

SPECIAL ISSUE  
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# KICT NEWSLETTER



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INTERNATIONAL MULTI-AWARD WINNING INSTITUTION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

KICT

## KICT TEACHING & LEARNING EXHIBITION (TALE)

HUMANISING ICT IN EDUCATION  
25 SEPTEMBER 2024 | KICT MULTI-PURPOSE HALL

KULLIYAH OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY  
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA (IIUM)



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## ICSI

Bridging the Arabic Cataloguing Gap  
Between Academic and Industry

A case study of LISC 7021 Arabic Cataloguing Course

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## INTRO

Exploring Arabic cataloguing:  
A blend of tradition and innovation

At the Library and Information Science department, our postgraduate course, LISC 7021 Arabic Cataloguing, is designed to equip students with essential knowledge and skills to address these challenges and excel in cataloguing Arabic materials.

## KEY AREA FOCUS

Students are trained in several key areas to ensure they can accurately and efficiently catalogue Arabic materials. One of the fundamental aspects of the course is **Descriptive Cataloguing**, where students learn to provide detailed descriptions of Arabic information packages, ensuring meticulous documentation of each resource. This skill is essential for creating comprehensive and accessible records.

## EXPLORING ARABIC CAT

In today's rapidly evolving library environment, the need for skilled cataloguers who can expertly handle diverse language materials has never been more important. One such critical area is the cataloguing of Arabic resources, which presents unique challenges due to its linguistic and cultural intricacies.

The course comprehensively introduces the theoretical and practical aspects of cataloguing Arabic resources, including books, serials, and electronic materials. A core element of this course is applying the Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) standard to describe various Arabic materials, enabling students to learn how to create accurate and accessible bibliographic records.



## THE COURSE

Another critical component is **Name and Title Entry**, which addresses the complexities of entering names and uniform titles. This ensures consistency across records, a vital task when working with Arabic resources that may have variant transliterations or titles.

In addition to descriptive and authority control skills, the course provides a comprehensive understanding of **Classification Systems**. Students are introduced to major classification schemes, including the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and the Library of Congress Classification (LCC). These systems help students organize materials systematically for easy retrieval.

## Success Factor 1

### HANDS-ON PROJECTS FOR REAL-WORLD LEARNING

Students engage in various cataloguing projects throughout the course, providing them with hands-on experience. These projects involve the classification of actual Arabic resources, including rare manuscripts and digital items. This practical engagement not only reinforces their understanding of theoretical concepts but also exposes them to the nuanced challenges of cataloguing complex Arabic works.

## Success Factor 2

### BUILDING EXPERTISE IN ARABIC BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

Ultimately, this course equips students with the specialized knowledge and hands-on experience they need to operate bibliographic control systems confidently. By fostering a deep understanding of both the traditions and innovations in Arabic cataloguing, the course prepares students to contribute to the preservation and accessibility of Arabic cultural heritage in libraries and archives around the world.

Students also focus on **Authority Control**, where they are taught how to manage authority records for names and titles. Authority control is crucial for maintaining the integrity and uniformity of cataloguing systems, particularly in libraries with large and diverse collections.

Moreover, the course delves into specialized classification resources such as the **Library of Congress Subject Headings for Islamic Resources** and the **IUM Library Classification System for Knowledge Resources on Islam (ICSI)**, ensuring that students are well-versed in classifying and organizing materials specifically related to Islamic and Arabic studies. These components equip students with the necessary skills to handle the bibliographic control of Arabic information resources effectively.

## Success Factor 3

### FOSTERING INNOVATION WHILE PRESERVING AUTHENTICITY

A unique aspect of this course is its focus on both tradition and innovation. While students gain proficiency in applying existing cataloguing standards, they are also encouraged to propose new enhancements to Islamic headings and classifications. This ensures that catalogued records remain authentic to their original sources, while also evolving to meet contemporary needs. By the end of the course, students are able to manage all major bibliographic control tasks for Arabic information resources, making them well-prepared to contribute to Arabic collections worldwide.

