

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

SHARING CULTURE SHAPING POLICY



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

KING FAISAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) is an independent, non-governmental research and cultural institution based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Established by the King Faisal Foundation (KFF) in 1983 to preserve the legacy of the late King Faisal, the KFCRIS has continued King Faisal's mission of sharing knowledge and understanding between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world.

Conceived as a platform for original research and Islamic Studies, the KFCRIS brings together researchers, as well as international and Saudi research institutions, through a full program of conferences, workshops, lectures and seminars, and publishes a wide range of scholarly works, periodicals and books.

KFCRIS aims to expand the scope of existing literature and research so as to bring to the forefront of scholarly discussions the contributions and roles of Muslim societies in the humanities, the social sciences, literature, and the arts – historically, as well as today.

At the heart of the KFCRIS is the King Faisal Library, which houses a rare collection of Islamic manuscripts, together with papers and artefacts relating to the life, times and cultural legacy of King Faisal.

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD A BEACON OF LEARNING

Turki Al-Faisal
Chairman

I am pleased to report that KFCRIS continues to strengthen its position as one of the region's leading research institutes. This report offers an overview of our activities, achievements and events during 2018.

The primary focus of KFCRIS is the production of original academic research including strategic studies, special reports, field research and surveys. The knowledge bank of books and manuscripts, academic periodicals, artefacts and publications on science, language and culture at the center are an invaluable source for students and researchers. The center also hosts a full program of seminars, lectures and discussions with the participation of eminent thinkers from all parts of the world. KFCRIS holds many cooperative agreements and MoUs with leading research centers, universities, and think tanks from around the globe.

KFCRIS continues to benefit from significant improvements made over the past years that have enabled it to grow its influence on Saudi cultural and intellectual life. These initiatives include the investment in digitization and in human resources. Alongside the steady growth in research capacities and output, these changes are now paying dividends as its reputation as a respected research institution grows, and its contribution to policy development increases.

This year its research capability was bolstered with Memoranda of Understanding signed with Dubai Public Policy Research Center, International Strategic Partnership Center, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, and the Knowledge Center at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Above: Prince Turki launches the Chinese language KFCRIS website
Below: Prince Turki meets young readers at Riyadh Book Fair

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

The principle focus of KFCRIS is on producing high-quality outputs and world-class analysis, finding innovative ways to deliver our research findings and engage with varied and growing audiences globally. We are justly proud of the achievements made throughout our journey, not only in Saudi Arabia but in Arab and Islamic societies too. KFCRIS has become renowned amongst its counterparts and a favored destination of researchers visiting Saudi Arabia.

This year the center held the annual conference in collaboration with Oxford University’s Department of International Development, participated in the 7th World Peace Forum in China, and hosted many varied events at its headquarters in Riyadh.

‘Al Fiasal: Witness and Martyr’ exhibition opened in Tabuk, while the center’s renovated gallery space at its headquarters hosted popular exhibitions ‘Shendu...Depth, a World Behind the Lens’ and ‘Science and Innovation in Islamic Manuscripts’. The warm response from audiences from around the world to iconic KFCRIS treasures is an inspiring illustration of the power of culture in forging new relationships across the globe.

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

We can fulfill our purpose because of our clarity of mission, our strong leadership team, and the support of our many research partners and collaborators. We are deeply grateful to them all.

As ever, our people remain indispensable to our success. Without their engagement, enthusiasm and input, KFCRIS could not fulfill its mission. We also sincerely appreciate the input of the many universities, institutions, academics, journalists, research fellows, and other diverse, international voices who contribute to our events and work.



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT BUILDING CAPABILITIES AND EXTENDING OUTREACH

Dr Saud Al-Sarhan
Secretary-General

In last year's report I expressed my hope that 2018 would be even more successful than the preceding year – and am pleased to report that has been the case.

This has been a year in which our international purpose, to work with partners around the world, has been demonstrated once again by a busy program of seminars and conferences as well as by the signing of collaborative agreements with several leading Saudi and international academic and policy organizations. The KFCRIS continued to consolidate its strong relations with other prestigious research centers worldwide, enabling it to attract a group of outstanding researchers in various fields of study.

At the beginning of the year our growing reputation as a think tank was underlined when KFCRIS was ranked second among the top 10 regional research centers (2016-2017) by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. The assessment is based on a number of criteria, including those related to the research institution itself, its activities and functions, the ability to support decision-making and policy makers, the ability to make an effective academic contribution, and the efficiency of communication with the community.

Our research capabilities were further enhanced by the appointment of Dr Abdullah bin Khaled Al-Saud as Director of Research and senior fellow in the Security Studies Unit. He holds a PhD in War Studies from King's College London, an MA in International Peace and Security from King's College London, and a BA in Law from King Saud University. He is also an Assistant Professor at the College of Strategic Sciences at Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) in Riyadh.

“Our founding purpose of stewarding a comprehensive, national collection continues to be a key focus. Work continues across all departments to digitize our collections, enabling us to significantly widen access to our research resources, while facility enhancements have improved our curatorial capabilities”.

As well as memoranda of understanding with international policy and research bodies mentioned above, we also signed agreements with Princess Noura and Tabuk Universities, Alwataniya distribution company, Motoko Katakura Foundation for Desert Culture, and the Saudi Culture Commission.

Our specialized periodicals remain at the heart of what we do. During the year KFCRIS has published a series of strategic studies and special reports that address new developments at the local, regional, and international levels.

Our founding purpose of stewarding a comprehensive, national collection continues to be a key focus. Work continues across all departments to digitize our collections, enabling us to significantly widen access to our research resources, while facility enhancements have improved our curatorial capabilities.

The spirit of King Faisal was present throughout KFCRIS's 'Al-Faisal — Witness and Martyr' exhibition in Tabuk this year, having previously visited Kazakhstan and several Saudi cities. The year also saw the staging of two major exhibitions: 'Shendu...Depth, a World Behind the Lens', a photographic travelogue by Saudi photographer Khalid Al Sudairy, and 'Science and Innovation in Islamic Manuscripts' which coincided with International Museums Day.

We remain committed to keep pace with change in order to fulfil our objectives of raising national, intellectual and cultural awareness. This means both responding to world events and geopolitical forces in the design and implementation of our research program, but also adapting to and exploiting technology to enhance our outreach activities.

Recent initiatives include the launch of a Chinese-language version of our website, and agreements to distribute KFCRIS titles via Amazon and Google Books digital sales channels, a move which enables us to reach a huge potential audience.

The success we have achieved in what has been another busy and productive year would not have been possible but for the effort and expertise of our people. It is only through their enthusiasm, diligence and creativity that KFCRIS is able to fulfill its mission of being a valued and trusted source of academic and cultural knowledge.

A YEAR IN PICTURES

In a busy year for KFCRIS, we've hosted a full program of public lectures, workshops and discussion panels, while our leaders and researchers have participated in conferences and seminars all around the world. With MoUs signed with several domestic and international institutions, audiences for our periodicals and books growing, and an upsurge in social media activity, 2018 has truly been a year of making friends and influencing people.





Keynote speech at the 27th Annual Arab-US Policymakers Conference



The 50th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, with Prof Kaoru Iokibe, University of Tokyo



MoU signed with Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs



MoU signing with Dar Almandumah



Prince Turki at launch of Al-Faisal exhibition, Tabuk



Discussion panel - Forrest Gump of Islam, the life and ideas of Sheikh Abdallah Azzam



Discussion panel - security in the Gulf Region and GCC-China relations



Lecture on marketing homelands, Riyadh Chamber of Commerce



Discussion panel - the Middle East peace process



International Museums Day



Dr Al-Sarhan with Chinese ambassador Lui Huaxin



Public lecture - Russia's policy in the Middle East 1917 to 2017



Internal training course



KFCRIS staff celebration

Milestones



1983
KFCRIS founded by the King Faisal Foundation

1983-88
King Faisal Library expanded, including the setting-up of the manuscript treatment laboratory



1999
KFCRIS begins collecting and publishing contemporary works



The Arabic-language Journal of Linguistic Studies launched

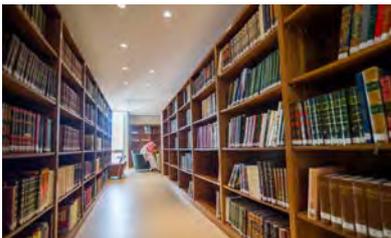


Visiting Fellows Program begins

2000
Al-Faisal Institute for Human Resources Development established



2004
Journal of Islam and the Modern World launched



2013
Research Department established



Dirasat, Masarat and Qira'at launched

OUR STORY

*"I see the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after 50 years,
as a wellspring of radiance for humanity." –
King Faisal bin Abdulaziz*



In 1976, the family of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud founded the King Faisal Foundation (KFF) to continue his vision of developing Saudi Arabia into a “wellspring of radiance for humanity”. Seven years later, the KFF formed the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, to preserve Arab and Islamic intellectual heritage and the sharing knowledge from the Muslim world with the rest of humanity.

