titles are shared between SOAS and Leeds (Table 13 and Table 14) : A. Rippin (ed.) *Muslims, Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, and F. Rahman *Islam*, while the only title shared between SOAS and Exeter (Table 13 and Table 15) is J.L. Esposito, *Islam and Democracy*. No title is shared between the most heavily used books in the libraries of Leeds and Exeter (Table 14 and Table 15).

Of the 63 most heavily used books in the three libraries under survey (Table 13, Table 14 and Table 15) and the 29 most common titles found in the Reading List Survey (Table 12), the only titles shared between Table 12 and any of the other tables are A. Rippin (ed.) *Muslims, Their Religious Beliefs and Practices* (Tables 12, 13 and 14), W.M. Watt *Islamic Philosophy and Theology* (Tables 12 and 13) and D. Waines *An Introduction to Islam* (Tables 12 and 14). The most popular writer whether as author, co-author or editor in John L. Esposito.

The following tables show the availability and cost of digital versions of the books listed in tables 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Core text													
Author	Title	Year	ISBN (print edition)	Dawsons			Coutts			NetLibrary			ACLS
				Price	Credits	eISBN	Single user price	Multiple user price	eISBN	Buy	Lease	eISBN	
Hourani	Arabic thought in the liberal age	1983	9780521274234	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Hodgson	The venture of Islam V.1	1974	9780226346830	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
	The venture of Islam V.2	1974	9780226346847	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
	The venture of Islam V.3	1974	9780226346854	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Esposito	Islam and politics	1998	9780815627746	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Waines	An introduction to Islam	2003	9780521539067	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lings	Muhammad	2006	9781594771538	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ramadan	Western Muslims and the future of Islam	2004	9780195183566	X	X	X	£13.04	£14.35	9786610845613	£35.00	£25.00	9781429410427	
Donner	The early Islamic conquests	1981	Out of print	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Hourani	A history of the Arab peoples	2005	9780571226641	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lapidus	A history of Islamic societies	2002	9780521779333	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito	Islam : the straight path	2005	9780195182668	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Berkey	The formation of Islam	2002	9780521588133	£38.81	325	9780511307720	£47.88	£79.80	9786610159949	£58.00	£43.00	9780511065804	
Rippin	Muslims	2005	9780415348881	£70.00	325	9780203087046	£84.00	£140.00	9786610348213	£101.00	£75.00	9780203087046	
Schacht	An introduction to Islamic law	1982	9780198254737	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito	Modernising Islam	2002	9781850656784	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Kennedy	The Prophet and the age of the Caliphates	2004	9780582405257	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Holt	The Cambridge history of Islam	1977	9780521291354	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Humphreys	Islamic history : a framework for inquiry	1991	9781850433606	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Voll	Islam	1994	9780815626398	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Martin	Approaches to Islam in religious studies	2001	9781851682683	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esack	The Qur'an : a user's guide	2005	9781851683543	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mernissi	Beyond the veil	2003	9780863564413	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Donohue	Islam in transition : Muslim perspectives	2006	9780195174311	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
DeLong-Bas	Wahhabi Islam	2007	9781845113223	X	X	X	£26.93	£29.63	9786610840991	£27.00	£20.00	9781429420921	
Abou El Fadl	Islam and the challenge of democracy	2004	9780691119380	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Brown	A new introduction to Islam	2003	9780631216049	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Surūsh	Reason, freedom, & democracy in Islam	2000	9780195128123	£18.17	325	9780195351910	£20.01	£22.02	9786610472048	£33.00	£24.00	9781423760320	
Ettinghausen	The art and architecture of Islam	1987	9780140560596	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ettinghausen	Islamic art and architecture	2003	9780300088694	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Watt	Islamic philosophy and theology	1987	9780748607495	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Goddard	A history of Christian-Muslim relations	2000	9780748610099	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

\*\* ACLS Subscription Information at:  
<http://www.humanitiesebook.org/pricingsubscriptions.html#anchor193500>

Exeter text													
Author	Title	Year	ISBN (print edition)	Dawsons			Coutts			NetLibrary			ACLS
				Price	Credits	eISBN	Single user price	Multiple user price	eISBN	Buy	Lease	eISBN	
Jansen, J.	The neglected duty	1986	0029163404	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Abrahamov, B.	Islamic theology : traditionalism and rationalism	1998	9780748611027	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ahmed, A. S.	Islam, globalization, and postmodernity	1994	9780415093675	£85.00	325	9780203422137	£102.00	£170.00	9786610057030	£132.00	£98.00	9780203422137	
Starrett, G.	Putting Islam to work	1998	9780520209275	X	X	X	X	X	X	£43.00	£32.00	9780585130750	
Calder, N.	Classical Islam : a sourcebook of religious literature	2003	9780415240338	£70.00	325	9780203634158	£84.00	£140.00	9786610289660	£101.00	£75.00	9780203634158	
Abu Zahra, N.	The pure and powerful	1997	9780863722691	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Eickelman, D.	Muslim politics	2004	9780691120539	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Gilsenan, M.	Recognizing Islam	2000	9781860644092	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Said, E.	Covering Islam	1997	9780099595014	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lewis, B.	Islam and the West	1994	9780195090611	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito, J.	Voices of resurgent Islam	1985	9780195033403	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Asaf Hussain	Orientalism, Islam and islamists	1984	9780915597154	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Burke, E.	Islam, politics, and social movements	1990	9780520068681	X	X	X	X	X	X	£40.00	£30.00	9780585081359	
Ahmed, A. S.	Postmodernism and Islam	2004	9780415348560	X	X	X	£90.00	£150.00	9786610322756	£70.00	£52.00	9780203315804	
Beinin, J.	Political Islam: essays from Middle East Report	1996	9780520204485	X	X	X	X	X	X	£45.00	£33.00	9780585118093	
Ayubi, N.	Political Islam	1993	9780415103855	£53.99	325	9780203401521	£64.79	£107.98	9786610023967	£81.00	£60.00	9780203401521	
Ismail, Salwa	Rethinking Islamist politics	2006	9781845111809	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Guazzone, L.	The Islamist dilemma	1995	Out of print	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito, J.	Islam and democracy	1996	9780195108163	X	X	X	£19.20	£21.12	9786610760879	£39.00	£29.00	9780585336367	
Esposito, J.	Political Islam	1997	9781555871680	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

