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SAUDI ARABIA

by

'Abd Allāh 'Usaylān

1992
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The emphasis of this survey is on the major institutional libraries, but there are in some of the smaller towns of Saudi Arabia, especially in the region of Qasim in Najd and in the southern districts of 'Asir and Jazan, many small private collections, often of three MSS or fewer. Some have suffered neglect and damage from worming, humidity, etc., especially after the death of their original owners. Others have been scattered and lost. This survey includes a few surviving collections of this kind, but information is often hard to obtain, and some of the entries therefore lack detail.

UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS


   In Urdu. Incl. lists of MSS.


   Includes MSS libraries in Mecca and Medina.


List of 428 MSS in 21 libraries. Republished as an article in 1977 (see below).


Enumerates some libraries and collections, with special emphasis on the University of Riyadh (now King Saʿūd University).


Incl. information on several MSS libraries.


Catalogue of MSS in various places in the Qaṣīm region, giving titles, authors, numbers of pages, lines per page, dimensions, subject-matter, copyists, dates of copying and styles of script.


Saudi Arabia, p. 703.

1984. The role of national libraries in developing countries, with special
INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

AHBĂ

Ḥifzī Library (Maktabat Āl al-Ḥifzī)

Abhā, ‘Asîr

Status: Private family library

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 194.

Description of collection: The library was formed by Shaykh Aṣmād ibn al-Ḥifzī ibn ʿAbd al-Qādir (d. 1233/1818) and his children after him. The transfer of this collection between the individuals of the family led to the loss of quite a lot of MSS, through destruction, loss or sale. Thus Sayyid al-Ḥasan ibn ʿAlî al-Ḥifzī sold a part of the collection to the branch of King Saʿūd University in Abhā.

Most MSS of the collection deal with tafsîr, Ḥadîth, jurisprudence, doctrine, language, grammar, rhetoric and kutûb. Among them are works by scholars of Āl al-Ḥifzī, other scholars of the region and works of Shaykh Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb. The collection also includes important documents connected with the Salafî movement in the Saudi state during the time of Shaykh Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb. Notable items include: Kitâb al-inâf fi l-masâlî alūlāti aṣwâbit al-khâkhâ biyān al-Muṣlimūn by Ibn al-Sayyid al-Bâṭalyawshî, Al-Minâ al-Makkiyya fi sharî al-Hamzîyya by Ibn Ḥajar, Inbâh al-adhâkīyâ bi-bâyāt al-anîhâ by Jalâl al-Dîn al-Sûyûtî, Risâla min al-Shaykh Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhâb ilâ man aynak ʿulamâ‘a‘l-ḥikmâh and Anhî qa‘awî [by Shaykh Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhâb (autograph copy).]
(dated 626 AH), Shahr al-Lamî by 'Umar ibn Thâbit al-Thuâmârî (dated 656 AH), Miskîl al-maṣâlikh by Abu ʿAbd Allâh Muhammâd ibn ʿAbd Allâh al-Khaṭîb al-Tâbîrî (dated 823 AH) and Hamîr al-hawâmî fi 'l-nahw by Jalâl al-Dîn al-Suyûtî, copied from an autograph.

Published catalogue:

Unpublished catalogue:
A concise catalogue, giving title of work, name of author, date of copying and number of folios was prepared by the library and some copies were printed in a preliminary impression.

AL-BUKAYRÎYA
Shaykh ʿAbd al-ʿAzîz al-Sabil

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3.
Description of collection: One of the MSS is a defective copy of Al-Furûq by Al-Zarîbâtî, on Ḥanbalî fiqh.

Published catalogue:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjîrî.

BURAYDA
ʿAbd al-Muḥsin (Shaykh Fahd ibn ʿUbayd)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4.

Published catalogue:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjîrî.

ʿAbd al-Muḥsin (Shaykh Ibrahim ibn ʿUbayd)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3.

Published catalogue:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjîrî.

Al Sulaym (Shaykh ʿAbd Allâh Ibrâhîm)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 27.
Description of collection: Rarities include Shahr ʿAlîmîyat al-ʿAjâm li-l-Ṭûqîrî by Muhammmad ibn Muḥâfaẓ al-Ḥamîlî, dated 968 AH, and Ṣafî al-ṣâhir fi masâḥat al-ashkîl, a work on geometry by Yaḥyâ ibn Ibrâhîm ibn Yûsuf, dated 1026.

Published catalogues:

1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjîrî.

Al-Bulayhî (Shaykh Ṣâliḥ Ibrâhîm)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1.

Published catalogue:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjîrî.

Al-Kharîṣî (Shaykh Ṣâliḥ)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12.
Published catalogues:
1977. See Majallat Māhād al-Makhṭūṭāt al-ʿArabīya (under Union catalogues above), pp. 16–17 (where, however, the owner’s name is given as Al-ʿAqīf).

1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Al-Maktaba al-ʿĀmma (Public Library)

Tel.: 06/3231945
Date of establishment: 1374/1954
Status: Public library and governmental institution under the Ministry of Information
Conditions of access: Open to the public. MSS can be consulted within the library. Photographic copies can be made for students and researchers.

Open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 45.
Description of collection: The MSS deal with religious and legal sciences, Arabic language and history. Most MSS were copied between the 12th and 14th centuries AH. Rarities include Jāmiʿ al-ṣaʿāʾīn waʾl-ḥakam fi sharh khamān hadithan min jawāmiʿ al-kalim by Abū ʿl-Fārāb ʿAbd al-Raʾūmān bīn ʿAbd al-Raḥīm bīn Rajīb al-Ḥanbālī, dated 838 AH (copied from an autograph) and Al-Ighār li-tālīb al-ʿinājud biy Mūsā al-Ḥuṣaynī (d. 968), on Ḥanbālī fīqh.