Today, KFCRIS serves as one of the Middle East’s most eminent cultural, social and geopolitical research, bringing together leading international and Saudi researchers to produce original academic research, preserve and make available important Islamic books and manuscripts, and spotlight the pioneering role played by Muslim societies in the development of social science, literature and the arts.

In its early years, the primary focus of the KFCRIS was establishing its library. The organizational structure to do so was developed in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), while initial staff training was conducted in collaboration with UNESCO. Expertise in the preservation of antique books and manuscripts from across the Arab and Islamic worlds was developed, and agreements reached with several leading international libraries, including the British Library, the French National Museum of Natural History, and the US Library of Congress.

As a mark of its growing reputation, the KFCRIS helped reopen the National Library of Uzbekistan and with the renovation and opening of the Imam Al-Bukhari Mausoleum Complex in Samarkand, a historic center of Islamic learning. That collaboration has since enabled the KFCRIS to add significantly to its collection of early Islamic manuscripts.

By 1999, the KFCRIS had expanded its activities significantly. This included amassing a considerable collection of graduate and doctoral theses and the launch of the Visiting Fellowship Program.

The year also marked the debut of the Arabic-language Journal of Linguistic Studies, marking KFCRIS’s transition into a publisher in addition to its librarianship and restoration activities. In 2004, this was followed by the launch of the Journal of Islam and the Modern World, featuring work by KFCRIS in-house researchers for the first time.

In 2013, with an expanding role in academic research built around the Al Faisal Library and collections, the KFCRIS shifted its primary focus from librarianship and preservation to producing original work with the establishment of the Research Department.

This change also marked the launch of a suite of regular publications: Masarat, a bimonthly report focussing on topical geo-political issues; and the monthly Dirasat, which features in-depth analysis related to current political and strategic issues.

Since its foundation 35 years ago, KFCRIS has gone from strength to strength, encompassing librarianship, cultural curation, and academic research.

While the world has entered one of the most politically turbulent periods in the modern era, KFCRIS stands out as a beacon of tolerance and learning, promoting intercultural understanding domestically, regionally and globally.

Looking Ahead

Based on a solid foundation of Islamic learning, evidence-based research, and independent non-partisanship, KFCRIS epitomises the vision of peace and understanding promulgated by the late King Faisal.

Currently, we are midway through a five-year strategic plan to answer the challenges of the 21st century aimed at strengthening our organizational capabilities, making our learning resources more accessible, and increasing our reputation for original research, particularly in the social sciences.

To achieve this, we are engaged in a thorough overhaul of our technical infrastructure, digital applications and broadening access to our learning resources by the ongoing digitization of our library and collections. We are also updating all our internal policies and procedures and introducing initiatives aimed at building a workplace culture of collaboration, professionalism and customer-focus.

Underpinning all our activities today, yesterday and in the future is the aim of spreading the vision and legacy of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in order that the Center emerges as a beacon of tolerance and science and to promote understanding between cultures, and be a source of radiation for humanity, as wanted by King Faisal, may Allah bless him.

Our Mission

To be a valued and trusted source of academic and cultural knowledge

Our Vision

To enrich the academic and cultural environment of Saudi Arabia and internationally through the provision of original research, learning resources and unique cultural experiences

Our Values

Spreading knowledge – Enabling academic research – Preserving heritage





RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

The Research Department was established in 2013, with its formation marking a significant change of focus for KFCRIS.

Before this time, the prime role had been as a facilitator of scholarly research through its librarianship and curatorial expertise. With the formation of the new department – together with the Visiting Fellowship Program which has been in operation since 2000 – original research became the primary focus of KFCRIS.



Saudi Arabia's Undocumented Underclass

A study of nine undocumented African communities living in Jeddah is helping shape policy to deal with the large number of illegal migrants in Saudi Arabia, whether they be pilgrims who have overstayed their Hajj and Umrah visas, illegal entrants, workers who have remained beyond their work contract, and the children born of illegal immigrants.

City of Dreams, Disappointment and Optimism by political economist and KFCRIS fellow Dr Fahad Alsharif – published in *Dirasat* in April 2018 – is based on interviews with migrants from Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Ghana. At a time when the Kingdom's economy is changing so profoundly – particularly in view of the policy of Saudization of the labor market – the presence of such a large group of undocumented migrants has significant social, economic and security consequences for both the Kingdom, and the individuals concerned.

By commissioning thorough, qualitative research, KFCRIS is laying the groundwork for a solution which up to now has been resistant to Saudi policies.



In the five years since then, KFCRIS has established itself as one of the most prominent non-governmental research institutes in the Middle East, known for its independence, methodological approach, and access to decision makers. Our goal is to influence policy and help government and society build a sustainable, secure, prosperous and just future.

Our research methodology is firmly rooted in observed facts, empirical data, and a commitment to developing practical solutions to the challenges facing society, in Saudi Arabia and the wider Muslim world. This approach is crucial in an ever-more polarized world, where like-minded people are drawn to information sources that reinforce their increasingly entrenched worldviews and even facts are the subject of debate.

Today, KFCRIS serves as a platform for research, bringing together researchers and institutions to preserve, publish, and produce scholastic work. The Center aims to expand the scope of existing literature and research so as to bring to the forefront of scholarly discussions the contributions and roles of Muslim societies in the humanities, the social sciences, literature, and arts – historically, as well as today.

“The Center aims to expand the scope of existing literature and research so as to bring to the forefront of scholarly discussions the contributions and roles of Muslim societies in the humanities, the social sciences, literature, and arts – historically, as well as today”.

Above: New director of research
Dr Abdullah Al-Saud

The center also organized the following joint events:

	In cooperation with
Workshop: Great Power Relations in China in the New Era	Institute of International and Strategic Studies (IISS), Peking University
Panel Discussion: Vision 2030 and reform in Saudi Arabia	Crown Center for Middle East Studies
Workshop: The Future of Saudi-European Relations	European Council on Foreign Relations
Panel Discussion: Saudi-US Dialogue: Youth Vision	Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East - Atlantic Council
Workshop: The Humanitarian Situation in Yemen: Reality and Challenges	ISNAD (Humanitarian Assistance Center in Yemen)
Workshop: Nuclear security: Non-Proliferation and Disarmament	King's College London & Naif Arab University for Security Sciences.
Roundtable: the Middle East Peace Process	Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Conference: Future of Salafism	Oxford University
MoU signed	Dubai Public Policy Research Center
MoU signed	International Strategic Partnership Center
MoU signed	Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs
MoU signed	The Knowledge Center at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Discussion panel on regional reform and development with Terje Rød-Larsen, President of the International Peace Institute

The Future of Salafism

Salafism, one of the most influential Islamic movements of the last century, suffers a great deal of misunderstanding in the Western media – a situation that KFCRIS research is helping address.

In December, the annual KFCRIS conference – held in partnership with the Oxford University's Department of International Development – discussed the future of Salafism, bringing together academics from across the world together with KFCRIS researchers to discuss how Salafi thought and the diverse set of groups inspired by it are evolving in different in light of the post-Arab Spring developments and the changes unfolding in Saudi Arabia.

In November, we hosted a lecture entitled 'Salafi-Jihadism: History of an Idea' by Shiraz Maher, Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization at King's College London and a frequent guest at KFCRIS.

Maher emphasized the importance of distinguishing between extremist groups and true Salafist thought – a misunderstanding that appears in western media, who often use the term 'jihadist Salafism' to refer to extremist groups. The term represents a political movement that has nothing whatsoever to do with mainstream Salafism. He focused on five main ideas: jihad, tawhid, hakimiyya, al-wala wal-bara, and takfir, all of which are being exploited and misrepresented by extremist groups to justify their actions.



Research Units

The department is organized into five units:

Security Studies

Created in April 2018 to study issues of national, regional, and international security including terrorism, armed non-state groups, regional conflicts and their implications, and radical ideologies and their evolutions. This enables KFCRIS to provide knowledge-based policy recommendations to the benefit of all. Dr Abdullah Al-Saud, the Director of Research, also heads the Security Studies Research Unit.

