Melcom International’s conference in 1994

The Electric Mystic’s Guide

A Survey of Relevant Newsletters

Introduction

This Newsletter #2 of Melcom International is distributed at the 15th conference, held in Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham. Members of Melcom International and interested librarians who were unable to attend the conference will receive this Newsletter in the mail in the course of April 1993. A report of the Birmingham conference will be published in Newsletter #3.

Large part of the present Newsletter is occupied by an introduction to networking and an impression of its possibilities for Islamic studies, which was taken from volume 1 of the Electric Mystic’s Guide by Michael Strangelove (Religious Studies Department, University of Ottawa). This was done, firstly, because of its informative value, but also to give Melcom’s members a taste of the range of electronic publishing and retrieving via the academic networks. It is a fast growing area of interest and librarians should be particularly aware of its possibilities. When this Newsletter went to press, volume 3 of the Electric Mystic’s Guide had appeared and is now available on the network. It may be of interest for the reader to know that, before long, Melcom International’s Newsletter will be made available to networkers through one of Leiden University’s file servers.

The other feature in this Newsletter, and also a try-out, is a proposal for a survey of relevant Newsletters. It is intended to publish an annotated survey about Newsletters which treat aspects of the Middle East. Although networking seems to quickly sound the death knell of the conventional newsletter, the latter will no doubt continue to be published for quite a while. It is proposed that this segment of periodic grey literature is covered by Melcom International’s Newsletter, at least in the next few numbers in order to see whether this is a feasible undertaking. Editors of Newsletters are invited to send their publications on a regular basis to the editor of this Newsletter for inclusion in the survey. Members of Melcom International and other interested librarians are invited to draw the attention of the editors of this Newsletter to the existence of other publications which fall into this category.

The previous Newsletter was filled entirely by the editors, and this one derives its volume for the greater part from a downloaded file. However, the readers should also help to keep the Newsletter alive. Therefore they are invited to contribute to the Newsletter by sending articles, surveys, statistics, and the like on their own library activities or on projects elsewhere which have come to their knowledge.

Melcom International’s conference in 1994

Melcom International’s members are cordially invited to participate in the 16th conference which will be held in Copenhagen from 16-18 May 1994. The venue is being organized by Dr. Stig Rasmussen of the Royal Library in Copenhagen. More details will follow in the next Newsletter.

The Electric Mystic’s Guide

Melcom International’s Newsletter has downloaded relevant parts (the introduction and chapter 12 on Islamic studies) of Michael Strangelove’s
electronic bibliography. These are printed here-under by special permission of the author.

The Electric Mystic's Guide to the Internet, A Complete Bibliography of Networked Electronic Documents Online Conferences, Serials, Software and Archives Relevant to Religious Studies. VOLUME ONE of THREE VOLUMES (Low Ascii Version 1.0) October 1992, by Michael Strange-love, University of Ottawa, Department of Religious Studies. Copyright (C) 1992 by Michael Strange-love. All rights reserved. This bibliography may be archived for public use in electronic or other media, as long as it is maintained in its entirety and no fee is charged to the user; any exception to this restriction requires the written consent of the author.

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This bibliography was made possible through the support of the Research Centre for the Study of Religion, Department of Religious Studies, University of Ottawa, and through funding from the American Academy of Religion.

HOW TO OBTAIN A COPY:
This bibliography is freely available via the international academic networks (BITNET/Internet) from the CONTENTS Project fileserver via FTP from the node pandal1.uottawa.ca (137.122.6.16) in the directory /pub/religion/ as the file electric-mystics-guide-v1.ps (postscript file) and as the file electric-mystics-guide-v1.zip (zipped Wordperfect 5.1 text) and as the file electric-mystics-guide-v1.txt (low ascii text). It is also available as a low ascii file via the CONTENTS Project Listserv fileserver as MYSTICS V1-TXT from Listserv@uottawa or Listserv@acadvm1.uottawa.ca. See the section Retrieving Documents via FTP, (page 6) for retrieval instructions. Volumes Two and Three are not yet available.

