



# ANNUAL REPORT

BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA

July 2004 - June 2005



# 2005

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## *Abbreviations*

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■ Please note the following abbreviations which may be used in this report

<b>ABA</b>	Academia Bibliotheca Alexandrinae
<b>Alex-Med</b>	Alexandria and Mediterranean Research Center
<b>ARF</b>	Arab Reform Forum
<b>ASEST</b>	Arab Group for the Ethics of Science and Technology
<b>BA</b>	Bibliotheca Alexandrina
<b>CSSP</b>	Center for Special Studies and Programs
<b>CULTNAT</b>	Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage
<b>DLF</b>	Digital Library Federation
<b>ISIS</b>	International School of Information Science
<b>OCR</b>	Optical Character Recognition
<b>OPAC</b>	Online Public Access Catalog
<b>PSC</b>	Planetarium Science Center
<b>TWAS</b>	The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World



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## *Profile*

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### ■ MISSION

*To be a center of excellence for the production and dissemination of knowledge, and to be a place of dialogue and understanding between cultures and peoples.*

### ■ OBJECTIVES

*To be the world's window on Egypt;*

*Egypt's window on the world;*

*An instrument for rising to the challenges of the digital age;*

*A center for dialogue between peoples and civilizations.*

Foreword

I

# Foreword

■ and Introduction

and Introduction



■ **HE Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak**

## Foreword

It is a pleasure to present to the world this third Annual Report on the activities of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, covering the period from July 2004 to June 2005. Despite its youth, our institution is already making impact in many different domains. It is indeed recapturing the spirit of the Ancient Library of Alexandria. It is a place of freedom, a meeting place for the dialogue between peoples and culture. It is a place dedicated to upholding the values of rationality, learning, pluralism and understanding. Egypt is proud to once more be the host for a living cultural institution that reclaims the mantle of the fabled Ancient Library.

Like its illustrious predecessor, it is dedicated to advancing universal knowledge, not a single speciality. It is addressing research and applying advanced techniques to everything from the visual arts to the informatics revolution, from the documentation of heritage to the promotion of peace. It is a university without walls or registration, without formal certificates or structured courses. It is open to all those who seek knowledge in all its aspects and manifestations. All those who love art in all its wondrous expressions. All those who thirst after a better understanding of their heritage or of the world. All those who dream of pushing the frontiers of scientific knowledge to wherever human ingenuity will take it.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is becoming a major library. The first part of our report deals with that. It is more than a library. It is a marvelous mix of many museums, research institutes and art galleries. Above all, it is teeming with life: visitors, conferences, exhibitions, concerts, debates and magical worlds from the Planetarium to the Culturama. It serves diverse needs: from the children who are barely learning to read to the wise scholars who pore over esoteric volumes, from art lovers in its galleries to young university students and researchers in its reading rooms.

In this last year, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has also taken an important role in advancing the reform agendas in the Arab world, and we have just taken the decision to create a special institute of Peace Studies. This will be the first such institution in our part of the world. We hope to be able to report on its launch in the next annual report.

We hope that these pages will give you the measure of what our young and lively institution is doing as it grows and takes root on the shore of the Mediterranean.

**Suzanne Mubarak**

Chair, Board of Trustees

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## Introduction

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It is always difficult to prepare the annual report for an institution that is as varied and multi-faceted as the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA). Despite its youth – it has not yet celebrated its third anniversary – the BA encompasses:

- A library that can hold millions of books;
- A center for the Internet and its archive;
- Six specialized libraries for
  - (i) audio-visual materials,
  - (ii) the visually impaired,
  - (iii) children,
  - (iv) the young,
  - (v) microforms, and
  - (vi) rare books and special collections;
- Three museums for (i) Antiquities, (ii) Manuscripts, and (iii) the History of Science;
- A Planetarium;
- An Exploratorium for children’s exposure to science;
- Three permanent exhibitions;
- Six art galleries for temporary exhibitions;
- A Conference Center for thousands of persons;
- Seven research institutes covering
  - (i) manuscripts, (ii) documentation of heritage, (iii) calligraphy and writing, (iv) information sciences, (v) Mediterranean and Alexandrian Studies, (vi) arts, and
  - (vii) scientific research; and
- A discussion forum



**Ismail Serageldin**

Librarian of Alexandria

Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

These many institutions have almost 1,200 staff members, remarkably young (27-28 years old on average) and gender-balanced (51% female excluding security and custodial staff). They have organized and welcomed at the BA some 500 events and over 1 million visitors in the last twelve months. Their collective work is being presented in these few pages. Since many activities involve more than one unit, department or center, we have opted not to try to report along administrative lines, but rather to try to regroup our many interests into a thematic structure. Even then, choices were necessary.

The BA’s mission is easy to state: “*To be a center of excellence for the production and dissemination of knowledge and for the dialogue between peoples and cultures.*” We even sharpened our implementation

focus into four clear objectives, namely, to be:

- The world's window on Egypt;
- Egypt's window on the world;
- A leading institution in the digital age; and
- A space of freedom for vibrant intellectual discussion and the dialogue between peoples and cultures.

However the many interlinked activities and complementary, though unrelated, events that go into discharging our mission mandate and achieving our four goals, mean that our presentation here must be selective. Accordingly, this year, our annual report is divided into three sections: First, a highlights section. This year, we focused on three major initiatives of the BA: The efforts in the library sector proper; the enormous advances being achieved in the digital realm; and the role of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in the promotion of reform in Egypt and the Arab world, advancing the cause of freedom of expression, democracy, rationality dialogue and understanding.

The second section gives a thematic overview of the progress of this young institution in a comparatively short time. The final section describes our finances, gives statistics and indicators for various subjects, presents our Board of Trustees and

introduces our management team. A few words to introduce each of these sections is pertinent here.

