



مركز الملك فيصل للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية
King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

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Introduction

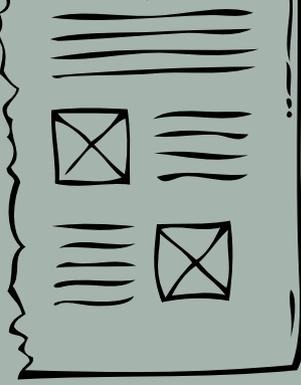
The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) is one of the Middle East's most pre-eminent cultural institutions.

Headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, KFCRIS is an independent, non-governmental body, established as a key part of the King Faisal Foundation (KFF) which exists to preserve and grow the legacy of the late King Faisal, the third ruler of the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Thanks to the excellence of our people, one of the largest humanities libraries in Saudi Arabia and close collaboration with leading researchers and academic bodies inside the Kingdom and abroad, we have established an international reputation for the breadth, clarity and diligence of the research we produce.

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Our Story





CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Celebrating a centenary and preparing for the future

Turki Al-Faisal
Chairman

During 2019, it was announced that KFCRIS was to be one of two lead research institutions involved in Think20 (T20), the international think-tank forum that is integral to the G20, the international forums of the governments and central banks of the world's 19 leading national economies and the European Union. Next November, the G20 will be held in Riyadh, the first time it will be hosted in the Middle East.

It has been a significant 12 months for the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies as we both look to the future and celebrate the past.

Not only is it the centenary of a pivotal year in the history of Saudi Arabia, but we have also reached an important stage in the KFCRIS's development and, indeed, in the development of the Kingdom.

During 2019, it was announced that KFCRIS was to be one of two lead research institutions involved in Think20 (T20), the international think-tank forum that is integral to the G20, the international forums of the governments and central banks of the world's 19 leading national economies and the European Union. Next November, the G20 will be held in Riyadh, the first time it will be hosted in the Middle East.

Together with King Abdullah Center for Petroleum Studies and Research, KFCRIS will be leading the research activities that are run in parallel with the event. This is an honor that underlines our reputation as one of the region's most respected research institutions; reflects the confidence that the Kingdom's leadership has in us; and offers the opportunity for us to expand the positive collaborative relationships we enjoy with research bodies from all around the world.

Furthermore, on a national level, Riyadh's hosting of the G20 gives the Kingdom the opportunity to demonstrate to the world the progress that has been achieved through the economic and social initiatives being implemented as part of Saudi Vision 2030, to which KFCRIS is proud to have made some modest contributions.

In a historical context, the Riyadh G20 comes 100 years after the late King Faisal's visit to London as the emissary of his father, King Abdulaziz Al Saud, and thence to Paris to attend the Versailles



HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal at the opening of 'Faisal: a Life at the Heart of the 20th Century'

Conference which set the peace terms after the First World War.

This was King Faisal's first appearance on the world stage, and a critical point in the development of the Kingdom. It confirmed the 1915 treaty between the United Kingdom and King Abdulaziz and presaged the consequent foundation of Saudi Arabia in 1932.

This first trip by King Faisal to Europe was the subject of *Born a King*, a major motion picture released in the past year, which enjoyed its world premiere in Riyadh. It was also our first foray into film production, with KFCRIS collaborating closely with producer Andre Vicente Gomez and the rest of the Spanish-British-Saudi production team.

The events of 1919 are also reflected in the travelling exhibition about the life and legacy of King Faisal, which I was delighted to inaugurate in the prestigious IoD gallery in London's Pall Mall in December. The exhibition is scheduled to travel on to the Institut du Mond Arabe in Paris early in 2020, further fulfilling our mission of sharing our father's legacy with the world.

Irrespective of these high-profile events, the primary focus of KFCRIS remains as the production of original academic research, including strategic studies, special reports, field research and surveys. This we remain committed to, with a renewed focus thanks in part to the events mentioned above, but also by virtue of internal innovations mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Our knowledge bank of books and manuscripts, academic periodicals, artefacts and publications on science, language and culture are an invaluable source for students and researchers. We also host a full program of seminars, lectures and discussions with the participation of leading thinkers from around the world, as well as hosting regular exhibitions of Islamic arts.

KFCRIS holds many cooperative agreements and MoUs with leading research centers, universities, and think-tanks from around the world, which have contributed to growing our influence on Saudi cultural and intellectual life. Other initiatives include our ongoing program of digitizing our resources and developing our people.

Alongside the steady growth in research capacities and output, these changes are now paying dividends as our reputation as a respected research institution grows, our contribution to policy development increases, and we engage with varied and growing audiences in Saudi Arabia and around the world.

We are justly proud of the achievements made throughout our journey, not only in Saudi Arabia but in Arab and Islamic societies too. KFCRIS has become renowned amongst its counterparts and a favored destination of researchers visiting Saudi Arabia through our Visiting Fellowship Program, and by hosting many foreign students who visit the Kingdom to discover its people, culture and geography.

KFCRIS stands as a beacon of understanding and learning, promoting intercultural symbiosis domestically, regionally and globally. This role is more important now than ever, as there has never been a greater need for independent, high-quality research that has a genuine impact on public policy.

Crucial to our mission is a clarity of purpose, a strong leadership team, and the support of our many research partners and collaborators. We sincerely appreciate the input of the many universities, institutions, academics, journalists, research fellows and other diverse, international voices who contribute to our events and work.

As ever, our people remain indispensable to our success. Without their engagement, enthusiasm and input, KFCRIS could not fulfil its mission. We are deeply grateful to them all.



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT

Growing capabilities, enhancing efficiency and forging friendships

Dr Saud Al-Sarhan
Secretary-General

T20 gives us an ideal opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities as a research institution, grow our network of collaborative relationships with international research bodies and it will enable us to contribute significantly to influencing policy for the benefit of the people and nation of Saudi Arabia.

This annual review offers a snapshot of the developments and progress KFCRIS has achieved over the course of 2019, as well as offering a glimpse of what promises to be a monumental year ahead.

We are looking forward to leading next year's Think20 (T20), the international think-tank conference held as part of the G20 2020 Riyadh Summit in November. Our preparations for this are already well-advanced and we will continue working hard to make sure that we are completely ready for the T20 program, with events scheduled throughout the year.

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In last year's annual report, I reflected on a period of success, growth and innovation. I am pleased to report that 2019 has followed that trajectory. We have continued to develop collaborations with other leading research centers worldwide, offer a full program of seminars and conferences and attract a group of outstanding researchers in various fields of study.

Our research capabilities have been further enhanced by the expansion of our research team and the launch of a new research publication, *Mutabaat*, which focuses on Tunisia and Algeria.

Underpinning these successes is a recent reorganization we have made internally, which has enabled us to work more efficiently and optimize our resources. In August, we established a new Projects and Development team, which is introducing a disciplined project management



Dr Al-Sarhan participates in one of the Center's research events

methodology across the organization. By so doing, we are more able to produce outputs on time and under budget, whether that be internal system implementations, external publications or events.

This new disciplined way of working is already paying off and has been accompanied by a realignment of departmental responsibilities. Sales, marketing and strategic communications now come under the aegis of Projects and Development, freeing Al-Faisal Cultural House to focus on production, coordinating book and periodical sales, and collaborating on marketing, social media activities and press releases with the new team.

Our founding purpose of curating a comprehensive, national collection continues to be a key focus for KFCRIS. Work continues to digitize our libraries in order to broaden access to them to researchers worldwide, while facility enhancements have improved our curatorial capabilities. Furthermore, we are committed to enhancing the 'research experience', particularly for external researchers, by making access to our resources quicker and easier – improvements which have a direct bearing on our international reputation.

The spirit of King Faisal was writ large this year, with the release of *Born a King*, and the visit of the King Faisal exhibition to London. The year also saw the staging of two major exhibitions: *Takwin: Science and Innovation in Islamic Manuscripts*, and *Wahj: Adornment of the Page*. Such exhibitions increase the footfall of visitors into KFCRIS, enabling us to fulfill our fundamental mission of increasing knowledge about Islamic heritage and culture, and spreading the message of peace, understanding and piety of the late King Faisal.

Throughout all KFCRIS's varied activities, we remain committed to keeping pace with change in order to fulfil our objectives of raising national,

intellectual and cultural awareness. This means both responding to world events and geopolitical forces in the design and implementation of our research program, while also exploiting technology and innovation to enhance our outreach activities.

The continued success we have achieved in what has been another busy and productive year would not have been possible but for the effort and expertise of our people.

Their zeal, diligence and creativity enable KFCRIS to fulfill its mission of being a valued and trusted source of academic and cultural knowledge, and to spread awareness about the life and legacy of King Faisal.

I am indebted to them, to the international partners with whom we work, and to the academics, visitors and researchers who engage in and enrich our efforts.

A year in pictures





Born a King

A feature film released in 2019 has had a significant impact on KFCRIS's mission of communicating the life and legacy of the late King Faisal.

The biopic is based on the then Prince Faisal's diplomatic mission to London in 1919 to ratify a wartime treaty between King Abdulaziz and the British, and which would eventually lead to the international recognition of the nascent state of Saudi Arabia.

The movie enjoyed its world premiere at the Barcelona Sant Jordi International Film Festival (BCN FILM FEST) in Spain on 25 April 2019. This was followed its Middle East premiere in Riyadh on 26 September, with KFCRIS chairman HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal in attendance. Since then, it has been showing at VOX cinemas throughout the GCC.

The joint Spanish-British-Saudi production owes much to the resources of KFCRIS and the personal insight of Prince Turki, combined with the technical expertise of an international crew. The 100-minute film was directed and produced by the Spanish duo Agusti Villaronga and Andre Vicente respectively.

Gomez developed the script in collaboration with Saudi novelist, Badr Al-Samary, but acknowledges that Prince Turki was pivotal to the project, commenting: "Really, the person who has had more input, more emphasis and guidance has been Prince Turki. He supervised the seven or eight drafts of the scripts that were first produced. He also helped me choose actors for the different parts."

The trailer, offers an intriguing juxtaposition of life in early 1900s England and what was then known as Arabia. It is among the first international feature films to be set in Saudi Arabia.

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The cast includes a number of Saudi actors amongst the largely British cast, with filming taking place between Saudi Arabia and the UK. Riyadh filming took place in HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Fahad's farm in Diriyah, which was used to provide the scenery of a Saudi Arabia 100 years ago.

- The film was awarded the Best Feature Film prize at the inaugural Inward Eye Film Festival in the United Kingdom, from 25 films competing for the top prize at the festival founded by Emmy award-winning Scottish actor Brian Cox.

Saudi actor Abdullah Ali as Prince Faisal



Prince Saud documentary

KFCRIS played a prominent research role in a second film released in 2019, *Saud*, a four-part documentary exploring the life of the late Prince Saud Al-Faisal who for many years bestrode the Kingdom's international relations, most notably as Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister.

The film not only presents an unparalleled account of the life of a major diplomat but sends a message that will benefit the many viewers who followed the life and example of this important national figure.

The film illuminates the work, private life and interests of Prince Saud, through interviews with people who knew him personally from all across the world, including statesmen, family members, friends, diplomats, soldiers and historians.

The four-part film documents the entirety of his life, from his childhood through his university education and onto his career as diplomat and foreign minister. The film tells of the inspiration he acquired from his father, the late King Faisal, describes his hobbies and interests, the deep role culture played in his life, his love of wildlife and his humanitarian concerns, as well as his great respect for women. The film explores in depth the beginnings of his professional career, his achievements and aspirations – and provides fascinating glimpses into the complex geopolitical time in which he lived.

For example, the film broaches Prince Saud's viewpoints on the Egypt-Syria dispute in 1975; the disagreement between Hafez Al-Assad and Anwar As-Sadat after the October War in 1973; the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the ensuing Iran-Iraq War; and the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1981.

