



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

Towards building a knowledge system that endures

• Annual Review
2024



 **"Towards building a knowledge
system that endures"**



**"We are not the ones who talk about doing;
instead, through the will and power of God,
we are accustomed to saying that we did."**

King Faisal bin Abdulaziz

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Introduction

In 1403 AH (1983), eight years following the martyrdom of King Faisal, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies was founded by the King Faisal Foundation. Its primary aim was to perpetuate the legacy of the late King and facilitate the exchange of knowledge between Saudi Arabia and the global community. Subsequently, the Center has emerged as a renowned institution for academic research, intellectual inquiry, and cultural discourse.

The primary objective of the Center is to serve as a foundational knowledge hub that fosters collaboration between researchers and research institutions at local, regional, and global levels, facilitating the generation of original research in the humanities and social sciences while also engaging in scholarly discourse and cross-cultural dialogue. Beyond its research activities, the Center undertakes various functions, including publication, library management, archiving, and curating museums. The Al-Faisal Cultural House, an entity affiliated with the Center dedicated to publishing, plays a crucial role in producing books and periodicals that cover topics pertinent to the Kingdom, Arab and Islamic societies, as well as global interests. The King Faisal Center Library provides a range of services to support researchers. Dārat Āl Faiṣal (Faisal Family Archives) safeguards the heritage of King Faisal and his family while promoting awareness of its significance. The Al-Faisal Museum plays a crucial role in preserving and showcasing valuable collections of Arab-Islamic art, rare manuscripts, and the personal belongings of King Faisal.



HRH, Chair of the Board of Directors' Speech

We dream, we achieve



HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal
The KFCRIS Chair of the Board of Directors

To be candid, I have yet to come across a more fitting title for my speech than the slogan adopted by our country for its National Day, as it impeccably aligns with our endeavors over the preceding year. I'd like to underscore my sense of pride in the accomplishments of the Center. Over the years since its establishment, we have refrained from highlighting our achievements despite their notable distinction and singularity within the field, as well as the unprecedented projects undertaken over the past four decades. Nonetheless, the current chapter in the Center's legacy has witnessed an array of unparalleled initiatives, encompassing events such as the Second Conference of Al-Marwīyah Al-'Arabīyah in honor of Dr. Saad Al-Sowayyan, the inauguration of the UNESCO Chair in Translating Cultures, the dissemination of numerous research papers, and the organization of various workshops, conferences, and events both domestically and interna-

tionally. These endeavors collectively advance our organizational objectives.

Despite committing to establishing a concrete strategy for the duration of the Center's five-year plan, where we evaluate our goals and ongoing initiatives and subsequently put forth new objectives to advance our progress, it is essential to note that we are not stagnant. Instead, we proactively consider the advancement of tools and performance by assessing emerging technologies and adopting the most effective ones to facilitate our operations. Additionally, we collaborate with esteemed researchers globally to actualize our objectives into tangible outcomes.

Living in a nation with ambitious goals is truly remarkable, and actively participating in its progress is even more so. Our engagements, interactions, and events span the globe, from the Far East to the Far West. Nonetheless, we must always keep our Saudi identity in mind and recognize the significant impact we have made in achieving the objectives of Vision 2030. This commitment is evident in hosting various conferences, such as the "Middle East in a Changing World" conference, which brought together a select group of global political leaders and included participation from the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Our future goal is to establish this conference as an annual event akin to the prestigious Munich Security Conference, which serves as the premier gathering in this context.

The nation has been bestowed with exceptional leaders by God Almighty, who are proficient in guiding the youth into roles that align with their capabilities and potential contributions to serving their country. This strategic positioning aims to enable the youth to cultivate a prosperous future characterized by progress, empowerment, and cultural stewardship. Since the Center's inception, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to leading the way and pioneering new initiatives. Enduring the challenges encountered along the journey, God Almighty cleared the obstacles obstructing the path of pioneers striving towards renaissance and advancement. Hence, we can proudly proclaim that our pledges have been fulfilled.

HRH, Secretary General's Speech

Towards building a knowledge system that endures

HRH Princess Maha bint Mohammed Al-Faisal
The KFCRIS Secretary General

«Towards building a knowledge system that endures»

This year has seen a substantial increase in the Center's activities, nearly equivalent to the cumulative efforts of several years. I am not here to provide a detailed account, as the reader already has access to a report detailing our activities. Instead, this discussion offers a glimpse into our accomplishments over the entire year.

We have organized conferences, hosted events, and unveiled the treasures of our heritage, which will continue to evoke pride and joy. An inquiry may arise: What is novel about this? These activities have been integral to your mission since the inception of advocating knowledge and encouraging efforts to restore the cultural significance of Arab heritage. In response, we would like to confirm that our core principles have remained consistent. However, the sheer volume of our achievements has been so substantial that it has taken us by surprise, prompting us to express our gratitude to God for granting us the strength to carry these responsibilities.

A brief overview of our achievements in 2024 can provide the reader with insight into the extensive efforts, time, and financial resources dedicated to these endeavors. These concerted efforts have been directed towards the objectives we have steadfastly pursued since the institution's inception to bolster our scientific research initiative. These achievements include:

The first achievement is the launch of the "Modernity and Islamic History" program. This program seeks to cultivate a dedicated academic discipline in this context. We have entrusted the supervision of the program to Professor Wael Hallaq, a recipient of the King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies, who is joined by a team of expert researchers from across the globe. The objective of the program is to generate a multitude of pertinent studies and launch a peer-reviewed journal.

The second achievement is marked by the successful organization of the Second Conference of Al-Marwīyah Al'Arabīyah, themed "Desert Culture," dedicated to celebrating the distinguished creative contributions of Profes-

sor Dr. Saad Al-Sowayyan within our country. Subsequently recognized as the Cultural Personality of the Year by the state, Dr. Al-Sowayyan stands as a prominent figure in Arabic culture, renowned for his extensive compilation of the Kingdom's folklore, which encompasses numerous audio recordings and academic research. The Center acquired this invaluable collection as a gracious donation from the late Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal, who recognized its significance and facilitated its transfer to the King Faisal Center. These materials have since been transcribed, with immense gratitude to God, and are now easily accessible to researchers in this field.

The third achievement is the establishment of the UNESCO Chair in Translating Cultures, which was initiated with the assistance of the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission. This initiative aims to address the growing demand for research and scholarly investigations in the humanities and social sciences across the Arab world, with the overarching objective of strengthening the region's position as a hub of intellectual output.