The research department aims to continue improving the capabilities and capacity of the team of researchers and expand its wide and scope in the year of 2019.

Contemporary Political Thought

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

Political Economy

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

African Studies

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

Asian Studies

Dedicated to the study of East Asia and East Asian societies, the unit is headed by Dr Mohammed Al-Sudairi and focuses on contemporary international relations, politics, economics and security issues, as well as on historical, anthropological and cultural-social topics.

In 2019, the Research Department aims to continue to broaden its scope and increase the capabilities and capacity of its team.

Left: Oxford University, venue of this year's conference on the Future of Salafism

A Chinese United Front



The Chinese government's strategy of engaging with overseas Chinese who are not citizens of the country was investigated in *Dirasat* vol 34, published in March.

The study by Mohammed Al-Sudairi, examines efforts undertaken by the Chinese Communist Party to unite the several ethnic Chinese communities living across the Gulf. In Saudi Arabia, the Chinese overseas community is estimated to stand at 150,000 to 180,000, comprising mainly of Sinophone Muslims (Hui) and Turkestani groups (Uighur, Uzbek and Khazakh).

Saudi Arabia is by no means the only GCC state seeing increasing 'united front' (UF) efforts being undertaken by the Chinese Communist Party. These are largely aimed at encouraging overseas communities to support the development of their ancestral homeland, and to act as cultural bridge between China and the Arab world.

The paper investigates whether this approach is working – and, most pertinently, whether the GCC states should be concerned about this strategy. It concludes that UF activity is designed not to influence Saudi policy but rather to build on the positive engagement between the two nations, as well as minimizing any threats to domestic stability within China.



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

مركز الملك فهد للدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية
King Fahd Center for Research and Islamic Studies

Dirasat

How Did Japan Achieve a 1% Unemployment Rate?: Facilitating the Education-to-Employment Transition

Dr. Makoto Yamada
Research Fellow
King Fahd Center for Research and Islamic Studies

مسابرات

سعي إيران للتزايد لتثبيت موطن قدم استراتيجي لها في مرتفعات الجولان هل هي مجرد تهديدات أم نذير لخطر قريب؟

مخلص عفاة
مدرس التربية العربي من طهران إلى البحر الأبيض المتوسط
مؤسس جريدة القدس ومجلة الدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية
هل تؤدي جبهة الطرق إلى مسودة رسم خريطة هذه الأرواح والحراس الليالي الأوقات للشيعة؟

عدد صفحاته: ٣٦
تاريخ النشر: ٢٠١٨

التحرب من انتخابات إلى أخرى: المشهد السياسي والحزبي ومستقبل حرب الصداقة والتنمية

محمد السبيعي
باحث رئيس الأقسام الأثرية
مركز الملك فهد للدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية

Can We Saudize the Labor Market without Damaging the Private Sector?

Stefan Hertog
November 2018
Special Report

"Useful Syria" and Demographic Changes in Syria

Hussein Broken Ghobry
Associate Professor of Geography

Dirasat

Impacts of the Saudi Turkey's Tourism Industry: Examples from Trabzon

Muhammed Alajajay
Research Fellow
King Fahd Center for Research and Islamic Studies

قراءات

أول للجمعات المسلمة في الصين

د. دال لى
ترجمة
مؤلفة الكتاب

State-Business Relations in the Reform Era: Growing Pressures and Diverging Economic Policy Agendas

Pariz Al-Sulayman
Research Fellow, November 2018
King Fahd Center for Research and Islamic Studies
Special Report

The Challenges of Codifying Islamic Law

Abdullah Khatib
October 2018

Recent Developments of US and Turkish Involvement in the Syrian Conflict

Yusef Zarea and Sebastian Maier
October 2018
King Fahd Center for Research and Islamic Studies

موجة "زيادة الأعمال" في الشباب السعودي وتحدياتها الرئيسية

د. ملاح السبيعي
باحث في مركز الملك فهد للدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية
مركز الملك فهد للدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية
٢٠١٨

للشهاد السياسي في تونس في ضوء الانتخابات ٦ مايو ٢٠١٨م

محمد السبيعي
باحث رئيس الأقسام الأثرية
مركز الملك فهد للدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية

دراسات

أي مستقبل للحشد الشعبي في العراق؟

Masarat

Future for the Regions of

Research Publications

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

- *Dirasat* (studies): a monthly publication of 6-10,000 words penned by a subject specialist investigating specific political, intellectual, and/or economic issues related to the focus of the research units. Published in both English or Arabic. This year saw the publication of 10 issues of *Dirasat*.
- *Masarat* (paths): unattributed reports of approximately 4,000 words, discussing a single current hot topic in the Middle East

or Islamic world, published bimonthly in English and Arabic.

- *Commentary*: a 1,000 - 2,500 words analysis of current political social and/or economic issues published online in English and Arabic.
- *Special Report*: a longer (3,000-6,000 words) analysis of a current topic.

Over the course of 2018, the Research Department published the following editions:

Dirasat

- China's Soft Military Presence in the Middle East, by Sun Degang.
- Indo-Saudi Relations: Emerging Strategic Dimensions, by Mohamad Muddassir Quamar.
- Managing Muslim Minorities in Russia, by Elmira Akhmetova.
- The Communist Party of China's United Front Work in the Gulf: The 'Ethnic Minority Overseas Chinese' of Saudi Arabia as a Case Study, by Mohammed Al-Sudairi.
- City of Dreams, Disappointment, and Optimism: Nine Communities of Undocumented African Migrants in Jeddah, by Fahad Alsharif.
- A New US National Security Team Confronts Difficult Choices with Iran and North Korea, by Jack Caravelli and Sebastian Maier.
- What future for Iraq's PMU? by Mona Alami.
- Impacts of the Saudi Tourist Phenomenon on Turkey's Tourism Industry: Examples from Trabzon, by Mohammed Aldujayn.
- Japan and the Diplomacy of Soft Power: Indian-Pacific Ocean Strategy, Free and Open Area, by Habib Al-Badawi.
- The Development of Government Policies in Support of Saudi Renewable Energy Sector, by Sarah Al-Dajani.

Masarat

- The Kurdish Referendum: Between Survival and Independence Agreement in Iran's Ongoing Caspian Saga
- Iran's Growing Strategic Foothold in the Golan Heights Security of the Red Sea Region
- Troubled Waters, Uncertain Perimeters: the Aktau What Future for the Kurdish Regions of Northern Syria?

Commentary

- Addressing the Key Challenges Facing the "Entrepreneurial Streak" in Young Saudis, by Mark C Thompson
- The Religious Shiite Dimension to the War in Syria, by Mona Alami
- Hezbollah's War on ISIS in Lebanon, Fighting Terrorism at the Expense of the State, by Mona Alami
- Protests Underline Iran's Systemic Vulnerabilities, Mona Alami
- Syria's New Wars Could Propel Region into Even Greater Instability, by Mona Alami
- Why This Time it's Different, by Dr Saud Al-Sarhan
- Libya: The Future of Operation Karama in the Absence of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, by Dr Mohammed Al-Sbitli
- Lebanese Elections: Gains for Hezbollah With the Emergence of New Kingmakers, by Mona Alami
- Iran and Russia: Tactical Allies in Syria With Long Term Diverging Agendas, by Mona Alami
- Hezbollah's African Venture: Realities and Limitations, by Mona Alami
- The Challenges of Codifying Islamic Law, by Dominik Krell
- Skilling Youth: Japan's Experience in 'Joint Training' of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, by Makio Yamada

Special Report

- The Political Scene in Tunisia In Light of The Elections of May 6, 2018, Dr Mohammed Al-Sbitli
 - Beyond Oil: Saudi Vision 2030 and Saudi-South Korean Relations, by Inwook Kim
 - Japanese Administration with a Different Perspective: Introduction to Basic Concepts, by Othman Ali Almazayad
 - The African Horn Under the Ethiopian Rise: Settlements, Reconciliations and Competition Over Ports, Dr Mohammed Al-Sbitli
 - Can We Saudize the Labor Market without Damaging the Private Sector? by Steffen Hertog.
 - State-Business Relations in the Reform Era: Growing Pressures and Diverging Economic Policy Agendas, by Faris Al-Sulayman
 - Recent Developments of US and Turkish Involvement in the Syrian Conflict, by Yousef Zarea and Sebastian Maier.
- Additionally, three issues of our *Qiraat*, (readings), our now discontinued heritage-focused bimonthly publication, were published, namely:
- Two Scholars and the Hui Protest Movement in China in 1932: Attitudes of Hu Shih and Lu Xun toward the Hui Minority and Islam, by Lei Wan
 - Thamudic Prayer Inscriptions in Hail, Saudi Arabia, by Sulaiman Al-Dheeb
 - Social Life (BC) in the Light of Thamudic Inscriptions in Hail Region, by Sulaiman Al-Dheeb