The King Fahad Peace Initiative is covered, as is the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the ending of the consequent Lebanese civil war with the Ta'if agreement which was signed in 1989. It discusses his thoughts on Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Saudi Arabia's efforts to form an international coalition to thwart this



Saud, the biography
published by KFCRIS in 2019

and its blockade of Iraq. The Kingdom's fraught relations with Iran following the Hajj incidents are also explored, right up until the thawing of relations after the invasion of Afghanistan.

The film goes on to describe Saudi Arabia's position on the Palestinian issue; the events and repercussions of 11 September 2001; the King Abdullah Peace Initiative at the Beirut Summit in 2001; the Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip; Saudi Arabia's stance on the American invasion of Iraq in 2003; the assassination of Al-Hariri in 2005; and finally the Arab Spring, which began in 2001.

Commenting on the film, Secretary-General Saud Al-Sarhan said: "While the accounts presented in the film pertain to Prince Saud, they also tell a broader historical story that documents the state of our Arab and Islamic worlds and our day-to-day struggles against adversity. Prince Saud spared no effort in defending the interests of his country and showing its true colors to the world. This film will take viewers to new horizons. It is not merely a cinematic work, but a true epic that narrates the history of millions through the journey of one man."

About KFCRIS

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies is one of the Middle East's leading research institutes, producing original research on subjects including politics, sociology and cultural heritage.



KFCRIS: Saudi Arabia's leading independent research institute

Access to this unique research resource is being constantly expanded, thanks to an ongoing project to digitize the Center's collections.

Established by the King Faisal Foundation (KFF), KFCRIS is the Kingdom's leading independent, non-governmental research body, engaged in scholastic activities in support of the KFF's overriding objective of preserving and developing the legacy of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz, who was renowned for his humanitarian principles and devotion to Islam.

The Center aims at supporting and developing research and studies that spread King Faisal's vision and expand knowledge in social sciences, humanities and Islamic leaning. As well as its burgeoning reputation for original research, KFCRIS is home to the Kingdom's most extensive humanities libraries, with an exceptional collection of rare manuscripts dating from the early Islamic period.

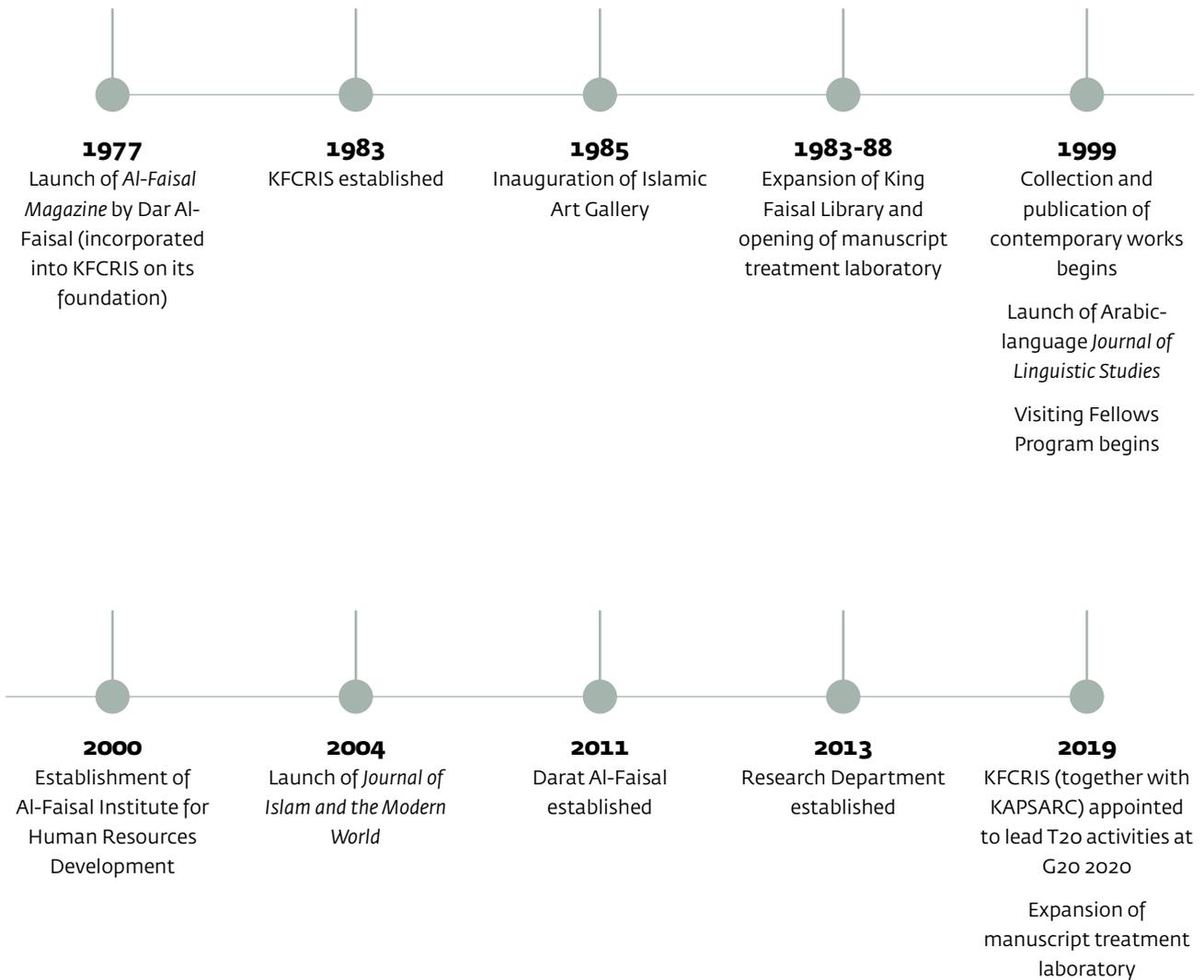
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As well as research, KFCRIS maintains a comprehensive cultural heritage program – primarily through its Islamic Art Gallery at the Center's headquarters in central Riyadh, but also by an outreach program that includes exhibitions that have travelled widely within the Kingdom and internationally.

The Center publishes regional studies on politics and cultural issues across several specialist periodicals, together with a growing list of book titles that contribute to the understanding of Arabia, Islam and the life and legacy of King Faisal and various other topics.

The world's richest repository of artefacts, articles, books, images and film relating to the late king's life and times is housed in the KFCRIS's Darat Al-Faisal.

KFCRIS Milestones





Vision

To be a resource of academic, intellectual and cultural knowledge

Mission

To enrich local and international academic environments with original research, scholastic resources and unique cultural experiences

Values

The spread of knowledge

The enabling of academic research

The preservation of cultural heritage



Five-year strategic goals (2016-20)

To increase awareness and understanding of the heritage of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz in order to preserve his memory and document his contributions in the service of humanity

To stimulate and support dialogue, and to build and strengthen collaborative relationships to achieve the academic objectives of the Centre

To focus on the production of academic research in the social sciences

To preserve and authenticate Islamic cultural and intellectual heritage and achievements

To elevate the level of technical infrastructure, applications and digital presence to facilitate the Center's objectives.

2019 achievements

A representative selection of the departmental initiatives for 2019:

Strategic Communications: managing the Center's online presence, with responsibility for press releases, social media and website. This has been a quantum year for a department committed to an environment of continual improvement, with a comprehensive review of KFCRIS's digital presence and outputs. This is broadening and extending our stakeholder voice significantly. Web traffic is up year-on-year and social media activity – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn – is growing exponentially.



Twitter

Followers: 2,746 / 23,100



Instagram

Followers: 2,862



KFCRIS YouTube dashboard

366 videos



LinkedIn

In excess of 5,500 visitors
(majority from education, media and communications, research, HR, marketing, community and social services sectors)

Library: PMO oversight of library management system migration (to KOHA ILS, an open source database - see pages 42-6) in order to enhance users' research journey; improvement of the continuing resource digitization project to broaden access to KFCRIS resources to external users.

Darat Al-Faisal: initiatives to improve marketing of department's resources, enhancing experience and accessibility to external users.

Marketing and sales: initiatives to improve marketing of KFCRIS and to enhance sales and marketing of KFCRIS publications.

Research: general supervision on research events and activities to ensure smooth processes and the continued excellence of KFCRIS events.

Museums: coordination and follow-up activities in support of the opening of the King Faisal exhibition (see page 34).

The Benefits of Project Management Methodology

By putting standardized processes in place, a disciplined project management office can achieve:

Increased accuracy: a disciplined project management methodology increases the accuracy of projects in terms of budget, resources and schedule associated with them, ensuring that projects are less likely to fail and that individual project teams are more consistent.

Cost efficiency: by being more accurate from the beginning of a project right through to its completion reduces the likelihood of unforeseen costs and budgetary overruns.

Standardized processes: developing standardized processes leads to an improvement in project management expertise and uniformity across a project team. These standards are developed through data collection and analysis, reporting, templates, and communications to name but a few.



Research Department



The establishment of the Research Department in 2013 marked a significant change of focus for KFCRIS.

Notwithstanding the work conducted by the Visiting Fellowship Program – which has been in existence since 2000 – KFCRIS's primary role previously was a facilitator of scholarly research through its library and information division. With the establishment of the new department, however, producing original research became the fundamental aim of KFCRIS.

In the six years since then, KFCRIS has established itself as one of the most prominent non-governmental, research institutions in the Middle East, known for its independence, methodological approach and access to decision makers.

Our goal is to influence policy and help government and society build a sustainable, secure, prosperous and just future. The scope of our work comprises producing original research in the humanities, the social sciences, literature, and arts and sharing this by means of publications and by staging closed-workshops and public lectures – both in-house and by collaboration with various local and international think-tanks and institutions.

The success of our mission has been underlined by the appointment of KFCRIS to co-lead – together with King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center – the Think20 (T20) during Saudi Arabia's G20 presidency in 2020.

Today, KFCRIS serves as a platform for research bringing together researchers and institutions to preserve, publish, and produce scholastic work, with the objective of expanding the scope of existing learning in order to bring the

contributions and roles of Muslim societies in the humanities, the social sciences, literature, and arts to the forefront of scholarly discussion.

Our research methodology is firmly rooted in observed facts, empirical data, and a commitment to developing practical solutions to the challenges facing society, in Saudi Arabia, the Muslim world and globally.

This approach is crucial in an ever-more polarized world, where like-minded people are drawn to information sources that reinforce their increasingly entrenched worldviews and even facts are the subject of debate.

The department is organized into five units, delineated by their focus of study:

Security Studies

Created in April 2018 to study issues of national, regional, and international security including terrorism, armed non-state groups, regional conflicts and their implications, and radical ideologies and their evolution. This enables KFCRIS to provide knowledge-based policy recommendations to the benefit of all.

Contemporary Political Thought

Studies the influence of contemporary political thought on the political structure of Islamic and Arab societies by investigating the development of ideas in the movements that are currently shaping the political scene in an interdisciplinary approach that encompasses theory, politics, culture, society, and religion.

Political Economy

The Political Economy Unit was created in 2017, incorporating the Energy Studies Unit which existed between 2015 and 2016. The Unit hosts research on various aspects of political economy such as state-business relations, labor market, issues and human capital development.

African Studies

Founded in 2018 to replace the Mahgreb Studies Unit, the unit studies African political, strategic, cultural, economic, and social matters through comparing multiple specializations which analyze different domestic dynamics and inter-regional relations.

Asian Studies

Dedicated to the study of East Asia and East Asian societies with a focus on contemporary international relations, politics, economics and security issues, as well as on historical, anthropological and cultural-social topics.

Original research based on empirical data is the principal aim of KFCRIS



Research publications

Much of the department's output is published in our suite of research publications:

Dirasat (studies): a monthly publication of 6,000-10,000 words penned by a subject specialist investigating specific political, and socio- economic issues. Published in both English and Arabic.