\*\* ACLS Subscription Information at:

<http://www.humanitiesebook.org/pricingsubscriptions.html#anchor193500>

Leeds text													
Author	Title	Year	ISBN (print edition)	Dawsons			Coutts			NetLibrary			ACLS
				Price	Credits	eISBN	Single user price	Multiple user price	eISBN	Buy	Lease	eISBN	
Haddad, Y.	Islam, gender, & social change	2004	9780195113570	X	X	X	X	X	X	£45.00	£33.00	9780585283838	
Watt, W. M.	Muhammad, prophet and statesman	1964	9780198810780	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Murata, S.	The vision of Islam	2006	9781845113209	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nielsen, J.	Muslims in western Europe	2004	9780748618446	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rippin, A.	Muslims : their religious beliefs and practices	2005	9780415348881	£70.00	325	9780203087046	£84.00	£140.00	9786610348213	£101.00	£75.00	9780203087046	
Ernst, C.	The Shambhala guide to sufism	1997	9781570621802	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Roald, A. M.	Women in Islam	2001	9780415248969	X	X	X	£78.00	£130.00	9786610021123	£93.00	£69.00	9780203164457	
Ruthven, M.	Islam : a very short introduction	2000	9780192853899	X	X	X	X	X	X	£10.00	£7.00	9780585111216	
Daniel, N.	Islam and the West	1997	9781851681297	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Baldick, J.	Mystical Islam : an introduction to Sufism	2000	9781860646317	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sirriyeh, E.	Sufis and anti-Sufis	2000	9780700710607	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Doi, A. R.	Woman in Shari'ah (Islamic Law)	1990	9789679963342	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Schimmel, A.	Mystical dimensions of Islam	1975	9780807812716	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Robinson, N.	Discovering the Qur'an	2003	9780334029519	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ahmed, L.	Women and gender in Islam	1993	9780300055832	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito, J.	The Oxford history of Islam	2000	9780195107999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lewis, P.	Islamic Britain	1994	9781850438618	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mernissi, F.	Women and Islam	1993	9788185107714	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rahman, F.	Islam	1979	9780226702810	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Waines	An introduction to Islam	2003	9780521539067	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

\*\* ACLS Subscription Information at:

<http://www.humanitiesebook.org/pricingsubscriptions.html#anchor193500>

SOAS text													
Author	Title	Year	ISBN (print edition)	Dawsons			Coutts			NetLibrary			ACLS
				Price	Credits	eISBN	Single user price	Multiple user price	eISBN	Buy	Lease	eISBN	
Ayubi, N.	Political Islam	1993	9780415103855	£53.99	325	9780203401521	£64.79	£107.98	9786610023967	£81.00	£60.00	9780203401521	
Azami, M. M.	Studies in early hadith literature	1992	9780892591251	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Boullata, I. J.	Literary structures of religious meaning in the Qur'an	2000	9780700712564	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Crone, P.	God's caliph	2003	9780521541114	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Crone, P.	Hagarism : the making of the Islamic world	1977	Out of print	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito, J.	The Islamic threat : myth or reality?	1999	9780195130768	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Esposito, J.	Islam and democracy	1996	9780195108163	X	X	X	£19.20	£21.12	9786610760879	£39.00	£29.00	9780585336367	
Goldziher, I.	Introduction to Islamic theology and law	1981	9780691100999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Halm, H.	Shi'ism	2004	9780748618880	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hawting, G.R.	The idea of idolatry and the emergence of Islam	1999	9780521651653	£49.16	325	9780511324635	£51.30	£85.50	9786610154470	£58.00	£43.00	9780511004346	
Knysh, A.	Islamic mysticism : a short history	1999	9789004107175	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Momen, M.	An introduction to Shi'i Islam	1985	Out of print	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nasr, S. H.	Shi'ism : doctrines, thought, and spirituality	1988	Out of print	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rahman, F.	Islam	1979	9780226702810	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rippin, A.	Muslims : their religious beliefs and practices	2005	9780415348881	£70.00	325	9780203087046	£84.00	£140.00	9786610348213	£101.00	£75.00	9780203087046	
Robinson, N.	Discovering the Qur'an	2003	9780334029519	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Roy, O.	The failure of political Islam	1996	9780674291416	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rubin, U.	The eye of the beholder	1994	9780878501106	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rubin, U.	The life of Muhammad	1998	9780860787037	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wansbrough, J.	Quranic studies	2004	9781591022015	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Watt, W. M.	The formative period of islamic thought	1998	9781851681525	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Watt, W. M.	Islamic philosophy and theology	1987	9780748607495	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Zubaida, S.	Islam, the people and the state	1993	9781850437345	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

\*\* ACLS Subscription Information at:

<http://www.humanitiesebook.org/pricingsubscriptions.html#anchor193500>

### ***E) Survey of Recent Doctoral Dissertations (1997-2006) in Islamic Studies in UK and Irish Universities***

For the purposes of the Project, Islamic Studies was fairly broadly defined and included Islamic History, Islamic Art and Architecture, Islamic Music, Islamic Law, Islamic Philosophy, Islamic Science and Medicine, Islamic Finance and Economics, Islamic Sociology and Anthropology, Modern Islamic Thought and history, sociology and politics of the Islamic community in the UK.

In the last ten years, 97 higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland have awarded 860 PhD theses in a variety of topics of the area of Islamic Studies. Nearly half of this figure (374) has been awarded by ten universities (see the top 10 chart). The highest figure in the last ten years by Birmingham (81) is followed by SOAS, Oxford and Cambridge respectively. According to *Index to Theses of Great Britain and Ireland*<sup>76</sup> figures, the number of PhD theses awarded in the area of Islamic Studies from 1906 to 2006 is around 2000 theses. In other words, almost half of PhD theses in Islamic Studies have been awarded in the last ten years, and the experience of the British Thesis Unit/British Library Theses Service<sup>77</sup> shows that 80% of theses supplied are from the last past 13 years, i.e. researchers are not just interested in very recent theses, but wish to access a body of work dating back over a decade and a half<sup>78</sup>.