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[Note that the Index of Document Titles and the Index of Authors is not included in the low ascii version of the Electric Mystic's Guide.]

* Introduction *

The Electric Mystic's Guide is a non-technical survey of all major documents, archives and services of relevance to religious studies and related fields that are available through the international, academic computer networks commonly referred to as the Net (BITNET, Internet and affiliated networks). This includes networked papers,
reviews, book notes, dissertations, major sacred texts, software programs, electronic mail address collections, general information files, data banks, electronic journals, newsletters, online discussion groups, specialized commercial and public networks, and relevant networked organizations, associations, institutions and companies. It should be noted that the Electric Mystic's Guide is not meant to be a handbook on how to use the Net, and thus assumes a certain level of familiarity with FTP, Telnet, Listserv and other Net operating programs. Users' hits and tips have been included throughout the Guide.

It is interesting to note that the majority of the approximately 200 files documented herein have been placed on the Net in the last twenty-four months. This would suggest that the end of this decade will see well over two thousand networked documents relevant to religious studies. The number of religious studies and related scholars presently online is unknown but certainly exceeds ten thousand. No comprehensive electronic mail address book for religious studies exists at this point in time. We can look forward to a proliferation of specialized archives over the next few years. At present, I am aware of Aboriginal, Buddhism, Early Christianity and Judaism, Jewish, and Social Sciences networked archives (see Table of Contents, Volume Two). Electronic mail addresses given within this Guide are in BITNET and Internet format, unless otherwise stated. Login to FTP nodes listed herein as anonymous with your e-mail address as the password unless otherwise stated. All other aspects of this Guide are system neutral. Travellers on the Net should note that there are many versions of Telnet and FTP software and a variety of login procedures. Most systems will offer some form of help if you enter the command HELP or ?.

The Electric Mystic's Guide was previously written as one complete document but has been divided into three volumes, due to its growing size and technical restrictions on the size of network accessible manuscripts. The Guide has the following format: Volume One documents a wide variety of over 200 networked files of direct and indirect relevance to religious studies and related fields. The selection of material was based on the scholarly nature of the documents or their significance as general information files. No attempt has been made to document every file related to religion on the Net, due to the transient nature, and questionable academic value of some of the material that has been placed on network file servers. If a document has been overlooked that the reader feels should be listed in the Electric Mystic's Guide, please contact the author with details of its content and location. Volume One also has extensive information on how to retrieve documents listed in this Guide, how to use Listserv and FTP, and how to search Listserv logbooks. Volume Two provides detailed information on networked document archives of interest to the religious studies field. Volume Three provides information on relevant networked organizations, online academic conferences, journals and newsletters, and commercial religious studies related networks and various other animals to be found within the emerging Electric Gaia. Volume Three also features a glossary of terms and a glossary of commands.

Each volume has an index of document titles. Volume One also includes an index of authors and an index of author's electronic mail addresses. The low ascii versions of the Electric Mystic's Guide do not contain these indexes.

NOTE: Volumes Two and Three have not yet been made available on the Net.

A Note to New Networkers

It is impossible for this guide to tell you everything that you will need to know about using the Net. It is therefore strongly recommended that the new networker begin by identifying local support personnel and make friends with them (take them out to dinner, buy them a large gift), take a course or two in the use of electronic mail and related stuff and subscribe, as soon as you know how, to the online forum, HELP-NET. Send the e-mail message SUBSCRIBE HELP-NET your name to LISTSERV@TEMPLEVM. HELP-NET is intended for the new user and is the best online forum for asking questions about how to use the Net and find information within it. An index is available that lists very helpful information files available from the HELP-NET file server. Send the command INDEX HELP-NET to LISTSERV@TEMPLEVM for the index of files.