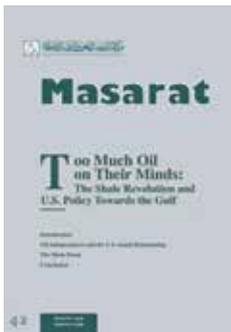
Masarat (paths): unattributed reports of 3,000-5,000 words, discussing current political, social and/or economic changes and developments, published once every two months in English and Arabic.

Mutabaat: a bi-monthly report monitoring contemporary political events in Algeria and Tunisia.

Commentary: a 1,000 -2,500 words analysis of current political social and/or economic issues published online in English or Arabic.

Special Report: a longer (3,000-6,000 words) analysis of a current topic.

Our key interfaces are with the public at large (in terms of public lectures and publications), with academia, decision makers and government entities relevant to our research focus.



KFCRIS Publications

Dirasat:

Iran's clandestine war on the Kingdom of Bahrain:

Saraya al Aashtar and the military wing of Hezbollah Bahrain.

Foreign fighters in leaked 'Daesh' documents:

analysis of those from Saudi Arabia.

Algeria protests: regime crises between reform and discontinuity.

Saudi Arabia and the US Congress: cooperation and opposition since 9/11.

The Chinese Islamic National Salvation Association and the Hui minority: 1937-1948.

The historical development of the Turkish press:

from beginnings to the present day.

Between two poles: the Kingdom and US foreign policy in an age of political polarization.

What knowledge is sought in China? Arab visitors and Chinese propaganda.

Empowering women: educational programs and reforms in a diversified Saudi economy.

China's efforts to legitimize the implementation of the belt and road initiative in the Arabian Gulf.

Saudi and Iraq: the border as a catalyst for cooperation.

Masarat:

Hidden rivalries behind Iranian foreign policy making:

the case of Zarif's resignation.

Change at the top: reasons and consequences of Hossein Salami's elevation to C-in-C of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Too much oil on their minds: the shale revolution and US policy towards the Gulf.

Commentaries:

How does China view the Middle East and can it benefit from expanding regional opportunities?
Saudi Arabia's cautious approach to solar power

policy.

The Saudi Approach to reception and accommodation: displaced Syrians.

The Sudanese revolution in retrospect.

Saudi Arabia can emerge as a leader in intellectual property.

The Algerian movement: waiting for dialogue.

A handshake 70 years later: Putin's visit to the Kingdom.

What can be done to align the skills and expectations of Saudi students with employer requirements?

Syria's 'China Dream': between narratives and realities.

Women in the workplace: making sense of the current dress code in Saudi Arabia.

Linking tourism opening to local product development for sustainable job creation: the experience of the 'one village, one product' movement in Japan.

Women in the workplace: making sense of the current dress code in Saudi Arabia.

Linking tourism opening to local product development for sustainable job creation: the experience of the 'one village, one product' movement in Japan.

Mutabaat

Post- Essebsi Tunisia: challenges and the future bets presidential elections.

On the path of agreement: obstacles, confronting, mediation and dialogue.

Tunisia: the rise of populism: preliminary reading of the presidential election results.

Algeria between the fight against corruption and the search for consensus.

Implications of the presidential election on legislative elections.

Algeria: The Beginning of Presidential Elections Nominations and the Opposition Impasse."

Features of the political scene in light of legislative elections.

The winding path towards presidential Election.

KFCRIS countering radicalization



In a paper published jointly with the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation in Kings College London, departmental head Dr Abdullah Al Saud offers a fascinating insight into Saudi nationals who became fighters with ISIS.

In early 2016, a huge cache of documents containing a wealth of information on new recruits attempting to join the so-called Islamic State in Syria was leaked, mostly relating to individuals who had joined the terrorist organization in 2013 and 2014.

Researchers rarely get the opportunity to see the internal documents of terrorist groups whose survival relies and depends on absolute secrecy which is why such records are so valuable.

Typically, these Saudi recruits – most of whom were young – represent a new generation of Saudi jihadists who were neither adolescents, loners nor outcasts. They do not come from a specific poor and discontented segment of Saudi society, and the vast majority, according to their own words, were not well-versed in religious knowledge.

Nor were this group educational underachievers – so it would be difficult to claim that they suffered from lack of opportunities or an absence of upward mobility. Rather, political turmoil and instability and heightened sectarianism in the region explains more about their radicalization, rather than socioeconomics or religious ideology.

IS attempts to exploit sectarian fault lines in societies and tailor its narrative and approach to the specific historical and social contexts of each country. It is therefore imperative to gain as much contextual knowledge as possible in order to be able to devise effective solutions to confront its menace.

2019 highlights



It has been a period of increased activity and productivity as we continue to build our capabilities and reputation, benefiting from the Center's focus on disciplined project methodology and the recruitment of new researchers.

In particular, our appointment to co-lead T20 – the international think-tank program running as a key component of Saudi G20 – is both a profound honor and a critical responsibility which will give us the opportunity to further strengthen our reputation and make a significant contribution to thought leadership on a world stage.

Our suite of research publications was augmented this year by the launch of Mutabaat (Follow-up) in October, a bimonthly publication focused on Tunisia and Algeria. To date, three issues have been produced.

We have continued to host a full program of lectures, workshops and expert panel discussions (under Chatham House Rules), as well as publishing impactful studies and publications (listed below), welcomed 21 visiting fellows and signed two agreements of cooperation with leading organizations.

The 2019 annual research conference was held in London in January 2020 in collaboration with the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization (ICSR) at King's College London. The two-day conference was entitled 'Non-State Actors and the Changing Nature of Conflict'.

Looking ahead, the Research Department aims to continue expanding its work and network while continuing to conduct evidence-based research and productive workshops and to improve its capabilities and capacity.

In 2020 our main focus will be to manage leadership of the T20 and ensure its success – and to build on the increased visibility we expect as a result of our participation.

T20 preparations

Preparations for our involvement in the T20 began in November 2018 when the first

KFCRIS participation in external symposia and conferences

Dr Abdullah bin Khalid Al Saud

Independence of technological terrorist organizations – Saudi Strategy for Cyber Security Symposium, Janadriya

Syria and repositioning in the Middle East – Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies

Extremism and Recruitment in ISIS: Regional Evaluation – International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS)

Network of centers and commissions concerned with fighting violent extremism – Gulf Cooperation Council

Strategic balance and stability in the Middle East (with Mohammed Al-Sudairi) – International Peace Forum, Beijing
Foreign fighters in Europe and the Middle East - facing threats and coming up with responses – Italian Institute for International Political Studies

Network of centers for fighting violent extremism – Gulf Cooperation Council.

Countries of the GCC in a Multi-Polar World – Dubai Research Center.

Middle East security in light of the new situation – Chinese Institute for International Studies

Annual Mediterranean Dialogue Conference – Rome
Emirates Security Conference – Arab Gulf States Institute, Abu Dhabi.

Dr Mark Thompson

Changing relations between community and state in Gulf Rentier States (with Faris Al-Sulaiman) – Princeton University, USA

Saudi Vision 2030 - Balancing economic transformation with youth expectations – Chatham House, UK

Situation of local policies and rule in KSA – Cambridge University, UK

Saudi youth identity – MISK symposium

Male youth - identity and politics in KSA – Chatham House, UK

Dr Joseph A Kéchichian

Traditional kingdoms throughout the world – Cambridge University, UK

The Ability of modern Arab kingdoms to last – Cambridge University, UK

Yousef Zarea

The Kingdom's Role in Fighting Extremist Ideology and Terrorist

Groups – Janadriyah

Network of centers for fighting violent extremism – Gulf Cooperation Council

Manama Dialogue Young Leaders Program – IISS, Bahrain
Annual Mediterranean Dialogue Conference – Rome

Dr Hisham Al-Ghanam

Early recovery in Syria - actors, policies and obstacles – Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Othman Al-Mazyad

How do advanced countries Develop? – Japanese Cooperation Center Petroleum, Tokyo.

Dr Mohammed Al-Sudairi

Past, present and future of KSA and China (with Sarah Al-Otaibi and Kameal Al-Ahmed) – Chinese University of Hong Kong
Chinese Muslims – Taipei, Taiwan.

Secondary enemies - Maoist China in Saudi domestic and foreign relations – Berlin, Germany.

Religious transformation in Eurasia - ramifications of Gulf-Chinese Islamic networks – Singapore.

Dr Makio Yamada

Breaking up client institutions – re-examining state formation in East Asia – Washington DC, USA

Local policy making and governance in KSA (with Faris Al-Sulaiman) – 2019 Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge, UK.

Tamim Al-Othimin: The Kingdom's plan and institutional preparations to take on climate change – in collaboration with the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Seoul.

Mohammed Al-Rmizan: Critical media and Arab diaspora - challenges and opportunities after the Arab Spring – University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr Fahad Alsharif

Human Connections in a Changing World - Connection within Time, Space and Place – Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Kuwait University.

Participant in Arab research delegation, under patronage of Chinese Foreign Ministry – Beijing, Nanchang and Shanghai, China.

introductory meetings were held, after which KFCRIS submitted a comprehensive proposal identifying capabilities and areas of interest to assist the global governance of the G20 in the development and coordination of policies through leadership of the T20. Following its approval, KFCRIS was appointed to co-lead the Kingdom's engagement group activities alongside KASPRC in July 2019.

Our proposal also included a detailed model for the structure of the T20, including the setup, the supporting team structure, and a calendar of activities leading up to the T20 summit in 2020.

Inception workshops were scheduled to kick-off in January 2020, followed by kick-off meetings of the various task forces in February and March. The final T20 communique will be presented at the T20 summit in October, ahead of the G20 summit of heads of state in November 2020.

KFCRIS's involvement in T20 provides a significant opportunity for the country to assemble the world's most prominent think tanks and research centers to focus on topics related to sustainable development, security, technology, education, energy, and the environment, as they impact both the world and Saudi Arabia in particular.

KFCRIS internal lectures

Yousef Zarea: Northern Syria and agreements between conflicting parties.

Emina Osmanzikovic: Role of the Gulf States in the Syrian refugee crisis.

Dr Annelle Sheline: Legitimacy challenge and promoting the state in moderate Islam: Jordan and Morocco case studies.

Dr Mohammed Al-Sbitli: Events in Algeria both locally and regionally.

Dr Mohammed Al-Sbitli: 2018 and prospects for 2019 in the Maghreb states

Dr Mohammed Al-Sbitli: Stability and development in the Horn of Africa

Majid Binkhunein: Homogeneity of the Jews: ethnic-cultural cleansing of the Jewish diaspora.

Ahmed Clark: Sharifs of Makkah during the 7th and 8th centuries AH.

Mohammed Al-Rmizan: Historical development of Turkish journalism to the Present Day.

Adam Mestyan: Syria's Throne: French Mandate and Muslim aristocracy: 1926-1928.



Panel discussions and symposia are at the heart of the Center's research activities

External research publications

Dr Abdullah K Al Saud:

What does the killing of the Islamic State leader mean to the map of extremism? Independentarabia.com.

The ISIL Jihadists of Saudi Arabia. In: Juss S. (ed), Beyond Human Rights and the War on Terror (pp. 71-92). Routledge.

Shahad Turkistani

The Policymaking Process to Restart Japanese Nuclear Power Plants. With KAPSARK.

Andrew Leber

Differences of Opinion? Saudi Op-eds and Confrontation with Iran. AGSIW.

Faris Alsulayman

The Green Finance Gap in the Kingdom (co-authored with Rowan Jandu). Gulf Affairs (Oxford Gulf & Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum).

Dr Mark Thompson:

Saudi Youth Identity Narratives. Special report by Thompson and Althari, Misk Foundation, Riyadh, KSA.