The number of theses awarded yearly ranges between 60 and 110, with the average being 86 per year. The highest number of theses awarded in a single year was 110 theses in 2003. This number decreased in subsequent years to 83 theses in 2006.

Just over fifty per-cent of the theses awarded by the top ten universities fall into six main subjects namely. Islamic Sociology/Anthropology including gender studies (50), Islamic Law (44), Islamic History (37), Islamic Politics (28), Islamic Finance (20) and Study and Documentation of Muslim Communities in the UK (20).

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<sup>76</sup> <http://www.theses.com/>

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.bl.uk/britishthesis/>

<sup>78</sup> [http://ethostoolkit.rgu.ac.uk/?page\\_id=102](http://ethostoolkit.rgu.ac.uk/?page_id=102)

Currently, *Index to Theses*<sup>79</sup> provides access to the bibliographic information of UK theses; many full text theses will soon be available via *EThOS Net*<sup>80</sup> which is an open access national repository for the UK theses, and it is recommended that Institutions which have not yet mandated e-theses give priority to Islamic Studies PhDs, and that consideration is given to digitizing theses in Islamic studies awarded during the past ten years – this would consist of around 250.000 pages.

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<sup>79</sup> <http://www.theses.com/>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.ethos.ac.uk/>

i) PhD Theses in Islamic Studies, 1997-2006 Top 10 universities

PhD Theses in Islamic Studies 1997-2006 Top 10

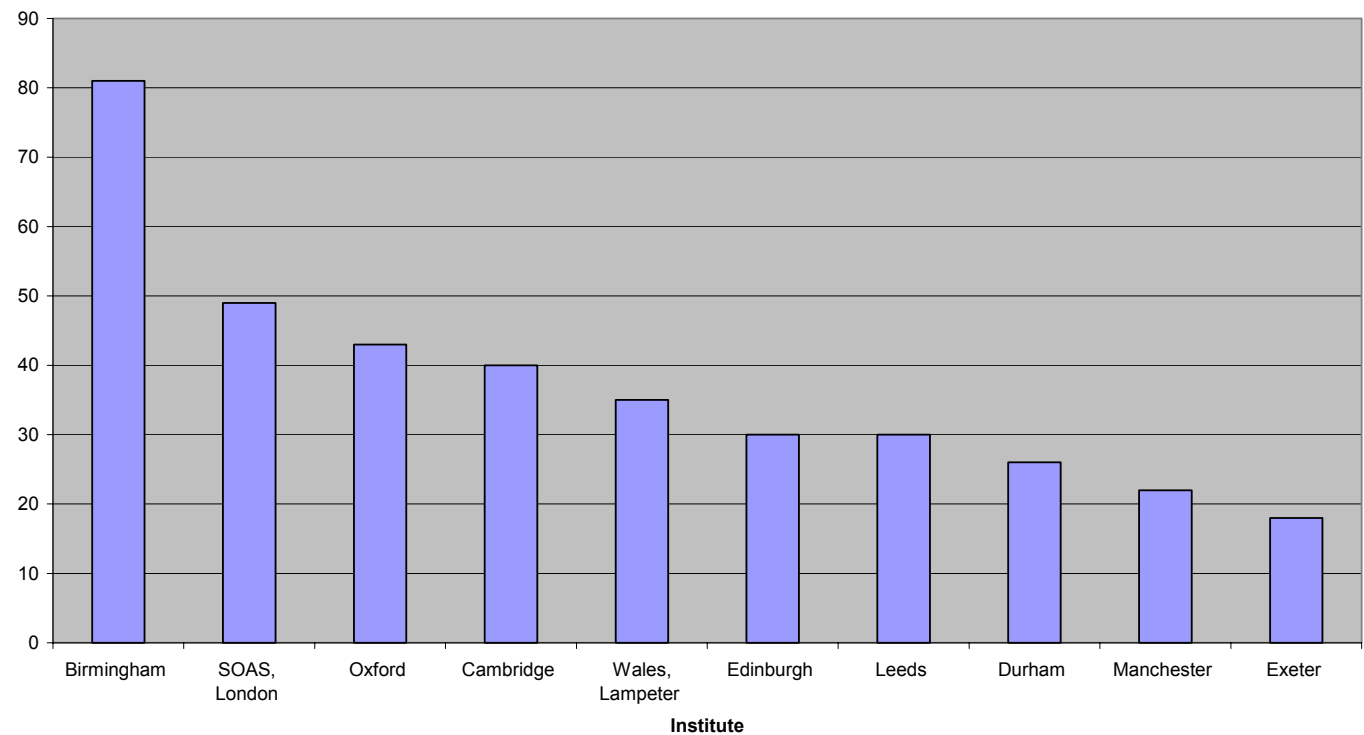


Figure 1

Table 16

Institute	Theses
Birmingham	81
SOAS, London	49
Oxford	43
Cambridge	40
Wales, Lampeter	35
Edinburgh	30
Leeds	30
Durham	26
Manchester	22
Exeter	18
Grand Total	374