The Electric Mystic's Guide assumes that the reader has a basic grasp of electronic mail (e-mail) and is able to send mail on his or her own local network.
system. It also assumes that the reader has already installed a modem and knows how to use their own personal computer and communication software. The numerous types of mainframe systems and communication software make it impossible for the Guide to give details on how to download (or upload) a file or program from a mainframe to a personal computer. The author is presently writing a general guide to the Internet for Van Nostrand Reinhold Press (forthcoming, 1993). The Electric Mystic’s Guide will eventually be thoroughly cross-referenced to the VNR Guide to the Internet so that new users may quickly find more information on how to use the Net.

WARNING: I cannot possibly answer every query from readers concerning how to use e-mail, upload files, install a modem, unzip a file or overcome unrequited love. The main intention behind this Guide is not to instruct the reader on how to overcome every unforeseeable problem but to equip the reader with basic resources, direct to appropriate online forums, and engender skills that will help the new networker become proficient at mining the Net. I will gladly answer queries concerning errors and problems within the Electric Mystic’s Guide. Inappropriate queries will receive a pre-written reply that directs the reader to more appropriate online sources of instruction and information.

* The Networks Covered in this Guide *

The following are the main networks that are documented in this Guide. To make effective use of this Guide, you should know what network your e-mail account is on. New users of the Net are advised to take local courses on the use of their network’s systems. Note that some sites have both BITNET, Internet and USENET connections. It is up to your local system administration if USENET newsgroups are made available in part or whole. Readers interested in further details about these and other networks are encouraged to read John S. Quarterman’s The Matrix: Computer Networks and Conferencing Systems Worldwide (Bedford, Massachusetts: Digital Press, 1990, ISBN: 1-55558-033-5).

BITNET
BITNET (Because It’s Time NETwork) connects over three thousand hosts in over 32 countries. BITNET’s main feature is the automatic mailing program called Listserv. Listserv file servers maintain archives of primarily low ASCII documents and also runs Listserv discussion groups, also known as lists. BITNET does not support FTP or Telnet. BITNET is connected to identical networks in Canada and Europe named NetNorth and Earn.

Internet
The Internet is actually a worldwide internetwork, a large collection of over 400 networks across the globe. The Internet is so large that its size can only be estimated. Current numbers put the Internet at over 500,000 hosts and over one million users. Most North American Universities are connected via the Internet. Users on Internet can access FTP and Listserv file servers and also use Telnet. Most Internet sites will have access to USENET newsgroups.

USENET
USENET (User’s Network) is a worldwide network that has one main service, news or newsgroups, a collection of over 300 different online discussion groups. See the section, USENET - General Information, Volume Three for more information about USENET.

Denominational Networks
There are a number of denominational networks throughout North America. These networks connect church related organizations and church members. The denominational networks documented thus far in this guide are those belonging to EcuNet. See Volume Three for information on EcuNet.

Commercial Networks
Religious studies related resources that exist on the commercial networks have been documented in Volume Three. * Not yet written.

Retrieving Documents via LISTSERV

* How to Retrieve Documents Listed in This Guide *

The following describes how to retrieve from Listserv and FTP archives listed in the Electric Mystic’s One way to think of the Net is to imagine a giant hard drive that contains countless files in thousands of directories. Listserv and FTP are the two programs for retrieving files from this global hard Retrieving Documents via LISTSERV.

Listserv is the automated system that runs on the BITNET network. Listserv runs BITNET based discussion groups called lists and also maintains fileservers that store documents and some pro-
programs. This Guide documents all Listserv based lists and documents that are of direct interest to religious studies and related areas.