Externally published contributions by KFCRIS researchers

Abdullah Al-Saud, director of research

Paper: 'Daesh narrative and activities in Saudi Arabia', Swedish Defence University, Stockholm

Paper: 'Storm of thought coalition'" presented at Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research Forum, Abu Dhabi

Paper: 'Security risks for technology spaces and the Internet in Saudi Arabia', Janadriyah Festival of Heritage and Culture, Riyadh

Joseph A Kechichian, senior research fellow

Book: Iffat Al Thunayan: Malikah 'Arabiyyah, trans: Josette Richa (pub: Riad El-Rayyes Books)

Articles/Book Chapters:

'The Arab Gulf States: contemporary maritime perspectives, interests, objectives and policies in the GCC' in Powers in the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific (pub: Taylor & Francis/ Routledge, London)

'GCC trade agreements: regional integration challenges and opportunities' in Handbook of International Trade Agreements (pub: Routledge, London and New York)

'Lebanon confronts partition fears' in Contemporary Review of the Middle East 5:1

Muslim Brotherhood' (with Ayubi, Nazih, Sullivan, Lawson & Boulby) in The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World (pub: Oxford Islamic Studies Online)

'Saudi Arabia (with Doumato & Abdella) in Oxford Islamic Studies Online

Yousef Zarea, research fellow

Paper: 'Saudi efforts in countering violent extremism' in De-Radicalization in the Mediterranean (pub: Italian Institute for International Political Studies)

Shahad Turkistani, research fellow

Paper: 'Policymaking process to restart Japanese nuclear power plants' (pub: King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center)

Hesham Alghannam, research fellow

Paper: 'Saudi Arabia, China, and the United States: a complex Interdependence' at G20 Think Tank Conference, Shanghai University, China

Mohammed Al-Sudairi, head of Asian Studies Unit

Paper: 'China as the new frontier for Islamic Da'wah: the emergence of a Saudi China-oriented missionary impulse' in Journal of Arabian Studies

Middle East Maritime Matters

The geopolitical significance of bodies of water either side of Saudi Arabia were investigated in two recent editions of *Masarat*.

In 'Security of the Red Sea Region', we discuss the geopolitical importance of the Red Sea, the attempts to find an approach to defining a Maritime Strategy, and Saudi Arabia's efforts to maintain security in the region. Many Arab states bordering the Red Sea share the collective responsibility to protect it

The security of the Red Sea is of crucial importance to all surrounding countries, as it is to international trade, peace and prosperity. In recent times, regional interaction has intensified, especially with the emergence of new players in the arena, increasing the importance of rigorous research that can inform regional policy.

Our paper 'Troubled Waters, Uncertain Perimeters' visits the Caspian Sea, discusses Iran's response to the Aktau Agreement which regulates sovereignty issues between Caspian coastal states – an endeavor that has been in place since the 18th century.

Iranian public opinion on the extent of its permissible territorial waters and coastline is discussed, as are reactions within Iranian polity, concluding that the agreement has not fundamentally altered Iran's weak position in the post-Soviet negotiations.



The Visiting Fellowship Program

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

It helps facilitate research projects of scholars from both inside and outside the Kingdom. Since its creation in 2000, over 450 visiting fellows from 55 different countries have benefited from the program.

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

Below: Dr Al-Sarhan and Ms Kirsten Söder lead our discussion panel on the Middle East peace process
Left: January's public discussion on China and the new world order seminar

2018 visiting fellows and their fields of study include:
Jessie Moritz, Princeton University, US: development strategies in the Gulf States

Masooda Bano, Oxford University, UK: Cross-border study: modern Islamic authority and social change

Rashid Chaz, Aligarh Muslim University, India: interfaith Dialogue and the need for Islamic reconciliation

Dominic Krill, Max Planck Law Institute, Germany: challenges of codifying Islamic Law

Linda Mansour, Sorbonne, France: use and discourse in Social Media (Twitter)

Deborah Wheeler, US Naval Academy: economic and social development in the Arab World: empowerment and the future of Saudi and Jordanian women.

Brannon Wheeler, US Naval Academy: hunting and sacrifice in ancient Arabia: origins of Islamic sacrifice.

Ehab Badawy, Leiden University, Netherlands: medieval Arabic philosophy and Islamic intellectual history

Stephan Roll, German Institute for International and Security Affairs: economic reforms in Saudi Arabia - Vision 2030

Omar Karim, Birmingham University: evolution of Saudi foreign policy and the strategy adopted by Saudi royalty to achieve foreign policy goals

Andrew Leber, Harvard University: regions and resources - development in Saudi Arabia

Salima Hahyaoui: Middle East history and geography

Oliver McPherson Smith, Harvard University: political economy and renewable energy in Saudi Arabia.



PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



Visitors to the manuscripts collection

The Events team is responsible for organizing all KFCRIS lectures, seminars, and other events from planning through to delivery.

The three-person team works hand-in-hand with the department sponsoring each event, ensuring that all logistics are in place, the event runs smoothly, and the audience is welcomed. They supervise any audio-visual contractors, handle invitations and ticketing, and are responsible for maintaining the events database with speaker biographies, event details and other important content.

As the primary point of contact with KFCRIS guests and VIP delegations, the team has a pivotal external relations role that is crucial to the Center's reputation. Operating behind the scenes, the team's ability to multi-task has enabled KFCRIS to successfully stage multiple events each year, including public lectures, internal workshops and closed panel discussions under Chatham House rules.

Over the course of the year, the team staged more than 40 events, and have the capability of handling several events at once.

Equally important is their ability to closely collaborate with other KFCRIS departments. By coordinating marketing activities with the Media team, for example, the KFCRIS is confident of boosting attendance at future events, one of our key metrics.

“Over the course of the year, the team staged more than 40 events, and have the capability of handling several events at once.”

LIBRARY

The KFCRIS library has been the cornerstone of our research capabilities since our establishment, growing into one of the Kingdom's leading research libraries. We provide resources to facilitate the work of KFCRIS researchers and visiting academics from inside and outside the Kingdom.

Today, the library houses more than 180,000 books, including one of the most comprehensive humanities collections in Saudi Arabia. It also maintains a wide variety of periodicals covering geopolitics, culture, heritage and language, among other topics relating to KFCRIS areas of interest.



The Library and Information team is continuing a comprehensive program of digitization its collections. To date, some 10 percent of books, 60 percent of period articles and 80 percent of theses have been processed, significantly broadening access to KFCRIS collections to researchers anywhere in the world.

Research Services



Thesis certification

230 ↗



Data requests actioned

15,231 ↗↗



Attestations sent to researchers

1375 →



Face-to-face

620 ↘

17,456 total transactions

It is also the repository of upwards of 150,000 research theses from around the Arab world. The library curates significant recording and image collections, and one of the most important collections of old and rare books and manuscripts in the region – the reason behind the development of the Center’s in-house manuscript restoration laboratory

Equipped with state-of-the-art library systems and technologies, the Library and Information team is continuing a comprehensive program of digitization of its collections. To date, some 10 percent of books, 60 percent of periodical articles and 80 percent of theses have been processed, significantly broadening access to KFCRIS collections to researchers anywhere in the world.

The departmental team of 16 staff is organized into seven teams:

- **Supply** – including acquisitions to expand KFCRIS collections and enhance our reputation as a leading research library
- **Archives and cataloguing** – a fundamental part of our librarianship duties;
- **Electronic systems** – responsible for coordinating digitization activities and development of a comprehensive database of digital copies sourced from international libraries and institutions
- **Research services** – responding to research requests and enabling access to digitized manuscripts, periodicals, books and other documents
- **Treatment and restoration** – responsible for the preservation and restoration of the Center’s rare and old books and manuscript collection
- **Audio-visual collections** – curation of KFCRIS’s growing collection of video and sound recordings
- **Special collections** – curation and cataloguing of the Center’s collection of rare and old manuscripts and books.