Published catalogues:

1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Al-Midyān (Shaykh ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6.

Published catalogues:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Al-Tuwayjīrī (Shaykh ʿAbd Allāh Ibrāhīm)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10.

Published catalogues:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

HĀʾIL

General

In the city of Hāʾil are a number of private libraries, some of whose owners are still living; but some are deceased, and the books have passed to their heirs, who in turn have in some cases endowed them to one of the scholarly agencies. The numbers of MSS in some collections are quite small, sometimes only 3–6 volumes. The total holdings in the city amount to 196 MSS.

Most of the texts are works of Ḥanbālī doctrine and fīqh, particularly those of Ibn Taymīya, his pupil Ibn Qāyyim and Shaykh Muhammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhāb; but there are also some works on tafsīr, Hadīth, Arabic language, biography and history. Most of the MSS were copied between the 12th and 14th centuries AH, but some date from the 8th, 9th and 10th centuries AH. There are some rare MSS including autographs.

Some MSS in these libraries are exposed to damage through dampness and worming, and are in need of care and restoration.

Published catalogue:

Concise catalogue of MSS in private collections in Hāʾil, giving titles, authors, numbers of pages, lines per page, dimensions, subject-matter, copyists, and dates of copying.
Al-Khayyāt (Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 26.
Description of collection: Rarities include Al-Iṣna' Iṣlāb al-intifā' by Mūsā 'l-Ḥujāwī (d. 968), copied in 954 AH.

Al-Maḥad al-ʿIlmī (Scientific Institute)

Status: Affiliated to Imam Muhammad ibn Saʿūd Islamic University, Riyadh
Total number of Islamic MSS: 73.
Description of collection: These MSS formerly constituted the private library of Shaykh ʿAlī ʿAbd Allāh al-Yaʿqūbī, before being donated to the Institute.
Rarities include Al-Sharḥ al-Kabīr by Shams al-Dīn Ibn Qudāma, dated 747 AH, and Musnad al-Īsām Ahmad ibn Hanbal, part containing the musnad of Aḥū Hurayra, dated 828 AH.

Al-Maliq (ʿAbd al-Muḥsin)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 8.

Al-Maliq (ʿAbd al-Raḥmān)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3.

Al-Ṣālim (ʿAlī al-Ṣāliḥ)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 28.
Description of collection: Rarities include Taḥṣīn al-mubtadi' wa-tadhkīrāt al-munawwari by ʿAbū ʾl-Ḥarām ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn al-Jawzī, on homiletics.

Al-Shafḍalī (Hamūd)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7.

Al-Ṭuwayrib (Shaykh Ṣāliḥ al-ʿAlī)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 51.
Description of collection: Rarities include Milḥat al-ṭrāb by Ahmad Barakāt ibn Muḥammad al-Ṣāfī, dated 887 AH.

HASA—see AL-AHSĀ'

JAZĀN

ʿAqīl Library (Al-Maktaba al-ʿAqīliyya)

In the house of the historian and man of letters, Al-Ustādīd Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad al-ʿAqīlī.
Tel.: 07/3221835
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 41.
Description of collection: The library is well looked after by its owner. Most of the MSS deal with history, particularly the history of Yemen and the province of Al-Milklīf al-Sulaymānī, language, literature, Hadīth, fiqh and doctrine. Most were copied between the 12th and 14th centuries AH. The collection includes a number of rare MSS on the history of the southern region (ʿAsir and Jazān), Yemen and Al-Milklīf al-Sulaymānī. Among the rarities are: i) Al-ʿAqīl al-Yamānī fi ṣaḥīḥīḥ al-Milklīf al-Sulaymānī by ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAbd Al-Raḥmān ʿAlī al-Nuʾmān al-Shuqayrī (11th century AH), autograph copy; ii) Taḥṣīn al-zawān fi tārīkh sādir al-Yaman by Husayn ibn Aḥmad al-Raḥmān al-Aḥdāl (d. 855 AH); iii) Diwān al-Sulaymānī, very rare, 6th century AH; iv) Bahjat al-mahfīlı wuḥūkayt al-amāhik by Yāḥyā ibn Aḥmad al-Jārī (d. 893 AH), autograph copy, which once belonged to an imām of Yemen, with marginal notes in his or his son’s handwriting; v) Ṭib al-sans fi 'aqīlāt al-sīr by Aḥmad Muḥammad al-Haymī (d. 1151 AH), a work containing biographies.
of a number of Yemeni men of letters, and a very important source for Yemeni literature.

Published catalogues:

This catalogue gives title, author, number of pages, dimensions, date of copying, and brief remarks about the MSS.


This catalogue gives title, author, number of pages, dimensions, occasionally number of lines, and remarks about the MSS and their contents.

JEDDAH (JIDDA)
Jāmiʿat al-Malik ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz: al-Maktaba al-Markaziyya (King ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz University Library)
Qism al-Makhtūṭāt (Department of Manuscripts)
PO Box 3711, Jidda 21481
Tel.: 6952561. Fax: 6952075. Telex: 21481
Date of establishment: 1967 (the University); 1973 (the Department of MSS)
Status: University library (governmental)
Conditions of access: The library of the University is open to researchers, professors, students, and other readers. To consult MSS, the conditions are the same as those of other universities.