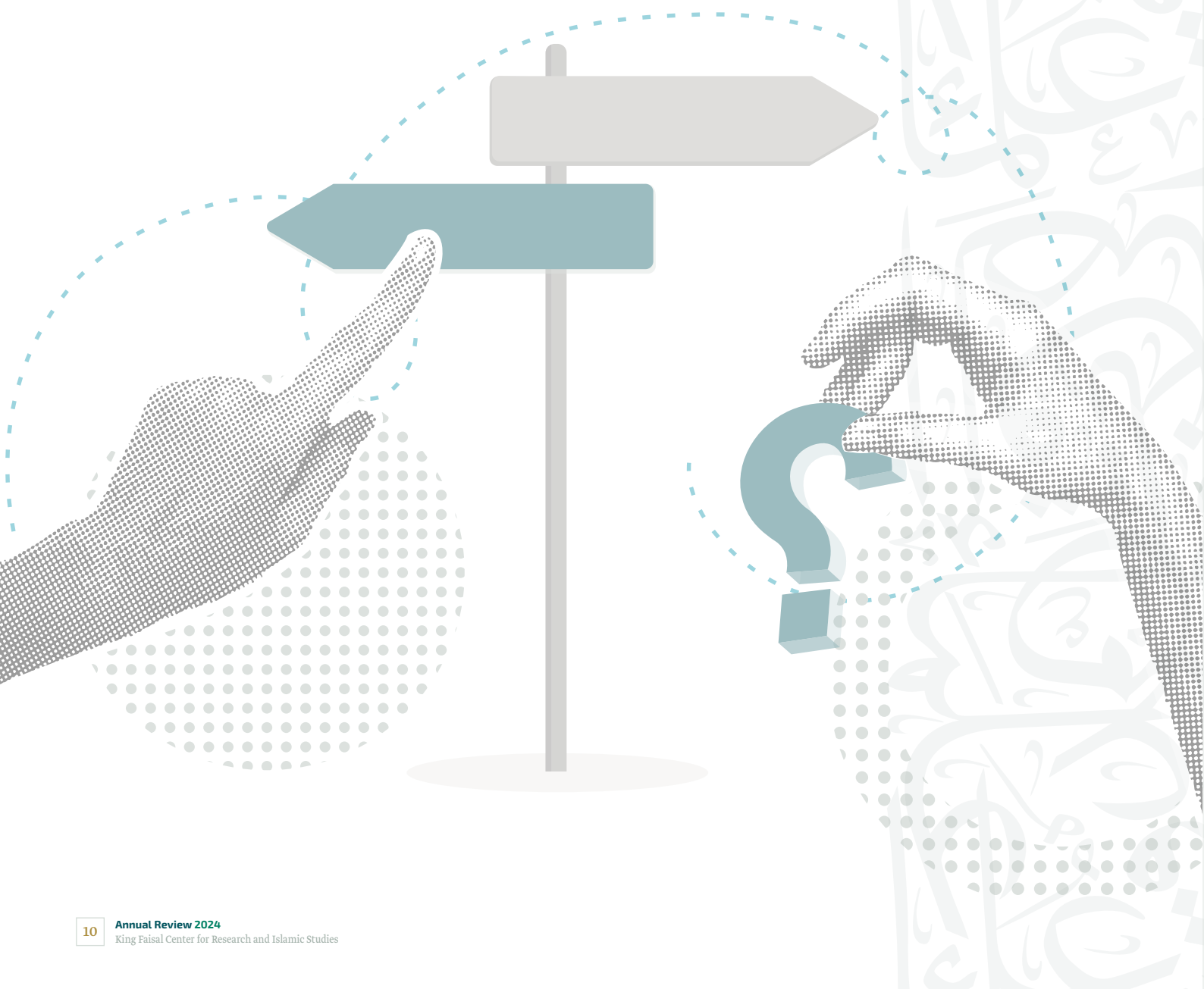
The fourth and most significant achievement is the establishment of the Al-Faisal Museum of Arabic Manuscripts. As the first of its kind, this museum was founded to express gratitude to our nation for its benevolence in sharing diverse forms of knowledge across all realms recognized by humankind. Through this museum, we have showcased to the global community the leading role of Arabs and Muslims in directing humanity toward seminal milestones in civilization and urban development. Personally, I must admit that this endeavor fulfills a profound and enduring ardor for preserving this ancient heritage, which I am apprehensive may be at risk of loss, destruction, or neglect.

What else?

Throughout 2024, many conferences, seminars, events, and research papers characterized a year of heightened activity. We aspired to make original contributions to research and knowledge, laying the groundwork for an enduring knowledge infrastructure that will steer our nation toward the envisioned renaissance. Under our leadership, which spares no effort in propelling the Saudi population towards prosperity, empowerment, and advancement, both individuals and the country benefit.

Strategic Approach

In 2024, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies notably enhanced its efficiency. Furthermore, the Center reassessed its strategic approach and launched several new initiatives, including:





Research Strategy

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies has concentrated its resources on four primary tracks as follows:

Al-Marwīyah Al'Arabīyah, one of its primary objectives is to restore the cultural legacy of the Arabian Peninsula.

Establishing the first Museum for Arabic Manuscripts and forming a committee to oversee the rare collections of the Center, the core of which is King Faisal's private collection.

Emphasizing the political aspect to align with the vision of the Chair of the Board of Directors, HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal, who is recognized as a significant figure in regional and global politics, known for promoting dialogue and fostering mutual understanding among nations and his instrumental role in shaping diplomatic relations in the region in line with the objectives of the Kingdom.

Creating a program focused on studying modernity, Arab and Islamic history, and developing critical perspectives on current challenges. This unique program is the only one of its kind globally.



Revising the Statute

The Center's governing Statute was reviewed and revised to align with the current goals and vision.



Revising Policies and Procedures

A thorough evaluation of current policies and procedures was conducted to guarantee their efficacy and alignment with the evolving requirements.



Archive Management

Re-establishing the archive system, initiating efforts to improve archiving systems, and incorporating specialized technologies to ensure organized and accessible document storage. This facilitates the retrieval of information as necessary.



Training and Development Assistance

Ongoing support was provided for employee training, education, and development, resulting in enhanced skills and increased efficiency among the workforce.

Key Highlights

In 2024, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies achieved significant milestones in its mission to enrich the global scientific and cultural landscapes. These accomplishments, which include original research, exceptional resources, and expertise, are instrumental in solidifying the Center's reputation as a prominent knowledge hub, a guardian of heritage, and a chronicler of the legacy of King Faisal and his sons.

Enhancing the Role of the Center as a Knowledge and Cultural Hub

In this context, the Center has played a significant role in coordinating various notable events, such as:

- **The Al-Marwīyah Al'Arabīyah Second Conference**, themed "Desert Culture," convened a distinguished panel of researchers and experts to delve into Arab heritage and culture.
- **The Middle East in a Changing World: Uncertainties, Risks, and Opportunities**, a conference focused on the geopolitical challenges and transformations in the region.
- **Establishing the UNESCO Chair in Translating Cultures** to foster intercultural dialogue and provide scholarly support.
- **A research initiative was launched** to investigate Modernity and the History of Islam.



Chronicling the Legacy of King Faisal and His Sons

The King Faisal Memorial Collection was registered and documented to chronicle the history of King Faisal and his sons. Additionally, 688 artifacts from Queen Effat's collection, considered a vital part of the national heritage, were archived.

Heritage Preservation

The Center has diligently endeavored to consolidate its standing as a preeminent institution for heritage preservation by:

- Transcribing the Saad Al-Sowayan Collection, acclaimed as one of the paramount heritage collections,
- Restoring and sterilizing three manuscripts to preserve cultural heritage,
- Publishing three books in the Heritage Books Editing Series. Moreover, the Center has published six issues in Al-Faisal Magazine and three in the Journal of Linguistic Studies.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Culture

In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Center has undertaken strategic initiatives and projects aimed at enriching the cultural landscape and analyzing cultural metrics. Furthermore, it organizes colloquiums featuring the engagement of local and international



experts and scholars, thereby bolstering knowledge dissemination and cultural sector advancement.

Institutional Development

To enhance administrative effectiveness and promote excellence and sustainability, an Institutional Excellence Unit was established to support strategic growth and development. Additionally, the Center began revising its strategy to ensure the cohesion of its endeavors and the realization of future objectives.

Human Resources Development

Regarding human resource development, the Center provided a variety of English language training courses and supported nine specialized training programs. Moreover, the Center aided five employees in attaining their undergraduate and master's degrees.

Digital Transformation

To align with the digital transformation, the Center implemented the PROACTIVE human resources system and integrated an ERP system. The ERP system is designed to streamline financial and administrative operations, as well as improve the efficiency of project and service management.