Above and overleaf: fragments from our rare manuscript collection



LIBRARY RESOURCES

	Number in 2018		Library total	
	Arabic	Latin	Arabic	Latin
Books	2,005	201*	144,171	42,449
	13	-	2,673	-
Periodicals	1,338	81	24,045	1,688
University theses	3,356	282	170,889	44,137
Total	3,638		215,026	

INDEXING AND CATALOGUING

	Number in 2018		Library total	
	Arabic	Latin	Arabic	Latin
Books	2,005	1,323	144,172	42,449
Periodical articles	3,733	27	474,714	22,635
Seminar research	305	-	57,840	6,311
University theses	1,338	81	149,107	1,688
Total	8,812		898,916	

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Collectible	2017	2018
Original manuscripts	28396	28476
Copied manuscripts	128492	128632
Documents	12892	58600

DATABASE ENTRIES

Records entered	2017	2018
Original manuscripts	28396	28476
Copied manuscripts	43318	43321
Documents	8267	12884

Treatment and Restoration



Sterilization

3513



Manuscript restoration

2410



Document restoration

436



Photograph restoration

166

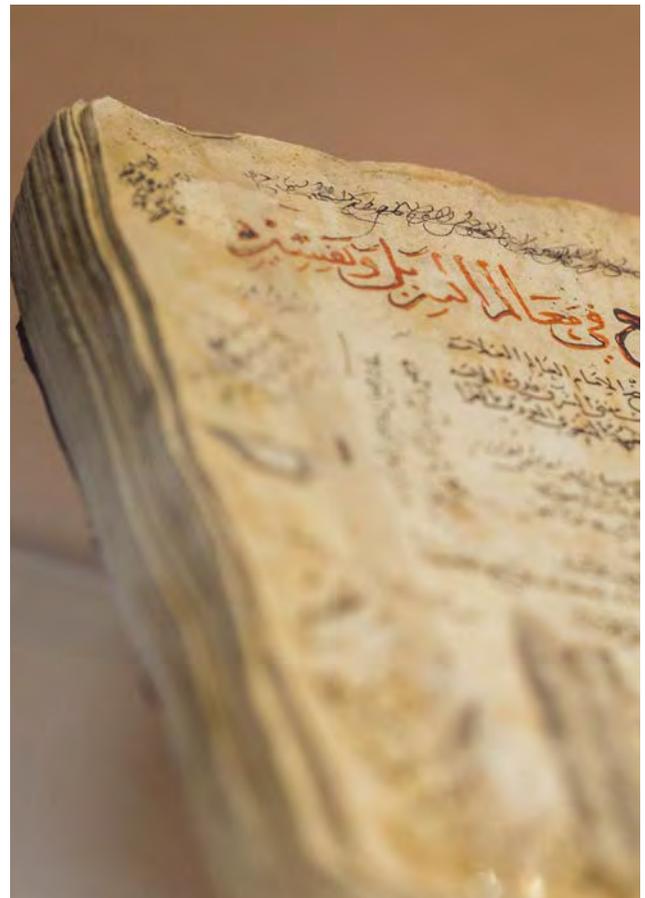
2018 achievements

In addition to the day-to-day operations, this year has been very much about building for the future. This includes the accelerated digitization of our collections, widening access to our academic resources on a global scale.

Over the course of the last 12 months, we have also completed the indexing and cataloguing of the newly acquired Dr Fatima Al-Wahaibi Library and the preparation of our manuscript display room ahead of the implementation of new fire system.

The team has also collaborated on the opening of the Islamic Museum Exhibition, supplied contents for Al-Faisal Magazine, media campaigns, and provided manuscripts and templates to the Media and Publishing Department for use in an external campaign. Library tours for visiting dignitaries and guests have been arranged, while the cataloguing of our rare book collection, and inventory of all other collections has been accomplished.

We have provided hands-on training courses for restoration students from Princess Noura University, completed auditing and follow-up activities for the Heritage Treasury Program and completed a comprehensive bibliography of all books dedicated to King Faisal for Darat Al-Faisal.



Preserving Saudi Arabia's Paper Heritage

Inside the KFCRIS Treatment and Restoration Laboratory

A vital part of the Library and Information department's remit is the conservation of the Center's collection of manuscripts and books, much of which is on old and deteriorating paper stock. With the benefits of having this expertise in house obvious, a trial restoration team was set up on the KFCRIS's foundation in 1983 with the help of a team of experts from the British Library.

Since then, the Treatment and Restoration team, who work from a sterile, integrated deep in KFCRIS headquarters, has grown into acknowledged experts in the region. This year, the three-strong team was responsible for the painstaking treatment of a more than 6,500 individual paper-based items including manuscripts, documents and photographs.

The team's pre-eminence is clearly illustrated by their collaborative development of a new dry-refrigeration sterilization technique with US company Wei T'o Associates. KFCRIS now holds a patent on the Al-Faisal Sterilizing Device, a self-contained refrigeration unit which

destroys harmful insects and fungi from old manuscripts by exposing them to a temperature of -40 Celsius.

Requiring no chemical additives, the unit is also effective at dehumidifying damp material by quickly freezing moisture content, which subsequently vaporizes without liquefying, a process that preserves the document's ink. Furthermore, it has the capacity to treat some 200 individual pages each day.

Key duties:

- Sterilization of all KFCRIS manuscripts, documents, books, periodicals.
- Preparation for restoration by assessing ink stability, removal of acidity, softening dry papers, and reinforcing weak materials.
- Mechanical repair of paper by filling in holes and repairing tears.
- Sterilization and restoration of manuscripts outside the Center.
- Providing training courses for technicians from KFCRIS and externally.
- Providing technical consultations to third parties.



The Problem With Paper

Paper, books, and manuscripts are prime examples of materials subject to inherent vice – that is they readily deteriorate.

This is particularly so for paper based since the 19th century CE. Early paper was handmade from plant fibers such as flax, hemp, and cotton and consequently was relatively durable and could last for centuries. In the mid-19th century, machine-made paper was introduced, in which wood was the most common ingredient being cheaper than its alternatives. This was especially so in newspapers and magazines. The presence of lignin in wood-pulp paper causes acid to degrade the cellulose, which makes the paper become unstable and discolored over time.

Paper also has the natural ability to absorb and retain moisture from the atmosphere, making it prone to the growth of mold, fungi, and bacteria. What's more, insects and other bugs are attracted to paper since its cellulose, starch and protein composition make it a tasty source of food. The most common pests are roaches, silverfish, and various types of beetles. Book lice feed on mold spores found on paper and cardboard, and although they do not cause visible damage, their decomposition and excretions can stain paper and may also nourish other pests, continuing the cycle of damage.

Books are inherently complex; they are often made of mixed materials ranging from parchment, leather, fabric, adhesives and thread. Some inks used in old books and manuscripts are

harmful to paper. For example, iron gall ink, most commonly used from the 8th century until the late 19th century, contains acid and can corrode paper in humid conditions.

The materials used to make books contain hundreds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that break down over time. They are released into the air, where they become detectable as 'old-book smell' – meaning a conservator's nose is one of his most useful tools.

Extremes of temperature or relative humidity are damaging from either end of the spectrum (low or high). High heat and low relative humidity can cause paper to become brittle and leather book bindings to crack. High temperatures and high relative humidity accelerates mold growth, foxing, staining, blooming, disintegration, and 'red rot' in leather bindings.

All kinds of light (sunlight, artificial light, spotlights) can also be harmful. Light can result in fading, darkening, bleaching, and cellulose breakdown. Some inks and other pigments will fade if exposed to light, especially ultraviolet (UV) light present in normal daylight and from fluorescent bulbs. Any exposure to light can cause damage, as the effects are cumulative and cannot be reversed. Minimal or no exposure to light is ideal.

And as well as this range of environmental dangers, the conservator must also mitigate against poor handling, the number one cause the most common cause of damage to books and documents.

Manuscript Treatment at KFCRIS

Each item first undergoes a thorough assessment of its condition to determine the most appropriate treatment. Next is an intensive fumigation in the freeze-dry cabinet – a measure that applies to all items whether they are judged to need repair or not, since this will prevent any further or later stage decay.

Volumes in need of treatment are separated into individual pages – with careful note taken of their sequence to ensure correct reassembly. Pages are then individually cleaned using a special powder, which removes dust and other impurities.