Open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,017 plus 3,001 microfilms and photocopies.
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are on Qurʾān, tafsīr and related sciences, Ḥadīth and related sciences, Islamic jurisprudence, doctrines, usūl al-dīn, Arabic language and related sciences, history and biography; but there are a few dealing with other subjects such as logic, philosophy, medicine, alchemy, arithmetic, astronomy and geography. It is worth mentioning that the MSS of the private collection of Shaykh Muḥammad Naṣīr ibn Jeddah were donated to this library and are now incorporated within its holdings. The collection is housed in a suitable modern building and receives care and attention from the Library staff, although more conservation and decontamination work is needed.


Published catalogues:
1936. See Union catalogue by O. Skope, p. 86.


This catalogue gives title, author, contents, incipit and explicit. Physical description includes number of pages, material, size, number of lines, script, copyist and date of copying, followed by remarks and references.

Unpublished catalogues:
There is a card catalogue of the MSS of the Library.
A list of 217 MSS of the collection of Shaykh Muhammad Nasir. There is a copy of it in the Institute of Arab MSS in Cairo.

**MECCA (MAKKA AL-MUKARRAMA)**

**General**


**Maktatab al-Ḥaram al-Makki al-Sharīf** (Library of the Noble Sanctuary of Mecca)

Near al-Ḥaram al-Makki
Tel.: 02/5361144
Date of establishment: 1266/1841
Status: Public library and governmental institution

**Conditions of access:** The library is open to students, scholars and researchers. MSS can be consulted within the library. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining permission from the responsible agency. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 9,701, plus 4,860 photographic copies.

**Description of collection:** The library has been neglected in the past. A number of its MSS were affected by damp and worms, and some perished. Now they are stored safely and receive proper care, but the damage done in the past still needs to be repaired. The MSS cover various fields: Qur’ān, recitation, ṣafār, Ḥadīth and related sciences, jurisprudence, doctrine, Arabic language sciences, literature, history, biography, Sīra, geography, astronomy, Sufism, homiletics, arithmetic, geometry and medicine. Most were copied between the 10th and 14th centuries AH, but there are some dating from the 5th–9th centuries. The library includes a number of famous private collections of Mecca which were donated or endowed to it: the most important are those of Sultan Abūl-Mecid, Rashīd al-Shirbānī, governor of al-Ḥijāz (added in 1346/1928), Shaykh Abū al-Sattār Ibn Abū al-ʿĀliah al-Dhulayrī (d. 1355/1936), Shaykh Abū al-Ghāni al-Zamarmāl (added in 1388/1968) and al-Ḥasan Ibn al-ʿĀlia al-Idārī.


**Published catalogues:**


Preliminary catalogue, published by the library, giving: title, author, insctipt, explicite, date of copying, number of folios, number of lines, dimensions, statements of ownership and auditin, and reference number.


Preliminary catalogue, published by the library, giving: title, author, incipit, explicit, date of copying, number of folios, number of lines, dimensions, statements of ownership and audit, and reference number.


Preliminary catalogue, published by the library, giving: title, author, incipit, explicit, date of copying, number of folios, number of lines, dimensions, statements of ownership and audit, and reference number.


Preliminary catalogue, published by the library, giving the same details as in the preceding item.


A list of 500 rare MSS of which photographic copies are held by King Saʿūd University Library in Riyadh (q. v.).

Unpublished catalogue:

Date of establishment: 1379/1959
Status: Public library (governmental)
Conditions of access: Open to all readers. MSS can be consulted within the library. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining authorization from the Ministry of Hajj and Endowments. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,200.
Description of collection: The library has suffered from neglect in the past. Now, under the patronage of the Ministry of Hajj and Endowments, it is in better condition. MSS in need of binding have been bound. However, some MSS require repair and periodic decontamination.
The MSS cover various fields: copies of the Qur'an, recitation, tafsir, Qur'anic sciences, Hadith and related sciences, jurisprudence, doctrine, Arabic language sciences, literature, history, biography and Sufism. A limited number of MSS deal with astronomy, arithmetic, medicine and geography. Most MSS were copied between the 10th and 13th centuries AH, but there are some from the 8th and 9th centuries. There is a rare collection of ornamented Qur'ans in fine calligraphic hands.
The holdings of the library include some famous private collections of Mecca which have been donated to it, such as that of Shaykh Muhammad Mājid al-Kurrā (d. 1349 AH).
Rarities include Muhāriq al-anwār fi sharḥ Mushāriq al-anwār by ʿAbd al-Latīf al-Ḥanārī (dated 832 AH) and Bahjat al-mufas wa-takhlīyatuh wa-bayān mā lāhā wa-mā ʿalayhā by ʿAbd Allāh ibn Saʿd al-Andalusī (Maghribī script).
1988. See article and monograph by ibn Duḥaysh under General above.

Published catalogues:
These catalogues, which cover microfilmed MSS on Qur'anic studies, Arabic language and ʿiss, give titles, authors, copyists, dates, styles of script, numbers of leaves, lines per page, dimensions and shellmarks. Indexes of authors and titles.
Siddiq Library (Maktabat al-Sayyid ‘Abd al-Rahim Siddiq)

Minä, Mecca
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and scholars.

MEDINA (AL-MADĪNA AL-MUNAWWARA)

General
Published catalogues & surveys:


MSS in Medina libraries, of which reproductions are held in the library of Jāmī‘at al-Malik Sa‘ūd, Riyadh (g.e.).