ii) PhD Theses in Islamic Studies 1997-2006, subject analysis

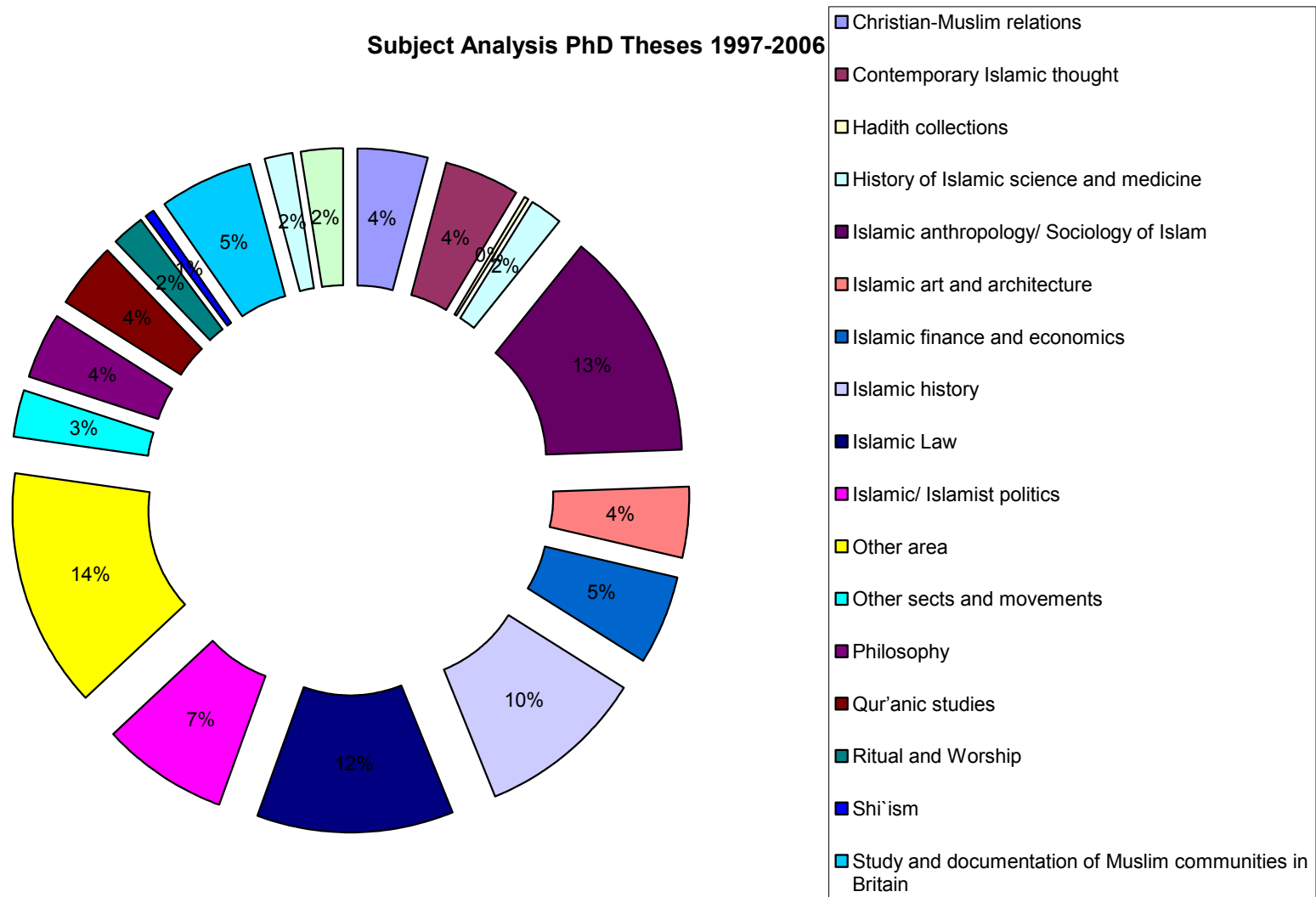


Figure 2

Subject	Theses
Christian-Muslim relations	16
Contemporary Islamic thought	16
Hadith collections	1
History of Islamic science and medicine	8
Islamic anthropology/ Sociology of Islam	50
Islamic art and architecture	16
Islamic finance and economics	20
Islamic history	37
Islamic Law	44
Islamic/ Islamist politics	28
Other area	53
Other sects and movements	10
Philosophy	15
Qur'anic studies	14
Ritual and Worship	8
Shi'ism	2
Study and documentation of Muslim communities in Britain	20
Sufism	7
Theology	9
Grand Total	374

