Prompts from the Arab World

A Language & Cross Cultural Communication Project

Iman A. Soliman & Maha Shawki

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Project Background

“Prompts from the Arab World” was first conceived at the Institute for Liberal Arts Digital Scholarship, at Hamilton College in Clinton New York, July 2015 by three AMICAL faculty members.

Dr. Elizabeth Campbell, Chair AUIS

David Joseph Wrisley, Associate Professor AUB

Iman A. Soliman, CASA Executive Director, AUC

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What Is A Prompt?

- A prompt is a verbal or visual instigator that stimulates/motivates learners to produce accurate and target-like oral or written output within context.

- Prompts play an important role in cognitive process of L2 learning because they “increase learners’ control over the already-internalized declarative knowledge, promoting the transition from the declarative knowledge to procedural knowledge” (Lyster, 2004 cited in Ding, Ting 2012)
Since September, 11, 2001, Arabic language teaching and learning has become the focus of much more attention from the educational community. This has highlighted the myriad problems associated with Arabic language instruction. Of the problems Arabic educators face, besides difficulties inherent in the Arabic language itself, are the inadequate and inappropriate Arabic educational materials (Morrison 2003).
Project Scope

This is a pedagogical language and cross-cultural activity that reverses typical knowledge creation about the Arab World from without, to the representation of cultural knowledge from within.

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Project Focus

- To create and curate collections of digital objects/items (photographs, micro documents, videos) that illustrate linguistic and cultural differences and continuity across Arab countries in general and within our current regional boundaries in particular.

- This collection fosters teaching and learning of Arabic language and promotes cross cultural understanding and communication.

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Project Pedagogic Objectives

1. Feature relevant and interesting themes and topics about the Arab World with engaging “items”, in diverse media-formats, accompanied by teaching tips that scaffold learning.

2. Create cross cultural discussions about life values and ideologies.

3. Enable cross cultural integration and evaluation of information presented in diverse media-formats.

4. Develop learning modules for those who wish to learn Arabic in relation to different contexts.

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Project Overview

12 Themes

Arab Country 1

12 Themes

Arab Country 2

12 Themes

Arab Country 3

12 Themes

Arab Country 4

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Project Overview: Themes

Themes
- Food
- Built Space
- Self
- Sociability
- Environment
- Religion
- Customs
- Gender
- Distance
- Language
- Education
- Mobility

Beans
Bread

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Project Platform: Omeka

- *Omeka* is a free, flexible, and open source web-publishing platform for the display of library, museum, archives, and scholarly collections and exhibitions.

- The Omeka version used is hosted on AUC servers.

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Food Prototype: Beans

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Beans: Foul Exhibit

- About Beans: 14 Items
- Interviews and Stories: 8 Items
- Proverbs: 7 Items
- Recipes: 5 Items

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References


• Sally Morrison, 2003, Arabic Language Teaching in the United States, ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics, Center for Applied Linguistics (Language Link Online), http://www.cal.org/resources/archive/langlink/0603.html

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