## **I. Highlights**

### **A Culture of Service: The Library Sector in 2005**

Our Library, the heart of our enterprise, has made great strides towards its primary goal to assist our visitors and patrons to have easy access to our collections, to undertake online research and to enable them to be active participants in our quest to honor the past, celebrate the present and invent the future. The Library was reorganized to relocate the collections over the seven floors of the reading room in such a way so as to facilitate user access and increase users' satisfaction. The response has been quite positive. Increasingly, we are trying to provide a complete range of services that assist researchers and first time users and increase the pleasure of learning. Services start from the general information desk providing general information about the BA's activities, to orientation services teaching our users effective research skills and exposing them to various information resources, to reference services on each level where 406,910 queries were answered of which 9,280 were intensive research questions, to the electronic research service where access was provided to

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28 core databases and 11,300 scholarly electronic journals. A total of 161,743 computer reservations were made by our library patrons and honored by the BA librarians, of which 96,614 were made through a new system.

The Library complex includes specialized libraries and we have significantly expanded our services for the blind and the visually impaired, just as we expanded our collections in the art and multimedia areas, as well as for the young and the children. Library membership has also increased a pace from 9,952 to 20,851 of which 1,098 are Children's Library members and 1,212 Young People's Library members.

#### **Towards the Digital Future: Big Steps for a Young Organization**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina intends to become an active member among the leading digital institutions in the world. Towards that goal, with the generous support of the Egyptian Government, the BA has built and deployed the best ICT infrastructure in Egypt. Beyond infrastructure, the BA has embarked on a whole array of ambitious projects, in partnership with world class institutions. These range from hosting a mirror site for a significant part of the Internet Archive, participating in the Million Book Project, organizing the digital

archive of the Gamal Abdel Nasser collection, presenting the first ever complete digital version of the *Description de l'Egypte*, to participating in advanced research such as the Arabic component of the UN-sponsored Universal Digital Language computerized multi-language translation program. Thus, despite being less than three years in existence, the BA has already a substantial record of achievements.

These achievements did not go unnoticed. The prestigious Digital Library Federation (DLF) officially invited the BA to become a strategic partner of the group. The Digital Library Federation, founded in 1995, is a partnership organization of academic libraries and related organizations that are pioneering the use of electronic information technologies to extend their collections and services. Through its strategic partners, the DLF provides leadership for libraries by identifying standards and "best practices" for digital collections and network access; coordinating research and development in the libraries' use of technology; and incubating projects and services that libraries need but cannot develop individually. The BA was deemed an ideal partner with its advanced infrastructure and experience in digitizing, processing and encoding books, especially in the



Arabic language. It is to be noted that the BA is only the second partner from outside the USA after the British Library, which joined the DLF in 2003.

Joining the DLF is an enormous vote of confidence by the premier institutions in the world. It is all the more gratifying that the BA is barely 30 months old.

#### **Championing Change: The BA contribution to Arab Reform**

The BA has been working on championing change and promoting reform in the Arab world generally and in Egypt specifically. It has provided a space of freedom for eminent Arab intellectuals and Civil Society institutions to meet and draw strength from past achievements, confront current shortcomings and measure the challenges ahead.

The BA's appearance on the reform scene was triggered by the conference that produced the Alexandria Declaration of March 2004. A year later, the Second Reform Conference in March 2005 took stock of the developments during that period. The theme of the conference was stories of success by the Arab Civil Society, and it was attended by some 500 civil society members from 16 Arab countries who assessed the achievements of the past year and

voted to make this an annual event every March at the BA.

During the year between the two conferences, the Arab Reform Forum, created by the first conference of 2004 and housed in the BA, has organized many activities covering economic reform, freedom of expression, human rights, youth, and especially education. The latter is part of the BA's determination to focus on the hardest, and arguably the most, important dimension of reform: the socio-cultural transformation of our societies in the face of obscurantism, xenophobia and fanaticism. All this will deepen and strengthen the reform current in Egypt and the Arab world.

In addition, the Arab Reform Observatory is an interactive participatory social research project, to bring rigor to assessing what is happening in the Arab world. The first report provided a variety of specific indicators, and now the next report is under preparation, involving teams of researchers in various Arab countries. Another exciting work in progress is the Arab Info Mall, a digital forum for the networks of Arab NGOs, which is to be finalized in Fall 2005.

## **II. Nine Themes**

The second section of the report covers the nine themes, each of which highlights one aspect of the BA's

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developing roles where the activities by different parts of the Library of Alexandria are all mapped into one theme or another.

**Theme i: A Leader in the Digitization, Preservation and Management of Heritage**

The International School for Information Science (ISIS) and the Center for the Documentation for Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT) are playing major roles in this field working hand-in-hand with our specialized centers, especially the Alexandria and Mediterranean Research Center, the Center for Calligraphy and the Manuscript Center. ISIS' work is covered in the highlights section of the report. The award-winning work of CULTNAT, from the world's first 9 screen interactive multi-layered digital "Cultural Panorama", called the CULTURAMA, to Eternalegypt.org, a unique trilingual portal, to many other activities, has been providing a new multimedia means for people worldwide to learn more about Egypt. One of Alex-Med's main contributions will be the digital reconstruction of the Pharos Lighthouse and a digital 3D model of the Qait Bey Fort. The Manuscript Center has been actively producing digital collections of manuscripts and partnering with European institutions to catalog and digitize their collections of Arabic manuscripts.

**Theme ii: Center of Excellence on Specialized Topics**

The Library Sector has significantly developed its specialized libraries by providing the most up-to-date resources. The new Library of Alexandria is already becoming a resource and reference center in various areas such as the Ancient Library of Alexandria, as well as ancient and modern Alexandria. Some of the facets of our work in the Library Sector are covered in the first part of the highlights section.

**Theme iii: Actor in the Sustainable Development of the City**

We are becoming an active partner in rejuvenating the city of Alexandria. Alex-Med, in its effort to engage the citizens in the fate of their city, organized summer training for students to survey and document four important buildings at risk. Focus on public outreach is engaging women, children and youth. Two maps of the city are being prepared, one of which will be covering the cultural aspect of the city to encourage cultural tourism and raise awareness among the Alexandrians.