Table 17

iii) PhD Theses in Islamic Studies, 1997-2006 by Year

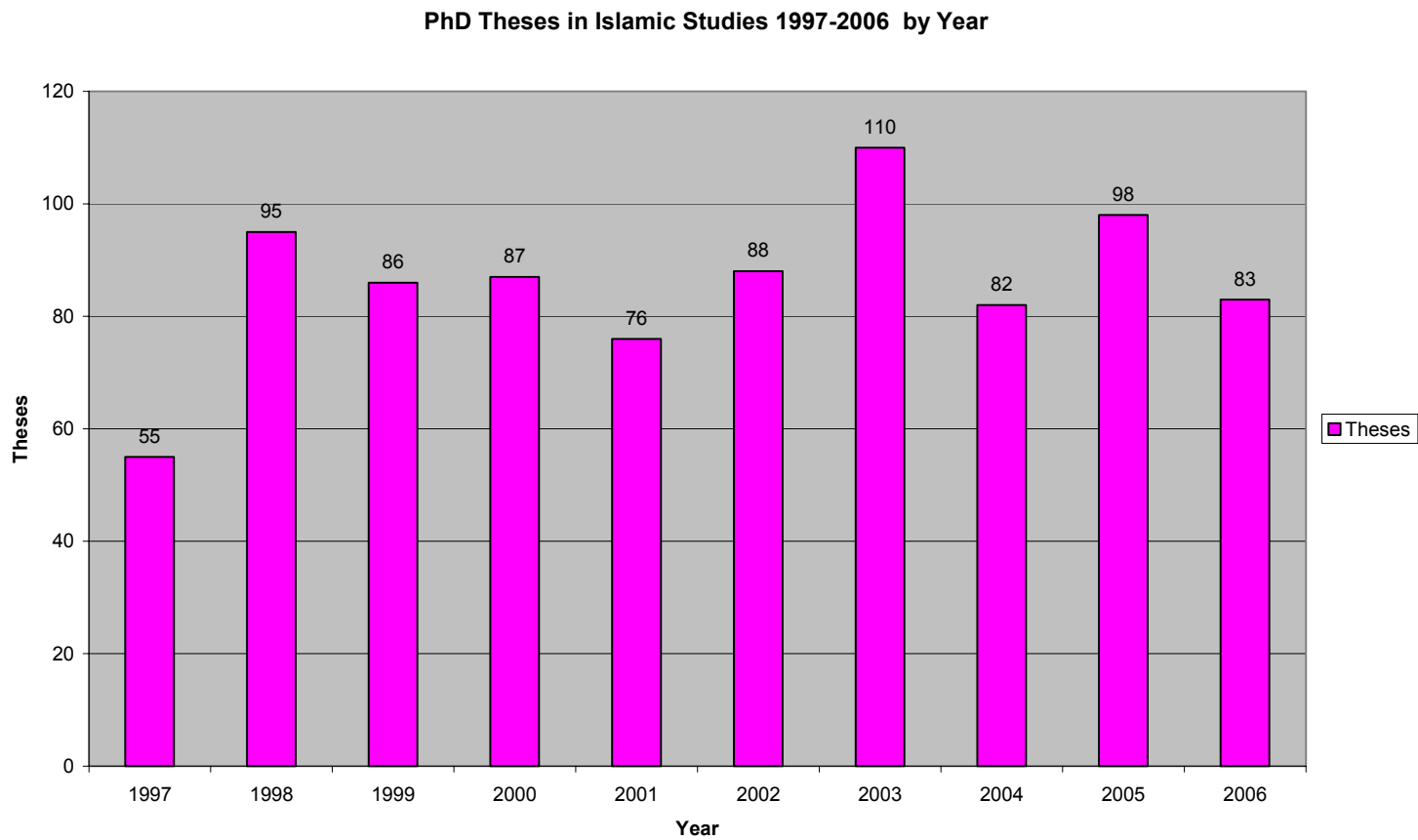


Figure 3

Year	Theses
1997	55
1998	95
1999	86
2000	87
2001	76
2002	88
2003	110
2004	82
2005	98
2006	83
Grand Total	860
Yearly average	86

Table 18

iv) PhD Theses in Islamic Studies 1997-2006

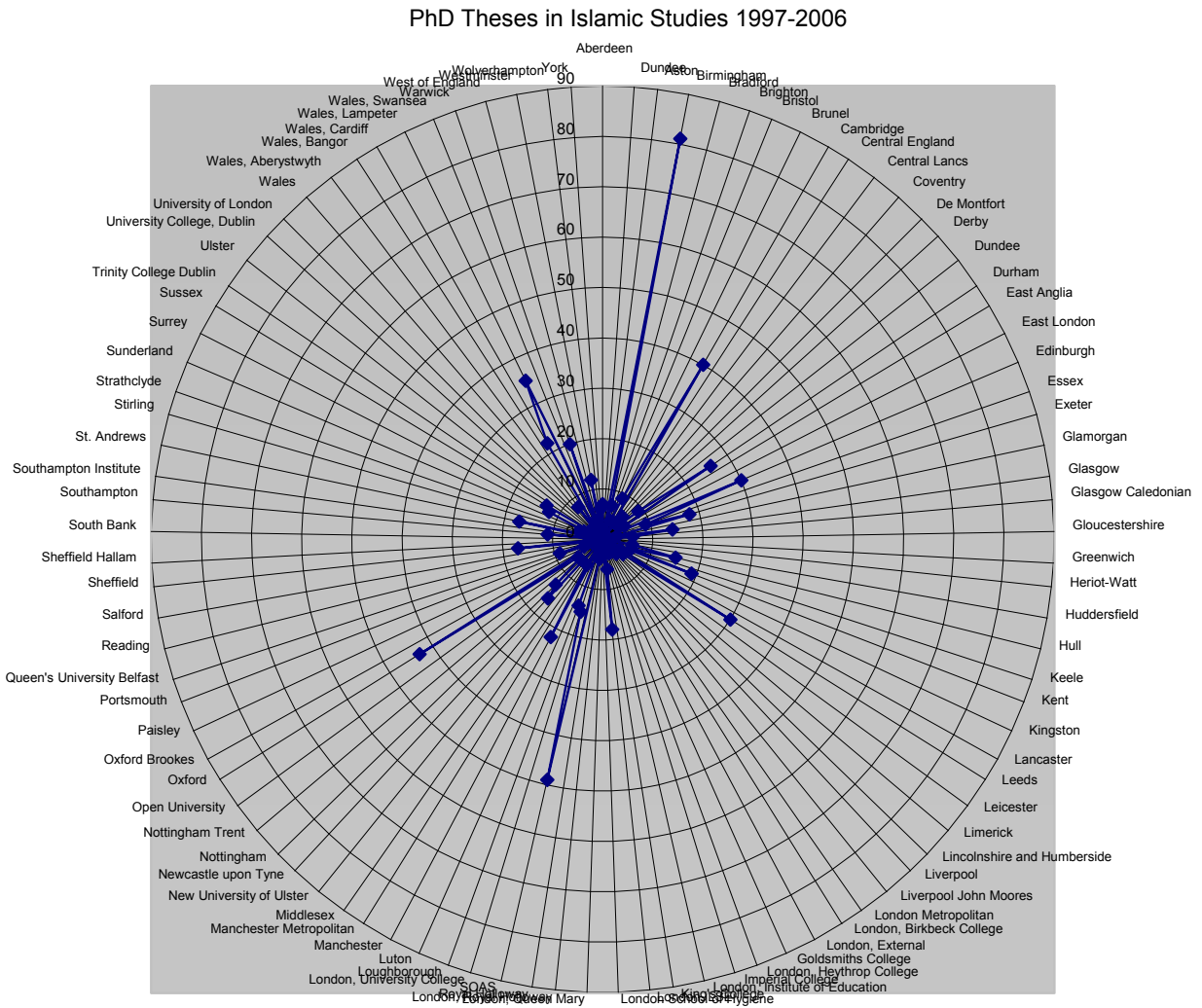


Figure 4

Institute	Theses
Aberdeen	7
Dundee	2
Aston	1
Birmingham	81
Bradford	7
Brighton	1
Bristol	4
Brunel	9
Cambridge	40
Central England	4
Central Lancs	1
Coventry	6
De Montfort	4
Derby	4
Dundee	9
Durham	26
East Anglia	5
East London	1
Edinburgh	30
Essex	9
Exeter	18
Glamorgan	3
Glasgow	14
Glasgow Caledonian	6
Gloucestershire	1
Greenwich	2
Heriot-Watt	1
Huddersfield	6
Hull	15
Keele	6
Kent	19
Kingston	1
Lancaster	4
Leeds	30
Leicester	5
Limerick	2
Lincolnshire and Humberside	1
Liverpool	4
Liverpool John Moores	1
London Metropolitan	2
London, Birkbeck	3