Tests are then made to assess the stability of the ink and acidity of the paper – lower pH means more intensive treatment is usually needed, while the solubility of the ink determines what washing solution can be used. Washing is particularly beneficial to very old paper because it intensifies the richer cellulose bonds in older types of paper. This is accomplished by inserting each page in a polyester sheaf before being dipped in an appropriate solution, before being dried on blotting paper.

Tests are then made to assess the stability of the ink and acidity of the paper – lower pH means more intensive treatment is usually needed, while the solubility of the ink determines what washing solution can be used.

Paper not suitable for immersion because of unstable ink may be cleaned by spraying, weak paper can be reinforced with the application of tissue or starch adhesive, laminated with a special tissue material – or simply placed between sheets of clear film – depending on the specific condition of the item.

MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT

The Museums Department is at the heart of KFCRIS's outreach programs, organizing a full program of exhibitions to increase public understanding and appreciation of Islamic civilization and art. In particular, the team is focused on encouraging the young to engage with their history and contribute to a vibrant modern society based solidly upon a rich cultural heritage.

The core work of the department revolves around curation, managing a full program of internal and external exhibitions, and broadening accessibility to the KFCRIS collections amongst researchers and the public alike.



Saudi Memory project



The Saudi Memory Unit is dedicated to promoting the field of anthropology, and to providing a comprehensive database of reference material and resources for local and international researchers to access and benefit from. Our aim is to document the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, social history, folk arts and creativity within the Kingdom. The collection is primarily comprised of various audio/visual media used for recording and documenting various performative arts and oral histories. It includes Dr Saad Sowayan's private library and audio recordings, collected of 40 years of anthropological fieldwork.

Preparations are well underway for the inauguration of the Saudi Memory Unit, with efforts focused on planning the opening including commissioning artist Abdullah Al Othman to produce a work inspired by the audio archive and organizing a series of lectures and panels by local experts. A website is currently under development, as are the research services that will be on offer.

The centerpiece of the department is the Islamic Art gallery, which curates a collection of over 200 artefacts from Muslim communities dating from the dawn of Islam to the time of the late King Faisal. Collections include decorative arts, weaponry, manuscripts, scientific equipment and coinage. In terms of material, the collection is predominantly made up of metalwork and ceramics, but also includes several noted examples of woodwork and textiles.

The KFF agreement with UNESCO, signed in 1981, stated that the aim for establishing a museum at KFCRIS was to showcase events and facts relating to the life of King Faisal and the modern history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This responsibility subsequently expanded to include Islamic art and civilization, and in 1985 the Islamic art gallery opened to the public, followed by the King Faisal Memorial Hall in 1986.

Today, 33 years later, the Al-Faisal museum continues to provide visitors with the opportunity to delve into the past, broaden cultural horizons, and examine material evidence of our history and values. The museum today curates six collections: the King Faisal Memorial Collection, the Arab - Islamic art collection: currency and numismatics, Saudi Memory, KFCRIS History, and modern and contemporary art collections.

“The Museums Department is at the heart of KFCRIS’s outreach programs, organizing a full program of exhibitions to increase public understanding and appreciation of Islamic civilization and art. In particular, the team is focused on encouraging the young to engage with their history and contribute to a vibrant modern society based solidly upon a rich cultural heritage.”

The core work of the department is divided into four units:

- **Curation:** research and cataloguing, expand collections, maintain records, publish studies and manage access to collections for students and researchers.
- **Digital Content:** digitizing collections, website management, communications and online marketing, collection management software and data storage.
- **Storage & Conservation:** ensure proper care and storage of the collections, prevent loss and treat damage, document artefact conditions and management of loans.
- **Exhibitions & Programs:** create exhibitions and events in collaboration with other departments, manage partnerships and agreements, develop training programs, coordinate visits and tours.

Above: an antique sword from our collection. Right: curators at work on our collections.



Highlights of 2018

It has been an extremely busy year for the Museum Department, much of it behind the scenes, including the ongoing work to catalogue and document artefacts and digitize collections. Facilities continue to be upgraded, with the Islamic Art Museum, Al-Faisal Memorial Hall, and storage areas being renovated.

The year also saw the signing of memorandums of understanding, with the Motoko Katakura Foundation for Desert Culture, and the Saudi Culture Commission, both of which will help the department's aim of improving accessibility to the research community and raising awareness of the collections with the general public.

Of particular note this year was a pilot program run in conjunction with King Saud University to provide hands-on museology training to students from the College of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and the ongoing work for the Saudi Memory project (see panel left).

In brief, 2018 activities comprised:

Curation:

- Artefact and collection acquisition, including six objects from the office of Dr Yahya Bin Junaid, 28 personal artefacts from Darat Al-Faisal, three watches belonging to the late Queen Effat, old KFCRIS stamps, and a copy of the UNESCO-KFF charter document.
- Ongoing documentation, curation and cataloguing of existing collections according to new cataloguing standards. Over 1200 objects re-catalogued and numbered.
- Inventory and documentation of all artworks currently belonging to KFCRIS, categorization and digitization of collection data.

Exhibitions:

- **Shendu...Depth, a World Behind the Lens:** Centuries of advancement and cultural enrichment have been spurred by the transfer of goods and the movement of people between China and the Arab world. This exhibition presented a photographic travelogue of Saudi photographer Khalid Al-Sudairy's to China.
- **Science and Innovation In Islamic Manuscripts:** for more than 1,000 years from the 7th century CE, Muslim scholars played a prominent role in preserving and advancing science. Showcasing scientific manuscripts in the fields of medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geometry and zoology, the exhibition is now being re-branded as Takwin: Science and Innovation





Our Collections

Our Arab-Islamic art collection consists of over 700 objects dating from as early as the 7th century CE up to current times. It includes weaponry, writing and calligraphy implements, ceramic and metal wares, medical instruments and wood carvings, textiles and coins. These objects represent the various regions and historic eras of Islamic civilization.

The King Faisal Memorial collection consists of historic items that memorialize the life and accomplishments of King Faisal Al Saud. It includes roughly 1,000 objects of various categories including costumes, medals, plaques, documents, furniture and weapons.

The 3,700-item currency and numismatics collection includes pieces donated by Prince Turki Al-Faisal in the name of his mother, the late Queen Effat, together with collectibles acquired through purchase and donation.



Above: KFCRIS collections include coinage, armaments, artworks and personal possessions of King Faisal

Collection Management

- Development of the Museum Department's policies and procedures to facilitate collection access, such as collection research and publication, photography policies, exhibition and object requests.
- Coordination and planning of object loans including an Islamic art exhibition in Malaysia in collaboration with SCTH; an exhibition of Islamic manuscripts in Abu Dhabi; and an exhibition on Charles De Gaulle and King Faisal by the French embassy in Riyadh.
- Supply images and content for use by external institutions and government bodies, including an RDA volume on the history of Addiryah; the Faisal Qu'ran for display at Jeddah Book Fair; the Saudi Film Council research on Cinema in Saudi, paintings for a documentary on Sa'ud Al Faisal

Conservation and Storage

- Planning and installation of new storage facility to meet international standards for museum collection storage.
- Preparation of collections for migration to new storage facility.
- Renovation of conservation lab, to include both object and paper conservation, and to increase the capacity and efficiency of the team.
- Ongoing conservation on the King Faisal Memorial Collection – final phase scheduled for Jan 2019 completion.

Events and Public Engagement

- Program of monthly cultural events organized in collaboration with Al-Faisal University that will address various cultural and conceptual themes starting with filmmaking in Saudi, folklore and traditional arts, and travel.
- Participation in International Day of Museum in coordination with SCTH
- Development of a proposal for promotional videos highlighting the star objects in the museum collection, the history of KFCRIS, and the establishment of the Saudi Memory Unit.

Al-Faisal: Witness and Martyr



Together with the collections showcased in the center's newly renovated museum space, the Museums team is also responsible for renowned travelling exhibition 'Al Faisal: Witness and Martyr'.

The show illustrates the life and legacy of the late King Faisal and was originally conceived as part of a series of exhibits highlighting the lives of the past kings of Saudi Arabia, envisioned by the late King Abdullah in 2008. Since then the exhibition has travelled throughout Saudi Arabia and internationally.

The exhibition, which includes many of King Faisal's personal effects and private papers, describes his childhood and upbringing, his role as viceroy for King Abdulaziz in the Hijaz, his reign and his tragic martyrdom, illustrating the issues that were most dear to his heart, especially his economic and social development of Saudi Arabia, building the unity of the Arab and Islamic worlds, and ending the occupation of Palestine.