Whenever you send a mail message to an address that starts with Listserv@ you are actually sending a command to a computer program, not to a person. You can always get help from listserv by sending the command HELP. This Guide has instructions on using Listserv in the sections:

- Retrieving Documents via Listserv. (this section)
- Using BITFTP. (page 8)
- Searching Listserv Logbooks. (page 8)
- How To Make the Most of Online Discussion Groups (Volume Three)
- Directories of Listserv Lists (Volume Three)
- How To Subscribe to Online Discussion Groups. (Volume Three)
- Retrieving Logbooks. (Volume Three)
- BITNET and Internet Religious Studies Related Lists (Volume Three)

Users that are not on the Internet will not be able to make direct use of FTP. These users should see the section, Using BITFTP, page 8.

To retrieve a document from a Listserv fileserver you need to know the address of the listserv fileserver's address and the document name. A listserv fileserver address will always look like this:

(Bitnet Address) (Internet Address)
listserv@xxx or listserv@xxx.xxx.xxx
listserv@uottawa or listserv@acadvm1.uottawa.ca

The "@" means "at" and on some systems you must write the address like this:
listserv at uottawa or listserv at acadvm1.uottawa.ca

Note that you can tell a BITNET address from an Internet address by how many sections follow the @. A BITNET address will only have one section, as in @uottawa whereas an Internet address will always have two or more sections separated by periods, as in @acadvm1.uottawa.ca.

This is important to remember because if you are on Internet you must use Internet style addresses. Some Internet based systems will only allow you to use Internet addresses, some will allow for both types of addresses. The Electric Mystic's Guide gives both Internet and Bitnet addresses for Listserv fileservers whenever possible.

Files on Listserv fileservers will always have two parts to their name, usually referred to as file- and name filetype. Both parts are never more than eight characters long.

In the Electric Mystic's Guide, files on Listserv file-servers are usually referred to like this:

Kraft, Robert A. Philo and the Sabbath Crisis: Alexandrian Jewish Politics and the Dating of Philo's Works. (Version 2, 1990). Available from IOUDAIOIS, Listserv@Yorkvm1 or Listserv@vm1.yorku.ca as SABBATH ARTICLE.

The author's name is given first, then the full title of the file, date of electronic publication, name of the online academic conference (list) that has archived the file (here it is IOUDAIOIS), and then the address of the Listserv fileserver, here given as Listserv@Yorkvm1 (BITNET) or Listserv@vm1.yorku.ca (Internet). The Listserv file here is SABBATH ARTICLE. The name of a Listserv file in this Guide is always written in capital letters. This is done simply to distinguish them from FTP file names, which are always case sensitive.

Listserv is not case sensitive so they may be typed in lower or upper case letters.

There are two ways in which to retrieve a document from a Listserv fileserver, once you know the address and file name. You can send an e-mail message directly to a fileserver (leave the subject line blank and turn off any automatic signature files). To retrieve the above file, for example, send an e-mail message to Listserv@Yorkvm1 (BITNET) or Listserv@vm1.yorku.ca (Internet) with a single line saying:

GET SABBATH ARTICLE

If your system has interactive messaging capability (most BITNET systems do, most Internet systems do not), you can send the GET command like this:

TELL LISTSERV AT YORKVM1 GET SABBATH ARTICLE

Some systems will send a file retrieved from Listserv directly to your filelist or account directory. Other systems will send you a message when the file has arrived. The file may arrive in a few minutes or a few hours, depending on the size of the file and the time of day. If you are on a VAX/VMS machine, enter the command RECE * to move the file into your account directory or filelist. Then enter TYPE SABBATH ARTICLE to read the file. If you are using an IBM VM/CM system, type RDRL or READERLIST and use the RECEIVE command to move the file into your
account filelist. The file can then be read by entering XEDIT SABBATH ARTICLE at the Ready; prompt.

If you require further help in retrieving Listserv files please contact your local computing services or retrieve the following help files: LISTSERV MEMO from Listserv@bitnic and BITNET USERHELP from Listserv@marist and LISTSERV BASICS from the HELP-NET Listserv fileserver at Listserv@tempelvm. These are very helpful and informative introductory files. Another useful document that explains BITNET and Listserv is file HOSTINFO NOTES from Listserv@jhuvm or Listserv@jhuvm.hcf.jhu.edu. This document contains a bibliography of other useful references. These documents may also be available at your own site.