Recent Agreements

In 1445 AH (2024), the King Faisal Center entered into multiple agreements with external entities, including:

- **The UNESCO Chair in Translating Cultures (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO):** This agreement aims to foster innovative research in cultural translation and facilitate collaboration among researchers specializing in translation studies, cultural studies, intangible heritage, and the humanities worldwide.
- **Abdullah Bin Idris Cultural Center:** The agreement aims to consolidate efforts between the two parties to strengthen cooperation in research and studies, as well as coordinate joint cultural activities and events.
- **ROSHNI:** This agreement emphasizes the documentation of social customs and traditions about Saudi women. It aims to enhance cooperation between the two parties to safeguard and transmit their cultural heritage to future generations.





- **King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language:** The agreement aims to unify efforts between the two parties in research and studies, with a focus on enhancing the linguistic skills of Arabic speakers.
- **Kalemat Agency:** The agreement aims to enhance collaboration between the two parties in research and studies, event organization, and the promotion and translation of books related to the themes of the UNESCO Chair in Translating Cultures.
- **Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre:** The agreement aims to strengthen research collaboration, share expertise, and coordinate joint events to promote the Arabic language and preserve Arab and Islamic cultural heritage.
- **Human Resources Development Fund (HadaF):** This agreement aims to promote specialized scientific research in human capital development, identify practical solutions to address challenges, and capitalize on opportunities to enhance the work environment.
- **University of Geneva:** The agreement aims to enhance research collaboration with the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at the esteemed University of Geneva. It encompasses researcher exchanges, participation in seminars and workshops, publishing research and scholarly works, and initiating a joint fellowship program between the UNESCO Chair and the Intercultural Translation Laboratory.



Programs and Research Projects

In 1445 AH (2024), the King Faisal Center engaged in multiple research and publication projects, which included:

The Report on the State of Culture in Saudi Arabia:

In partnership with the Ministry of Culture, this project aims to produce an annual report that documents local cultural output, tracks overarching trends across the 16 cultural sectors, and evaluates various aspects of the state of culture in Saudi Arabia every year.

Al-Ahsa Project:

The project aims to highlight the extensive cultural heritage of the Al-Ahsa region, which dates back thousands of years. It encompasses many intangible cultural elements such as traditions, beliefs, forms of artistic expression, knowledge, and skills, along with the accompanying tools, objects, artifacts, and cultural locations.

Production of Saudi Art Books Series:

The project seeks to compile a series of books that delve into the history of Saudi art, aiming to document and enrich cultural understanding in this field. This includes capturing and preserving the progress and achievements made in Saudi Arabia's art scene. The books will explore all facets of the history and beginnings of Saudi art in its diverse forms.

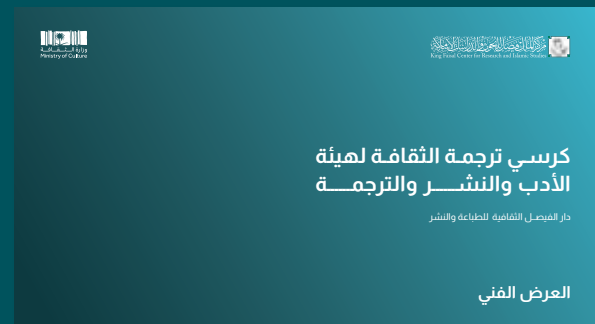
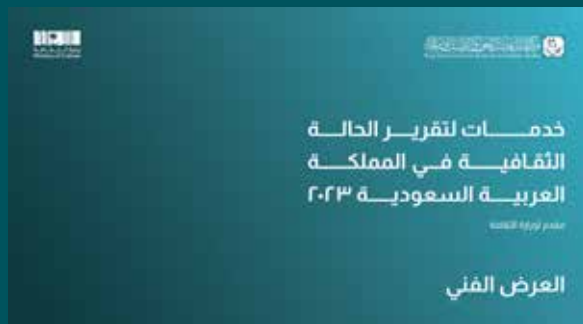
Chair of the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission in Translating Culture:

The launch of the Research Chair project by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission is part of its efforts to strengthen research capabilities and foster research activities that align with the objectives of the Saudi Vision 2030 and the National Strategy for

Culture. It also aims to drive economic growth and elevate Saudi Arabia's global reputation. This is accomplished by advancing research and fostering collaboration among research institutions in these fields, promoting knowledge exchange and the sharing of expertise in the humanities on local, regional, and international scales. The outcomes of the Research Chair project focus on five key criteria: documentation, enrichment, community service, research capacity enhancement, and facilitation of partnerships and cooperation.

The International Journal of Humanitarian Studies:

On behalf of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, the Al-Faisal Cultural House at the King Faisal Center publishes the International Journal of Humanitarian Studies in both Arabic and English, issuing a new edition every four months.



Research Papers

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies publishes a range of research papers across various categories. The Qira'at series is dedicated to humanities, the Dirasat series covers political, economic, and social issues, the Masarat series focuses on analyzing current affairs, and the Reports series discusses specific topics. Provided below is a compilation of research papers released in 1445 AH (2024):

Qira'at:

1. “Historical Knowledge Theory in Arab Thought: Balancing Foundation and Authentication”

Author: Ali Mazyan, Jumada II 1446
AH (December 2024).



Dirasat:

1. **"King Faisal and Saudi-Japanese Relations and Their Impact on Japan's Position on the October 1973 War"**
Author: Abdul Hakim Al-Tahawi, Jumada II 1445 AH (January 2024).
2. **"Polish Tatars: History, Legal Status, Religion and Identity"**
Authors: Daniel Gołębiowski, Karolina Radłowska, and Magdalena Zawrotna, Dhu'l-Hijjah 1445 AH (July 2024).
3. **"Reciprocal Influence Between Arabic and Chinese: A Case Study of the Mosque-Language"**
Author: Hamed El-Sayed Khalil, Rabi' II 1446 AH (October 2024).
4. **"Histories of Sinophone Islam in Macau: A Tapestry of a Multi-ethnic Muslim Community"**
Author: Hung Tak Wai, Rabi' II 1446 AH (October 2024).

Masarat:

1. **"The GCC-ASEAN Summit: Charting Regional Interests and Future Challenges"**
Jumada II 1445 AH (January 2024).
2. **"Prospects and Boundaries of International Involvement in Reconstructing the Somali Army"**
Author: Ahmad Askar, Safar 1446 AH (August 2024).
3. **"Evolution of Security in the Red Sea: A Focus on The Southern Gate"**
Author: Marc-Etienne Lavergne, Jumada I 1446 AH (November 2024).

Reports:

1. **Africa Follow-ups:** Issues 37-40, Editor: Dr. Mohamed Al-sbitli.
2. **"The Implications of Pursuing Non-Aligned Strategic Relations in a Multilateral World: A Case Study of Kenya"**
Authors: Fatuma Ahmed and Kathryn Langat, Rabi'I 1446 AH (September 2024).



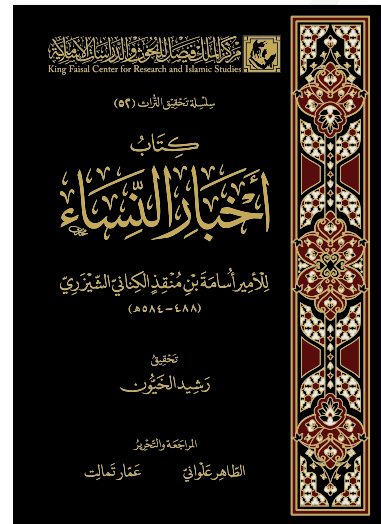
Books and Periodicals

Heritage Books Series Editing Publication :

Books

Al-Faisal Cultural House has published a series of heritage research books, including:

- ▶ **Akhbar al-Nisa' li'Usama bin Munqidh**
(edited by Dr. Rashid al-Khayyūn).
- ▶ **Al-lamie' al-Azizi**
(reviewed by Dr. Khaled al-Oseimi and Dr. Hussein Barakat).
- ▶ **Al-Seft al'Awal Min Kitab al'Azmina**
(edited by Dr. Ahmad al-Sa'eedi).



