

AL-HILAL DIGITAL COLLECTION

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) is dedicated to recapture the spirit of the ancient Library of Alexandria, a center of excellence for global learning. The Library and its affiliated research center, the International School of Information Science (ISIS), are devoted to applying the latest technology to build a universal digital library accessible to people worldwide. This is essential to bridge the digital divide between developing and developed countries.

Egyptian politicians, authors and historians; as well as content from all over the world related to the modern history of Egypt encompassing the past 200 years.

The Al-Hilal Digitization Project is one of the products of partnership agreements that preserves and publishes aspects of modern Egyptian history.

First issued on 1 September 1892, Al-Hilal is the oldest cultural journal in the Arab world, and the only journal that has been regularly issued for more than a hundred years. It had a pronounced effect on the history of the Arab World and of Egypt in particular. It also played a leading role in modernizing Arab intellectual thinking, and opened new horizons for cultural development.



The Digital Library of the Modern History of Egypt is a cornerstone of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's integrated digital library. It is designed to include collections of specialized libraries belonging to eminent

Through an agreement between the BA and Dar Al-Hilal (Al-Hilal magazine's publishing house), the BA is currently finalizing the project to publish an exhaustive digital copy of the issues of Al-Hilal

magazine since its first publication. The issues of each ten years will be compiled on a CD and provided with search tools enabling researchers and the public to read and research one of the region's oldest journals.



By early 2006, the volumes of years 1 to 50 were completely scanned, processed and indexed (about 51,000 pages). An application was implemented for browsing through the digital copies

with searching facilities. The hierarchy for titles and subtitles is designed to help users select the desired articles.

Partnership of BA and Al-Hilal has set a model to be implemented with other publishers for publication of out-of-print issues as an essential requirement for the digital documentation of human heritage. Moreover, publishing a digital copy of this collection from the previous century serves BA's mission of utilizing state-of-art technologies to preserve human knowledge and make it widely accessible.



This partnership will also contribute to the content of the AMEEL (A Middle East Electronic Library) project initiated by Yale University in the USA. AMEEL, will in turn, have a great impact on another more globally-oriented project initiated by the US Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to study the requirements and implementation plans for a Digital Library of the Middle East with an initial focus on cultural heritage resources.



MORE INFORMATION

about AL-Hilal digital collection and other ISIS projects is available at www.bibalex.org/isis.