Policy Making in the GCC: State, Citizens, Institutions.

Book edited by Thompson and Quilliam, Bloomsbury IB Tauris, UK.

Being Young, Male and Saudi: Identity & Politics in a Globalized Kingdom. Cambridge University Press, UK.

The Impact of Globalization on Saudi Male Millennials' Identity Narratives. Article in Asian Affairs, Vol. 50, No. 3, ISI. UK

How Can Young Men Be Brought into the Private Sector?

Special report by Thompson and Quilliam, Chatham House, London, UK

Dr Mohammed Al-Sudairi:

Transnational Shi'ism in Southern China and the Party-state's 'Hawza' Diplomacy, Middle East Institute (online).

An Overview of Sino-Gulf Relations: A 'New Era' of Growth and a Future Era of Stagnation? ChinaMED Report: China's

New Role in the Wider Mediterranean Region, 2019: 50-57 (Chapter).

Marx's Arabian Apostles: The Rise and Fall of the Saudi Communist Movement, The Middle East Journal 73 (3), (Peer-Reviewed Journal Article).

American 'China watchers' are debating US policy: The Gulf should watch closely, Alarabiyya, (Editorial).

Parallels between Feminist Movements in Saudi Arabia and China, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, (online co-authored with Eman Alhussein).

Dr Joseph A Kéchichian:

Saudi Arabia in 2030: The Emergence of a New Leadership, Seoul: Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

Does Corruption Benefit Compromised Societies? The Case of Lebanon (with Francisco Salvador Barroso Cortés), Middle East Institute, New Delhi, India.

Saudi Arabia and Its New Leadership in 2030, Issue Brief, Seoul: Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

Dr Makio Yamada:

Exploring Why Institutional Upgrading Is not so Easy in Rentier States, Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Studies, 33, 2019.

Dr Fahad Alsharif et al.

Who's paying? Language learning for Students Abroad, Harvard Kennedy School, Evidence for Policy Design.

Mohammed Al-Rmizan:

The Future of Turkish-Gulf relations between political differences and the continuity of trade Exchange. Al Yamamah Magazine.

The Future of Turkish-Arab Relations. Al Riyadh Newspaper.

Turkish offensive on Syria: objectives and repercussions on the Middle East.

King Faisal in Saudi Cinema: Born a King. Gazete Duvar.

The Changing role of women in Saudi society



A focus of the Center's research in 2019 has been the changing role of women in Saudi Arabia, one of the key objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.

In an issue of *Dirasat* entitled *Empowering Women: Educational Programs and Reforms in the Newly Diversified Saudi Arabian Economy*, senior researcher Dr Fahad Alsharif studied the changing role of Saudi women, tracing the impact of changes to higher education on women's inclusion in the Saudi workforce.

The study focuses on early efforts to enhance the educational system, the nationalization of jobs culminating with the Nitaqat system; the impact of the King Abdullah Scholarship Program; and Vision 2030 initiatives – all of which have left their imprint on the role of women in Saudi society. It attempts to answer a wide array of interrelated questions, relying on a path-dependence assessment which aims at mirroring the nexuses between educational policy and labor performance with women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia.

Dr Alsharif outlines how the inclusion of women in education and later into the job market started at the very beginning of the establishment of the Kingdom in 1924 and has increased to the present, particularly with Vision 2030 initiatives including the end of the driving ban and permission to attend public sport events – which between them constitute only the tip of the iceberg. The research addresses socio-religious history of women's education in Saudi Arabia, the role of the state in providing education for women women's economic participation before Vision 2030, women's integration into the job market, challenges, and what the future hold for women's empowerment, and the consequences of policies such as Nitaqat on said empowerment.

In a paper entitled 'Women in the Workplace: Making Sense of the Current Dress Code in Saudi Arabia', KFCRIS researcher Sara Almohamadi addresses Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman's comment in a 2018 interview with CBS about 'taking Saudi Arabia back to a moderate Islam'.

In the interview he said: "The laws are very clear and stipulated in the laws of Sharia: that women wear decent, respectful clothing, like men. This, however, does not particularly specify a black abaya or a black head cover. The decision is entirely left for women to decide what type of decent and respectful attire she chooses to wear."

Today, says Almohamadi, there is a state-led attempt to introduce a new image that celebrates variation. The current approach to dress suggests that the state is redefining the values and degree of religiosity that it will propagate.

There appears to be an attempt to redefine what modesty and conservatism mean, by introducing new notions of "modernity," openness, cosmopolitanism and relatability. The most recent example is the announcement that foreign women visiting the Kingdom do not need to wear the abaya. However, it remains to be seen whether the law will be amended to offer Saudi women the same allowances.

Visiting Fellowship Program

The Visiting Fellows Program aims to facilitate collaborative research projects between the center and international academic institutions and promote scientific and intellectual content.

It helps facilitate research projects of scholars from both inside and outside the Kingdom. Since its creation in 2000, over 470 visiting fellows from 55 different countries have benefited from the program.

The Center also occasionally welcomes Visiting fellows through partnerships with sponsoring institutions or programs (such as Fulbright Fellows). Visiting fellows and scholars undertake research and work on publications in collaboration with KFCRIS staff or conduct independent research projects focused on the Middle East and related to priority areas within the KFCRIS's remit.

2019 visiting fellows and their fields of study include:

Researcher	Institution	Research topic	Nationality
Andrew Leber	Harvard University	Diversity of local regions and resources development in KSA	USA
Oliver McPherson Smith	Harvard University	Political economy, renewable energy, Vision 2030	Australia
Emina Osmandzovic	University of Cambridge.	Overview of displaced populations in the Gulf: Syrian women	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Samater Elmi	University College London	Educational policy in KSA	UK
Annelle Sheline	Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University	Religious authority and official Islam KSA	USA
Clark Junior Membourou	University of Brest	The sharifs of Mecca in 6th-7th/12th-13th centuries	Gabon
David Kenner	Institute of Current World Affairs	Economic reforms underway in KSA: strengthening the private sector and promoting private employment	USA
Rashid Shaz	Aligarh Muslim University	Indian Muslims: where shall we go from here?	India
Adam Mestyan	Duke University	Diplomacy and the Saudi Arabian monarchy, 1920s-40s	Hungary
Tika Ramadini	Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner	Jawah women between SE Asia and Mecca	Indonesia
Ryan Calder	Johns Hopkins University	Sharia compliant banking	USA
Ken Calder	Johns Hopkins University	Japan expert	USA
Toshiko Calder	Johns Hopkins University	Japan expert	USA
Masooda Bano	Oxford University		UK
Annemarie Van Geel	Utgeverhi Prometheus	The position of women in Saudi Arabia	Netherlands
Andrew Leber	Harvard University		USA
Nile Green	UCLA University		
Ghena Hariri			Lebanon
Woohyang Chloe Sim	Waseda University	Women's educational aspirations and career prospects in KSA	Korean
Ann Reuss	University of the Federal Armed Forces of Germany	Threat perception in the Arab Gulf States	German
Hasan Al-Sulami		Hijazi Poems	

KSA open for business



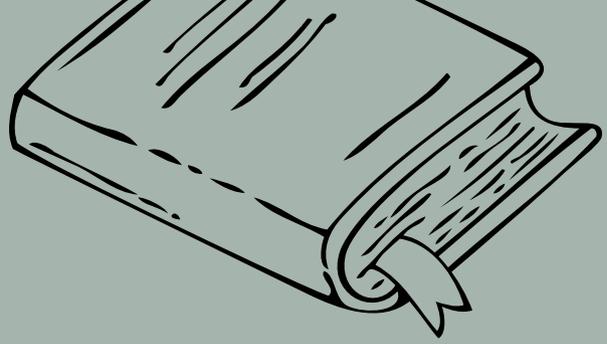
A Special Report by visiting fellow David Kenner, published in August, discusses how business efficiency indices can be used to measure the efficacy of the Kingdom's economic reforms.

The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index is one of the most widely used global metrics for assessing a country's regulatory performance, and one that Saudi officials often use to assess the nation's progress on two key Vision 2030 priorities: attracting foreign investment and bolstering the private sector.

Our study assesses Saudi Arabia's position on the index, analyzing shifts in its score over time and areas where the Kingdom performs well and poorly. It puts the country's changing position on the index over the past decade in context, linking it to the methodological changes in the index over the same period. It also identifies themes that define Saudi Arabia's performance across different regulatory fields, which point to the type of reforms that would help the Kingdom improve its position on the index.

The paper discusses the limits of the Ease of Doing Business index as a tool to measure Saudi economic reform, including an explanation of the factors that go into shaping Saudi Arabia's score and those factors that it does not incorporate.

It also explains where increased foreign investment and the regulatory issues measured by the Ease of Doing Business ranking are linked, and where trends in foreign direct investment fall outside its scope.



Museums Department



The Museums department provides visitors with the resources and space to delve into the past, to broaden cultural horizons, and to examine the material evidence of our history and values. Our work includes collection curation and research, conservation and storage, exhibitions and events in order to preserve and spread knowledge of the life of the late King Faisal and of Arab-Islamic heritage in general. By doing so, we seek to inspire future generations to appreciate their history and the culture of their ancestors.



Artefacts from the KFCRIS collections (and on following pages)

Museum areas of responsibility



During 2019 we have been focused on enhancing the department's overall performance in line with international museum standards and to build capacity in preparation for the 40-year anniversary of KFCRIS in 2023.

Towards this objective, the department set annual goals within three key target areas:

1. Improving access to collections through an exciting programme of events and services that

enrich visitors, benefit researchers and contribute to academic fields.

2. Growing visitor numbers and generating new sources of funding by marketing museums programmes and expanding brand awareness.

3. Implementing operational standards, functions and authority matrices in order to strengthen the museum's foundation and organizational structure.

2019 highlights

It has been a busy and productive 12 months for all our teams. Together with ongoing curatorial and cataloguing work of existing collections according to new cataloguing standards, the Museum Department has succeeded in making significant advances in each of the three key objectives above:

Access to Collections:

KFCRIS loaned 26 rare manuscripts for Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism's first manuscripts conference and exhibition. The month-length event which opened in January was attended by Mohammed Al Murr, Chairman of the Board of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library, Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development and Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of DCT Abu Dhabi.

We also developed two public exhibitions at the Center's galleries in Riyadh in collaboration with the Library team: Wahj and Takwin (see below), as well as inaugurating the Faisal: A Life at the Heart of the 20th Century exhibition in London.

Wahj was opened in February by the Minister of Culture, HH Bader Bin Abdullah Bin Farhan Al Saud, while Takwin opened in March after being completely redesigned and rebranded in order to engage younger audiences and draw more visitors.

Visitor Numbers:

A program of activities was staged in the Center's courtyard (29-30 March) to mark the opening of Wahj and Takwin (see pages 33 and 42) and to draw more families to visit the Center, with events including children's theatre, musical performances, workshops, food stalls, and tours of the Center. Over the course of the weekend 250-300 visitors attended, equating to one third of all 'unplanned' visits to the KFCRIS museum throughout 2019. The event was well-received by attendees, many of whom had previously not known about the Center, with a strong demand for more workshops, lectures, and children's activities.

After last year's successful pilot program with King Saud University, we welcomed the latest cohort of cultural heritage management students on a two-month introductory course on cataloguing and storage methodology, conservation techniques, events planning, and recording oral history. A two-year agreement to formalize this training and expand our collaboration into joint lectures and exhibitions was reached. KSU's Heritage Management College is seen as a long-term strategic partner with the potential to support KFCRIS with marketing, fundraising, and human resources.

This year we also initiated visitor number and feedback tracking in order to analyze visitor numbers, enhance services and as the basis of a marketing database specifically for museum programs.