Publication of Manuscript Catalogues Series

The Al-Faisal Cultural House has published the Manuscript Catalogues Series, which includes

- A catalog of manuscripts related to **Al-Sirah Al-Nabawiyah** (the biography of the Prophet) and its appendices, compiled by Ammar Tamalt.



Books

The Al-Faisal Cultural House has published the translated books series, including:

- **Islamic Paper** (by Helen Loveday, translated by Mourad Tadghout).

It also published the Linguistic Studies Journal Series:

- **Sharh al'Tidah li'abi Aly al-Farisi**, edited by Abdul Rahman Al-Humaidi.



Periodicals

Al-Faisal Cultural House published Al-Faisal Magazine, which included the following issues:

- Issues 569-570
- Issues 571-572
- Issues 573-574
- Issues 575-576
- Issues 577-578
- Issues 579-580

Journal of Linguistic Studies:

- Volume 26, Issue 3
- Volume 26, Issue 4
- Volume 27, Issue 1



The Most Prominent Research Events

Highlights

The Al-Marwiyah Al'Arabiyyah Second Conference, themed "Desert Culture":

- The Al-Marwiyah Al'Arabiyyah Second Conference, themed "Desert Culture," took place in May 2024 with a specific emphasis on the contributions of Dr. Saad Al-Sowayyan. The opening ceremony took place at Princess Haya Bint Turki Hall in Al-Faisal University, Riyadh, with the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh Province. Opening remarks were given by His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Chair of the Board of Directors of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, and His Excellency Kunio Katakura, former Ambassador and President of the Motoko Katakura Foundation for Desert Culture.
- The conference featured a range of scientific workshops on desert culture, with over 60 researchers in attendance from Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, North Africa, Japan, and Europe.
- The goal of Al-Marwiyah Al'Arabiyyah is to showcase leadership and influence in humanitarian, cultural, and cognitive realms on local and global scales, as well as to create a sustainable framework for knowledge creation and the nurturing of national research talents. The Center organizes an annual conference centered on a key theme related to Al-Marwiyah Al'Arabiyyah.





The Middle East in a Changing World: Uncertainties, Risks, and Opportunities:

- On Sunday and Monday, the Center hosted a significant meeting titled “The Middle East in a Changing World: Uncertainties, Risks, and Opportunities,” in collaboration with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the Nizami Ganjavi Center (NGIC) on Dhu al-Qi’dah 11-12, 1445 AH (May 19-20, 2024). The meeting was graced by notable individuals such as His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Chair of the Board of Directors at KFCRIS; Her Excellency President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Co-Chair of the NGIC and former President of Latvia (1999-2007), His Excellency Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for the UNAOC and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations; His Excellency Eng. Waleed Al-Khereiji, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as a host of other dignitaries, including heads of state, prime ministers, ministers, current and former officials, and prominent figures from Saudi Arabia, the Arab world, and the international arena.
- During the meeting, attendees engaged in discussions on the changes in the global order and how these changes impact various geopolitical regions worldwide, with a special focus on the Middle East. Topics examined included the Arab-Palestinian-Israeli conflict, water security, maritime security, the challenges faced by states in the region, the rise of violent non-state actors, and the pressing need for international dialogue to foster better understanding and collaboration in addressing global geopolitical and economic challenges. Participants emphasized the importance of recognizing diverse cultural and religious backgrounds and stressed the need for reforming international institutions to improve their efficiency and inclusivity.

Highlights

Colloquium: An Anthropological Study on Desert Jurisprudence

- On Tuesday, Safar 23, 1446 AH (August 27, 2024), the Center organized a three-day colloquium titled “An Anthropological Study on Desert Jurisprudence.” During the event, Dr. Yahya Walad Al-Baraa, a Mauritanian researcher, thinker, jurist, and former professor of linguistics at the University of Nouakchott, presented an analysis of the book “Juman Al-Badia” by Mauritanian jurist Mohammed Al-Mami (d. 1282 AH). Dr. Al-Baraa focused on the anthropological aspects of this jurisprudential work, which dates back to the thirteenth century AH.

Panel Discussion: Arabic-Islamic Architecture

- On Sunday, Rajab 11, 1445 AH (January 23, 2024), KFCRIS hosted a panel discussion titled “Arabic-Islamic Architecture.” The keynote speakers were Dr. Diana Darke, an expert on Arabic-Islamic Architecture and author, and Dr. Nasser Rabbat, the Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Darke highlighted the historical impact of Arabic-Islamic architecture on European architectural styles, while Rabbat emphasized the significance of architecture as a custodian of traditional knowledge passed down through generations. A group of Saudi architects also participated in the panel discussion.





- Alongside the premier annual conference on Al-Marwīyah Al'Arabīyah, the King Faisal Center organized a range of events throughout 2024 to explore research subjects aligned with its core interests, spanning diverse levels of analysis. Here is a broad overview of these events:
- The KFCRIS conducted two colloquia focused on the works "Kitab Adab al-Dunya w'al-Din" (The Ethics of Religion and of This World) by al-Mawardi and "Kitab Juman al-Badiya" by Mohammed al-Mami. Organized by the Center, these colloquia are rigorous sessions led by distinguished professors from various scientific disciplines. The sessions delve into topics within the professors' areas of expertise and involve participation from a group of researchers. Spanning several days, the colloquium requires thorough preparation beforehand, active engagement during the sessions, and the writing of analytical commentaries on its content.
- In pursuit of the Center's mission to compile a series of edited scholarly books, six colloquia were held. A total of 87 authors, both from within and outside the Kingdom, attended and actively participated in these events, contributing to the chapters in the books. The primary goal of these colloquia is to create a cohesive and comprehensive academic publication that effectively achieves its intended objectives.
- The Center organized a series of in-person lectures on topics including "Translation Theory," "How Artificial Intelligence Can Benefit the Arabic Language?" and "An Overview of the US Elections," among others. The Center also held several virtual lectures covering topics such as "Facing the Challenges of ChatGPT in Translation Studies Beyond Cultural Transformation," "Rethinking Translating Cultures in 16th-Century Islamic Spain," "Arabic Documents and Manuscripts in Central Africa," "Classical, Vernacular, Dead, Living: Debates about Language Reform Between Chinese and Arabic," "Has the Arabian Peninsula been translated into Arabic?" and "What is Translation? Theory, Practice, Value."
- The Center hosted a series of workshops in collaboration with international organizations and researchers. These workshops covered topics such as "Saudi-Polish Relations," "Perspectives and Prospects for Cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Europe on Palestine and Ukraine Issues," "The Future of Arab-African Relations," "Desert Culture," "Arabic-Islamic Architecture," "The State of Culture Report," and "UNESCO Chairs: Partnerships for the Future of Knowledge."

In 2024, the Center organized a total of 24 research events, with 16 held in person and 8 conducted virtually.