College	
London, External	1
Goldsmiths College	3
London, Heythrop College	1
Imperial College	2
London, Institute of Education	1
King's College	6
London, LSE	18
London School of Hygiene	2
London, Queen Mary	1
London, Royal Holloway	2
Royal Holloway	4
SOAS	49
London, University College	15
Loughborough	14
Luton	1
Manchester	22
Manchester Metropolitan	6
Middlesex	1
New University of Ulster	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	16
Nottingham	13
Nottingham Trent	6
Open University	6
Oxford	43
Oxford Brookes	2
Paisley	2
Portsmouth	4
Queen's University Belfast	9
Reading	3
Salford	3
Sheffield	17
Sheffield Hallam	2
South Bank	1
Southampton	11
Southampton Institute	1

St. Andrews	17
Stirling	2
Strathclyde	5
Sunderland	4
Surrey	12
Sussex	13
Trinity College Dublin	2
Ulster	1
University College, Dublin	3
University of London	1
Wales	3

Wales, Aberystwyth	8
Wales, Bangor	2
Wales, Cardiff	22
Wales, Lampeter	35
Wales, Swansea	4
Warwick	20
West of England	2
Westminster	12
Wolverhampton	2
York	6
Grand Total	860

**Table 19**

**F) Survey of Existing Portals for Islamic Studies, Libraries of Online Primary Texts, Online Manuscript Catalogues and Islamic Digitisation Projects**

**i) Gateways to General Sources**

*MENALIB*<sup>81</sup> is a huge informational portal for Middle Eastern and Islamic studies, with links to over 3000 datasets. It has its own search engine (al-Misbah) which can be searched by subject, by type of organization (e.g. archive repository, government body), by type of publication (e.g. article, government report) or by free text. It covers the whole Middle East including Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Horn of Africa but excludes Israel, except for resources dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict in general. The section on Islam is subdivided into 13 sub-categories (including Interreligious relations ; the Muslim Communities in the Modern World). The site also offers a limited facility for searching for articles on particular topics as well as access to the tables of contents of almost 250 Middle Eastern and Islamic periodicals (but with several significant omission regarding Islamic studies). An excellent tool.

The *Middle East Network Information Center*<sup>82</sup>, run by the University of Texas at Austin. One of the most comprehensive gateways to all aspects of Middle Eastern Studies – the religion and spirituality section is found under the Society and Culture rubric. There are hundreds of links to Islamic sites (mostly up-to-date, but a few do not work), arranged in ten categories, but no specific section for digitally available Islamic material or Islamic blogs and wikis.

*Middle East Studies Internet Resources*<sup>83</sup> from Columbia University has a useful but by no means comprehensive list on online resources on Islam and Islamic Studies. Again no specific section for digitally available Islamic material or Islamic blogs and wikis. *Near Eastern Islamic and Arabic Resources : Selected Internet Resources*<sup>84</sup> maintained by

<sup>81</sup> <http://ssgdoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/vlib/html/index.html> [accessed May 6th 2008]

<sup>82</sup> <http://menic.utexas.edu/> [accessed May 6th 2008]

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvlm/> [accessed May 6th 2008]

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.library.yale.edu/neareast/neareastern.html> [accessed May 6th 2008]

Yale University Library is similar of Columbia University's website in scale and scope, but with a slightly different emphasis in its section on Islam and Islamic studies.

*Middle East Resource Guide*<sup>85</sup> is a useful gateway with many links to societies, libraries, universities and academic institutions dealing with Islamic and Middle Eastern studies. Includes a small but significant section on Islam and a considerable amount of information on foreign relations, e.g. the European Union's Mediterranean and Middle East policy.

*Islamic World*<sup>86</sup> - the compiler Dr. Albrecht Hofheinz of the University of Oslo calls his list a "quick and dirty list of links", but this is one of few gateways to list Middle Eastern (mainly Arabic) search engines, internet directories, e-lists, chat rooms as well as websites for Muslim countries outside the Middle East, e.g. Bangladesh, Malaysia and Chad. Very good list of links to Islamic portals in English and to the homepages of Islamic groups both in the Middle East and in Europe. Some of the sites, e.g. *Islam Today*<sup>87</sup> (allow the user to download complete texts by contemporary Muslim authors (in the case of this site by Salman al-Oudah/Salman al-'Awdah). *Islamic World* has not been updated since November 2005 and lacks a good contents page with navigable links, but is still an outstanding resource.

*Salaam*<sup>88</sup> includes over 700 links to a wide variety of Islamic topics and an excellent Muslims in Britain section featuring news reports, numerous links to current reports and publications on Islam in Britain as well as extracts from publications on this topic.

## ii) Gateways to Sources on Islam and Islamic History and Culture

*Islamic Studies Resources on the Internet*<sup>89</sup>, a gateway to 100+ sites by Dr. Gary Bunt of the University of Wales, Lampeter. The resources cover the recitation and translation of the Qur'an, calendar conversion, information about Islam and Islamic history, and the

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.parstimes.com/mideast/> [accessed May 6th 2008]

<sup>86</sup> <http://folk.uio.no/albrech/CybIslamLinks.html> [accessed May 7th 2008]

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.islamtoday.net/english/> [accessed May 7th 2008]

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.salaam.co.uk/> [accessed May 7th 2008]

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.lamp.ac.uk/cis/pathways/pathways.html> [accessed May 8th 2008]

home pages of a wide variety of Islamic groups and organisations. Also contains an extremely valuable listing of Islamic blogs, the *Islamic Blogosphere*<sup>90</sup> and Dr. Bunt's own Islamic blog, *Virtually Islamic Blog*<sup>91</sup>.

*Islam and Islamic Studies Resources*<sup>92</sup> is an up-to-date gateway/website maintained by Professor Alan Godlas of the University of Georgia. Covers all aspects of Islam, and includes numerous scholarly articles and guides to primary sources.

*Academic Info – Islamic Studies Gateway*<sup>93</sup>, is a well-structured one-man gateway to Islamic studies, with the emphasis on U.S. sites.

