MARC 21 and cataloguing of Arabic materials

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Basis for cataloguing

• AACR2r 1.0E1: ... transcribed from the item itself in the language and script (wherever practicable) ...:

Title and statement of responsibility

Edition

Publication, distribution, etc.

Series

 The main Arabic script languages are: Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Pushtu, Sindhi, Ottoman Turkish, several Central Asian Turkic languages, Kurdish, preromanized Swahili, Hausa, Malayo-Indonesian, and includes other Arabic script African and South-Asian languages.

Access to vernacular scripts in catalogue

- Made possible through transliteration and Romanization
- Transliteration is "simple letter-by-letter substitution"
- Romanization is a systematic representation of the original script using roman characters to provide phonetic approximation.
- In the library environment, transliteration and romanization enable integration of automated library catalogues into one file with those entries originally in the Roman alphabet
- The most well accepted transliteration table and style by libraries is *ALA-LC Romanization tables: transliteration schemes for non-roman scripts*
- Successful searching requires end users and cataloguers to be competent with Romanization and transliteration rule