Language	Type	In-person/ Virtual	Date	Title
Arabic	Panel Discussion (Invitation Only)	In-person	January 23	Arabic-Islamic Architecture
Arabic	Workshop (Invitation Only)	In-person	February 28	The Future of Arab-African Relations
Arabic	Lecture	Virtual	March 18	Arabic Documents and Manuscripts in Central Africa
Arabic	Conference	In-person	May 5	The Second Conference of Al-Marwīyah Al'Arabiyah, themed Desert Culture
Arabic	Workshop (Invitation Only)	In-person	May 6	Desert Culture
English	Workshop (Invitation Only)	In-person	May 7	Perspectives and Prospects for Cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Europe on Palestine and Ukraine Issues (jointly organized with German-Arab (Friendship Association
English	Lecture (Invitation Only)	Virtual	May 13	Facing the Challenges of ChatGPT in Translation Studies Beyond Cultural Transformation
English	High-Level Meeting	In-person	May 19-20	The Middle East in a Changing World: Uncertainties, Risks, and Opportunities ((in collaboration with UNAOC and NGIC
English	Panel Discussion	Virtual	May 23	Intellectual Connections between Jazirat al-'Arab and Jazirat al-Andalus
English	Lecture (Invitation Only)	Virtual	May 29	Rethinking Translating Cultures in 16th-Century Islamic Spain
Arabic	Panel Discussion	Virtual	July 1	The Spirituality of Arabic calligraphy in North Africa
English	Lecture	Virtual	July 16	Classical, Vernacular, Dead, Living: Debates about Language Reform Between Chinese and Arabic
Arabic	Colloquium	In-person	August 27-29	Anthropological Study in Desert Jurisprudence
Arabic	Lecture	In-person	September 11	Language Revival, Writing and Translation

Language	Type	In-person/ Virtual	Date	Title
English	Lecture	Virtual	September 18	Mongolia's Foreign Policy Amidst the Great Powers of Asia
English	Lecture	In-person	October 6	An Epochal Presidential Election: Harris and Trump Confront a Divided Nation (jointly organized with Alfaisal University)
Arabic	Lecture	In-person	October 9	Has the Arabian Peninsula been translated into Arabic? (Inquiries about translation and cultural representation)
English	Lecture	In-person	October 15	What is Translation? Theory, Practice, Value
Arabic	Panel Discussion (Invitation Only)	In-person	October 28	Discussing the Report on the State of Culture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2023
English	Lecture	In-person	November 12	Cosmopolitanism in Translation and Zones of Untranslatability
Arabic	Workshop (Invitation Only)	In-person	December 8	UNESCO Chairs: Partnerships for the Future of Knowledge (jointly organized with Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and UNESCO Regional Office in Doha)
English	Lecture	Virtual	December 11	Arabic Calligraphy in Central Africa: Palaeography, History, and Cultural Practices
English	Lecture	In-person	December 17	Ontological Multiplicity: Rethinking the Problem of Difference in Translation
Arabic	Panel Discussion	In-person	December 19	How Artificial Intelligence Can Benefit the Arabic Language? (In collaboration with Abdullah bin Idris Cultural Center)



Exhibitions

As part of its pioneering role in preserving and conserving heritage, the Center participates in numerous local and international exhibitions and events. These engagements aim to showcase cultural heritage, raise awareness of its importance, and present the Center's initiatives to preserve historical heritage while enhancing its role in building a sustainable future.

Prominent Exhibitions in 2024:

Takween: Sciences and Creativity Exhibition At House of Wisdom in Sharjah

- The Department of Museums and Private Collections at the King Faisal Center organized the loan and installation of an exhibition at the House of Wisdom in Sharjah. The Department team was responsible for preparing and setting up the exhibition, which was on display for three months, from December 6, 2023, to March 20, 2024.



Qatar University Book Fair

- The KFCRIS took part in the Qatar University Book Fair, which took place on January 28, 2024. The KFCRIS set up a special pavilion to introduce visitors to its role and work through a visual presentation showcasing its activities and accomplishments. Additionally, the Center featured its publications, which reflect its dedication to preserving and promoting cultural heritage.



Riyadh International Book Fair

- The Center took part in the Riyadh International Book Fair on September 26, 2024. The Center showcased its activities and major projects at its pavilion during the event. Additionally, it screened an introductory video about the Center and displayed a collection of publications that emphasize the preservation and awareness-raising of cultural heritage.



Dārat Āl Faiṣal (Faisal Family Archives)

Dārat Āl Faiṣal serves as the official and primary source for the history of King Faisal - may God have mercy on him - and his descendants. Its purpose is to collect all materials related to King Faisal and his descendants, encompassing documented, printed, photographed, visual, or audio content from both within and outside the Kingdom.

Prominent Works of Dārat Āl Faiṣal in 2024:

- A catalog of the information obtained from the containers at Dārat Āl Faiṣal, which catalog comprises diverse details about the Al Faisal family that have been indexed and digitized.
- Saving Dārat Āl Faiṣal images in the Museum Plus system.
- Serving researchers by addressing their inquiries and furnishing them with photos and information about the Al Faisal family through the Center's research services.
- Collecting materials related to the Al Faisal family from social media sites by searching for content about King Faisal and the Al Faisal family inaccessible within Dārat Āl Faiṣal.
- The Dārat Āl Faiṣal assets underwent sterilization. The newspapers stored in the archive were sterilized in collaboration with the Restoration Department.





King Faisal Center Library

Established in 1405 AH (1985), the King Faisal Center Library is renowned as one of the Kingdom's premier research libraries. It houses significant collections of humanities resources, many of which have been digitized. The Library's vast holdings encompass around 200,000 titles, over 32,000 university dissertations, more than 5,000 periodicals—primarily peer-reviewed—plus more than 20,000 audiovisual materials.



A Leading Role in Knowledge Dissemination: Insights from the Library's landscape

The statistics below depict the different projects accomplished in 2024:





Services for Researchers

Service



The library at the King Faisal Center houses general collections comprising books, periodicals, seminar papers, and university theses

Collections (Supply)

	2024		Total	
	Arabic	Latin	Arabic	Latin
Books	1833	347	150517	44162
Periodicals	210	25	2800	3069
Theses	2917	85	30546	1799
Total	5417		232893	