1973–74. Al-muntakhab min makhtūtât al-Madīna al-


ʿĀrif Hikmat Library—see Maktabat al-Malik ʿAbd al-ʿAzîz al-ʿAmmā

Al-Jāmī‘a al-Islāmiyya: al-Maktaba al-Markaziyya

Qism al-Makhtūtāt (Department of Manuscripts)
P O Box 170, Medina
Tel. & Fax: 8470803
Date of establishment: 1381/1961 (Library); 1396/1976 (Department of Manuscripts)
Status: University library (governmental)
Conditions of access: MSS can be consulted within the library after filling in a special form. MSS cannot be borrowed but they can be photographed according to regulations observed in other universities. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,544 (Arabic) plus 16,699 microfilms & 5,600 photocopies.
Description of collection: Some of the MSS still need cataloguing and preservation. The collection, all in Arabic, deals mostly with religious sciences and Arabic language, as well as Sīra, history and biography. There are a few dealing with other subjects such as geography, logic, astronomy, arithmetic and medicine. Most of the MSS contain common and widespread texts, but there are some rarities, including: i) Al-Mustakhf fi sharh al-Muṣāhīb by Maḥzūr al-Dīn al-Ḥusayn ibn Maḥmūd ibn al-Ḥasan al-Zaydānī, dated 719 AH; ii) Tawālīf al-awwār min maqālīf al-aṣār by Mūsā ibn Ismā‘īl ibn Abī Bakr, dated 780 AH; iii) Ḥall muḥkāmat al-ḥārāfīt wa-tambūrāt by Naṣīr al-Dīn Tūsī, dated 884 AH; iv) Al-Ashkāb wa-t-nazār fī ḫuṣṣ al-Shāfī‘ī by Jālal al-Dīn al-Su‘ūdī, dated 940 AH; v) Al-balgha wa-t-ignātī fī ḫall shubhāt maqālāt al-sana‘ by Abī ʿAl-‘Abbās Abī Ḥusayn ibn Ibrāhīm al-Wāṣīṭī al-Ḥanbālī, dated 1023 AH.
Published catalogue:
This catalogue, which deals only with microfilms and photocopies, gives: author entry according to lâqîb, title, incipit, explicit, date of copying, copyist (if known), number of folios, lines, dimensions, library from which the photocopy was made and remarks about physical condition. Indexes of authors and titles.

Unpublished catalogues:
There is an incomplete card catalogue of original MSS and a card catalogue of photocopies & microfilms.

Maḥmudîya Library—see Maktabat al-Malik ʿAbd al-ʿAzîz al-Ḥâmma

Maktabat al-Haram al-Nabawi (Library of the Sanctuary of the Prophet)

Al-Masjid al-Nabawi (The Prophet’s Mosque)
Bâb al-Majî, Medina
Tel.: 8224773
Date of establishment: 1352/1923
Status: Governmental institution
Conditions of access: Open to the public. MSS can be consulted in the MSS room only. Photographic copies may be obtained after permission has been granted by the administration of the library. This is generally done by way of exchange.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 942.
Description of collection: The MSS deal with various subjects: art of recitation, hafiz, Hadîth, Sira, history, biography, Islamic jurisprudence, law of inheritance, doctrine, Arabic grammar and morphology, medicine, logic, Sufism, prayers and invocations, homiletics, literature and rhetoric. Most MSS of the collection date from the 10th – 13th centuries AH, but some are from the 6th – 8th centuries.
The library is air-conditioned and ventilated. However, some MSS were exposed to damage before being deposited in the library, and are in need of repair and periodic decontamination.
Rarities include Kûth `al-jawâbîr al-ḥûsalîn by ʿAmâd ibn

Muhâmmad al-Thaqâfî, in six volumes (volume 4 dated Rabî’ II 578 [1182], and Al-Mu’âzîmîm bi-fawâ’id Muslim by Muḥâmmad ibn ʿAlî ibn ʿUmar al-Mâzinî, first part, Maghribi script, dated 578 AH.

Published catalogues:


Unpublished catalogue:
There is an internal catalogue in the form of a large handwritten register. It gives general serial number, special serial number, title, author, number of volumes, number of parts, style of script, copyist, date, number of pages, number of folios, dimensions and ornamentation.

Maktabat al-Malik ʿAbd al-ʿAzîz al-Ḥâmma (King ʿAbd al-ʿAzîz Public Library)