*Muslim Directory*<sup>94</sup>. A directory of UK mosques, and Muslim organisations and businesses. Includes a small section on information about Islam and links to the Islamic Sharia Council, but is in essence as the site's sub-title has it "a guide to services & businesses for the Muslim community".

*Al-Islam*<sup>95</sup> is a useful Shi'i site run by the Ahlul Bayt Digital Library Project, and contains a large number of short explanatory texts on Islam. Includes articles contained in the English-language journals *al-Serat* and *al-Tafsir*, full-text translation of the sermons from *Nahj al-balaghah*, and a selection of scanned pages from classical Islamic texts.

*Dalil Sultan*<sup>96</sup> is an "extensive directory of Islamic sites, with a Salafi Saudi slant" (Islamic World website). Contains some links to downloadable/scanned texts.

### **iii) Portals to Digitised Primary texts in Islamic Studies**

*Virtual Libraries*<sup>97</sup> is a well-annotated guide to Arabic and Persian texts available online. Covers the Qur'an, hadith, fiqh and a wide variety of Islamic texts, as well as full-text

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<sup>90</sup> <http://www.lamp.ac.uk/cis/liminal/bloglisting.htm> [accessed May 8th 2008]

<sup>91</sup> <http://virtuallyislamic.blogspot.com> [accessed May 8th 2008]

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.uga.edu/islam/> [accessed May 8th 2008]

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.academicinfo.net/Islam.html> [accessed May 8th 2008]

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.muslimdirectory.co.uk/> [accessed May 8th 2008]

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.al-islam.org/> [accessed May 8th 2008]

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.sultan.org/a/> [accessed May 8th 2008]

electronic books in the fields of Arabic literature and Persian poetry. Contains links to Arabic commercial sites such as :

*al-Waraq*<sup>98</sup> (subscription based)

*al-Meshkat*<sup>99</sup> (downloadable .rar files)

*Nida' al-Iman*<sup>100</sup> (scanned texts)

*Fiqh al-Islam*<sup>101</sup> (navigable fully-pointed texts)

*Shia Books*<sup>102</sup> (online text)

and to Persian commercial sites such

*al-Tebyan*<sup>103</sup> (navigable online text)

*Persopedia*<sup>104</sup> (online texts of major poets)

as well as to sites maintained by academic bodies and religious organisations such as:

*Maktabat Sahab al-Salafiyah*<sup>105</sup> ((downloadable .rar files)

*Altafsir*<sup>106</sup> (scanned texts)

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<sup>97</sup> <http://www.lib.utah.edu/middleeast/virtuallibraries.html> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>98</sup> <http://www.alwaraq.net> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.almeshkat.com/books> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.el-eman.com/Islamlib> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>101</sup> <http://feqh.al-islam.com> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>102</sup> <http://www.yasoob.com> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.tebyan.net/> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.persopedia.com> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.sahab.net/forums> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>106</sup> (<http://www.altafsir.com/IntroSrc.asp> [accessed May 9th 2008])

*Islamicity*<sup>107</sup> (searchable multi-lingual text of the Quran)

*Hadith al-Islam*<sup>108</sup> (searchable texts)

*USC-MSA Compendium of MuslimTexts*<sup>109</sup> (searchable *hadith* texts in English)

The site is maintained by the Aziz S. Atiya Middle East Library at the University of Utah.

#### **iv) Digitised Primary texts in Islamic Studies, not included in Virtual Libraries**

*Arabic Literature*<sup>110</sup> is a good guide to sites containing the original (usually scanned) text or English translation of major works of *adab* or belles-lettres, both classical and modern. Maintained by Ali Houissa of Cornell University Library.

*Arabic and Persian Texts Related to the Shaykhi, Babi and Baha' Movements*<sup>111</sup> contains a considerable amount of fully digitised texts, for example complete works by Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Ahmad al-Ahsa'i, and Baha' Allah.

*Markaz Wadud lil-Makhtutat*<sup>112</sup> contains facsimiles of over 650 manuscripts in a wide variety of Islamic subjects, as well as 1278 printed books. The printed books cover edited texts, manuscript catalogues and Arabic versions of Brockelmann and Sezgin. The texts can be downloaded as zipped .rar files.

*Al-Mostafa.com*<sup>113</sup> offers several hundred texts in Arabic, but downloading is often a problem.

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<sup>107</sup> <http://www.islamicity.com/mosque/quran> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>108</sup> <http://hadith.al-islam.com/Display/Hier.asp?Doc=0&n=0> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>109</sup> <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/fundamentals/hadithsunnah/> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>110</sup> <http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/arablit.htm> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>111</sup> <http://www.h-net.org/~bahai/index/diglib/arapub.htm> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.wadud.com/> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.al-mostafa.com> [accessed May 9th 2008]

*Al-Waqfeya*<sup>114</sup> has just over 1000 texts in Arabic available as zipped .rar files. Also makes available 160 books in English including dictionaries by Lane, Wehr, Wortabet and Baalbaki as well as Wright's grammar.

*Islamport*<sup>115</sup> offers the full-text of approximately 5000 Arabic texts in a wide variety of subjects as downloadable as zipped .rar files.

IHSAN<sup>116</sup>, the International Hadith Study Association Network, offers subscription-based access to the full texts seven canonical traditions, as well as facsimiles of the manuscripts used in preparing the archive. Supported by the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation.

*The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)*<sup>117</sup> lists examples of digitised Islamic manuscripts from ten collections around the world and links into the *UNESCO/IFLA Directory of Digitized Collections*<sup>118</sup> as well as giving details of current projects<sup>119</sup> dealing with Islamic material.

The *Shahnama Project*<sup>120</sup> offers a "massive collection of manuscripts of the *Shahnama* and a display of the paintings in each one. There are currently 292 manuscripts and single pages recorded, 6758 records of paintings, and 5163 images from all over the world". An immense and very successful undertaking.

*Tabataba'i's Mizan*<sup>121</sup> is an ongoing translation of a contemporary *tafsir* text.

The *Description d'Egypte*<sup>122</sup> made up of 11 plate volumes and 9 text volumes is now entirely digitised and made available on the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina*<sup>123</sup> website.