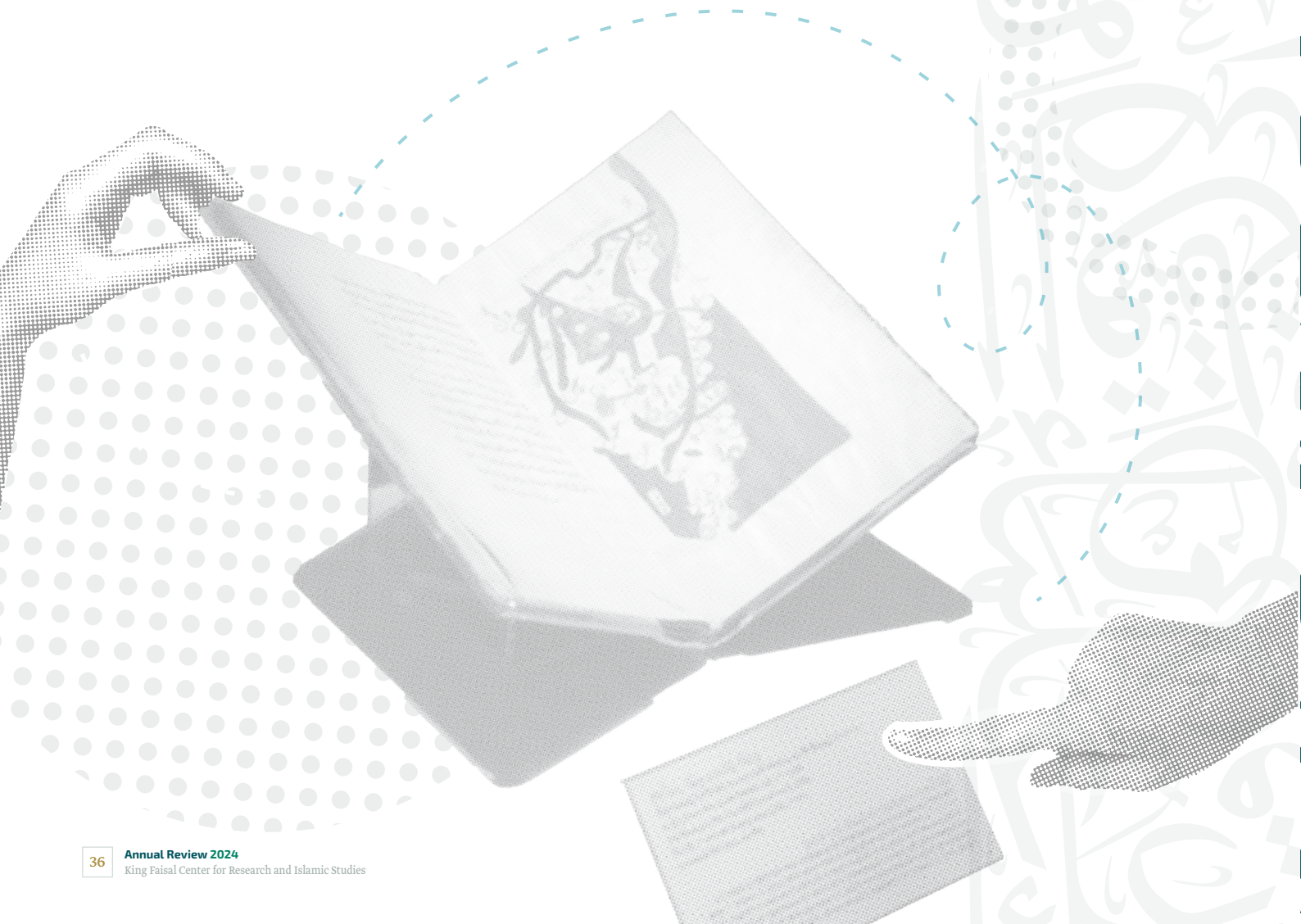
Indexing and Cataloging

	1445-1446 H		Total	
	Arabic	Latin	Arabic	Latin
Books	1833	347	150517	44162
Periodicals Articles	2647	3	494544	23488
Seminar Papers	-	-	59228	-
Theses	20342	85	206693	1799
Total	25257		980431	



Museum and Private Collections Department

The Department of Museums and Private Collections at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies oversees the private collections of tangible heritage by documenting, preserving, storing, and monitoring all storage areas. The department is responsible for authenticating and cataloging manuscripts, making them accessible to researchers, and documenting and cataloging oral heritage. Additionally, the department houses a restoration section for processing and restoring documents and manuscripts. It also coordinates both internal and external exhibitions and offers student training programs.





Saudi Memory Unit

The Saudi Memory Unit was established in 1438 AH (2017) to preserve and document the cultural, social, and artistic heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and study it from an anthropological perspective. This heritage, encompassing both tangible and intangible aspects, includes written, oral, and audio-visual forms. The Unit is responsible for managing Dr. Saad Al-Sowayyan's audio collection and library, which HRH Prince Mohammed bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud acquired and donated to the King Faisal Center. The KFCRIS officially launched the Unit in 2023 and began providing its services to researchers through the Center's website.



The Most Notable Works in 1445 AH (2024):

- The Saudi Memory Unit is responsible for transcribing the audio content from Dr. Saad Al-Sowayyan's collection to safeguard and document the oral heritage for researchers' access. This project involves manual transcription, electronic archiving, and reviewing the transcribed files.
- The Saudi Memory Unit developed an internal business model by creating an annual catalog to preserve and update its contents. They also completed work on community engagement plans by selecting content that resonated with the community, aiming to share and preserve oral history.
- The Saudi Memory Unit has uploaded over 9,500 images to the museum's archiving system and cataloged over 250 audio recordings.
- The Saudi Memory Unit has received the Franklin Collection, acquired by His Highness, the Chair of the Board of Directors, and efforts are ongoing to catalog and preserve it within the museum system.
- The Saudi Memory Unit contributed several audio recordings suitable for international events.

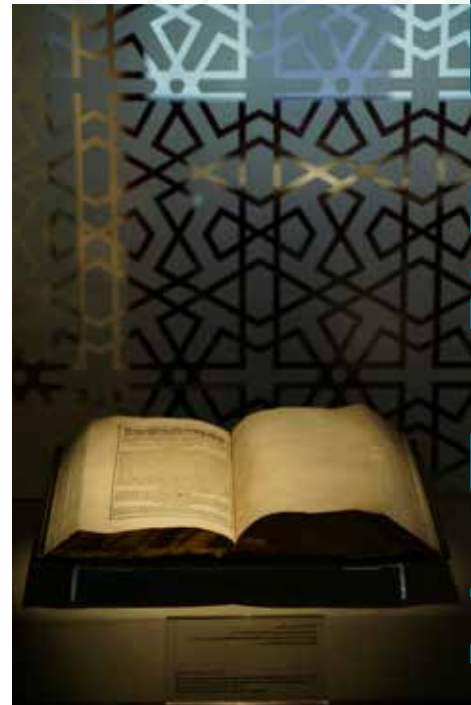
Manuscripts Section

The Manuscripts Section published an article in the African Follow-up publication, concentrating on the African Qur'an manuscripts housed at the Center. The Section also cataloged manuscripts related to the Prophetic Biography and those covering the principles of Islamic jurisprudence and jurisprudence rules.

Heritage Editing Unit

The Heritage Editing Unit released three books in 1445 AH (2024). Please refer to the Books and Periodicals section for more information.

- Moving manuscripts from temporary storage facilities to the new storage hall.
- Taking part in international observances such as World Teachers' Day, International Museum Day, and World Arabic Language Day by sharing manuscript content.
- Acquiring ten new manuscripts, including significant and rare works such as *Ihyā' 'ulūm al-dīn* by Al-Ghazali, *Maqāmāt* of al-Ḥarīrī, and *Ash-Shifa bi Ta'rīf Huquq al-Mustafa* by Abū al-Faḍl.
- Involvement in the printing and publishing of the translated book "Islamic Paper."
- Engagement in reviewing and publishing the book "Akhbar al-nisa."
- Establishment of the Manuscripts Advisory Committee to monitor activities and projects.



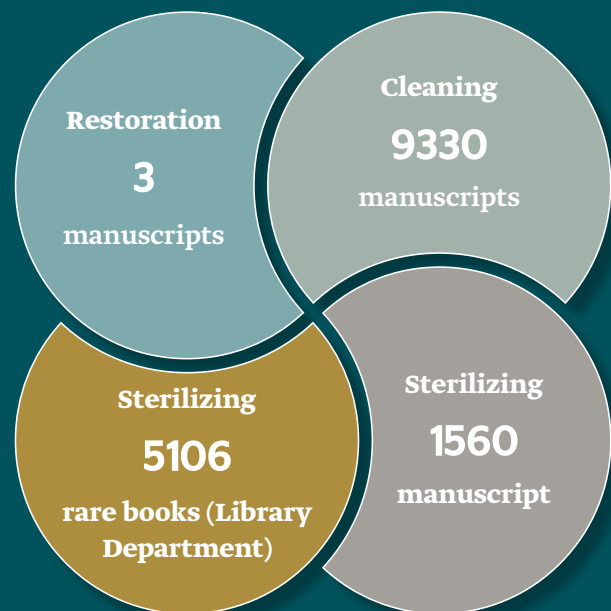


Restoration Section

In 1445 AH (2024), in conjunction with expanding storage facilities, the Center renovated the restoration laboratory to outfit it with top-of-the-line specifications and equipment for sterilizing and restoring manuscripts. The Center hired the restoration expert, Mr. Graham, from November 2 to July 3.