Al-Munâkhâ, Medina
Tel.: 8232118, Fax: 8232126
Date of establishment: 1380/1960
Status: Public library (governmental)
Conditions of access: Open to the public. MSS can be consulted only in the MSS room. Photographic copies obtainable with permission from the library administration—generally by exchange.
Open throughout the week except Thursdays & Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15,764 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish), plus 1,600 microfilms.
Description of collection: The MSS cover most Islamic subjects. The majority date from the 10th – 13th centuries AH, but there are some from the 7th – 9th centuries. Two important historic collections,
previously separate institutions, have recently been incorporated into the library: the ʿArif Hikmat Library (est. 1270/1853), which is now housed in a special air-conditioned wing, and the Mahmūdiyya Library (est. by the Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II in 1237/1821). A number of other institutional and private libraries have also been transferred here, including those of: 
Ribāṭ Muḥammad Maṣḥar al-Fārūqī (est. 1291/1874); 
Ribāṭ ʿUṯmān ibn ʿAflāḥ; 
Ribāṭ Qarā Bāsh (est. 1031/1621); 
Ribāṭ al-Jahār; 
Al-Madrasa al-Qāzāniyya (est. 1311/1893); 
Al-Madrasa al-ʿIrāfīyya (est. 1314/1896); 
Al-Madrasa al-Iṣāṣāniyya (est. 1275/1858); 
Madrasat al-Ṣāqīzālī (est. 1125/1713); 
Madrasat al-Shāfīʿī (est. 1112/1700); 
Madrasat al-Qābī Nāḍīrī (est. 1254/1838); 
Shaykh Isrāʿīl al-Khāṭṭārī (endowed in 1375/1956); 
Sayyid Ṣāfī ibn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Jafri al-Ṣalāḥī (endowed in 1357/1918); 
Shaykh ʿUmar Ḥamādānī (d. 1368/1948): this library suffered from neglect and losses before being housed in the Public Library and it still needs enumeration, repairs and regular decontamination. 
For an account of the history, organisation and catalogues of the Hikmat Library, as well as the Mahmūdiyya and other collections, see 
The library contains a number of rarities, including some autograph copies. Among noteworthy items are: i) Al-nihāya fi sharīʿ al-ḥadīth by Ibn al-Arābī al-Jazārī, 4 vols. in Maghribī script dated 684 AH (from the Qarā Bāsh Madrasa); ii) Durr al-ḥukkām fi sharh Ghurar al-aškām by Mulla ʿUsūrī, dated 877 AH (during the author’s lifetime); iii) Al-Ṭanbih al-ṣalāt il-ṣalāt allāh awjaba al-ikhkāl fi bayn al-Maṣāḥib fi ar Raʾīš al-adārīh by ʿAbd Muḥammad ʿUbayd Allāh ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Ṣayyid al-Baṣṭalawī, copied before 592 AH, with gilt illumination (from the ʿArif Hikmat Library); iv) Sharh Durr al-Ḥamāsa li-ʿAbī Tāmīmī by ʿAbd al-Ṣalāh al-Shāhānān al-Khaṭṭī al-Tabrīzī, dated 484 AH, during the author’s lifetime (from the ʿArif Hikmat Library); v) Muṣāqāt fi Muḥammad ibn Ṣahīḥ al-Asbārī, dated 460 AH (from the ʿArif Hikmat Library); vi) Kitāb al-Sunan by ʿAbd al-Dawūd Sulaymān ibn al-Ṣaḥḥ al-Sūjīstānī, one part, with audition statements (ṣanāʾāt), some of which are dated 389 AH (from the Mahmūdiyya Library).
Published catalogues:
On the contents of the ʿArif Hikmat Library.
Rare MSS in the ʿArif Hikmat Library.
1928. See Union catalogue by KASM.
1936. See Union catalogue by Spies.
A description of the ʿArif Hikmat Library, with details of six “gems of the collection”, appears on pp. 61–62 (pp. 64–65 of the 2nd ed.).
Incl. list of 24 MSS in the ʿArif Hikmat collection.
1947. See survey by Tārāzī (under Union catalogues above), pp. 149–150.
1950. See survey by Aṣrālān (under General above).
1968. Maktabat Shāykh al-Isḥāq ʿArif Hikmat wa-nawādiruhā

1969. See catalogue by TAVVĀN (under General above), pp. 492 & 936.


Important MSS in the 'Ārif Hikmat Library.

1973. See catalogue by KĀHI'L (under General above).

'Ārif Hikmat Library, pp. 4–115; Māhmūdiyya Library, pp. 116–145.


Unpublished catalogues:
The library has its own internal catalogue, partly handwritten and partly typed, in the form of a register. It gives: title, author, copyst, date of copying (if known), dimensions, number of pages, brief remarks, general number and special number.

Fūris Maktabat Shaykh al-Islām 'Ārif Hikmat bi'-l-Madīna, 188pp. Transcribed in a beautiful naskhī hand, dated 1369/1950. Photographic copies in the Institute of Arab MSS in Cairo and Ankara University Library. This catalogue was withdrawn several years ago and replaced by a typed catalogue which gives: title, author, number of lines, number of pages, dimensions, style of script, copyst, date of copying, place of copying and remarks.

A handwritten volume listing Arabic MSS in the 'Ārif Hikmat Library, with an appendix listing Turkish divans, is in the Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul, shelf-mark Yazağa Bağışlar 2433.

[Source: Birnbaum 1983 (see Bibliographical Appendix below), p. 703, n. 299.]

Catalogue of anthologies in the 'Ārif Hikmat Collection. Gives: reference number of anthology, number of short works contained, subject and descriptive statements.

There are also internal catalogues of the 'Ārif Hikmat Collection written in large registers.


Detailed classified catalogue, with title & author indexes.


There is an internal typed catalogue of the Māhmūdiyya Collection in the form of a register which gives: general number, special number, title, number of volumes, author, language used, date of copying, size, number of pages and remarks.


Maktabat al-Muṣḥaf (Qur'ān Library)

Maktabat al-Malik 'Abd al-'Azīz al-'Āmm (see above).

Date of establishment: 1391/1971

Status: Governmental

Conditions of access: The library is not open for general study. It opens for researchers as required. It functions throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,774.

Description of collection: The library is housed in the King 'Abd al-'Azīz Public Library, where an independent wing has been allotted to it. It only has MSS of the Qur'ān and 84 Qur'ān cases (raḥā')
The significance of the library lies in the fact that it is the first one dedicated wholly to the Qurʾān. It houses a precious collection of manuscript copies of various sizes and calligraphic scripts, many transcribed by the most famous calligraphers. Some date from the 6th century AH and some perhaps earlier. The collection, which includes copies transcribed by Caliphs and Sultans, provides an invaluable source for researchers into the history of the writing of the Qurʾān and the evolution of its script. There are numerous copies from different periods, in various scripts and with fine illumination. Among the rarities are the following: i) An ʿAbbasid Qurʾān, in naskhi script, copied by Muḥammad ibn Ismāʿīl al-Ṭāhirī al-Sawādī al-Yamānī on the orders of the Caliph al-Mutawakkil; ii) A Qurʾān endowed by the Sultan Qāʾṭbšāy in 889/1484, with some words and headings in gold; iii) A Qurʾān written by Muḥammad Ḥusayn al-Kāzūrī in 515 AH; iv) Tablets with ḥāṭāt inscribed on them in fine calligraphy by certain Ṣūfī scholars, such as Sultan Mahmūd and Sultan Abdūlmeclid.