We are proud to offer this course, which not only enriches students' learning experiences but also contributes to the broader field of Arabic and Islamic studies. Our graduates leave the course with the ability to engage with diverse Arabic resources, applying their knowledge to ensure that these important materials are accessible to future generations.

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# INITIATIVES



In the second session, students participated in a hands-on experience using the ICSI Web platform. This practical segment allowed them to apply the principles learned in the first session by properly describing specific books. Through this interactive session, students gained valuable skills in utilizing the ICSI Web, preparing them to efficiently catalogue Arabic and Islamic materials in real-world settings. The workshop reinforced traditional cataloguing knowledge and introduced modern tools to support effective information management in Arabic collections.

## Workshop



### HANDS-ON WITH EXPERT

The ICSI Web Workshop, attended by Library and Information Science (LIS) students, was an insightful two-session event designed to enhance their skills in cataloguing Arabic and Islamic collections. The first session introduced the traditional practices of cataloguing books on Islam, offering a comprehensive overview of the unique challenges and methodologies in maintaining the integrity and accessibility of Arabic and Islamic resources. This session laid the foundation by highlighting the importance of accuracy and consistency in bibliographic control.



## Industrial Talk



### ISLAMIC LIBRARIANSHIP

Madam Norazzah Momin, the Chief Librarian of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), delivered the talk to expose students to key aspects of Islamic librarianship. The session provided a comprehensive overview of the historical development of Islamic librarianship, tracing its roots through time and highlighting the contributions of prominent Islamic scholars and their invaluable collections. It also addressed the library management processes and procedures specific to Islamic libraries, as well as the challenges and strategies for acquiring invaluable collections from around the world.



A key focus of the talk was the relationship between Islamic librarianship and mosque libraries, emphasizing the need to strengthen and advocate for these partnerships as centres of knowledge within the community. Finally, the talk offered insights on how to sustain the spirit of Muslim librarians, sharing motivational methods and best practices to inspire and maintain a strong sense of purpose in the profession. The talk was an invaluable opportunity for students to gain deeper insights into Islamic librarianship's historical and practical dimensions.



## Services at Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Malaysia Library: An Analysis of Arabic Cataloguing Procedures

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines the challenges in cataloguing Arabic materials in the Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Malaysia (JKSM) library. It focuses on the Islamic Manuscripts Collection (IKM) and the Islamic Manuscripts Collection (IKM) at the National Centre of Malay Manuscripts (NCMM). The study aims to identify the challenges in cataloguing Arabic materials and propose solutions. The findings reveal that the main challenges in cataloguing Arabic materials are the lack of standardized cataloguing procedures, the limited availability of Arabic cataloguing expertise, and the complexity of Arabic script. The study also highlights the importance of collaboration between the JKSM and the NCMM in addressing these challenges. The study concludes that the implementation of standardized cataloguing procedures, the development of Arabic cataloguing expertise, and the establishment of a collaborative relationship between the JKSM and the NCMM are essential for improving the cataloguing process in the JKSM library.

# INITIATIVES

## Research Project & Publication

### PROJECT OUTPUT

Holding to the ICSI as the main standard in shaping the Arabic and Islamic cataloguing skills among LIS students, two main projects were successfully executed, proposing changes in the cataloguing practice in Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Malaysia (JKSM) and Al-Madinah International University library (MEDIU) respectively based on ICSI. Both projects were accepted for journal publications.

## Academic Visit

### EXPLORING ARABIC COLLECTION

The academic visit to the National Centre of Malay Manuscripts (NCMM) was closely aligned with the objectives of the Arabic Cataloguing course, providing students with valuable insights into cataloguing and preserving non-traditional library materials such as manuscripts. During the visit, the NCMM representative presented key points regarding the documentation of Malay manuscripts, focusing on the guidelines, types of descriptions, and specific aspects requiring attention during the cataloguing process.

Students observed how Malay manuscripts are catalogued and preserved at NCMM, which was reinforced during a hands-on session. The visit provided a practical understanding of manuscript handling and cataloguing, further enriching their cataloguing knowledge in the context of Arabic and Islamic resources.



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