The restoration section assessed laboratory facilities, arranged the placement of manuscript vaults in the warehouse, and proposed strategies to enhance the conservation, preservation, and restoration of manuscripts and documents. Additionally, the Center developed the Al-Faisal Sterilization Device to augment the current equipment, aiming to increase the Center's sterilization capacity for manuscripts and rare books.

Accomplishments in Numbers:



Collections Section

The Collections Department is responsible for managing all procedures related to museum objects. This includes sterilization, labeling, photographic documentation, gathering historical information, coordination, classification, and digitization of museum records using the Museum Plus system. The department also ensures that objects are preserved and stored according to the highest standards in designated storage areas. Additionally, it coordinates and develops methods for displaying the objects in the museum.

Digital Archiving:

The archiving process includes gathering, digitizing, and categorizing all documents of museum objects, assigning numerical identifiers to historical materials per museum collections, and creating museum labels for the objects based on the international specifications and standards set by the International Council of Museums.

Statistics of Museum Plus System Inputs

Islamic Art Collection Archiving

585

objects have been logged in the Museum Plus system.

Queen Effat Collection Archiving

688

objects have been logged into the Museum Plus system.

Loan of Kalīla wa Dimna manuscript to Louvre Abu Dhabi

The loan involves inspecting and setting up the manuscript at the exhibition venue, spanning four months from Ramadan 16, 1445 AH, to Al-Muharram 15, 1446 AH (March 26, 2024, to July 21, 2024).





Labelling and Documentation

In a series of development initiatives for museum collections, over 380 objects from the King Faisal Memorial Collection were labeled and documented, along with photographic records.

Preservation and Storage

- Applying preservation techniques to 180 objects within the King Faisal Memorial Collection, utilizing custom-made boxes and acid-free foam padding to guarantee long-term safety during storage and transit.
- Thorough dry cleaning of over 110 objects within the King Faisal Memorial Collection was achieved.
- As part of the museum's warehouse expansion and improvement project to meet top specifications and safety standards, enhancements include installing an FM200 fire-extinguishing system, upgrading humidifiers for optimal humidity levels, and fitting self-regulating air conditioning units for temperature stability. Monitoring tools were activated for continual oversight. The third-floor space in the southern building was outfitted, and over 5,200 stored objects were relocated onto high-quality shelves resistant to rust and corrosion.

Museum Relations Section

The Most Notable Works in 1445 AH (2024):

- Developing the museum's identity by finalizing the visual identity guide and logo for the Al-Faisal Museum of Arabic Manuscripts.

Al-Faisal Museum of Arabic Manuscripts:

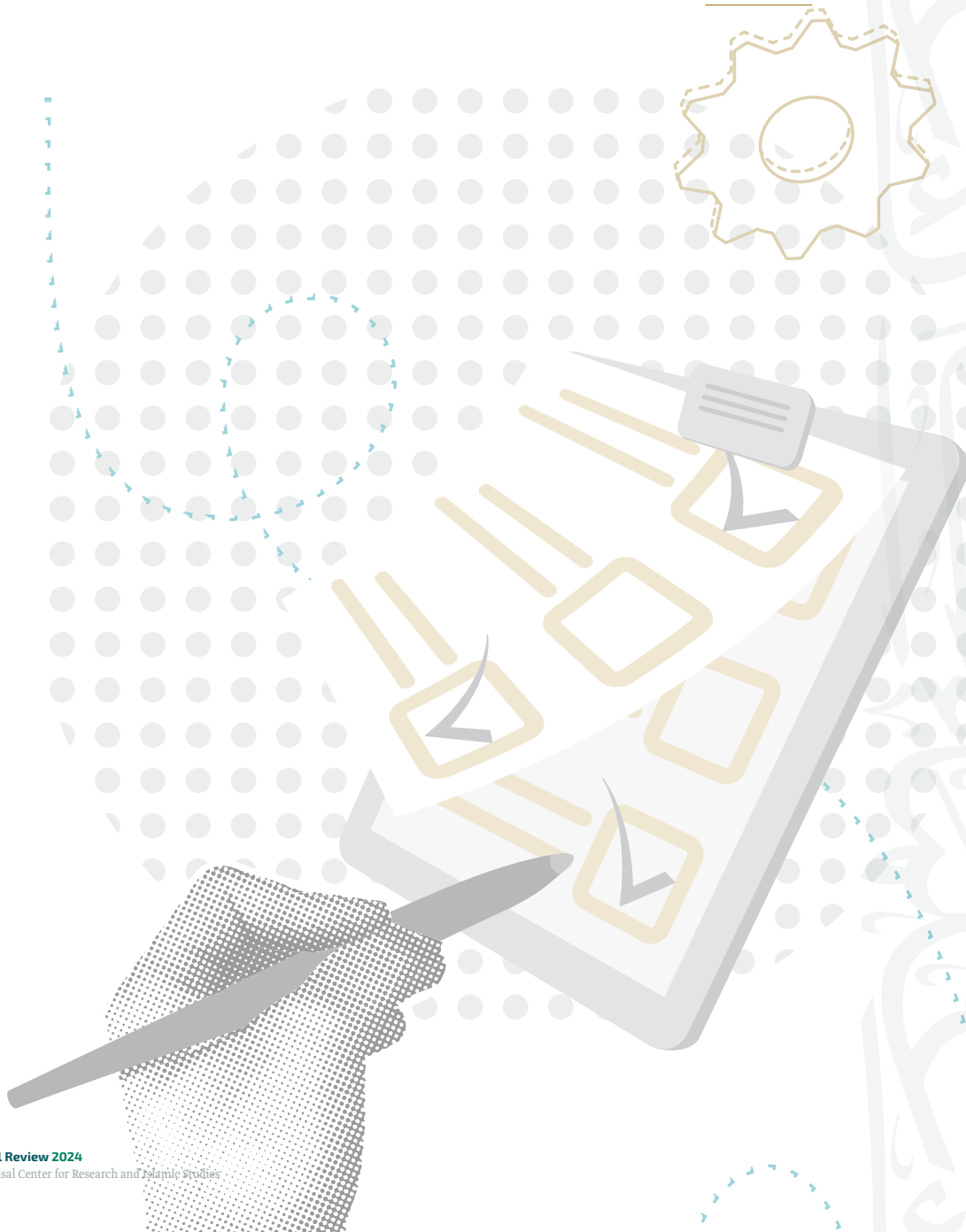
- To improve museum display techniques and enhance the visitor experience, KFCRIS has renovated the Asfār exhibition to present a fresh aesthetic by implementing various projects, such as reorganizing the exhibition layout and showcasing its precious and rare artifacts, which are regarded as treasures of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies.
- Composing and producing children's stories that embody the cultural and heritage values of the Center.
- Developing and writing two new books in the Children's Activity Books series: the first titled "Al-Jahiz Activity Book" and the second titled "Architecture the Mamluk Era." The goal is to enhance children's cultural awareness in a fun and educational way.



Administrative Support

Administrative and Financial Affairs Department

The Administrative and Financial Affairs Department provides comprehensive support for the Center's operations across administrative duties, financial matters, security protocols, maintenance services, and reception procedures.



