The Digital Collections for Digital Literacy

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AUB Digital Collections

https://libraries.aub.edu.lb/digital-collections/

The Digital Collections at the University provide free access to more than 10 digital collections of text, images, photographs, sound recordings and oral testimonies. The content come from:

- **Library materials in the public domain**
- **Archives & Special Collections**
- **Special digitization projects (usually with partner institutions or people)**
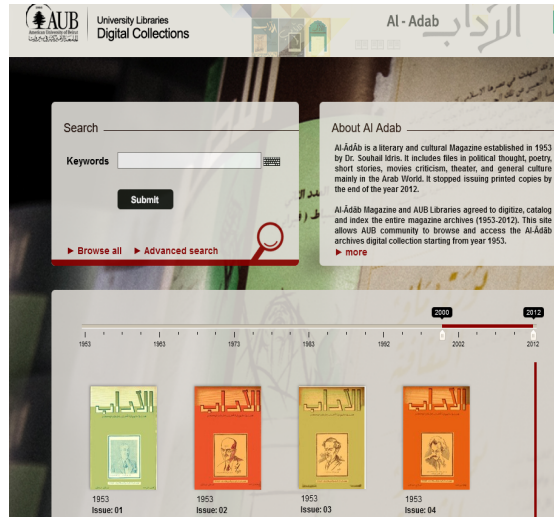
Examples

Out-of-Copyright materials

Travel Books

Travel books were known as early as the 2nd century through the writings of Pausanias' Description of Greece and many travelers who followed him. The geographical coverage of this travel books collection is mainly the Middle East. The collection covers mid-19th c to around mid-20th c.

▶ View

Arabic Collections Online

The AUB Libraries have joined the Arabic Collections Online Project, a publicly available digital library of public domain Arabic Language Content. Established with support from NYU Abu Dhabi, and currently supported by major grants from Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, and Carnegie ...

▶ View

Archives & Special Collections

Postcards 🖼

The postcard played a crucial role in 20th c. visual culture, tourism and global exchanges, defining modern national topographies and iconic ways of seeing (and being in) the world. Postcards contribute to place and sight making and to constructing visual as well as nationalistic and cultural discourses, travel networks ...

▶ View

Posters 🖼

The art posters collection was donated to the Libraries of the American University of Beirut (AUB) after the "Exhibition on Art Posters in Lebanon", organized by the Steering Committee of AUB Arts Center, March 2001. The AUB collection of 165 art posters dates between early sixties until the late twentieth century.
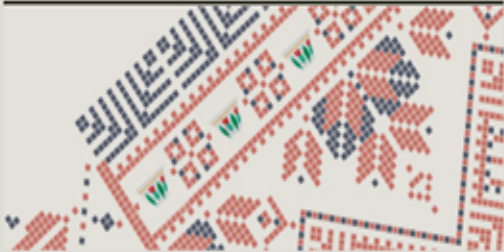
▶ View

Yearbooks 📖

The digitized collection of yearbooks and related documents begins with "The Apothecary 1946" and extends to the current year. The yearbooks collection provides a window to AUB campus life and how it evolved through the years. It documents campus buildings and grounds, AUB culture and students' vibrant life ...

▶ View

Special Projects (with partners)
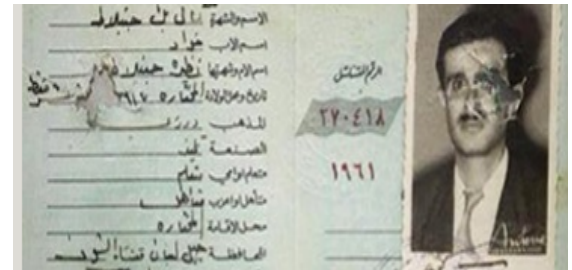
Refugee Cultural Heritage

The Refugee Cultural Heritage digital archive captures homeland memories and creates permanent records of intangible cultural heritage of refugees mainly residing in refugee camps in Lebanon. The content of this archive has been researched and collected by residents of the camps which constitutes a key element of this archive.

▶ View

POHA

The Palestinian Oral History Archive is an archival collection that contains more than 1,000 hours of testimonies with first generation Palestinians and other Palestinian communities in Lebanon. The project will digitize, index, catalog, preserve, and provide access to the digitized interviews.

Kamal Joumblatt

The University Libraries developed the Kamal Joumblatt Digital Library in order to make primary and secondary resources on Joumblatt freely and conveniently accessible to scholars, students and general readers. The digital library includes books, manuscripts and all the material donated to the University Libraries.

▶ View

The Making of

Digital Collections

The collections are developed in-house by the library team

- Selection of library materials to digitize
- Digitize selected materials using approved standards and techniques
- Digitized content enhancement (image editing, OCR and other)
- Description of digital objects or adding metadata
- Controlled vocabulary for subject classification
- Development and design of the online access platform
- Digital preservation strategy
- Marketing

Creating Digital Collections is Strengthening Libraries

- Allowing the discovery of important and otherwise hidden library collections

- Digitization is helping libraries acquire new collections through partnerships with owners of special collection

- Helping in the preservation of the library special collections by creating an access copy and saving the original

- Making libraries save heavens for cultural heritage preservation

Digital Collections Enhancing User Experience

- Providing online and quick access to primary sources.

- Users can manipulate the digital content in some cases (text mining, visualization, commenting, highlighting, and other).

- Use of the collection for teaching and student projects.

- Use for Digital Literacy.

Themes for Digital Literacy

Format
Information formats and how they change the way we use information:

Analogue: we need to have the item physically and we can only read it

Digitized: we can access the item electronically we can read it and maybe search it

Born Digital: we can access the item online, read it, search it and maybe change it

Metadata
Metadata and how it can help in describing and retrieving the digital object

Full-text-Searching
- Scanned collections are images of text and are not searchable full-text.
- ORC (optical character recognition allow full text searching) allows digitized collections to be searchable.

Themes for Digital Literacy

Access to knowledge

- **Restricted access:** as in the case of subscribed library materials and purchased collections
- **Open access:** collections are published online and open to all to read an attribute
- **Access through Creative Commons licenses:** collections are accessible online with the author's terms of use which could range from read only to change and remix.

Digital Preservation

- Digital objects have a life span and digital preservation measures are a must: Within a digital environment the time-scale of twenty or thirty years may be too long for effective preservation and access of the collections.

Meet the Team

Mona Assi *Director of Library Systems and Applications*

Basma Chebani *Associate University Librarian for Cataloging and Metadata Services*

Elie Kahale *Director of Digital Initiatives and Scholarship*