We also worked hard to improve stakeholder communications with the production of a Museums brochure and updating the KFCRIS website with information about collections, past exhibitions and the team. This will be further developed to provide more event statistics for potential sponsors and collections access for researchers. More social media content and online marketing for events was published this year than previously seen, with campaigns for events including video content for the first time ever. Much progress has also been made in building communications with potential partners including the Ministry of Culture, the General Entertainment Authority and Saudi Aramco.

Implementing operational standards:

Object handling and storage: training was implemented for team members from the Museum, Library and Darat Al Faisal departments.

Storage facilities: work continued on the renovation of storage facilities to ensure that the KFCRIS's unique collections are kept in optimum condition.

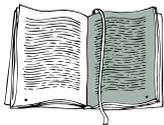
Conservation laboratory renovation and expansion: responsibility for the Center's Conservation Laboratory was transferred from the Library team to Museums, with a complete renovation of facilities and its remit expanding to include artefacts as well as manuscripts. An agreement was signed with Kawarim to complete the facilities renovation which is set to be completed in January 2020.

Staffing: the museum hired two new employees who were among the first students from KSU to intern at the center in 2018. They have been hired as registrars to work on object storage, cataloguing and management.

Policies and procedures: Manuscripts conservation forms, museum forms and contracts were formalized and made available on the Center's employee website.

Museum in Numbers

Conservation and Binding



Arab Islamic art
538
total artefacts

Re-Cataloguing
268
artefacts completed

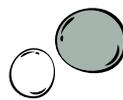
Conservation
50
artefacts treated



King Faisal Memorial Collection
755
total artefacts

Re-Cataloguing
86
artefacts completed

Conservation
360
artefacts treated



Coins and currencies
3677
total artefacts

Cataloguing
700
artefacts completed

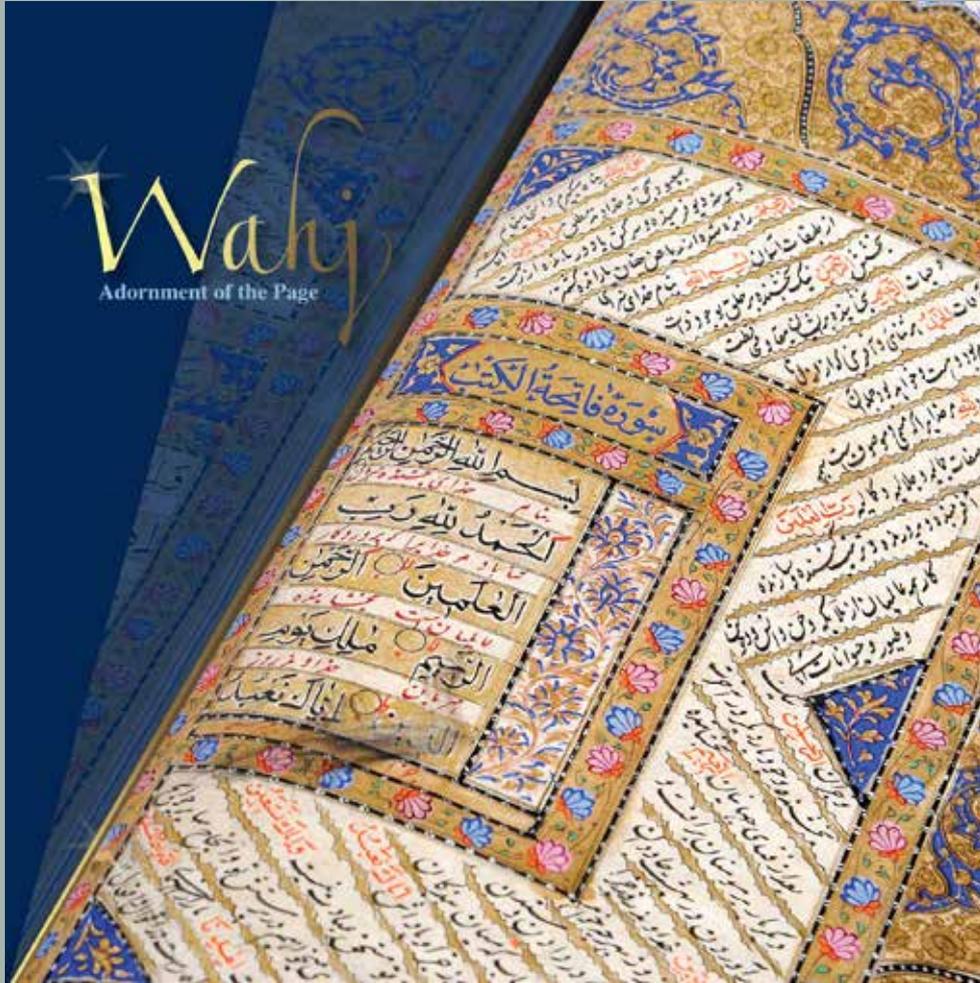


Artworks
1017
total artefacts

Cataloguing
1017
artefacts completed



Wahj – Adornment of the Page



Opening on the 6 February, this exhibition of illuminated manuscripts has brightened up the Center’s Islamic art gallery. It was originally intended to run for one year but has been extended to two years due to its success and positive feedback from visitors. Wahj highlights the skill and artistic qualities of Islamic book arts as displayed in 60 examples from the Center’s collection. These manuscripts depict the various forms and techniques of illumination that span Islamic civilization starting from Baghdad and the Abbasid era in the 7th century, through to Delhi and the Mughal era in the 19th century.

The display is arranged in four categories: the decoration of the Qur’an, manuscript frontispieces, treasury manuscripts, and miniature paintings.



Faisal: a life at the heart of the 20th century

A new travelling exhibition celebrating the life and legacy of King Faisal has also been developed in collaboration with Barker Langham, a cultural consultancy based in London and Dubai. The exhibition explores King Faisal's historic first visit to Europe as a prince in 1919— an event that was also depicted in *Born a King*. The exhibition is being held at the prestigious Institute of Directors gallery in London's Pall Mall and was inaugurated by HRH Prince Turki bin Faisal on 20 December, in the attendance of a distinguished audience of VIPs, diplomats and academics [see Chairman's Foreword, page 7]. The exhibition will continue in London until 10 January 2020, after which it is scheduled to visit Paris, commemorating Prince Faisal's attendance of the Treaty of Versailles following the end of the First World War, representing his father, King Abdulaziz al Saud.



HRH Prince Turki at the opening of our exhibition about the life and legacy of the late King Faisal in London last December





Darat Al-Faisal





Visitors to Darat Al-Faisal

Since its establishment eight years ago, Darat Al-Faisal has fulfilled the function as a centralized repository of information relating the life, times and legacy of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, acting as a focal point and knowledge bank for researchers, broadcasters and others investigating the late king, whether from Saudi Arabia or overseas.

The four-strong team curate the world's most extensive collection of books, documents, periodicals, images and audio-visual files relating to King Faisal, including his speeches, personal

papers and press reports about his service to his homeland and his faith.

The main aims of Darat Al-Faisal are threefold:

- to curate material regarding King Faisal, his life, times and legacy and to establish the Darat as the primary point of reference
- to spread awareness about his legacy in a 21st century context – for example by exploiting social media
- to encourage academics and scholars to research and publish content about the late king.

It has been a year of progress for the department, building on the realignment, refinement and process improvements begun in 2018. We are continuing the digitization of our collections, and – in collaboration with the Projects and Development department – implemented further initiatives to improve the research experience for users of our resources, principally by the refurbishment of our facilities, a project which is making a significant contribution to disseminating knowledge about the life and legacy of the late king.

We have also been expanding our collections by expanding our scope to include resources relating to first-generation descendants of King Faisal.

Images from the Center's collections documenting the life and legacy of the late King Faisal







Contribute to raising public awareness about King Faisal's life and legacy, with a particular focus on building knowledge and understanding in the younger generations.

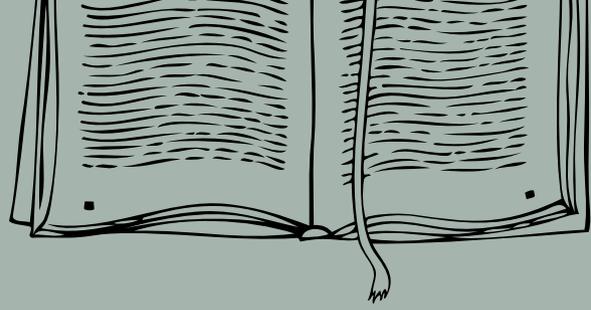
2019 highlights

- Refurbishment of library space and research facilities.
- Expansion of our scope to include papers, books and other material related to the children of the late king.
- Indexing 4,000 owned images with full descriptions appended.
- Cooperating with a number of organizations and individuals to acquire further materials belonging to or relating to King Faisal and his legacy.
- The supply in excess of 100 of relevant images to multiple institutions and governments entities.
- Methodical reorganization of some 120 historical newspapers and magazines resources to facilitate the experience of visiting researchers.
- Acquisition of 11 video files and 30 images new to our collections.

- Acquisition of relevant materials, images and videos from social media sites, and amalgamation of these into our growing database.
- Incorporation of some 800 newly donated images into our library, with documentation completed thanks to collaboration with another local expert institution.
- In-depth research support for two students writing doctoral theses on King Faisal.

Looking forward to 2020, our priorities will be to:

- Complete the digitization of all resources.
- Expand our collections by acquiring more relevant King Faisal materials from within the Kingdom and internationally.
- Contribute to raising public awareness about King Faisal's life and legacy, with a particular focus on building knowledge and understanding in the younger generations.

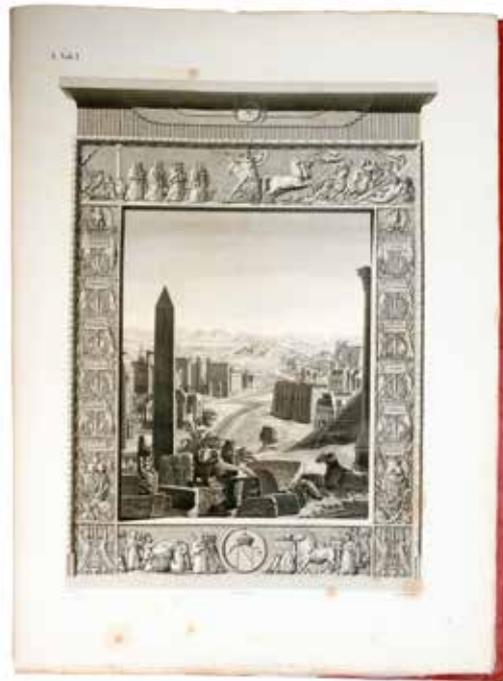


Libraries Department



The KFCRIS library is acknowledged as one of Saudi Arabia's most prestigious research resources, including perhaps the most comprehensive humanities collection in the Kingdom. Having grown from the personal library of King Faisal, today it includes close to 150,000 books and upwards of 24,000 research theses from around the Arab world.

Equipped with state-of-the-art library systems and technologies, the Library and Information team is continuing a comprehensive program of digitization providing easy access to KFCRIS collections to researchers anywhere in the world.



The Libraries and Information department provides resources to facilitate the work of KFCRIS researchers and visiting academics from inside and outside the Kingdom. Today, some 50 percent of our resources have been digitized, significantly broadening access to our repository of knowledge and learning worldwide.

We also maintain a wide variety of periodicals covering geopolitics, culture, heritage and language, among other topics relating to KFCRIS areas of interest.

The department also curates significant recording and image collections and one of the most important collections of old and rare books and manuscripts in the Middle East. This includes rare Qurans dating from the early Islamic period, together with a rich collection of illuminated manuscripts which this year were showcased in the Center's *Wahj – Adornment of the Page* exhibition (see page 33).

Equipped with state-of-the-art library systems and technologies, the Library and Information team is continuing a comprehensive program of digitization providing easy access to KFCRIS collections to researchers anywhere in the world.