**Theme iv: Innovator in Cultural and Artistic Interaction**

The BA's commitment to promoting artistic and cultural interaction has an ongoing agenda. Training and education in various artistic domains

are being provided nationally and internationally. Imagining the Book exhibition has turned into a Biennale and is being held every second year alternating with the Artist's Book Biennale. The Diamond Jubilee celebration of Shadi Abdel-Salam was held in March 2005 with the official inauguration of the World of Shadi Abdel-Salam Exhibition.

#### **Theme v: Incubator for Children's Talents**

Reaching out to children and youth is one of BA's priorities. Major steps have been taken to develop the Children's Library and the Young People's Library. Quite a number of projects and workshops have been devoted to introduce the world of books and knowledge to the younger generation. The BA offers special programs to introduce children to the digital world which include The Library@Your Corner and "My Book Digital and Printed". The BA Chamber Orchestra has developed a series of morning music lectures for preparatory school students to introduce children to the basic components of classical music. The Planetarium Science Center (PSC) conducts science training and mentoring and engages talented children to take part in teaching and explaining science to other children.

#### **Theme vi: Promoter of Science and Technology**

The new Library of Alexandria seeks to promote scientific thinking and encourages research through a number of activities offered by the Planetarium Science Center and the Center for Special Studies and Programs (CSSP). The BA hosts international conferences and invites eminent figures in the fields of science, mathematics and technology. The Einstein Symposium was held on our premises 4-6 June 2005 with the presence of a number of Nobel Laureates and the year-long celebration of the centennial of Einstein's miraculous year is still ongoing.

#### **Theme vii: Catalyst for Reform in the Region**

This theme is one of the main topics covered under the Highlights section.

#### **Theme viii: Apex for Networking and Partnerships**

One of BA's missions is to create partnerships. Its strong and efficient ICT infrastructure and specialized centers has encouraged international institutions to seek partnerships and joint projects. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is hosting the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures officially inaugurated in April 2005, and the Academy of Sciences for the

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Developing World (TWAS) Arab Regional Office, which was launched in June 2005.

**Theme ix: Meeting Point for Dialogue and Understanding between People**

The new Library of Alexandria is recapturing the spirit of tolerance and pluralism in the historically cosmopolitan city of Alexandria. The long list of many activities provided in Section III of this report covers many examples of this kind of work, especially conferences, exhibitions and cultural exchanges through music and theater. A vivid illustration was the two-day event “Mediterranean City: Dialogue Among Cultures” which included an exhibition in which 12 partner Mediterranean cities participated.

**III. Finance, Governance and Management**

The third section in the report gives an overview of the progress of the support services, the backbone of this institution. It is through their effectiveness that the institution is functioning smoothly. This section includes our audited financial statements, the listing of the main events of the 12 months under consideration, and some statistical snapshots highlighting the number of varied activities from visitors, to acquisitions to cultural activities. We then conclude with a section

presenting our Board of Trustees and introducing our management team.

All in all, the Third Annual Report is a snapshot of a dynamic institution in motion, of a young and motivated group of people determined to make a difference, committed to the ambitious mission statement of the BA: “To be a center of excellence for the production and dissemination of knowledge and for the dialogue between peoples and cultures.” The start that they have made is a promising one indeed.



■ The Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Highlights

# Highlights

■ of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

*This year we have chosen to highlight three major broad-based initiatives that are beginning to bear fruit, and that will significantly affect the work of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina for years to come.*

- **A Culture of Service:**  
The Library Sector in 2005
- **Towards the Digital Future:**  
Big Steps for a young ICT organization
- **Championing Change:**  
The BA contributes to Arab Reform

of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

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## ■ A Culture of Service

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**A**s one of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's main sectors, the library has many functions, responsibilities and goals. The library seeks to establish itself as an international center of excellence in education and research through its collection of books, journals, newspapers, multimedia and electronic resources. The reading area is meant to be a full-bodied experience, drawing the public in for a first-hand contact with multiple resources. The spectacular structure and the comfort enhanced interior combine to create a first rate atmosphere instituted to augment the library users' educational encounter. Open access shelves display the library collections through a reading area which cascades over seven levels of the library and accommodates 2,000 readers under its roof. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is thought to be one of the largest reading rooms of all the major libraries in the world. The primary goal of the library is to honor the past, celebrate the present, and invent the future.

The Main Library is split into five unique libraries each with their own specializations; the Main Reading Hall, the Taha Hussein Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Children's Library, the Young People's Library, and the Arts & Multimedia Library. In addition, rare

books, manuscripts and special collections are handled separately by the Manuscript Center. Each one of these specialized libraries contributes as part of a whole, assessing the needs of a variety of users.

Whereas any theater has its backstage crew, the Library Sector has behind-the-scenes reinforcement staff handling every aspect of the library, all the while ensuring that matters on the outside run smoothly. The library's staff consists of seven main sections: Business & Budget Office, Special Libraries, Digital Library Services, Technical Services, Access Services, Public Services, and Arts and Multimedia Services. As the library matures, users are getting accustomed to use the designated services and have begun to require additional ones. In order to accommodate all the daily readers, the Library Sector has instituted special services to increase learning pleasure. Services rendered that contribute towards this center of excellence are:

### **Membership Services**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina membership card provides members the benefit of using the library and all its facilities. Constituents can consult books, perform their research on the Internet, utilize reading areas, and reserve study rooms. Certain members qualify for reduced entrance rates in



the museums, exhibitions and cultural performances; while the blind, visually impaired, and disabled are invited to visit the library for free. From July 2004 to June 2005, the number of Bibliotheca Alexandrina memberships increased by 109%. Within the increase of new members, there were 1,098 Children's Library members and 1,212 Young People's Library members.

#### **General Information Desk**

The General Information Services desk is located at the entrance of the Main Library for convenience. The desk provides general information to

the public, regarding the Bibliotheca Alexandrina sponsored activities, library services, and refers users to the appropriate specialized reference desks throughout the seven levels.