Please note that the Electric Mystic’s Guide is not meant to tell you how to use your local mailing system. There are simply too many different systems and different sets of commands. This is why it is important for the new networker to take local courses in electronic mail and obtain e-mail manuals intended for local users. These steps will save you considerable time and frustration.

Retrieving Documents via FTP

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is what those who have access to the Internet use to transfer files from one computer to another. FTP can retrieve an electronic copy of the entire Bible from the other side of the globe in a matter of minutes. On the Internet there are hundreds of thousands of files and programs that reside on FTP file servers. To FTP a file or a program from a fileserver you need to know the domain name of the system from which you want to transfer a file. You also need to know the directory that the file is in and the name of the file. In this Guide a domain name is referred to as a node. Wherever possible, nodes have been given in numbers and letters, as some systems prefer one or the other. Using FTP is referred to as a session.

It is important that your FTP sessions be restricted to after the normal business hours of the site that you are FTPping to (if you are able to determine where that site actually is located). This is done to reduce the load on FTP sites during peak local times. Failure to observe this FTP etiquette has resulted in FTP access to certain sites being discontinued, due to heavy use at the wrong time of day. Remember that local business hours of a distant site may be different from your own clock, due to different time zones.

* Using FTP *

FTP sessions have three basic stages, connecting to a remote host (computer), changing to the desired directory and retrieving files. Note that FTP software varies slightly throughout the Net. If the following instructions prove unhelpful, enter the command HELP or ? for more information once you have started your FTP session. This Guide cannot give precise details on how to start your FTP session, due to the wide variation in systems throughout the Net. Remember to consult local system manuals and support staff if more direction is needed.

When a file is available via FTP the Electric Mystic’s Guide will give the full name of the file, its node address, the directory the file is found in and the name of the FTP file itself. The following example provides information on the electronic text of the Bible.

The Bible (King James Version). Available from the Project Gutenberg archives via FTP from the node mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu (128.174.201.12) in the directory /etext/etext92/ as bible10.zip and bible10.txt

The node address is mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu (128.174.201.12). Both the letter address and number address is given, as some systems prefer one or the other.

The directory is /etext/etext92/. Note that unlike the backslash "\" used by MSDOS, FTP uses a frontslash "/", familiar to those who use UNIX.

The file names are bible10.zip and bible10.txt. With these pieces of information a user may then retrieve the file to his or her own local e-mail account.

* Connecting to a Host (Node) *

A host generally refers to any computer that can be accessed from either a local terminal or a remote computer. Hosts are also referred to as network servers or mainframes. A host will have one or more network addresses called nodes. Nodes are how computers on the Net tell each other where they are located and how to find them. Node addresses take the form of a series of
either letters or numbers, separated by periods, such as mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu or (128.174.201.12). Note that the brackets ( ) are not part of the node address. Think of a host like a store and the node as the store address.

Various Common FTP Commands and Their Use

CD .. will move you one sub-directory up the directory chain.

GET file.name will retrieve a file into your local e-mail account.

MGET *.* will retrieve all of the files in the current directory into your e-mail account. Use this command with caution as it may result in exceeding your available account disk space.

binary will switch your session to binary mode. Use this command before retrieving binary programs, zipped files (.zip), or compressed files (.Z).

LS will list all files in the current directory.