The Libraries and Information department is divided into three units:

- **Research Services:** responsible for responding to research request and enabling access to digitized manuscripts, periodicals, books and other documents
- **Technical procedures:** responsible for fundamental librarianship activities such as acquisition, cataloguing and archiving
- **Special Collections:** curation and cataloguing of the Center's collection of rare and old manuscripts, acquisition and cataloguing of relevant archives and materials, and development of a comprehensive database of digital copies sourced from international libraries and institutions.



Thesis certification

232



Face-to-face

694



Attestations sent to researchers

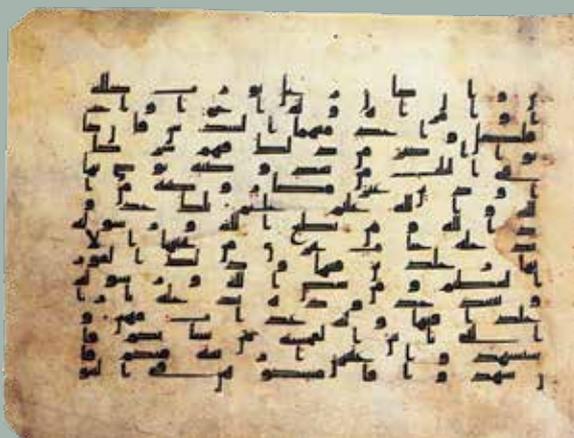
914



Data requests actioned

12,994

From the House of Wisdom



Among our special collections is this 8th century CE manuscript, a fragment of a Holy Qu'ran. Written in Kufic script on deerskin, this priceless artefact was inscribed in the fabled 'House of Wisdom' in Baghdad after the Abbasids had established their capital there.

Kufic is the oldest calligraphic form of the various Arabic scripts and consists of a modified form of old Nabataean. It developed around the end of the 7th century in Kufa, Iraq, from whence it takes its name.

The Qur'an was first written in a plain, slanted, and uniform script, but when its content was formalized, it began to be copied in a script that was thought to denote more authority – Kufic, which became prevalent in manuscripts from the 7th to 10th centuries CE. Around the 8th century CE, it was the most important of several variants of Arabic scripts with its austere and fairly low vertical profile and a horizontal emphasis. Until about the 11th century it remained the main script used to copy the Qur'an.

This example was originally part of King Faisal's personal library, the late king being renowned for both his love of literature and his piety, values which coalesced in his collection of Qu'rans and religious writings.

Library and Information in Numbers

ACQUISITIONS

	New in 2019		Library total	
	Latin	Arabic	Latin	Arabic
Books	45	1,302	145,662	42,495
Periodicals	0	14	2,687	3,039
University theses	81	1,338	25,520	1,688
Total	2,780		219,616	

INDEXING AND CATALOGUING

	New in 2019		Total	
	Arabic	Latin	Arabic	Latin
Books	1,302	45	145,662	42,495
Periodical articles	6,695	27	482,070	23,485
Seminar research	844	0	59,227	0
University theses	4,929	81	154,466	1,690
Total	13,923		909,095	

RESEARCH SERVICES

Service type	
Data requests actioned	12,994
In-person requests	694
Attestations sent to researchers	914
Thesis certifications	232
Total	14,834

2019 highlights

During the year the department signed an agreement to update its technical infrastructure, moving from MINSIS library management system to KOHA ILS, an open source electronic database which will improve accessibility of our



collections and support intellectual exchange with other institutions and individuals. Migration of records commenced in late 2019, with the project scheduled for completion in August 2020.

Four digital indexes of our manuscripts collections were completed: Prophetic Hadith and its Sciences; Qur'ans; Interpretation of the Qur'an and its Science; and Prophetic Biographies.

This year the Library team collaborated closely with the Center's Museums department to stage *Wahj – Adornment of the Page* and *Takwin – the Science and Innovation in Islamic Manuscripts*. These two exhibitions are currently open to the public at the Center's headquarters, the former in the Islamic Art gallery and the later in the Library gallery.

We also participated – alongside the Center's publishing and sales teams – at the Riyadh International Book Fair in March.

Other manuscripts from our collection enjoyed international exposure, with the loan of 20 important manuscripts to the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, including a rare fragment of a Holy Qu'ran dating from the dawn of Islam in the 8th century CE.

Takwin – Science and Innovation in Islamic Manuscripts

Continuing on from 2018, an exhibition developed in collaboration with the Museum team celebrates scientific innovations in early Islamic manuscripts.



From the 7th century CE for over 1000 years, Muslim scholars played a pivotal role in advancing scientific understanding, with the Islamic world responsible for preserving and advancing learning from, for example, Hellenic philosophers and scientists when the western world was languishing in the Dark Ages. Existing scientific treatises were translated and expanded upon, while new discoveries were recorded and systematized.

Texts were extensively inscribed, filling libraries with shelves of manuscripts. A rich environment flourished, enabling the preservation and transmission of knowledge to Europe and other parts of the world.

This exhibition showcases some of KFCRIS's scientific manuscripts in the fields of medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geometry and zoology. Most of these manuscripts are supplemented with illustrations and diagrams exhibiting the utmost care and value placed on their composition.



Above and right: the Center's priceless copy of *Description de l'Égypte* by Felix Mengin

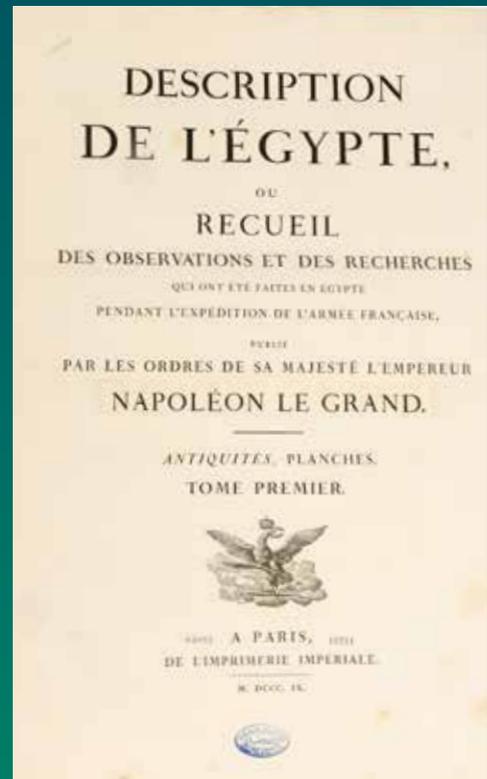
A Napoleonic Eye on Egypt

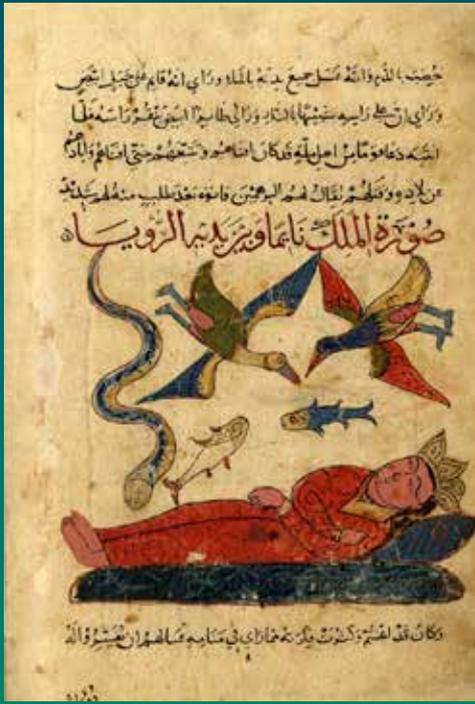
Another of the library's treasures is a first edition of Felix Mengin's *Description de l'Égypte*, an immense 14-volume book, each volume of impressive and unwieldy dimensions.

The first volume appeared in 1809 and the final volume in 1829, Mengin's aim being to catalogue all aspects of ancient and modern Egypt including its natural history. The first three volumes document the antiquities of the ancient civilizations, and the final three the routes networks of the time. The remaining volumes describing the country's flora, fauna, geography and people at the turn of the 18th century.

Compiled by Mengin, this masterwork is the collaborative work of about 160 scholars and scientists – the Savants – who accompanied Napoleon's expedition to Egypt from 1798-1801, as well as a small army of artists technicians and engravers.

It is a truly priceless part of the KFCRIS collection. There are just four known copies of this work in the world.





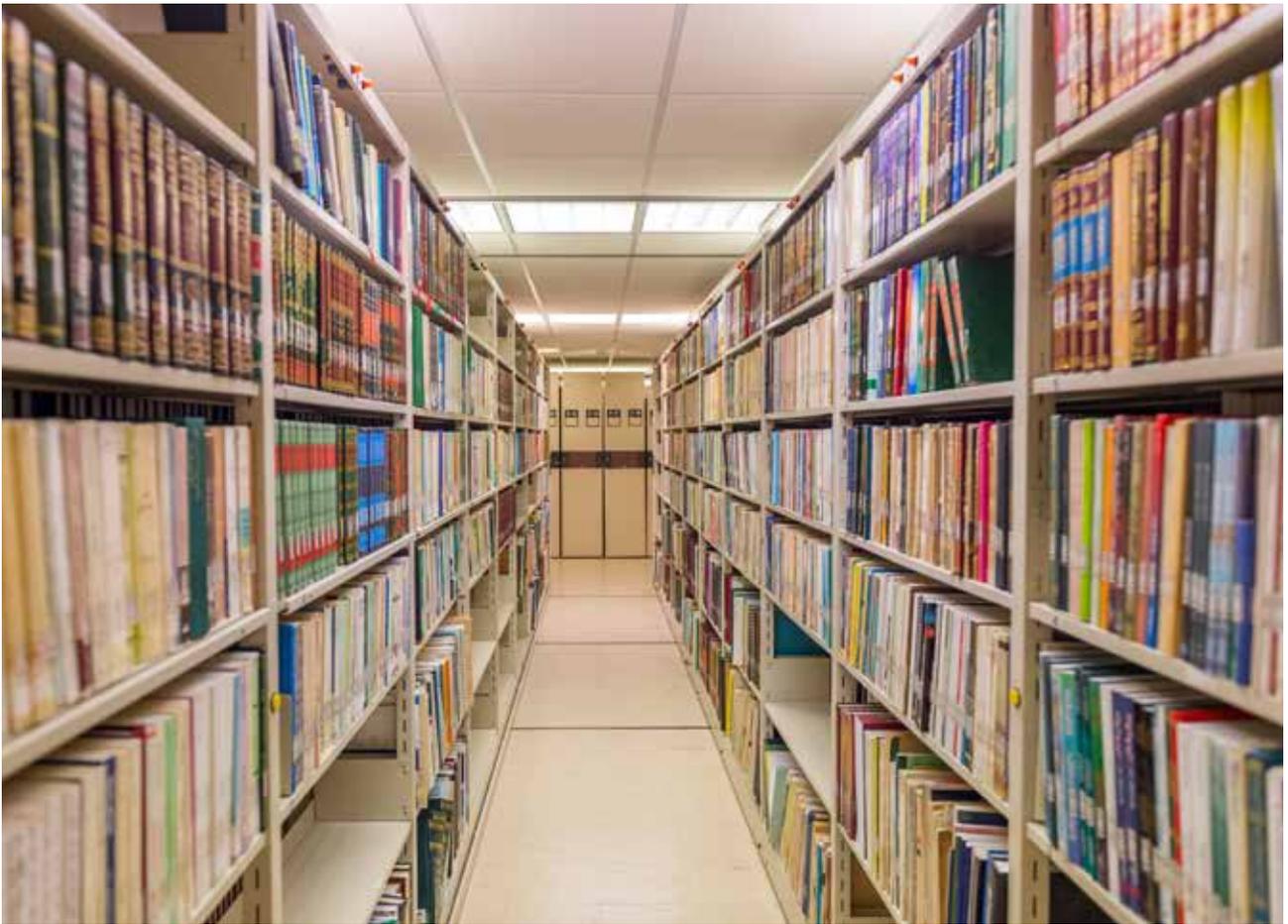
Ibn Al Muqffa miniature

This miniature currently on display in our *Wahj – Adornment of the Page* exhibition is from a 14th century CE copy of *Kalīla and Demna* translated into Arabic from Persian by the Abassid-era author and thinker, Ibn Al Muqffa.