#### **Orientation Services**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is committed to helping library patrons develop research skills that encourage and support critical thinking and lifelong learning, key components to information literacy. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is taking the responsibility of teaching its users effective research skills, exposing them to the various information resources and



■ Patron reading books donated by Japan

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facilitating the understanding of the structure of information and methods of searching, gathering and evaluating information. Over the last couple of years, the library staff has offered programs such as general library orientations, Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) training, Internet beginner courses, and are currently adding an e-resources course teaching users how to use the research databases offered at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Over the last two years, the BA has established two courses as a foundation towards information literacy. The first course is a general orientation on the library and the basic library systems, concentrating on explaining basic knowledge such as the Dewey Decimal Classification. The second course, entitled Research-for-All, is a four session course teaching OPAC basics, Internet searching, introduction to reference materials, and essay writing. Part of the courses are lecture-based countering the second, more practical part of the sessions. General orientation courses are run weekly with an average participation of ten to fifteen users per session. The Research-for-All course is a four-session course with a duration of 2 weeks.

Within the last fiscal year, the Instructional Services Unit has conducted 24 sessions with an average participation of 23 students per course, for an annual total of 516 learners. It is important to note, within the next fiscal year, the Instructional Services Unit will be moved to a larger facility on level B3, therefore increasing the holding capacity of participants and facilitating a more hands-on curriculum.

### **Reference Services**

On each level, as well as in each special library, there are one or more reference desks designed to serve the public and acquaint the user or researcher with OPAC, electronic resources, the multimedia and music collections, or other facilities. Reference librarians play a fundamental role within the library environment and patrons would agree that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina librarians are always available for assistance. With the reference librarians multi-faceted role, they are responsible for guiding, supporting, and supplementing the users on their research quests. Reference librarians track the information that is requested from them to better adapt their services to the demands of the user. Throughout the year, the reference librarians answered 406,910 questions, 9,280 of which were intensive research questions.

When reference librarians are not on duty at their assigned reference desks, they are hard at work creating, modifying, and updating subject guides on various highlighted topics of interest, listing available credible resources, in print and non-print format, to aid the users to discover the information they need.

#### **Electronic Resources Services**

Access is provided to a great variety of valuable electronic resources: 21 core databases, 19,584 scholarly electronic journals, free e-book databases, and the renown ebrary® subscription e-books, as well as a huge

collection of free web resources selected and organized to serve both the general public and the researcher. This service is accessible inside the library, and soon it will be available for remote users. Within the past year there were 23,951 sessions and 110,560 searches conducted.

#### **Circulation Services**

Circulation services are limited to the material found at the Young People's Library. This fiscal year witnessed a total of 3,108 circulation transactions within the Young People's Library, of which, 2,845 were check-outs and 263 renewals.



Library Main Reading Hall

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### **Computer Services**

As a supplement to the services offered at the BA, patrons and members are offered computer access for research purposes within the main reading hall, study rooms, and the specialized libraries, as well as access to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Catalog through the OPAC workstations. There are 330 available computers in the main reading hall and within the varied study rooms. In the first half of the fiscal year (1 July 2004 to 31 December 2004), the 96,614 computer reservations were made through a 'per floor' system. All reservations were controlled by the nearest reference desk on each of the seven floors. Beginning January, the Digital Library Services Section and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department instituted a centralized reservation system for all main reading hall and study room computers, localized at the Computer Reservation Desk in the entrance lobby. Through this new system, from 1 January 2005 until 30 June 2005, 161,743 computers throughout the library were reserved by our library patrons.

### **Specialized Tours**

For the convenience of visiting librarians or other professionals, scheduled specialized tours are available. These tours allow visitors to learn the different systems the library

implements, as well as other related matters which might interest them or their fields, such as work procedures, human resources development programs or the collection development policy.

### **Other Services**

The library users may pay cash or purchase pre-paid cards, or Smart Cards, at the General Information Desk to access available photocopiers in the dedicated areas. The library users also have the opportunity to print their work from any workstation within the library network for a nominal fee. The copy centers have photo-copied over 150,000 pages for our patrons. To address continuity of work, floppy disks are available for sale at selected reference desks in the reading areas so library users may save their scanned work for a later time. Researchers and students may reserve study rooms to work in a serene and personal environment where they may surround themselves with all needed research materials and a computer with access to the library's databases and other electronic resources.

### **Specialized Libraries**

As the journey into the 21<sup>st</sup> century begins, the ever-increasing trend of globalization allows a fresh awareness of the uniqueness and specialty of each individual. As a mirror of the



times, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina reflects this uniqueness in the formation of four specialized libraries: the Taha Hussein Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Children's Library, the Young People's Library, and the Arts & Multimedia Library. Each library specializes in their respective fields, is a large contributing factor to the excellence of the Library Sector, addresses distinctive needs and adds to the multi-faceted flavor of the library as a whole.

#### **Taha Hussein Library**

The Taha Hussein Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired offers a new concept in focusing on the special needs of the visually impaired, enabling them to access all the resources of the library applying state-of-the-art technology. The Library is equipped with special software packages that allow the blind and the visually impaired to access the web, databases, the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and enables them to print needed material using Braille printers. Scanners that use special software to transfer text into speech are also available to permit users to read any printed material in multiple languages.

This year was a productive year for the Taha Hussein Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 230 users were welcomed as permanent members.



■ The new Taha Hussein Library

In addition, 12,055 non-member visitors discovered the Taha Hussein Library, while 115 users were trained on the sophisticated assistive technology featured within this special library's services.

Staff have the capability to print out books in Braille using the Braille embosser. This year, the Taha Hussein Library printed and bound a total of 187 books in Braille, including those made especially for children and young people. Users have access to 36 talking books and 130 electronic books.

Over one-hundred training sessions on the use of OPAC have been provided to visually impaired users using both JAWS and Sakhr screen readers. Training sessions are always available upon request and customized to the specific needs of the user.

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The Taha Hussein Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired consisted of an area of about 47 m<sup>2</sup>, including a reading area that could accommodate 14 users simultaneously and two individual study rooms. However, the overwhelming popularity that this special library has received in the last two years has required the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to initiate an expansion. In May 2005, the Taha Hussein Library moved to the entrance level to include an additional reading area with accommodation for 40 users simultaneously and a separate training room used for special training and seminars for the blind.