**Al-MIDHNAB**

**Al-Muqbil (Shaykh Muḥammad ʿAbd Allāh)**

Al-Midhnab, al-Qaṣīm

*Status*: Private

*Total number of Islamic MSS*: 6.

*Description of collection*: Late copies of works on religious and legal subjects.

*Published catalogue*: 1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

**Maktabat al-Imām Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahḥāb al-Khayriya (ʿImām M. ibn ʿAbd al-Wahḥāb Charitable Library)**

Al-Midhnab, al-Qaṣīm

*Status*: Private

*Total number of Islamic MSS*: 8.

*Description of collection*: The MSS are on religious and legal subjects, particularly the works of Shaykh Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahḥāb and Ibn Taymiyya. Most were copied in the 13th and 14th centuries AH. Among noteworthy items are: *Rasaʾīl al-ṣafar wa-ʾl-ṣafām* by a pupil of Shaykh Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahḥāb, on contemporary innovations and some pertinent questions put to him, and *Al-Baraḥim al-ʾIslāmīyya fi radd al-shubh al-Fārisiya* by ʿAbd al-Latīf ibn ʿAbd al-Raḍūmān ʿAl-Shaykh.

*Published catalogue*: 1979. Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

**Al-NIMĀSH**

ʿAbd al-Rahmān ibn Shaybān (Qādī)

Al-Ninās, ʿAsir

*Status*: Private

*Total number of Islamic MSS*: 15.

*Description of collection*: The MSS deal with Ḥadīth, jurisprudence, *māqāmī* and *siyar*, Qurʾānic recitation, grammar, Ṣūfī and asceticism. The majority of the MSS are incomplete and damaged by worms. Most seem to have been transcribed in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries AH. One interesting item is *Kūth fi fiqih al-Zaydiyya*, by an unknown author, dated 1075 AH.


This catalogue gives: title, author, *incipit*, *explicit*, remarks about the MS., number of lines, number of folios and date of copying if known.

**RIYADH (AL-RIYĀD)**

*General*

Dār al-Kutub al-Waṭaniya (National Library)
Shārī‘ al-Malik Fayṣal, Riyadh
Tel.: 4023888 & 4021297
Date of establishment: 1383/1964
Status: National library
Conditions of access: The library is open to the general public. MSS can be consulted within the library and researchers can obtain photographic copies.

Open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 131, plus 1,000 photocopies and microfilms.
Description of collection: The MSS cover various subjects: tafsīr, fiqh, homiletics, theology, logic, philosophy, arithmetic, physics, poetry, linguistics, rhetoric, history, geography. Most of the MSS were copied in the 11th-14th centuries AH, including some gilded and ornamented copies of the Qur’ān in fine calligraphy. The MSS need further repair and periodic decontamination.

Unpublished catalogue:
The MSS of the library are described in a handwritten list of 159 pages, giving title, subject, author, incipit, explicit, remarks about ornamentation, type of ink, physical condition, date of copying, name of copyist if known, number of pages, number of lines, dimensions, reference number and finally sources and catalogues referring to the text. There are indexes of titles, authors, copyists, ownership details, donations, records, topographical names, references, technical terms and subjects.

Dār al-Malik ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz / Al-Markaz al-Waṭani al-Saʿūdī li-l-Waṭāḥiq wa-l-Makhṭuṭāt (King ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz Research Centre / Saudi National Centre for Documents & MSS)
PO Box 2945, Al-Naṣīrīyah, Riyadh 11461
Tel.: 4414681. Fax: 4417020
Date of establishment: 1392/1972

Conditions of access: Not open to the public. Researchers and students can have access to the collection for reading and photocopying with the permission of the administration of the Centre. It functions throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20, plus 1,207 photographic copies.

Description of collection: Most of the MSS are on religious and legal subjects (al-ʿulūm al-Sharīʿah), history and genealogy. The historical MSS which represent the largest proportion of the collection have been studied by scholars. Notable items include: i) Jawāmiʿ al-Fiqār wa-l-Jawāmiʿ al-Fikr fi l-Sharīʿah ταύρηk l-ʿUlūm ταύρηk by Fādī al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Majīd al-Kirmānī, dated Ramadān 657; ii) Al-akhlāṣ al-mustajāba fi ῥατά l-sūdān by Jaʿlī al-Dīn ibn Khāyūr al-Dīn al-Hanafī, copied in Medina in 1055 AH; iii) ῥατάτ al-zawwār līl qaṣr al-Naḥi l-Makhlūṯ by ʿAlī ibn Muḥammad ibn ʿAlī ibn Ḥaḍar al-Maḥtama, dated 1050 AH.

Published catalogues:
Incl. classified list of 64 microfilmed MSS.


Unpublished catalogue:
The library has an internal card catalogue.

Ibn Badrān
Status: Private
Published catalogues:
Al-Jāmi‘yā al-‘Arabiyah al-Sā‘ūdiyyah li-l-Thaqāfah wa-l-Funūn
(Saudi Arabian Society for Culture & the Arts)

PO Box 3659, Riyadh
Tel.: 4779059 & 4772300. Fax: 4783833. Telex: 11482
Date of establishment: 1401/1981
Status: Governmental

Conditions of access: The library is open to readers and researchers. MSS can be consulted within the reading room. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining permission from the responsible agency. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 36 (originals and photographic copies).