His translation of the story – an allegorical fable based on the Sanskrit text about two jackals, *Kalīla* and *Demna*, illustrating ways of achieving political and social success – helped stimulate the development of Arabic prose literature and inspired many imitators, artists, and poets.

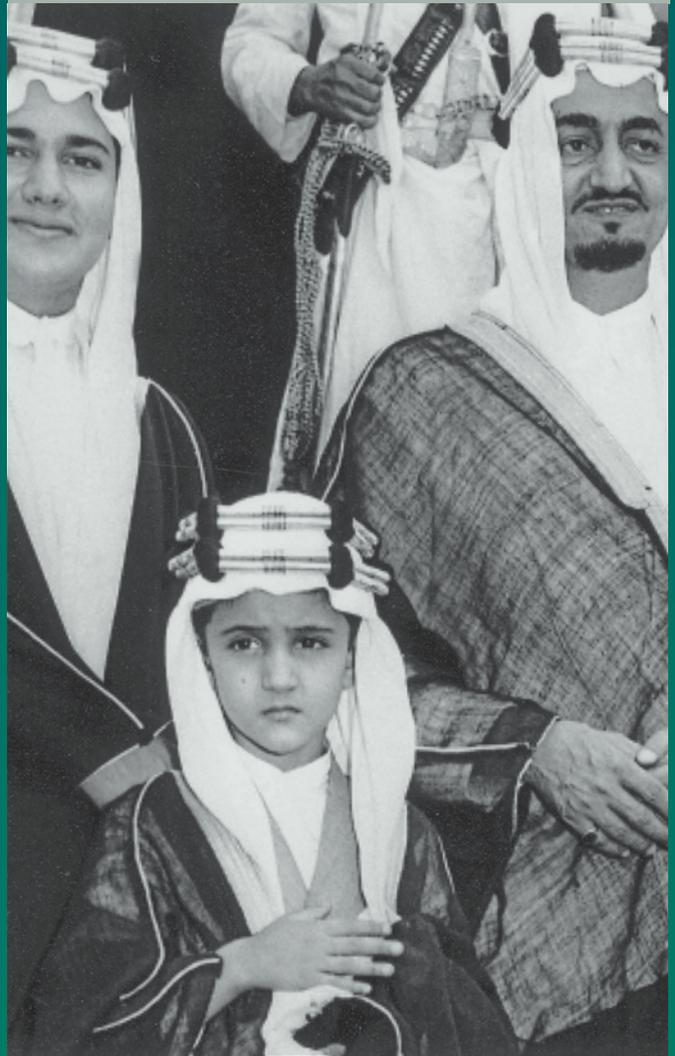
This is the second oldest version of *Kalīla and Demna* known to exist which contains 65 miniature illuminations. It was acquired for the library by HRH Prince Turki al Faisal. The only other known version being an older translation in a collection in Paris.

The KFCRIS library grew from the personal collection of King Faisal





Al-Faisal Cultural House



Al-Faisal Cultural House is KFCRIS's publishing arm, producing all books, periodicals, reports and assorted marketing and communications materials, from museum signage and leaflets to conference guides. This is achieved by liaising with internal departments and external authors and contributors with responsibility for developing content and editorial, organizing any required translation services, providing professional design expertise and managing physical production processes – either at the Center's in-house printing house or with third-party suppliers.

This has been a quantum year for a department committed to an environment of continual improvement, with the team benefiting from a strong mission, clear goals, new policies and procedures and a realignment of responsibilities that have contributed to a clarity of purpose.

Each of the printing, design, editorial and translation teams have enjoyed a busy and productive year, supporting departmental and

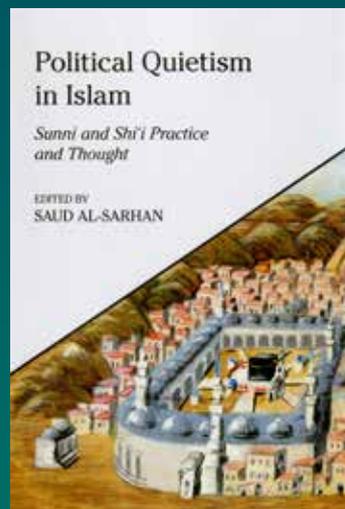
KFCRIS objectives while optimizing resources and increasing efficiency.

The team also liaises closely with the Center's Strategic Communications team, managing the electronic publication on the KFCRIS website and social media sites.

This has been a quantum year for a department committed to an environment of continual improvement, with the team benefiting from a strong mission, clear goals, new policies and procedures and a realignment of responsibilities that have contributed to a clarity of purpose.

With agreed protocols for publication, a four-strong publishing committee, and in-house expertise in translation, design and printing, KFCRIS is establishing itself as a valued publisher of academic and scholarly books (original titles, translations and reprints) and periodicals in Saudi Arabia and the wider Arab world.

Political Quietism in Islam



December saw the publication of a book based on the outputs from the 2017 KFCRIS annual conference entitled *Political Quietism in Islam: Sunni and Shi'i Practice and Thought*, edited by Secretary-General, Dr Saud Al-Sarhan.

The book is the first to analyze the history and meaning of political quietism in Islamic societies. It takes an innovative cross-sectarian approach, investigating the phenomenon and practice across both Sunni and Shi'i communities. In it, contributors introduce the various forms of political quietisms from the time of the prophetic revelations through to the contemporary era. Chapters cover issues ranging from the politics of public piety among female preachers in Saudi Arabia, to legal discourses in the Caucasus, different Shi'i communities in Iran, Lebanon, Iraq and Pakistan, and the Gülen movement in Azerbaijan.

The authors describe a wide range of political quietisms and assess the continuing significance of the tradition, both to the study of Islam and to the modern world today.

As well as his role as editor, Dr Al-Sarhan contributed a chapter as author: *Patience in Our Situation Is Better than Sedition: The Shift to Political Quietism in the Sunni Tradition*

Quietism is often associated with being apolitical, disengaged from public affairs and loyalty to the ruling elite, but it does have a history in Islamic 'theopolitical' thought. Al-Sarhan's chapter introduces the key individuals who shaped this early tradition, including Ibn 'Umar (d. 74/693), whose view on quietism gives important context to quietism in Islam: fear of strife, division and bloodshed are key drivers for the quietists.

Central to this chapter is Ibn Hanbal, who founded the Hanbali School of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence, which is also the school with the strongest quietest tradition. Dr Al-Sarhan explains that what drove Ibn Hanbal were not purely theological issues but concerns for the state and the common people.

Published books

Clarification in the Fundamentals of Religion, by Ali Obaidullah Zaguni, ed Essam Sayed Mahmoud (second edition).

The New Political Science, by Eric Foglin, translated by Mehdi Dajani.

The Muslim Brotherhood and the West: A History of Enmity and Engagement, by Martin Frampton.

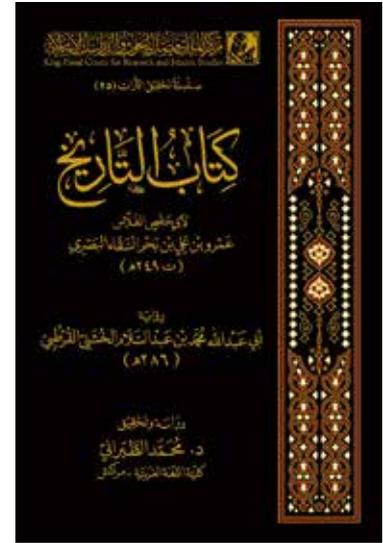
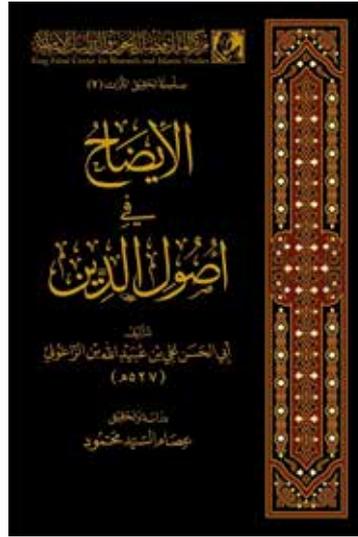
The Knowledge of the Narration, by Mashiyakhah Ibn al-Aqouli, ed Dr Qasim Samarai (second edition).

Saudi Arabia and the war on ISIS, by Hassan Salem bin Salem.

History, by Abu Hafsa al-Fallas, ed Dr Mohammed Tabarani (second edition).

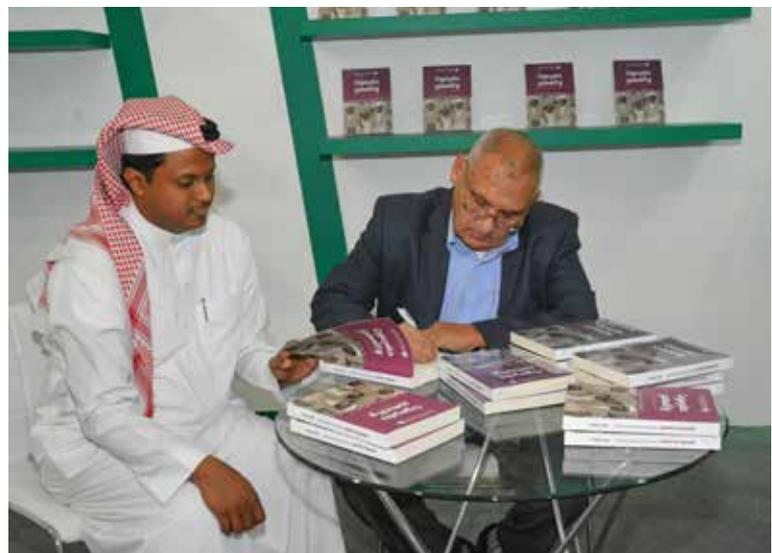
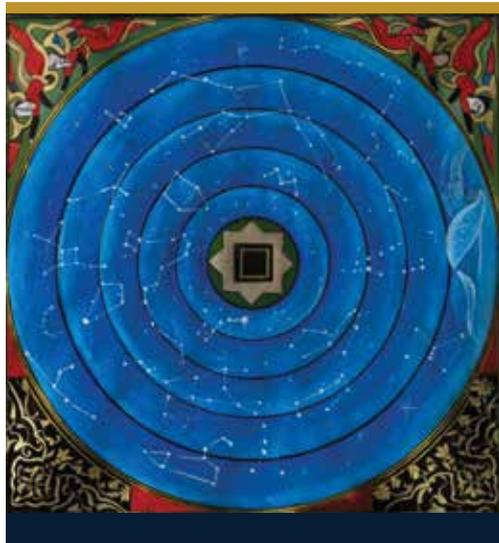
Al-Hijriyah Society in Iran: Ideology and Practice, by Ronen A. Cohen (translation).

Women Writers of Saudi Arabia, by Ieman Abdulrahman Alkhayal and Nawal Mursi Ahmed.