#### **The Children's Library**

The Children's Library provides educational, recreational and cultural resources for children ages 6 to 12 years. It aims at opening a window for Egyptian children to the world, and preparing a generation to face the challenges imposed by the digital age. The concentration of the Children's Library is to develop the children's reading, research and creativity skills through different programs and activities. The Children's Library contains a collection of around 15,170 volumes that include picture books, easy-to-read books, reference and multimedia materials. The collection is not limited to the Arabic language; many other languages are available

covering different formats and subjects. A computer lab is provided for the users of this library to explore many exciting web resources and learn how to research in a library; meanwhile a video corner provides educational entertainment.

An effective way to encourage children to love reading is to engage them in activities and games that promote the educational process. In the Children's Library, many such activities are offered by the library staff on a daily basis.

Since reading is an important factor in developing the children's knowledge and education, the BA is now undertaking the initiative to encourage children to develop the habit of reading. This can be seen in the activities and programs prepared by the Children's Library staff such as story telling, book club, "Guess What" competitions, reading competitions and leaflets.

Some librarians narrate stories and lead sing-along groups. Others lead an average of 12 children per session in educational workshops on a variety of topics such as the ocean, space, the desert and animation.

Children's authors and known personalities are often invited to read to the children and specialists offer



■ Fostering new generations in the Children's Library

different programs to attract them to read. Librarians perform puppet shows personifying characters and role-play among children.

An arts and crafts corner enables children to prepare research assignments or just have fun with colors, paper and more.

“My Book Digital and Printed” project is a program implemented by the International School for Information Science (ISIS), where children can read digitized books on the computer or print them out, bind them, and take them home.

(<http://archive.bibalex.org/mybook/fp/>)

The program has covered more than 80 national schools and 11 Alexandrian societies. Children have a variety of 186 books to choose from and within the last year the “My Book” project has printed almost 300 books for children all over the country.

Programs are available each year allowing children to explore art and science during the holidays. Subjects such as Arabic calligraphy and the environment are just a couple of the topics covered. Programs were held for three months, from June to August 2004 with a total of 1,933 participants.

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The Research-for-All program teaches children the important techniques of effective research through periodicals, books, e-resources and the Internet. Children then learn how to collect the discovered information and how to refer to the sources used. Finally, children are taught how to present the retrieved information in both print and non-print form. The popularity of this program is ever growing with a monthly average participation per session of 23 children. This program along with the My Book Digital and Printed are also being implemented in the Young People's Library.

The Children's Library Reading Competition targets the competitiveness of young library users, meanwhile developing lifetime reading and writing skills. Children are invited to choose books to read and then asked to submit book reports for review. At the end of each month all reviews are collected and evaluated in order to choose the best ones and publish them on the Children's Library website.

Monthly meetings are organized exclusively for parents and teachers to discuss library rules, as well as thoughts, goals and problems children and librarians face inside the library. This creates a comfortable atmosphere to meet children's parents and to exchange ideas.

The Children's Library is looking forward to foster a better future generation keen on improving their knowledge and education while benefiting from our efforts and resources.

### **The Young People's Library**

The Young People's Library opens up a vast world of knowledge, entertainment, culture and information for youth ages 12 to 16 years. The Young People's Library introduces young adults to modern information technology, develops their global awareness and knowledge, encourages social interaction in and out of the library, and develops their reading and research skills. The Young People's Library librarians follow the school curricula in order to ensure availability of support material to help students prepare their research



■ Young adults researching at the Young People's Library



assignments using the Bibliotheca Alexandrina resources in print and non-print format. The collection of books in the Young People's Library area covers the same subject areas as the Main Library, taking into consideration young adults' needs and requirements. The Young People's Library offers a license to different media books, periodicals, multimedia and e-resources, with free access to the Student Resource Center (SRC) database covering most subject areas.

The Reading-for-All program, established in the early 1990s by HE Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, is a program aimed at increasing the awareness of education through reading. Through this program, the young learn:

- how to look for information in periodicals, reference materials, books and e-resources;
- how to collect information and site the main sources used; and
- how to present this information both in print & non-print form.

The Young People's Library supports the Reading-for-All program through its various reading programs:

- **Reading Competitions**  
Twenty-question quizzes with multiple answers are given each week, in different subject areas, motivating young users to search for the correct answers through research.

- **Book of the Month**

A book is announced monthly that can be checked out for four days then returned along with a book review. By the end of the month all participants prepare a presentation and book discussion.

- **Reading Passport**

The reading passport is a way to travel through the imagination by reading 20 selected books and writing a review for each book. Book rewards are awarded based on established criteria.

- **Book Talks**

Weekly book talks, presented by Young People's librarians each Thursday, present two different books at each time.

- **Search for Information**

For school visits the Young People's Library organizes a workshop on how to search for information in reference materials, teaching young adults different kinds of references, using different reference materials, in order to answer a pre-set list of research questions.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina guides the young users and encourages them to work in teams, to assist one another, to address groups, to become more analytical, to conduct comparative studies and learn more about the world around them.

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The Young People's Library is an active member in the International Education and Resource Network (IEARN), with access to a network involving over 100 countries. IEARN empowers young people to work together online using the Internet and other communication technologies. The Young People's Library involvement allows Egyptian youth to develop an involvement in community issues, needed skills in research and critical thinking, experience with new technology, and cultural awareness. The Young People's Library librarians choose a topic of interest with a group of young adults, then start to gather the information needed for implementing this project from various resources, resulting in a final project. Alexandria was chosen as the core subject for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, concentrating on the history, archeological sites and districts, museums, historical mosques and churches. The young adults find the process fascinating and interesting.

Also available are partnered programs with the BA exhibitions, museums and Exploratorium to increase youth involvement and awareness of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's offered benefits.