Description of collection: Subjects include Hadīth, fiqh, history, Sufism, doctrine and literature. The MSS were copied in the 10th – 14th centuries AH. The library takes good care of its MSS and is located in a suitable place. Notable items include Tabḥīf al-anṣāf wa-shī‘ar sukān al-Andalus by ‘Alī ibn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Hūdayl al-Andalusī, in Maghribī script, ca. 10th century AH, and Islām al-khaṣf wa-khāf al-ṣa‘īr wa-ṣa‘īr al-ṣa‘īr al-anṣāra fi ʿl-ṣawwāqif wa-ṣa‘īr al-ṣa‘īr by Abū ʿl-ʿArabī ʿAlī ibn Yūsuf ibn Muḥammad ibn Yūsuf ibn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-ʿAdī al-Mālikī, in Maghribī script, dated 1001 AH.


Detailed catalogue of 36 MSS.

Jāmi‘at al-Imām Muḥammad ibn Sa‘ūd al-Islāmiyyah (Imam Muhammad b. Sa‘ūd Islamic University)

Qism al-Makhṭūṭa, Al-Maktaba al-Markaziyyah (Department of Manuscripts, Central Library)

Published catalogues:


All these catalogues published by the University give title, author, date of author’s death, description of MS, copyist, date of copying, any other statement about transmission, ownership, style of script, ornamentation, tables, illustrations, number of folios of originals, number of plates of photographic copies, provenance, number of lines, dimensions of originals, shelfmark. Occasionally incipit and explicit are given when the title or author is unknown. There are indexes of authors, titles, and copyists.

Unpublished catalogue:
There is a card catalogue covering the entire collection of MSS, originals as well as photocopies, but it gives limited descriptions.

Jāmīʿat al-Malik ʿAbd al-Maktaba al-Markaziyya (King ʿAbd al-Maktaba University Library)

Qism al-Makhtūṭat (Department of Manuscripts)
PO Box 22480
Al-Waraʿīyya, Riyadh
Tel.: 4676194. Fax: 01/4676162. Telex: 11495
Date of establishment: 1390/1970 (Library); 1391/1971 (Department of MSS)
Status: University Library (governmental)
Conditions of access: Normal conditions. Photographic copies available with the approval of the Director of Libraries, on payment of cost or exchange. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7,350 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish), plus 8,138 microfilms and photocopies.
Description of collection: The library is housed in a special secure building on the campus of the University, formerly known as Jāmīʿat
Riyadh (Riyadh University). It has the most modern facilities, and is fully air-conditioned and ventilated. Recently the library (100 MSS) of Professor Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahmān al-‘Arikek, one of the famous private libraries in the city of al-Riyadh, was donated to the University Library. The MSS are well looked after. They cover various subjects: Qur’an, infiltr and related sciences, Hadith and related sciences, Islamic jurisprudence, doctrines, Arabic language and literature, criticism, Islamic art, logic, philosophy, medicine, arithmetic, astronomical, history, biography, geography. There are a number of rare MSS including autograph copies. See


Published catalogues:


This catalogue gives main entry according to author; if not known, the entry is according to title. If the title is not known, the entry is according to the subject heading. Authors who wrote before 1220/1800 appear under their shukra. Entries for other authors appear under their first name. Other details include date, date of copying, number of parts, pages (if paginated), dimensions and remarks.


One part is devoted to MSS of works by Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suvūtī, another lists microfilms of MSS in Medina (q.v.).
PO Box 18375, Riyadh
Tel.: 4376993, Telex: 11415
Date of establishment: 1371/1952
Status: Public library (governmental)

Conditions of access: The library is open to readers and researchers. MSS can be consulted in the reading room. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining approval of the responsible agency. Open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 600, plus 1,000 photographic copies.

Description of collection: Mostly deals with religious sciences: taṣfīr, Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence and doctrine. Some deal with Arabic language sciences, history, geography, Sufism, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, logic. Most were copied between the 12th and 13th centuries AH, but there are some from the 10th century. The MSS are well looked after and catalogued.

Noteworthy items include Al-Iṣq al-thamīn fi tārikh al-balad al-amīn by Muhāmmad ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAbd al-Fāṣir, dated 877 AH, and Al-Shāfiʿī al-Nuʿmānīya by Tādh Kūrbi Zādah, dated 970 AH.

Published catalogue:
1992 - A catalogue of MSS is being published by the library. It gives title, author, date of death of author, copyist, date of copying, style of script, number of folios, dimensions, physical condition, references to sources, location, shelfmark.

Maktatab al-Malik Fāhad al-Waṭāniya (King Fāhad National Library)

PO Box 7572, Al-Ulyā, Riyadh 11472
Tel.: 4653615. Fax: 4645341
Date of establishment: 1402/1982
Status: Governmental

Conditions of access: Researchers, students, and university professors can use the library after obtaining a reader’s ticket from the administration. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 350.

Description of collection: The MSS for the most part deal with religious sciences: taṣfīr, Hadith, fiqh, doctrines, Arabic language sciences, literature, logic, kalām, Sufism, arithmetic, astronomy, medicine, history, geography. Most MSS date from the 11th – 13th centuries AH. The MSS are well looked after and preserved. The library is endeavouring to expand its collection.
Published catalogue:

**Forthcoming.** A catalogue is being prepared for publication, containing the same information as in the unpublished catalogue below.

Unpublished catalogue:

A basic catalogue of some MSS which gives: author, title, number of folios, lines, dimensions, date of copying, some remarks about script, type of ink, subject, copyist and shelfmark.