This year, the exhibition visited Tabuk where it was inaugurated by HRH Prince Fahd Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, governor of Tabuk, accompanied by KFCRIS Chairman, Prince Turki Alfaisal.

BUILDING AN ENABLING ORGANIZATION

To enable KFCRIS to achieve its outreach and research activities requires the coordinated efforts of a host of internal services departments under the leadership of the management team.

In common with the entirety of the organization, 2018 has been a year of significant achievements, as we strive to build a culture and introduce streamlined procedures and processes that strengthen our reputation as a leading research institute, and enhance our ability to raise awareness of the legacy of King Faisal and illuminate his mission to depict Saudi Arabia as a beacon of humanity to the wider world.

The development plan for the procedures and work mechanisms of the Center was adopted after examining the current situation and identifying points of strength on the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) model, which includes the following dimensions: the financial dimension of the Center, the dimension of internal procedures and processes of the Center, and the dimension of evolution and growth. All department managers have been trained to prepare their fields of work, formulate goals of public departments, objectives, and procedural activities of the administration. The performance of all departments was evaluated through specific performance indicators in quarterly reports, in order to prepare the operational plan for the Center in 2019.

Similarly, disciplined project management methodology has been introduced to keep track of all initiatives and programs, with a structured continual improvement methodology followed to insure all outputs are produced to the highest standards and meet the needs of their target audiences.

HR

Our people are our most important asset which is why we continually implement development programmes and employee initiatives to benefit the organization, our people, and ultimately, our customers.

We have been consistently strengthening and expanding the scope of our people development programmes and employee welfare initiatives in recent years. As KFCRIS continues to invest in expanding its scope, we focus on acquiring new talent and offering staff opportunities to grow in their careers and learn and develop technical, leadership and management skills.

Responsible for recruitment, training and administration, the HR team has enjoyed a busy 2018. Over the course of the year, a total of 88 employees have benefited from 13 training courses, delivered with the help of Al Faisal Institute for HR Development (for details of courses, see page 53).

In 2018, we provided training courses to 67 students from Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University, King Saud University, Shaqra University and the Saudi Higher Institute of Women's Skills, each of whom we enjoy co-operative training agreements with.

This year, we added to that list of training partners by also agreeing future training collaborations with the Saudi Association for Autism, the College of Technology, the Institute of Public Administration, and Al-Faisal University.

IT

The IT department is responsible for the entire technology infrastructure on which we rely, and has been playing a pivotal role our digital transformation. During 2018, they have made significant progress on developing our technical capabilities to fit our expanding new business requirements, including a systematic audit of applications, and planning for a major hardware upgrade.

Another significant milestone was passed this year with the celebration of the last-ever last paper form to be used in KFCRIS, as we completed our migration to a completely on-line environment.



PUBLISHING, MARKETING AND MEDIA

The Publishing, Marketing and Media team is the public face of KFCRIS, responsible for its media communications, social media and website, book publishing, and for design and production services for other departments' titles.

This has been a quantum year for a department committed to an environment of continual improvement, with the team benefiting from a strong brand, clear goals, and new policies and procedures.



In common with the entirety of KFCRIS, Publishing, Marketing and Media is committed to a digitization strategy. This is broadening and extending our stakeholder voice significantly. Web traffic is up year-on-year and social media activity – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn – is growing exponentially.

Equally significant are agreements made with both Google (periodicals) and Amazon (books and periodicals) for commercial distribution of KFCRIS titles, which have huge potential to increase our readership, one of the foremost aims of the department.

Book Publishing

Irrespective of the distribution channel, it is the quality of our publications that does most to broaden our circulation, and it is here that a realigned structure, new policies and procedures offer great potential.

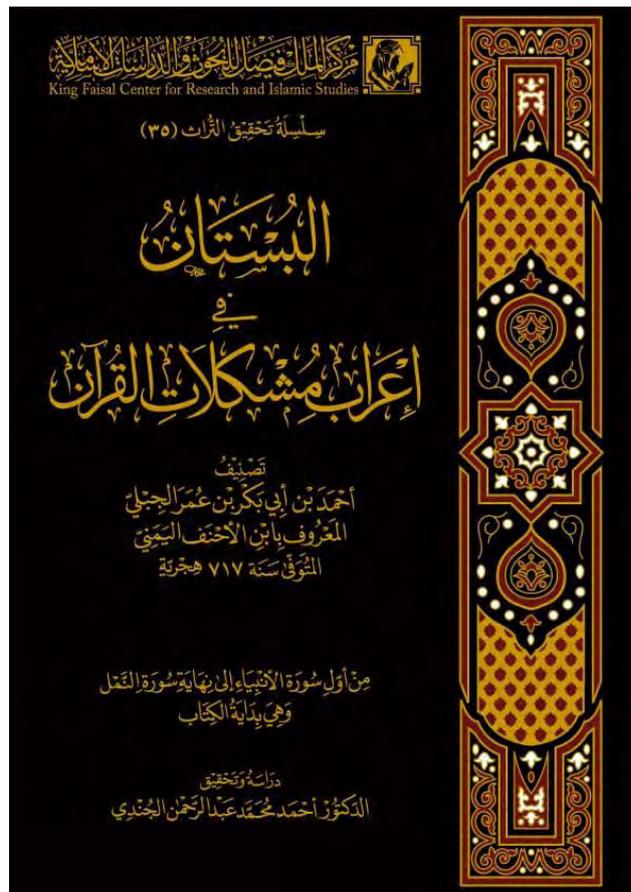
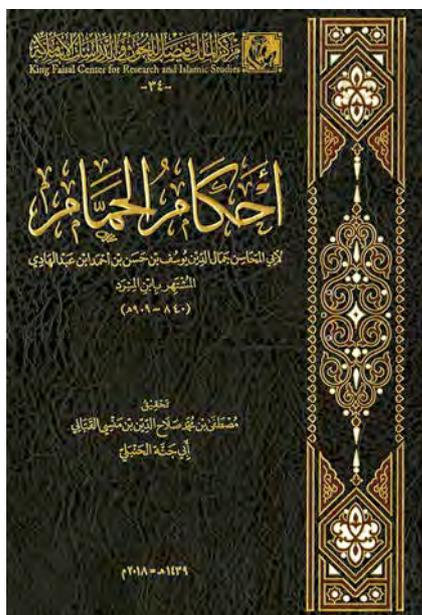
With agreed protocols for publication, a four-strong publishing committee, and in-house expertise in translation, design and printing, KFCRIS is establishing itself as a valued publisher of academic and scholarly books (original titles, translations and reprints) and periodicals in Saudi Arabia and the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

Over the course of the year, 60 titles were submitted to the publishing committee. A further 25 books have been referred to subject-matter specialists for their recommendations.



New Titles

- Saud Al-Faisal, ed Nizar Madani
- A'hkam Alhmam, by Mustapha Kabani
- Al Bustan in the Expression of the Problems of the Qur'an, by Ahmad El Jundi
- The second edition of Densities of the Branches of the Books, by Ibrahim Bajes



Launch Saud Al Faisal at Riyadh Book Fair

Translated Titles

- Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea, by Shiraz Maher (translation by Mohammed El Arabi & Abdulaziz Alhumaid).
- The Naqab Bedouins: a Century of Politics and Resistance, by Mansour Nasasra (translation by Sandra El Achhab).
- Hadhramaut and its Diaspora: Yemeni Politics, Identity and Migration, ed Noel Brehony (translation by Bachir El Issaoui).
- New Science of Politics, by Eric Voegelin.
- The Muslim Brotherhood and the West: A History of Enmity and Engagement, by Martyn Frampton.
- An Intellectual History of Liberalism, by Pierre Manent (translation by Hachem Saleh).





Marketing and Sales

Sales of KFCRIS titles increased on the previous year. This growth was boosted by a number of commercial deals signed this year, and increased KFCRIS participation in the Riyadh and Jeddah International Book Fairs, and in the Festival of the Book Square organized by the Saudi Publishers Association and King Fahd National Library to mark World Book Day.

Distribution agreements signed in 2018:

- Dar Almanduma publishing house (agreement to sell selected periodicals, conference and seminars collateral).
- Al-Rushd publishing house.
- Al Tadmouriah publishing house.
- Jarir Library.
- Obeikan Bookstore.