### **The Arts & Multimedia Library**

Previously, the Multimedia Library attracted many of the users who only wanted to watch a movie or listen to a few mainstream CDs. By transforming the Multimedia Library into an art library we raised the standard of users to include students from the Fine Arts University of Alexandria and increased the curiosity of Egyptians to the world of interactive arts.

All the Dewey Decimal 700s classified books were moved to the Multimedia Library (level B1) to create an Arts & Multimedia Library. This created an interactive library, applying technology appealing to the users multiple senses, meanwhile enriching users' knowledge of the arts. Since the Multimedia Library is a unique inspiration, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina had flexibility in establishing its design. Establishing such a new and innovative idea led the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on an exciting path of discovery into the world of arts. The library plans to design new interactive art installations that would transform it into a virtual arts center complete with a massive display of artwork, interactive work stations, screening rooms for visual and sound programs coordinated with the Arts Center, and much more. The mission for the Arts & Multimedia Library is to create a sensation, as soon as a user enters through the



■ Audience at the Arts and Multimedia Library

doors, engulfing him/her into a world of art that appeals to their senses and emotions.

Overall, it is important to note that there is a high level of flexibility within the development of this specialized library. There exist few examples or benchmarks, allowing the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to invent, shape, and mold a vision that is unique to this organization. This library was created with attention to detail and a dedication to establishing a unique interactive atmosphere for future Bibliotheca Alexandrina users. We are committed to expend the necessary effort in order to construct a specialized library of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina caliber.

### Special Collections

Beyond the services discussed above, the Library Sector also provides additional services through its special collections, these are:

### The Nobel Section

Located on the third floor (F3) of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the Nobel Section, a gift from the Scandinavian friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, is dedicated to serving scholars and researchers. The Nobel Section reflects the essence behind the celebrated Nobel Prize, an international award offered yearly since 1901, for achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economic science (added in 1968). The Nobel Section is comprised of the Nobel Room, the Gad Rausing Auditorium and the Söderberg Lounge. It is furnished with a replica of the furniture and lighting designed specially for the Nobel Institute in Stockholm (opened in 1918) and for the meeting room of the Swedish Cabinet.

The Nobel Room is the access point for researchers interested in literature. It is a magnificent reading room comprised of book collections of Nobel Prize Laureates in Literature from 1901-2003. The bookcases are filled with selections of these literary works written in their own winners' original languages, with translations into Arabic, English and French. To pursue the Nobel Institute's tradition, each guest who enters the Nobel Room is asked to sign a log book as a progressive record of the history of that special collection.



■ Bust of Alfred Nobel outside the Nobel Room

The Gad Rausing Auditorium, named after the Swedish Rausing family, consists of a small lecture room that can be used for training discussion forums, or an exchange between researchers and scholars.

Named after the Söderberg family who contributed to the funding of the Nobel Section, the Söderberg Lounge is where users can access the Nobel e-Museum (NeM) stored in databases on two computers. The aim of the NeM project is to inform users about the Nobel Prizes, to interest students in the work on the Prize Winners, and to promote public understanding of science, literature and peace. It is a virtual museum consisting of the following digital information:

- A background and list of Nobel Prizes and Prize Winners awarded

since 1901. This section contains presentation speeches, portraits and autobiographies of more than 700 Nobel Prize Winners.

- The History of Alfred Nobel, his life and work, including inventions, patents and industrial activities, and a copy of his will.
- Information on the Nobel Foundation, its tasks, board of trustees, directors, staff, statutes and more. Furthermore, access to the Nobel Symposia and publications of the Nobel Foundation can also be found.
- A list of qualifications for the Prize-Awarding Institutions Alfred Nobel awarded the task of selecting the Nobel Laureates. These institutions include: the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Physics and Chemistry),

the Faculty of Karolinska Institutet (Physiology or Medicine), the Swedish Academy (Literature), and the Norwegian Parliament (Peace). Also included is the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Economic Sciences, added in 1968.

- An archive of articles and essays written by Nobel Laureates and other prominent authors.
- A webcast of prominent Nobel events.

The Wallenberg Young Scholars Program (WYSP) is a new activity funded by the Knut and Alice Foundation that uses multimedia documents to interest high school and college students in the prize areas. These projects include: the Virtual Biochemistry Laboratory, Tool and Exploration in Physics, Life, Voices of Difference Cultures, and the History of the Peace Prize.

#### **The Depository Collection**

The Depository Collection is a collection of governmental and agency documents that focuses on the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), specialized international organizations, and other government printing agencies and authorities. It is located within the main reading hall on level F2. The primary objectives of this information center are to:

1. Acquire, organize and disseminate the publications of the various agencies and governmental bodies represented and their constituent and related organizations.
2. Provide reference and information services on the history, activities, structure and publications of the organizations highlighted within the Depository Collection.

The first of these objectives is met through the collection development activities of the depository. The second is met by the Depository's public services activities.

The Depository's Print Collection contains books, journals and other periodicals (such as yearbooks and annual reports), brochures, etc. Printed material is searchable in the BA catalog. The Depository also provides access to most available official governmental electronic resources, through the use of computer terminals located anywhere within the main reading area. There is also an assortment of officially issued audio/visual materials.

The Collection provides many services for its users, including basic assistance in finding materials, detailed research assistance, and information about the governmental

bodies represented. Basic information services are available at the reference desk at any time. For more advanced help, patrons are requested to make an appointment with one of the Depository's librarians at the reference desk.

### The Collection Relocation Project

The Collection Relocation project was designed to facilitate access to the Main Library and to increase user satisfaction. A library should be structured within a system that can easily be learned and mastered. Librarians are always available for assistance; however the library user should be able to carry out a minimal amount of research on their own. Initially, the library collection was organized and classified by subject. This method of classification, used mainly in smaller libraries, can be very perplexing. Numerous problems arose here at the BA, users complained of lack of organization and a feeling of being lost within the library stacks.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina had made an early decision to apply the Dewey Decimal Classification system (DDC) created in 1870 by library pioneer, Melville Dewey, and later purchased by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in 1988.