**Markaz al-Malik Faysal li-l-Buḥūth wa’l-Dirāsāt al-İslāmiyya**

(King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies)

PO Box 51049, Al-‘Ulyā, Riyadh 11543

Tel.: 4652255. Fax: 4659993. Telex: 40546—Haḍāra

Date of establishment: 1403/1983

**Status:** Research library, belonging to Mu‘assasat al-Malik Faysal al-Khayriyya (King Faisal Charitable Foundation).

**Conditions of access:** Researchers and students can have access to the manuscript room after going through security checks. Photographic copying is possible by special permission. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 9,000, plus 8,287 photographic copies from different libraries in the world.

**Description of collection:** The MSS cover various subjects: copies of the Qur‘ān, ṭabrīṣ, sciences of the Qur‘ān, recitation, Ḥadīth and related sciences, jurisprudence, doctrines, sects, Arabic language, literature, dictionaries, history, biography, Sirā, geography, medicine, geometry, arithmetic, astronomy, alchemy, Sufism, philosophy, homiletics, ethics. The MSS are properly housed and numbered. They are provided with the most modern means of conservation and protection.

Detailed and systematic catalogue of 3,144 MSS. Indexes of names & titles.

The Centre has also established a special computerised database for MSS. It contains detailed information on subjects, authors, titles, condition, number and location of known copies. It is searchable by subject, author, title and date.

Al-Markaz al-Watanī al-Sa'ūdī li-l-Wathāʾiq wa-l-Makḥūṭāt
—see Darat al-Malik ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz

SHAQRĀ?

Al-Maktaba al-ʿĀmma (Public Library)

Tel.: 01/6221981
Date of establishment: 1371/1951
Status: Public library (governmental)

Conditions of access: The library is open to the public. MSS can be consulted within the library. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining permission.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 200.

Description of collection: The MSS cover religious sciences, Sūra, Arabic language sciences, history, homiletics and inheritance law. Most MSS were copied between the 12th and 14th centuries AH, but some date from the 7th, 9th and 10th centuries. The MSS are housed in a suitable place, but they are in need of decontamination, repair and cataloguing.

Unpublished catalogue:
There is an internal register of the collection which gives title, author and number of pages.

TAʾĪF

Maktabat ʿAbd Allāh ibn al-ʿAbbās

Sāḥat ʿAbd Allāh ibn al-ʿAbbās, Taʾīf

Tel.: 02/7322401

Date of establishment: The library was established in the Ottoman period by the governor of Hijaz Muḥammad Rashīd al-Shirkwānī (d. 1291 AH). After a period of neglect it was reopened in 1384/1964.

Status: Governmental institution, belonging to the Ministry of Ḥajj and Endowments.

Conditions of access: The library is open to the public. MSS can be consulted within the library. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining permission. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 450.

Description of collection: Most MSS deal with religious sciences: tafsīr, ḥadīth, fiqh, doctrine, Arabic language sciences, history, biography, Sūra, Sufism. Most were copied between the 11th and 14th centuries AH. During the period when the library was neglected a number of MSS were lost or partly damaged by humidity and worms. Now they are receiving some care, under the supervision of the Ministry of Endowments, but more preservation work and repair needs to be done.


Published catalogues:

The catalogue gives: complete name of the author beginning with the shuhr, date of death, incipit, explicit, style of script, name of copyist, date of copying, number of folios, lines, dimensions in centimetres, remarks on types of writing, glosses, marginal commentaries, physical condition, ownership details, readings, endowments, authorization statements with dates and finally the shelf-mark.
UNAYZA

Al Sulaym (Shaykh ‘Abd al-Rahmān al-‘Abd al-‘Azīz)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15.
Description of collection: Mostly of recent date. Some MSS have been exposed to damage and need preservation.

Published catalogue:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Al-Bassām (Shaykh Ḥibrāhm al-Muhammad)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 28.
Description of collection: Mostly from the 12th – 14th / 18th – 20th centuries, with the majority less than 100 years old. The MSS have suffered some damage and need conservation.

Published catalogue:
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Al-Bassām (Shaykh Sulaymān al-Šāliḥ)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 30.
Description of collection: Mostly recent copies, but with some earlier rarities. Conservation and repair work needed.


Published catalogues:

1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Maktabat ‘Unayza al-Waṣṭaniyah (‘Unayza National Library)

Dawwār al-Majlis
Tel.: 06/3641575
Date of establishment: 1359/1940
Status: Public library established as an endowment
Conditions of access: The library is open to the public. MSS can be consulted within the library. Researchers and students can make photographic copies. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 49.

Published catalogues:

1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjīrī.

Ṣalihīyah Library (Al-Maktaba al-‘Ilmiyya al-Ṣalihīyah)

Masjid Umm Khīmār, Ṭarīq al-Riyyāl al-Qudūm, ‘Unayza
Tel.: 06/3647017  
Date of establishment: 1373/1954  
Status: Public library (governmental)  
Conditions of access: The library is open to the public. MSS can be consulted within the library. Photographic copies can be made after obtaining permission. The library is open throughout the week except Thursdays and Fridays.  
Total number of Islamic MSS: 63.  
Description of collection: Most of the MSS deal with religious sciences and doctrine, but there are some on Arabic language sciences, biography and history. Most were copied between the 12th and 14th centuries AH, although some date from the 8th and 9th centuries. The MSS need repair, conservation and periodic decontamination.  

Published catalogues:  
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjiri.

Al-‘Uthaymin (Shaykh Muhammad al-‘Sālih)  
Status: Private  
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2.  
Published catalogue:  
1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjiri.

1979. See Union catalogue by Tuwayjiri.


SENÉGAL

by

Ousmane Kane

1993