Other departmental initiatives in 2018

- Translation and language review of 30 separate titles.
- Ongoing program of engagement with domestic and international publishers, authors and translators to explore future opportunities.
- Contractual administration of all departmental commercial activities.
- Full inventory of warehouse stock updated to include new titles (Saud Al Faisal, A'hkam alhmam, and Intellectual History of Liberalism).
- Production of KFCRIS publications catalogue.
- Supply approved publications, titles list and briefing material to KFCRIS Bookshop.



Above: Riyadh Book Fair
Below: KFCRIS sales office

Al-Faisal Magazine

Al-Faisal Magazine was first published in 1977 before the foundation of the KFCRIS. It is widely distributed around the Middle East.

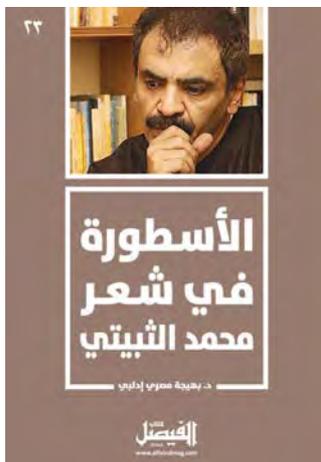
Originally published by Dar Al-Faisal, which was subsequently incorporated into KFCRIS, Al-Faisal Magazine has published contributions from many of the most famous names in the Arab cultural scene, covering art, heritage, philosophy, language, literature, and much more.

This year, six issues were produced containing more than 370 articles, including a wide range of cultural and intellectual topics, poetry and short stories, including the stories, investigating current cultural debates.

For example, in an issue devoted to graphic arts, we investigated Arabic graffiti artists, while in a subsequent issue on focusing on the poetry of Mohammed El Thubaiti we included a feature on the return of cinema to Saudi Arabia.

Our issue on modern Amazigh literature included a general cultural discussion on the Arab-Israeli conflict, while an issue highlighting West African folk tales also included a discussion of the role and importance of traditional culture in a rapidly changing Saudi Arabia.

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



Journal of Linguistic Studies

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

First published in 1999, following the title is highly regarded in academic circles thanks to the caliber of research it covers, and for its classification as ISI journal. Over the course of the year, the journal's editorial board received 61 scientific papers for consideration from scholastic sources at home and abroad, of which 54 were deemed suitable for peer-review.

2018 highlights

During 2018 we also participated in the KFCRIS publishing committee under the chairmanship of Dr Abdullah Al-Saud, and are considering recommendation to re-print 'Al-Lami' al-Azizi' of Abu'l-Ala Al-Maarri, under the review of Prof Hussein Barakat.

We are reviewing both the 'Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Physics Terminology in Arab Heritage' and 'Al-Muntakhab Min Nasab Quraysh Khayar al-Arab' of Abdullah bin Issa Al-Qurashi Al-Mouradi, for possible publication.

We are also considering articles of the great Professor Nasir Al-Din Al-Asad, his research, lectures and introductions for publication, and helping review of 'Al-Rummani Explanation of the Book of Sibawayh', for publication.

Journal tops regional impact rankings

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

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

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

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



All 87 issues are now available on Google Play



Al-Faisal Scientific Magazine

A quarterly scientific magazine published in Arabic in collaboration with King Abdulaziz City for Sciences and Technology, the title debuted in June 2003.

KFCRIS signed a cooperation and partnership agreement with King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in March 2009, enabling the magazine to continue its activities and develop its scientific content and graphic standards.

This year, four issues have been produced, each dedicated to a specific scientific topic:

- Issue 57: Structure of Arab Sciences
- Issue 58: Drought of the earth and the waste of water.
- Issue 59: Nuclear power: strategic necessity and technical challenge
- Issue 60: Information Overload and Pseudo-Science

During 2018 we successfully launched a new Al-Faisal Scientific website and signed a partnership agreement with Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University.



AL-FAISAL INSTITUTE FOR HR DEVELOPMENT

The Institute was set up in 2000 to provide quality training services and products to staff and external students, building a strong reputation for its Arabic training expertise.

A pioneer in teaching Arabic to non-Arabs, the Al Faisal Institute also offers Arabic language classes to native speakers.





The Institute runs a series of Arabic for non-Arabic speakers, targeting embassies, academics and businessmen. This year, a total of 37 students benefited from these popular classes.

These have been developed in-house to answer the need for more modern teaching collateral – and have proved so popular that further volumes are being developed for specialist audiences. The series was originally developed into four levels according to the European Framework of Reference in Language Education. The objective of the series is to provide a smooth and simple way for those who wish to learn Arabic as a second language to communicate interactively with Arabs.

The books aim to help learners gradually deepen the understanding of language from alphabets to words and then language structures. These efforts help students to dive deeper and explore more complex issues during lessons.

A number of other books are under preparation to supplement this series including a conversation book for medical workers as well as simple 100-word glossaries covering many areas of specialty subjects such as commerce, medicine and the diplomatic field. Moreover, Arabic heritage stories help students acquire language skills from zero to advanced levels.

As part of its strategy of establishing long-term relationships with external organizations, this year the Institute signed MOUs with Arabic Language Institute at Princess Noura Bint Abdulrahman University, and the Institute of Arabic Linguistics at King Saud University.

The Institute also provided a total of 13 development courses for KFCRIS staff, training a total of 179 staff in:

- Occupational safety and security
- Personal development
- Administrative excellence
- Report writing
- Time management
- Hospitality and VIPs
- Meeting management
- Problem solving and decision-making
- Team leadership
- Business letter writing
- English language
- MS Excel (1)

DARAT AL-FAISAL

Darat Al-Faisal was established in 2011 to serve as a centralized knowledge bank about the life, times and legacy of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, as a centralized resource for researchers from Saudi Arabia and abroad.

The team curate an extensive collection of books, documents, images, audio-visual records relating to King Faisal, including his speeches, personal papers and press reports about his service to his homeland and his faith.





The main aims of Darat Al-Faisal are threefold:

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

In common with the majority of KFCRIS, 2018 has been a year of realignment, refinement and reorganization as the team relocated offices, refined processes and procedures, and stepped up its digitization efforts, among other achievements.

The four-strong team – assisted by three interns from KSU's Department of History – are using the opportunity of an office relocation to reorganize the collections, recategorizing photographs, newspaper and magazine archives into a logically-ordered database more able to quickly respond to research requests. At the same time, storage was improved to protect collateral from damage.

The digitization of such an extensive archive is a huge task, but one that is progressing well. The majority of images have been scanned and captioned, and the first phase of document scanning has been completed in preparation for the goal of having a fully digitized resource, and modern, easily-accessible picture library.



The Darat team is responsible for responding to external requests for material about King Faisal from other KFCRIS departments and from external bodies. This year, we were pleased to provide images to King Saud University (Women's Department) for use in National Day celebrations; images of King Faisal together with King Abdullah for the King Abdullah Biography Documentation Center; photographs relating to Saudi foreign policy to Darat King Abdulaziz, and specific images to the Royal Protocol Department.

Internally, Darat Al-Faisal was able to, among other requests, collaborate with the Media and Publishing with images and videos for inclusion in the 'Al-Faisal Witness and Martyr exhibition' along with content for the KFCRIS website.

Darat resources were added to with a copy of the Al-Faisal family tree donated by HRH Prince Khalid bin Saud, while other artefacts and collections in the Darat's care were reassigned to the appropriate Museum and Library archives.

Archiving of books, documents, photographs, films and audio records of King Faisal

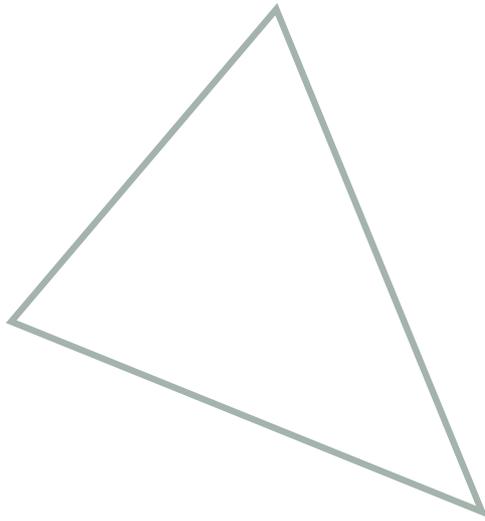
Scan and digitization of photographs: 3500
 Books catalogued: 281
 Documents classified: 1000
 Photographs restored: 157
 Films restored: 20
 Audios restored: 13

Left and below: scenes from King Faisal's life preserved in the Darat Al-Faisal archives



Darat Al-Faisal at KFCRIS





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