Women Writers of Saudi Arabia: Poetry, Novels and Short Stories

by Ieman Abdulrahman Alkhayal and Nawal Mursi Ahmed



Noyel Barhouni signs copies of "Hadramout and Immigration" at the Riyadh International Book Fair

2019 highlights

- During 2019 we participated in the KFCRIS publishing committee and are considering recommendation to re-print 'Al-Lami' al-Azizi' of Abu'l-Ala Al-Maarri, under the review of Prof Hussein Barakat.
- We are reviewing both the Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Physics Terminology in Arab Heritage and Al-Muntakhab Min Nasab Quraysh Khayar al-Arab by Abdullah bin Issa Al-Qurashi Al-Mouradi, for possible publication.
- We are also considering articles of the great Professor Nasir Al-Din Al-Asad, his research, lectures and introductions for publication, and helping review of Al-Rummani's Explanation of the Book of Sibawayh for publication.
- The department managed the Center's participation in both the Riyadh International Book Fair (13-23 Mar) and the Jeddah International Book Fair (11-21 Dec).

Translation output

The Naqab Bedouins: A Century of Politics and Resistance, by Mansour Nasasra (translation by Sandra El Achhab).

The Muslim Brotherhood and the West: A History of Enmity and Engagement, by Martyn Frampton.

The Hozjatiyeh Society in Iran: Ideology and Practice, by Ronen A Cohen.



Journal of Linguistic Studies

The Journal of Linguistic Studies is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal, specializing in Arabic morphosyntax, linguistics and prosody research and studies.

First published in 1999, following the title is highly regarded in academic circles thanks to the caliber of research it covers, and for its classification as ISI journal.

Over the course of the year, the journal's editorial board received 61 scientific papers for consideration from scholastic sources at home and abroad, of which 54 were deemed suitable for peer-review.

The Journal is among the most effective academic publications in the Arabic world, according to ARCIF, an effectiveness ranking methodology developed by online encyclopedia, Marefa, to improve the global ranking of Arabic learning institutes.

ARCIF is a comprehensive database of citations from peer-reviewed academic journals. It provides comprehensive, reliable, integrated, and multidisciplinary data, linking the output and volume of quotations and citations from content published in Arabic or in the Arab world, following global academic standards.

In 2018 (latest figures available) Marefa ranked over 4,000 academic and research titles issued by more than 1,400 learning organizations across 20 Arab countries (Djibouti and Comoros were excluded for lack of data).

Of these, only 362 academic journals were approved within ARCIF parameters. The Journal of Linguistic Studies was ranked among the most impactful of all academic publications, and the highest-ranking publication in the Literature category.



International Journal of Humanitarian Studies

The International Journal of Humanitarian Studies is a semi-annual peer-reviewed journal issued by King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center in cooperation with Dar Al-Faisal Cultural House.

The first issue was published 13 May, with the active participation of researchers from around the world. Topics covered include:



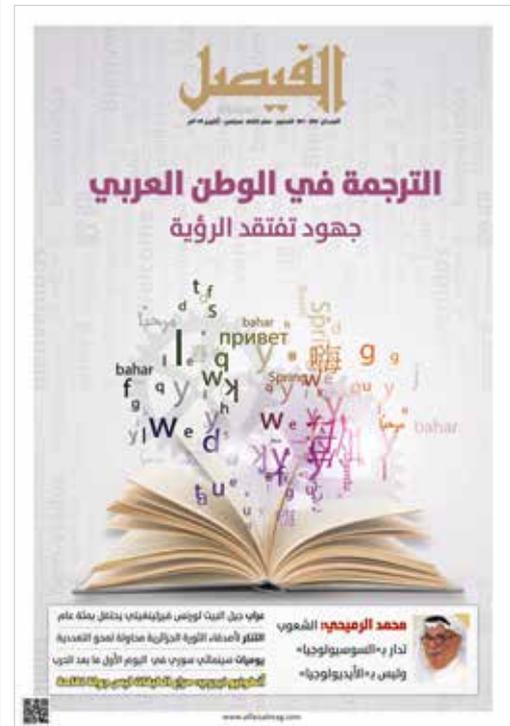
Al-Faisal Magazine

Al-Faisal Magazine was first published in 1977 by Dar Al-Faisal which was subsequently incorporated into KFCRIS on its foundation in 1983.

The journal includes contributions from many of the most famous names active in the Arab cultural scene, covering art, heritage, philosophy, language, literature and much more. It is published bi-monthly and distributed throughout the Middle East

All back issues of Al-Faisal Magazine are available in a compendium of six volumes produced by ALDAR publishing house

During 2019 we published six issues which together included more than 400 articles across a wide range of topics, poetry, short stories and discussions on current cultural debates.



2019 issues

- The Friendship, Confrontation Against Undermining Peace (January- February)
- Our Arab Universities, the Leading Role has Vanished (March-April)
- Philosophy, a Free Space for the Mind (May-June)
- Mysticism from the Margin to the Front (July-August)
- Translation in the Arab World: Efforts Lack Vision (September-October)
- Europe Denies its Image (November-December)





Delivering our Mission



Administration and Finance

The Administration and Finance team is responsible for the bulk of KFCRIS's back-office operations, including finance and procurement, IT, human resources and facilities management – vital functions that enable KFCRIS to achieve its mission and goals.

One of the key tasks is the preparation and maintenance of accounting records and to implement the agreed budget for the Center. This enables the achievement of our five year-strategy and to ensure efficiency and optimization of resources. This is accomplished by maintaining a proper and disciplined budgetary control to

ensure the effective utilization of approved funds.

Our team of financial professionals is fully engaged with preparing all required reporting packages for stakeholders in an accurate and timely manner, to prepare statutory financial statements precisely and punctually, and to coordinate all audit processes and requirements, ensuring the sound financial management of KFCRIS.

Similarly, the main function of the Human Resources team is to ensure the success of the organization through its people. We focus on attracting, managing, motivating and developing our employees for the benefit of KFCRIS and the individuals themselves.

Our mission is to support KFCRIS by ensuring that human resources services, policies and systems align with the company's values, strategy and mission. Through intelligent recruitment and development of the workforce we are maximizing individual and organizational potential and making KFCRIS an employer of choice.

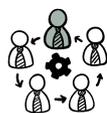
2019 achievements

Several initiatives are being developed to overcome the Center's lack of liquidity in order to implement new development projects and address the difficulty of recruiting suitably qualified staff for some specialist projects, particularly in systems development functions.

The department is responsible for the systems and processes that enable KFCRIS to achieve its mission

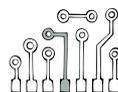


Completed projects



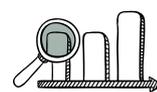
Training courses

14



IT projects

31



Business Services

5



Maintenance

22

Public Relations

The PR team is responsible for organizing and managing the logistics of all KFCRIS events, including public lectures, internal workshops, closed panel discussions, lecture programs and major internal meetings and public celebrations – such as the family activities staged in the KFCRIS courtyard earlier this year to mark the launch of the Center’s Wahj – Adornment of the Page exhibition.

Their responsibilities encompass of all elements of running a successful event from beginning to end. This begins with liaison with the involved department during the planning phase, from making sure that content is formatted and appropriate, to communicating with external participants, for whom they organize travel, visas and accommodation and event plan and manage cultural programs to ensure overseas speakers and participants make the most of their visit to Saudi Arabia.

The team is also responsible for event invitations and ticketing and for maintaining the events database with speaker biographies, event details and other relevant content.

On the day of an event they will also oversee all the physical components of running a safe and successful event, including venue checks and booking, overseeing reception and security staff and any required volunteers and in partnership with IT, supervise any required audio-visual and stage management contractors.

Post event responsibilities include managing feedback, liaising with Strategic Communications by providing relevant for content social media, the KFCRIS website and press releases.

Operating behind the scenes, their ability to multi-task enables KFCRIS to successfully stage multiple events each year, both in-house venues and in external venues. This ability to juggle such complex logistics – together with coordinating with the Media team, for example – is paramount to the department’s ambition of increasing attendance at future events.



Author Alan Dillon at the launch of his book, Captain Shakespear

Representative sample of events organized by Public Relations, 2019

Public lectures:

- What research governance in Islamic studies do we need?
- 100 years later - the meaning of WW1 to the USA
- Foreign Fighters in Leaked Daesh documents
Humanitarian situation in Yemen
- Cosmopolitanism in Jeddah
- Labor reforms to boost female employment
- The foreign Policy of "Divided" States of America
- Emeralds, the remarkable story
- The world according to Xi Jinping
- Young, male and Saudi
- Saudi and European perspectives on religious tolerance
- Enabling health care through technology and innovation
- Captain Shakespeare: Exploring deserts and Arab charm

Seminars:

- South China's Integration Experience
- China and the region: Gulf visions
- Red Sea region – security, economy and the future

Exhibition opening:

- Wahj, Adornment of the Page

Panel discussions:

- The Trump Administration
- US-Saudi Dialogue – a younger generation's perspective
- MED-RED shared problems and shared opportunities between Mediterranean and Res Sea (in collaboration with Institute for International Political Studies, Italy)
- Regional economic and political developments (in collaboration with Chatham House, UK)
- Learning to be a great power: China and Middle East

Workshop:

- Decoration in Islamic art
- Cyber Security: Challenges and opportunities
- Challenges and opportunities of fostering religious tolerance

Roundtables

- Regional escalation and future scenarios (in collaboration with Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, Switzerland)
- Saudi Arabia economic reforms under vision 2030 (in collaboration with BOAO Forum for Asia)
- Civilian harm mitigation during armed conflict (in collaboration with Center for Civilians in Conflict, USA)

2019 highlights

During the year, the Public Relations team organized 30 events including invitation-only panel discussions, roundtables, workshops and seminars, together with a program of well-attended public lectures, the majority taking place in the King Faisal Foundation Memorial or the Al Faisal Institute lecture hall.

Going forward, priorities for next year is to enhance the performance of team with robust planning and thorough follow-up processes, following disciplined project management methodology to ensure all activities are delivered on-time and in budget.



Looking Ahead

Over the past 12 months we have continued introducing initiatives to realign our internal interfaces, organization and reporting lines in order to refine our processes and outputs and to optimize our use of resources. This has enabled us to strengthen our reputation for producing original, empirical research, to broaden access to our collections to outside researchers and the general public, and to widen the audiences we reach with our outreach programs.

All of this puts us on a firm foundation as we prepare for what promises to be a pivotal year in our development.

As detailed elsewhere in this report, in November 2020, Riyadh will host the G20 summit of the world's largest economies. This marks a crucial and historic juncture for Saudi Arabia, and also for the KFCRIS which is the co-leader of the Think20 program which is a key part of the G20 summit.

The Kingdom took over G20 presidency from Japan as of December 2019 and is already well-advanced in preparations for next year's activities. Under the theme 'Realizing opportunities of the

21st century for all', Saudi Arabia's presidency will focus on three principal aims:

- Empowering people, by creating the conditions in which everyone – especially women and young people— can live, work and thrive;
- Safeguarding the planet by fostering collective efforts on food and water security, climate, energy and the environment;
- Long-term strategies to share the benefits of innovation and technological advancement.

According to a report from PriceWaterhouse Coopers, Saudi Arabia leads the pack when it comes to GCC academic research, with KFCRIS at the forefront of the Kingdom's research institutions.

However, despite recent progress, the volume of research publications remains low compared with non-GCC countries and is a long way behind more established knowledge economies.

The internal changes KFCRIS has made during 2019, and will continue in 2020, has the objective of redressing those imbalances. Leading the T20 program is a big part of that. Not only will it further reinforce our reputation of being among the Kingdom's most respected social science research bodies, it will enable us to attract leading researchers, increase our output of original research, successfully apply for competitive funding and build collaborative partnerships with international and domestic research institutions.

Research is one of the key drivers of a knowledge economy due to its capacity for creating more jobs in the region. One of the biggest benefits of a serious research capability is jobs and economic growth. Saudi Arabia is well-advanced in implementing its long-term transformational program with Saudi Vision 2030. Education and research are key components of this agenda – and KFCRIS is committed to continue contributing significantly to these efforts.





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