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<sup>114</sup> <http://www.waqfeya.com> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>115</sup> <http://islamport.com/index2.html> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.ihsanetwork.org/ihsan-home1.asp?lang=e> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/resources/digitalmanuscripts.html> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/digicol/> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>119</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/projects/IndividualProjects.html> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>120</sup> <http://shahnama.caret.cam.ac.uk/shahnama/faces/user/index> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.almizan.org> [accessed May 9th 2008]

The *Turkology Update Leiden Project*<sup>124</sup> has a gateway to sites offering studies and translations of Turkish literature.

### v) Digitised Islamic Manuscript Catalogues

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France have scanned a huge number of works (over 90,000) among which are several important Islamic manuscript catalogues such as *Catalogue des manuscrits arabes*<sup>125</sup>, by Le Baron de Slane (Paris, 1883-1895), *Catalogue des manuscrits arabes : les nouvelles acquisitions, 1884-1924*<sup>126</sup>, by Edgar Blochet (Paris, 1925), *Index général des manuscrits arabes musulmans*<sup>127</sup>, by Georges Vajda (Paris 1953), *Catalogues des manuscrits arabes : manuscrits chrétiens, tome II*<sup>128</sup>, by Gérard Troupeau (Paris, 1975), *Catalogue des manuscrits turcs*, by Edgar Blochet (Paris 1932-33). *Tome 1*<sup>129</sup> and *Tome 2*<sup>130</sup> and *Catalogue des manuscrits persans*, by Edgar Blochet (Paris, 1905-34), *Tome 1*<sup>131</sup>, *Tome 2*<sup>132</sup>, *Tome 3*<sup>133</sup>, *Tome 4*<sup>134</sup>.

The *National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland*<sup>135</sup> has made a catalogue of its medical manuscripts available. They number around 300 in Arabic and Persian and the site includes extensive notes on the manuscripts, bio-bibliographies of the authors and a glossary.

*Wellcome Library Haddad Manuscript Collection catalogue*<sup>136</sup> has been prepared by Nikolaj Serikoff.

<sup>122</sup> <http://descegy.bibalex.org> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>123</sup> <http://www.bibalex.org/English/index.aspx> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>124</sup> <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/tcimo/tulp/topical/artlit.htm> [accessed May 9th 2008]

<sup>125</sup> <http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=NUMM-209467> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>126</sup> <http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=NUMM-209460> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>127</sup> <http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=NUMM-209461> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>128</sup> <http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=NUMM-209461> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>129</sup> <http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=NUMM-209465> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>130</sup> <http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=NUMM-209466> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>131</sup> <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k762174/f7.item> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>132</sup> <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k76218g/f7.item> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>133</sup> <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k76219t/f7.item> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>134</sup> <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k762201/f7.item> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/arabic/arabichome.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>136</sup> <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node273.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

*Princeton University Library*<sup>137</sup> have produced digital versions of their four major Islamic manuscript catalogues (1938-87) as well as *A Preliminary Checklist of Uncatalogued Islamic Manuscripts*<sup>138</sup>.

The *Islamic Manuscripts site*<sup>139</sup> run by Professor Jan Just Witkam makes available the digitised Islamic manuscript catalogues of the University of Leiden and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century manuscript catalogue of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

*Cambridge University Library*<sup>140</sup> have digitised five of their catalogues of Islamic (Arabic, Persian, Turkish) manuscripts.

*Markaz Wadud lil-Makhtutat*<sup>141</sup> includes the full-text of many manuscript catalogues and Arabic versions of Brockelmann and Sezgin in their section *Faharis al-Makhtutat*. The texts can be downloaded as zipped .rar files.

*Dr. Youssef Ziedan for Heritage and Manuscripts*<sup>142</sup> has a website giving facsimiles of over 50 Arabic manuscripts and the ability to search the catalogues of five manuscript collections in northern Egypt.

## vi) Ongoing Digitisation Projects

*AMEEL*<sup>143</sup> will be a Web-based portal for the study of the Middle East, including its history, culture, development, and contemporary face, and within this portal, will integrate existing scholarly digital content to make such material easier to find and use efficiently and freely." Based at Yale University Library.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina through its *Cultnat*<sup>144</sup> initiative is cooperating with UNESCO is several digital projects.

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<sup>137</sup> <http://www.princeton.edu/~rbsc/departments/manuscripts/islamic.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>138</sup> <http://libweb.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbcs/aids/islamic> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>139</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscripts.info/inventories/index.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/neareastern/collection.html#arabic> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>141</sup> <http://www.wadod.com/> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>142</sup> [http://www.ziedan.com/English/index\\_o.asp](http://www.ziedan.com/English/index_o.asp) [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>143</sup> <http://www.library.yale.edu/ameel> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.cultnat.org/International/International.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

*Library of Congress*<sup>145</sup> and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia will "jointly convene an international advisory committee of leading scholars and curators to map out a strategy for identifying, selecting, digitizing, cataloging, annotating, and promoting scholarly research about manuscripts and other rare and unique materials relating to science in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and for including these materials in the World Digital Library (WDL) and other digital library projects."

*The Shahnama Project*<sup>146</sup> (see above – Section 4)

*The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)*<sup>147</sup> (see above – Section 4)

*The Arab Digital Library Project*<sup>148</sup> has a five-year plan for developing a "knowledge portal".

*The National Library of Pakistan*<sup>149</sup> "has started digitising rare books and manuscripts with a view to preserving the national literary heritage for the next generations".

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<sup>145</sup> <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-067.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>146</sup> (<http://shahnama.caret.cam.ac.uk/shahnama/faces/user/index> [accessed May 12th 2008])

<sup>147</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/resources/digitalmanuscripts.html> [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>148</sup> [http://www.mcit.gov.eg/info\\_International\\_RegCo.aspx](http://www.mcit.gov.eg/info_International_RegCo.aspx) [accessed May 12th 2008]

<sup>149</sup>

[http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/Display\\_news.asp?section=World\\_News&subsection=Pakistan+%26+S ub-Continent&month=April2008&file=World\\_News2008040281821.xml](http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/Display_news.asp?section=World_News&subsection=Pakistan+%26+S ub-Continent&month=April2008&file=World_News2008040281821.xml) [accessed May 12th 2008]