For more information on how to use FTP, retrieve the files FTP PRIMER and FTP SAMPLE from the HELP-NET Listserv fileserver at Listserv@templevm. See also the document Lists of Internet Sites Accepting Anonymous FTP (Jon Granrose, 1991) available as the file ftp.list via FTP from the node pilot.njin.net in the directory /pub/ftp-list/. Also available by sending the e-mail message GET FTP LIST with the subject of LISTSERV-REQUEST to odin@pilot.njin.net. For more information on how to FTP binary files, retrieve the file Getting Binaries via FTP (Brian O'Neill, 1991), via FTP to the node hydra.uwo.ca in the directory /libsoft/ as the file binaries_fpt.txt. For information on compression formats (zip, compress, arc, and so on), retrieve the file Guide to File Compression, Archiving and Test Binary Formats (David Lemson, 1991), via FTP to the node ftp.cso.uiuc.edu (128.174.55.59) in the directory /doc/pcnet/ as the file compression.

* Uncompressing UNIX Compressed (.Z) Files on Macintosh

UNIX compressed (.Z) files can be uncompressed with the decompression program called MacCompress 3.2. Note that the Apple laser printer, LaserWriter Utility, can print Postscript files that have been uncompress with MacCompress 3.2.

Using BITFTP

* BITFTP -- Princeton BITNET FTP Server BITFTP provides a mail interface that allows BITNET/NetNorth/EARN users to FTP files from sites on the Internet. For complete instructions on how use BITFTP, send the e-mail command HELP to BITFTP@PUCC or BITFTP@PUCC.Princeton.edu.

Searching Listserv Logbooks

Listserv list logbooks (records of past conversations and postings) can be searched remotely by sending commands as e-mail messages to a list's database of logbooks. An information file that explains how to do this is available by sending the command GET LISTDB MEMO to any Listserv address (for example, to Listserv@uottawa or Listserv@acadvm1.uottawa.ca). Charles W. Bailey Jr., has written a simplified explanation of how to search Listserv logbooks. This document may be retrieved as the file pacs1_dbms.txt via FTP from the node hydra.uwo.ca in the directory /libsoft/.

* A Note to Moderators, Authors and Maintainers of Networked Documents *

I suggest that to facilitate networked research, listowners, FTP archive maintainers and authors inform me when a new document of relevance to Religious Studies is placed on a fileserver. This cooperation will ensure that I am able to maintain an updated bibliography for the research community.

It is also recommended that all listowners allow for anonymous (non-list member) access to their Listserv filelists. Researchers should not have to become a member of a discussion group to retrieve archived documents of general interest.

Networked texts should be made available via both FTP and Listserv, so as to ensure that all systems have access to the archived material. Whenever possible, texts that have been zipped or compressed should also be available as a straight low ascii file. Many network users are unable to either unzip (.zip) or uncompress (.Z) files, and many sites do not have FTP capability. Archives should provide an non-profit service that will mail networked files on a diskette to
users without full access. These recommendations will ensure that the Net is as user-friendly as possible.

Finally, I also recommend that the following information be placed on each electronic file to facilitate citation and retrieval:

Listserv Filename
Location (Listserv Address)
FTP Filename
FTP Location (including directory)
Author's Address
Date of Publication (electronic or otherwise)

[End of introductory paragraphs of Michael Strangelove's Guide. Follows Chapter 12 of Volume 1 on Islamic Studies.]

* 12. Islamic Studies *

* Islamic Computer Resource Guide
The Islamic Computer Resource Guide, by Basil Hashim (hashem@usc.edu), documents bulletin board systems, software, FTP archives, and network resources such as online academic conferences and newsgroups related to Islamic topics. All information pertaining to networked resources has been covered in the Electric Mystic's Guide. The Islamic Computer Resource Guide is available via FTP from the node cs.bu.edu in the directory /pub/amass/ as the file islanguide.text.