Level	Collection	Description
B4	Periodicals	Magazines, Newspapers
	Reference Materials	Dictionaries, Encyclopedias
	Maps	Current & Historical Maps
	00S	Generalities
	100s	Philosophy & Psychology
B3	200s	Religion
	Arts & Multimedia Library	Art Collection & Audiovisual Materials
B2	300s	Social Sciences
	Rare Book Collection	Collection of rare books dated before 1920 CE
B1	400s	Language
	500s	Natural Sciences & Mathematics
	600s	Applied Sciences & Technology
	Shadi Abdel Salam Collection	Collection of art and books from the famous director's personal collection
	700s	<i>Fine Arts &amp; Recreation are located within the Arts &amp; Multimedia Library (B3)</i>
E	800s	Literature
	Internet Archive	Complete archive of web pages from 1996 until today
	Taha Hussein Library	Collection for the Blind and Visually Impaired
F1	900s	Geography & History
	Children's Library	Collection for children 6-10 years
	Young People's Library	Collection for young 11-16 years
F2	Depository Collections	UN, EU and other Government depository publications

■ Relocation of Library Books



The DDC is a logical system with many benefits, it:

- provides a logical system for organizing every item in the library's unique collection
- offers library users familiarity and consistency of a time-honored classification system used in 200,000 libraries worldwide
- provides meaningful notation in universally recognized Arabic numerals, well-defined categories and hierarchies, and a rich network of relationships among topics
- integrates updates to the DDC almost as soon as they occur through quarterly, electronic updates to WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey.

Since the DDC system relies on numbers, the Library Sector decided to organize the library in hierarchal ascending numerical order of the DDC. Also, to assure a more comfortable reading environment, periodicals and reference materials were grouped and relocated to level B4, these were grouped and kept in closed access, and the Depository Collections (i.e. United Nations and European Union) were relocated exclusively to level F2. During this massive overhaul, the reading areas and shelving units were increased, allowing for future growth, and the Multimedia Library was renovated and developed into the Arts & Multimedia Library.

### **A Group Effort**

The Collection Relocation Project was largely a successful group effort between all the Bibliotheca Alexandrina sectors. ICT played an important role during the recent library collection re-allocation scheme, assisting the librarians in technical issues necessary to modify ILS database records in order to reflect the new locations. Database modifications were applied in batches, eliminating the need for modifying records individually. The Engineering Department assisted in furniture, lighting and electrical re-allocation, working non-stop to make the reading area fully accessible to all readers. An effective signage system to facilitate usage of the library was a combined effort among the Library Sector, the Graphics, Publishing, Engineering and Media Departments.

### **Integrated Library System**

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has managed the Integrated Digital Library Services System (ILS). This system offers the basic modules of cataloging, Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), circulation, serial and acquisition, and allows its services to be available on the Web. Dedicated servers are in place for the storage of digital collections. The multimedia system (Multimedia View) contains several databases, and offers a printing

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service for the public and a booking system that permits the reservations of study rooms or PCs on reading tables. Payment for library services is automated through a prepaid card system. The Membership System was developed to issue cards to the patrons of the library. Online self-registration for Bibliotheca Alexandrina visitors as well as automatic notification of the arrival of any new material are also available.

Many tools and applications have been developed to help facilitate the work of the librarians, including *Cataloging Performance Tracking* application, *Dynamic Reporting* web tool, the *Automated Circulation Overdue Notices* system, the *Print Special Subject Bibliographies* application, and the *Ancient Library Bibliographic Database* application. A Gifts Database system was recently completed to keep track of the donors and items that have been donated to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The system clearly identifies a workflow for the Gifts and Exchange Unit in the Library Sector. The workflow includes donor information, summary of donated items, and detailed information about acquired items. The system generates reports addressing the Storage Unit and submitted to the Egyptian Central Auditing Organization for annual inspection.







■ Above and left: the Collection Relocation Project

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## ■ Towards the Digital Future

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Digital technology can make the products of the human mind permanently and easily accessible to billions of people all over the world. A universal digital library, widely available through free access on the Internet, will improve the global society in ways beyond measure. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the new Library of Alexandria, intends to be one of the leading institutions worldwide to contribute towards this goal, by working in close partnership with world-class institutions in preserving heritage, organizing knowledge, ensuring universal access, designing standards, pioneering innovative solutions and demonstrating results.

Although still a very young institution, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina can already point to a substantial record of achievements. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure is arguably the best in Egypt: Fiber Optic backbone and Gigabit Ethernet technology throughout our buildings with 155 Mbps Internet connectivity; with over 330 public workstations and 770 for the staff, with over 48 servers. Most of the standard functions have been computerized: Library Information System, integrated digital library services, intranet, Enterprise Resource Planning and access control and ticketing systems.

The BA is applying the best available technologies to present the heritage of the past through virtual browsing on touch screens and systematic digitization of manuscripts. In addition to the ICT Department (that develops and maintains the various systems), a separate institute has been created: International School of Information Sciences (ISIS) to incubate IT projects, partnering with the best international partners for each project.

An achievement which occurred in January 2005, toward the development of the city, was the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's successful upgrade of the Internet connection bandwidth from 10Mbps to 155Mbps (STM1) in cooperation with Telecom Egypt and generous support from the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT). The upgrade places the Bibliotheca Alexandrina among the first few organizations – and the only cultural institution – in Egypt with STM1 connection. The new bandwidth will allow for high-speed access to the wealth of information offered through the Bibliotheca Alexandrina serving both local and international communities. The upgrade will enhance the quality of services provided by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to its physical and online visitors. Electronic resources and

digitized collections will be accessed quickly and efficiently from within the Bibliotheca Alexandrina or through the Internet. Services such as web browsing, video conferencing and video streaming will become significantly faster. In addition, it will better support the hosting of websites developed in-house.

### **Digital Laboratory**

Within ISIS, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has built its own digital laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art technologies offering specialized digital services. The laboratory digitizes various media including slides in multi-formats, negatives,

books, manuscripts, pictures, maps, audio and video, and is equipped with the necessary tools applied for indexing, archiving and management, thus automating the entire workflow.