The Most Accomplished Projects and Activities in 1445 AH (2024):



Alfaisal Institute for Human Resources Development:

As part of the Center's ongoing infrastructure enhancement initiatives, a comprehensive renovation project was carried out for the Alfaisal Institute for Human Resources Development. This year-long project included upgrading internal facilities and advancing the institute's technology to meet current industry standards. The goal of this project is to create a modern and cutting-edge environment suitable for training and educational endeavors, thereby improving the quality of services offered.

Rehabilitation of the Restoration section and the Manuscripts and Museum Artifacts Warehouse at the Museum and Private Collections Department:

Aligned with the Center's dedication to maintaining an optimal environment for storing manuscripts and artifacts according to international preservation and storage standards, the Restoration section and the warehouse for housing manuscripts and artifacts underwent rehabilitation. Furthermore, a fully equipped laboratory for manuscript restoration work was established.



ERP System

In 1445 AH, the Center approved the replacement of the accounting system to better align with its current needs and those of the external market. It trained its staff on both the old and new systems to ensure the accurate functioning of the new system and its compatibility with the old one. The new system was implemented in 1446 AH, resulting in the discontinuation of the old system. It includes the General Accounting Program, Purchasing, Inventory, Human Resources, Customer Relations, Supplier Management, and Fixed Assets modules, which streamline usage and financial report generation.



Correspondence Management and E-archiving System

Archiving incoming and outgoing letters, correspondence, and internal documents while storing the information in a system that streamlines storage and retrieval processes is crucial. Consequently, the Center contracted to implement the E-archiving and correspondence system, which became operational on Shawwal 19, 1445 AH.

Project Management

The Project Management team oversees ongoing projects at the Center, serves as the primary liaison for external stakeholders concerning joint projects, submits necessary reports, and ensures that project deliverables meet beneficiaries' satisfaction in terms of quality. Additionally, the project management team formulates plans based on the strategic decisions made by the Center's Board of Directors, conducts periodic reviews and assessments considering new developments, as well as internal and external factors, and monitors the implementation of these plans to achieve the intended objectives.

Human Resources Department

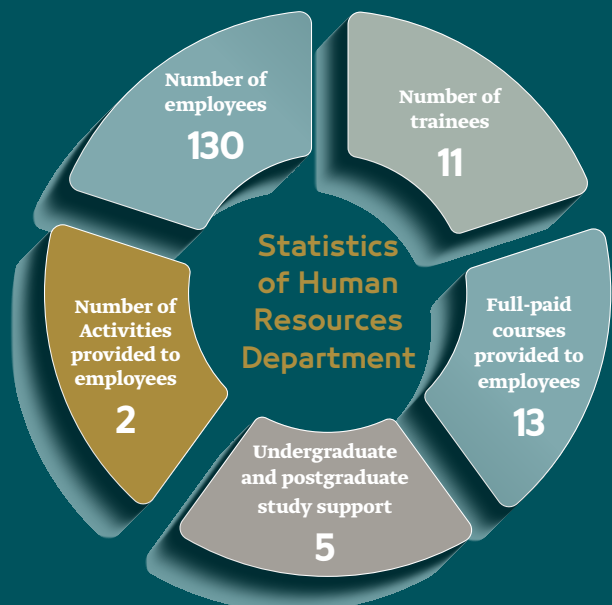
In 1445 AH (2024), there was a significant emphasis on enhancing human competencies and skills while improving operational efficiency through digital transformation. The Human Resources Department intended to improve the work environment by providing specialized training programs and workshops, as well as introducing innovative systems.





Notably:

- In collaboration with the British Council, the Center organized training courses to improve employees' English language skills, accommodating various levels to meet their diverse needs.
- All Center employees participated in a three-day workshop titled "Change Management in Nonprofit Organizations" to improve their capacity to navigate challenges and promote institutional sustainability.
- The Center has implemented the Proactive System, a comprehensive human resources automation solution that integrates a database of employee information, benefits, and documents. It also includes an employee services platform for managing and tracking employee requests and seamlessly generating necessary reports.



Institutional Communication Department

The Institutional Communications Department is crucial in effectively managing the Center's internal and external communications. They focus on nurturing the Center's institutional reputation with relevant stakeholders and the general audience. Additionally, they handle strategic partnerships and develop procedures to enhance communication both within the Center and with external partners. The team is responsible for organizing and overseeing meetings, events, conferences, colloquia, and exhibitions hosted by the Center. They also manage internal and external activities, offer logistical support for delegations and visits, and collaborate with local and international media outlets to ensure coverage of the Center's events. This involves documenting and archiving activities, creating news reports, and generating related reports. The department also tackles marketing initiatives and participates in various international book fairs.

The Most Notable Works in 1445 AH (2024):

- ▶ In-person events - 34
- ▶ Virtual events - 9
- ▶ Internal events dedicated to the Center's affiliates - 8
- ▶ X posts - +500
- ▶ Instagram posts - +100
- ▶ LinkedIn posts - +100
- ▶ YouTube videos - +10
- ▶ The UNESCO Chair Official Account - +30



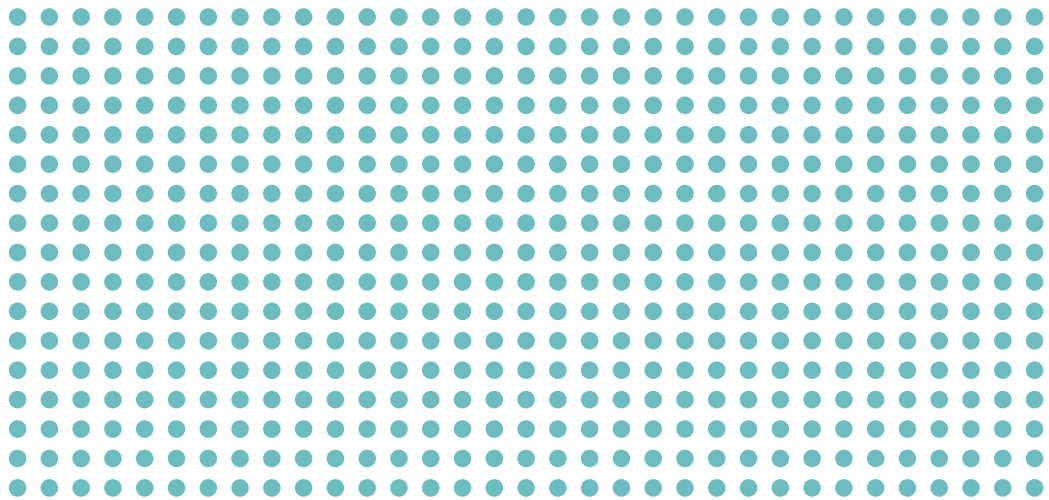
Information Technology

The Information Technology team is responsible for maintaining a secure information system that adheres to modern electronic system standards and delivers high-quality electronic services. They focus on implementing technical solutions to enhance performance and facilitate efficient communication, such as linking the Center's departments through an advanced local network. Over the years, the Center has established various partnerships with external organizations to enhance its information technology infrastructure, encompassing internal and external systems. This collaboration leverages cutting-edge technologies to align with the Center's strategic objectives and long-term plans.

Institutional Excellence Unit

To advance the Center's development initiatives, the Institutional Excellence Unit was founded on Al-Muharram 4, 1446 AH (July 10, 2024) within the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. Under the leadership of Her Highness, the Secretary-General, the unit is dedicated to bolstering growth strategies and improving administrative efficiency to foster excellence and longevity in all activities. It conducts performance assessments, oversees strategy implementation, advocates for principles of effective administrative governance, and ensures alignment with the Center's goals, quality standards, and operational efficiency. Furthermore, the unit is responsible for preparing regular and annual reports.





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