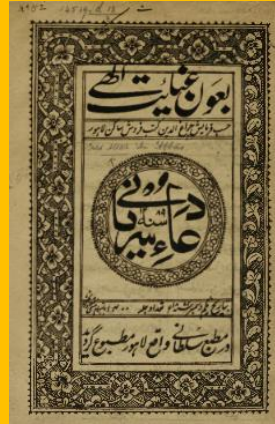


A large yellow diamond shape with a blue ribbon across the center. The ribbon contains the text "Gale Digital Collections". The diamond has a dotted blue line forming a circle inside it.

Gale Digital Collections

www.galesupport.com/crlfamily
for more information & trial access



EARLY ARABIC PRINTED BOOKS FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Coming Soon!

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library (1475-1900)

GALE Early Arabic Printed Books
from the British Library


أوائل الكتب العربية المطبوعة
من المكتبة البريطانية

Keyboard Search primary sources Advanced Search

Home Term Frequency About

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library (1475-1900) is the first full-text searchable digital library of early printed books in Arabic script. Covering Islamic and Christian literature, law, science, mathematics, astrology, alchemy, medicine, geography, travel, history, chronicles, and literature, and including European translations of Arabic works and Arabic translations of Christian religious works, it exemplifies the long exchange of ideas and learning between Europe and the Arabic-speaking world.

[Read Overview](#)



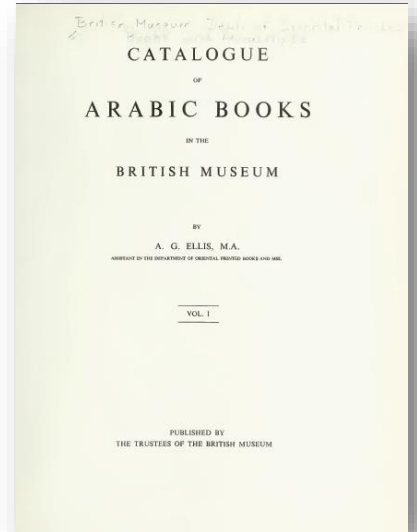
Term Frequency: View search results on a graph to see trends over time for one or more terms.

[Go to Term Frequency](#)

- **Estimated release:** November 2015 (Module I)
- **Source Library:** British Library and partly from the India Office Library
- **The 1st full-text searchable digital library of early printed books in Arabic script.**
- **Covering Islamic and Christian literature, law, science, mathematics, astrology, alchemy, medicine, geography, travel, history, chronicles, and literature.**
- **Exemplifies the long exchange of ideas and learning between Europe and the Arabic-speaking world**

Early Arabic Printed Books Digitization

- The digitization of all the unique titles and editions catalogued in A. G. Ellis's Early Arabic Printed Books in the British Museum, London, 1898-1901 (3 vols).
- Ellis catalogued most of the large collection of 15th-19th-century Arabic books acquired by the British Library, then part of the British Museum
 - ✓ 6,500-7000 works (est), 12,000 titles (est), 2-2.5m pages
 - ✓ Date range: 15th century to end 19th century
 - ✓ Languages: Arabic (50-60%), English, French, Italian, Latin, German, Russian, Swedish, Greek, Dutch, Hebrew
 - ✓ Books printed in Alexandria, Bagdad, Beirut, Bulak, Cairo, Constantinople, London, Lucknow, Paris, St Petersburg, Tunis, Vienna among others
 - ✓ European texts: 40% (est.)
 - ✓ Arabic texts: 60% (est.) printed script: 52%, lithographed facsimile texts: 8%



Value of the Product & Key Features

The value of this particular collection lies in its provenance, breadth and the inclusion of both Arabic texts, early European translations of Arabic texts and Christian texts in Arabic as evidence for the interchange between the Arabic and European world across the centuries

- ✓ The translations of Arabic works into European languages and of European texts into Arabic which enable the study of the interaction and influences between Arab and European cultures
- ✓ Early European imprints in Arabic such as Roman Catholic publications, philosophical and medical works printed in Spain and Italy, and the Hamburg Arabic Qur'an of 1694
- ✓ Rare 18th-century publications from missionary presses in the Levant, Arabic works printed on the press brought to Alexandria by Napoleon in 1798 and Arabic books published at the press established by Muhammad 'Ali at Bulaq from 1822 onwards
- ✓ This collection reflects dominant trends within British study of the Arab world - for example, classical texts of Islamic scholarship and Arabic literary writing

Structure of the Product

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library has been divided into three subject modules; however libraries with all three modules will have access to one seamless collection

Module 1: Islamic literature, Christian literature and Islamic Law (November 2015)

- ✓ The Quran, traditions (Hadith), tafsir, theology, prayers and sermons, traditions - interpretation, biographies of traditionalists; bibles, commentaries, Christian teaching and practice, liturgies, prayer books; law, fiqh and statutes, fatwas and rulings

Module 2: Sciences, History, Geography and Periodicals (December 2016)

- ✓ Natural history, medicine, physiology, other science, classical sciences, philosophy, logic, politics, ethics, mathematics, arithmetic, geometry, mechanics, astrology, chemistry; history, early caliphs and conquests, modern history, genealogy, biographies; geography and travel, regional geography, topography, and periodicals

Module 3: Literature, Grammar, Language, Catalogues and General Works (November 2017)

- ✓ Folktales, pre-Islamic literature (Antar, Bani Hilal, Imru'l qays), Islamic poetry and prose (al-Burdah), poetry and prose (maqamat), Kalilah wa-dimnah, Luqman, proverbs and sayings, Thousand and one nights, later literature, poetry and prose, general literature; language and lexicography, dictionaries, grammar, syntax, rhetoric, 'ilm al-bayan, catalogues, manuscript catalogues, etc

Uniqueness of Early Arabic Printed Books

No other printed book online archive contains searchable pre-1900 texts (other than through re-keying)

- Gale is adding searchable Arabic text with right-to-left read to the Gale portfolio in Artemis Primary Sources alongside ECCO and NCCO
- A user interface for right-to-left navigation and reading
- The user will search metadata in both Arabic and European languages
- Early Arabic Printed Books will offer the users an estimated 77% word accuracy (est. 56% will be over 90% word accuracy) in their searches of Arabic texts
- Largest digital archive of pre-1900 printed Arabic books

Additional features

- Authors - standard authority names (Library of Congress)
- Marc records will be available for downloading into library online catalogues with hyperlinks to the texts to aid discovery
- Each text will be navigated through an electronic (hyperlinked) table of contents
- Subject indexing, international citation tools