* The Islamic School
An Islamic subject area at the Cleveland Free-Net Community Computer System. Provides introductory information on Islam. This archive includes an online Koran and hadith.
Access: Telnet to hela.ins.cwru.edu (129.22.8.38) You will then be asked whether you are a registered user or a visitor. Select (2) Visitor then select 2 Explore the System. Upon being presented with the main menu (Cleveland Free-Net Directory), type go islam. Note that you will not see go islam as a menu choice. You will then be presented with the following menu:

1 About the Islamic School
2 The Essentials of Islam
3 The Holy Qur'an
4 The Holy Prophet of Islam and Sunnah
5 Frequently Asked Questions

6 Questions and Answers
7 The Bulletin Board (moderated)
8 Directory Services

* American Arab Scientific Society (AMASS) Software Library
The AMASS Software Library archives software and documents for Arab communities throughout the globe. The archive is provided courtesy of the American Arab Scientific Society, Boston Chapter and supported by Boston University, Computer Sciences Department. The current librarian is Abdelsalam Heddaya (heddaya@cs.bu.edu). An index of the American Arab Scientific Society Software Library is available via FTP from the node cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as INDEX. Note: Please send Abdelsalam Heddaya (heddaya@cs.bu.edu) an e-mail message every time you use this software library, or if you wish to place software or documents in it.

Contents of the AMASS Software Library
Arabic Extension to LaTeX (1992). Handles transliteration and diacritics. Installation instructions and manual included. Created by Klaus Lagally (lagally@informatik.uni-stuttgart.de). The latest version is always available via FTP from ifi.informatik.uni-stuttgart.de (129.69.211.1) in the directory /pub/arabtex/ as a variety of files. This system and an installation manual is also available via FTP from snake.mcs.kent.edu (131.123.2.222) in the directory /arabtext/ as a variety of files. The snake collection is not necessarily up to date.

Calendar Calculation Program (Common Lisp) (1992).
Common Lisp program that calculates the Hijri, Hebrew, Gregorian and Julian calendars (does not include the Coptic calendar). Created by Nachum Dershowitz and Edward M. Reingold (reingold@cs.uiuc.edu). Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as calendrical.l

Information about crescent sighting for "1ramaDaan 1412" and information on the subject of crescent sightings. Created by Mohibullah N. Durrani. Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as crescent.text
Muslim Prayer Schedules.
Muslim prayer schedules in TeX format, produced by Minaret 1.3. (This file has been compressed, therefore use the binary mode when FTPping). Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as prayer-scheds

Prayer Timing (C Language).
A prayer time calculation C language computer program that calculates prayer times given selected parameters and typesets the results in TeX. This program is based on Minaret 1.3 and can operate in batch mode. This program is in source code and must be installed through the use of a C compiler. Created by Kamal Abdali (abdali@dewey.udel.edu). Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as praytimer and praytimer.tar.Z. Also available via Listserv from Listserv@ASUACAD.bitnet or Listserv@asuacad as MUSLIMS PRAYER-C

Prayer Timing (FORTRAN Language).
A prayer time calculation FORTRAN language computer program that calculates prayer times and moon sighting data given selected parameters. This program is based on Minaret 1.3. Available from lago.Caltech.Edu in the directory ??? as ??? Also available via Listserv from Listserv@ASUACAD.bitnet or Listserv@asuacad as MUSLIMS PRAYER-F

Prayer Timing -- Minaret 1.3.
A menu-driven program to calculate prayer times for many cities in the world. New cities can be added by providing location and timing data. Shows the direction of the Qibla, and various data related to the Hijri calendar (date conversion). Produces text and TeX output of prayer schedules. Created by Kamal Abdali (abdali@dewey.udel.edu). This program runs on Macintosh Plus or later models. Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as minaret-13.sit.hqx

Heddaya with contributions from Walid Hamdy and M. Hashem.

Sherif.
Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as qalam.text

Muslim Hymn (Takbyr).
The arabic text of the hymn chanted by Muslims in the morning prayers of the two major feasts of Islam. This document is in both arabic script and in transliteration. Available via FTP from cs.bu.edu (128.197.2.1) in the directory /pub/amass/ as takbyr.ps

For more information about the AMASS, write to:
American Arab Scientific Society
P.O. Box 541
Holmdel, NJ 07733, USA.
Or send e-mail to: M. Hashem Sherif
mhs@homxa.att.com

* ArabTex TeX/LaTeX Arabic Word Processor

ArabTeX is a system that extends the capabilities of TeX/LaTeX to generate the arabic writing from an ASCII transliteration for texts in several languages using the arabic script. It consists of a TeX macro package and an arabic font in several sizes, presently only available in the Naskhi style. ArabTeX will run with Plain TeX and also with LaTeX; other additions to TeX have not been tried. ArabTeX is primarily intended for generating the arabic writing, but the scientific transcription can also be easily generated. For other languages using the arabic script limited support is available.

The latest version and an installation manual is available via FTP from the node ifi.informatik.uni-stuttgart.de (129.69.211.1) in the directory /pub/arabtex/ as a collection of files.

For more information, contact the author of ArabTex,

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Qalam.
Qalam is an Arabic-Latin-Arabic transliteration system between Arabic script languages and the Latin script embodied in the ASCII character set. The Qalam system is designed to transliterate Arabic script languages for computer mediated communication by individuals literate in those languages. Qalam was created by Abdelsalam

For more information, contact the author of Qalam,
A Survey of Relevant Newsletters

The extensive Newsletter literature issued by numerous groups presents a problem in the field of information and bibliography. Melcom International invites editors and publishers of Newsletters to exchange their Newsletter with Melcom International. An account of each issue received will be given. The other Newsletters will be put on Melcom International's mailing list.

The following is no more than a proposal for a survey, and should not be considered as more than just an example of how this could be done. After a few of these try-outs its usefulness will be discussed and evaluated.

1. International Preservation News. A Newsletter of the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation. No. 5. December 1992. 16 pp. A-4 size. Published twice a year (December and June). ISSN pending. IPN is the handsomely designed publication of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) that reports on the preservation activities and events that support efforts to preserve materials in the world's libraries and archives. It is available without charge to interested institutions. Published by Bibliothèque Nationale. Direction technique. IFLA PAC International Center, 58, rue de Richelieu, F-75084 Paris Cedex 02, France. Tel. (+33.1) 47.03.88.32, 47.03.75.33; fax: (+33.1) 47.03.85.52. Director: Jean-Marie Arnoul. Publications coordinator and redaction: Virginie Kremp.

2. Newsletter. O.I.C. Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. No. 29 (August 1992). 32 pp., illustrated. Published triannually in the three official languages of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (English, French and Arabic). Publisher is: Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Organisation of the Islamic Conference (O.I.C.), P.O. Box 24, 80692 Besiktas, Istanbul, Turkey. Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. Phone: +90 1 260 5988/9; Fax: +90 1 258 4365.

From the contents of No. 29: Bosnia-Herzegovina. A destroyed heritage - Historical monuments and cultural assets under destruction; Cultural events; Recent publications; Cultural institutions [highlighting the ISTAC in Kuala Lumpur and the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World in Madrid]; International Heritage Commission (ICPICH); Announcement of the Third International Calligraphy Competition: Ibn El-Bawwab Calligraphy Competition 1413/1992; News on the restoration of Mesjid Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock.

3. Aramo World. Box 3725, Escondido, CA. 92025-0925, USA. ISSN 1044-1891. Aramo World is published bi-monthly. It distributed without charge to a limited number of readers with an interest in Saudi Arabia, the oil industry, or the history, culture, geography and economy of the Middle East. Vol. 48 is published in 1993. To judge from its glossy outward appearance this magazine can hardly be styled as grey literature. The only feature it has in common with Newsletters, Preprints, and Bulletins is the fact that it is distributed in a rather discretionary way to a special audience. The quality of its articles and photography easily matches that of giants such as the National Geographic.


A note to the readers

If you are not a member of Melcom International and you would like to continue to receive this Newsletter, you should apply for membership.

A limited number of copies of the previous Newsletter (pp. 1-6) is still available from the editorial address.

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