The building of the laboratory was an essential starting point towards digitizing the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's collections and collections of other international libraries that are interested in pursuing the goal of "Universal Access to Human Knowledge". The Digital Laboratory is regularly visited by librarians, publishers and scholars worldwide.



ICT Digital Lab

During the past two-and-a-half years, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina had made a mark in its leadership as a digital library in Egypt and beyond, building collections of both traditional and digital materials. ISIS has worked on a number of projects such as the Nasser Digital Library, the Dar Al-Hilal Digitization project, *Description de l’Egypte*, and supported “My Book: Digital and Printed”. Digitizing and archiving was the major role in those projects.

### Digital Library of the Modern History of Egypt Institut d’Egypte

The revival of the organization of *l’Institut d’Egypte*, built in Cairo by Napoleon Bonaparte over 200 years ago, began through the project of the digitization of its entire collection, including over 35,000 volumes of rare and ancient references, books and periodicals in five languages. The effort started with the digitization of the 10 text volumes of *Description de l’Egypte*. Digitization of other special

collections followed suit, such as the complete works of *Voltaire* (69 volumes), *Des Mille Nuits et une Nuit* (16 volumes), and *Geographie Universelle* (15 volumes). Eventually, the whole library of *l’Institut* will be digitized, processed, cataloged, indexed and made accessible in searchable form through the web. This will be the first attempt to digitize and publish a collection of such rarity and value. This integrated digital library includes the collection of specialized libraries belonging to eminent 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 project’s aims are to scan, catalog, index and OCR the collection and present it in a searchable form to users, and thus benefit from the Million Book project. The Nasser collection and the *Description de l’Egypte* are two examples.

### Nasser Digital Library

In cooperation with the Nasser Foundation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was successful in digitizing the collection of former Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser and publishing it through an integrated searchable web-based system. Intended for research and documentation purposes, the collection is continuously expanding



■ Gamal Abdel Nasser Website

with new entries and includes the following items:

- Documents published by the Public Records Office, London, United Kingdom, between the periods 1919 to 1995 (around 1,540 topics in more than 52,000 documents);
- Documents published by the United States Department of State (16 volumes of 7,965 documents in 13,939 pages) during the period 1951–1978;
- Over 1300 speeches given by the President during the period 1952–1970, in both audio and printed format;
- Over 51,000 photos and 1000 portraits of the President covering more than 6000 events during the period 1930–1985;
- More than 1,230 videos (over 50 hours) taken during the period 1948–1970;
- A complete archive of the articles published in the newspapers about the President and the 1952 revolution;
- The decrees issued by the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC);
- The daily news of the President;
- Minutes of the Central Committee for Arab Socialist Union (ASU);
- The President’s personal correspondence and other relevant documents in his own handwriting (596 documents under 145 topics);

- A complete archive of the special weekly column “Bisaraḥa” by the Egyptian writer and journalist Mohammed Hassanein Haikal documenting all major events during the period 1957–1994 in simple writing for the general public;
- Books written by and about Nasser;
- A number of items representing the effect of Nasser on the culture of the region. The collection includes 1431 national songs, 138 poems, 50 rare stamps, 125 caricatures, 34 plastic arts illustrations, and 38 commemorative and circulating coins.

The collection was scanned, cataloged, indexed and subjected to Optical Character Recognition (OCR). A database was constructed for each topic storing each document’s text along with its metadata. The entire collection was presented in a web based interface with full-text Arabic and English search in both metadata and content. In October 2004, the website ([www.nasser.org](http://www.nasser.org)) was launched, facilitating browsing of the collection through the display of various items as well as providing full text and morphological searching. By integrating the different media and resource, researchers can easily find any documents, pictures, videos, stamps, articles, etc., pertaining to his field of interest.

### Description de l’Egypte

*Description de l’Egypte* was the outcome of the collaboration of more than 150 prominent scholars and scientists who accompanied Napoleon in 1798, and some 2000 talented artists and technicians. For over 20 years, they systematically examined almost every aspect of contemporary and ancient Egyptian civilization, producing 20 volumes of text and plates of unmatched accuracy and detail. Historically these engravings became the most comprehensive record and inventory of Egypt’s land and monuments.

This valuable collection containing images related to antiquities, natural history, and the modern Egypt of those days, has been fully digitized and integrated on a virtual browser with the objective of preserving it and making it publicly accessible. The collection includes eleven volumes of plates owned by Bibliotheca Alexandrina, as well as ten volumes of text, a contribution from *l’Institut d’Egypte*.

A tool was developed to publish books in the standard extended markup language (XML) format where books may be browsed by a virtual browser or touch screen. The project is composed of two stages. The first project stage was completed in October 2004 where the application was provided on DVD in high resolution with English and French interfaces. The relation between the text and images was also established and rendered in a searchable form. In the second stage, the whole collection is to be available in an integrated searchable form on the web.

Along with other partner institutions, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina worked



■ Description de l’Egypte digitized



on additional numerous projects such as the Million Book Project led by Carnegie Mellon University, the Internet Archive, and the OACIS (Online Access to Consolidated Information on Serials) for the Middle East project. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has thus developed the required expertise, equipment, and experience to make it the leading institution in the world in digitizing and archiving Arabic text of all varieties and flavors found in print in the modern world.

#### **Million Book Project**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has been participating in the Million Book Project to create a Universal Digital Library. Initiated by Carnegie Mellon University, and with partners from China, India and the USA, the project aims at digitizing one million books within three years and publishing them as a searchable collection on the Internet. By June 2005, ISIS scanned and digitized 17,700 Arabic books from the 75,000 target for the three-year time frame and OCRed over 9,100 books. Moreover, the project has provided a test-bed supporting research on improved scanning techniques, optical character recognition (OCR), intelligent indexing, machine translation, and information retrieval.

#### **Internet Archive**

The Internet Archive is a prime example of work regarding websites. The Internet Archive is a complete snapshot of all web pages on every website since 1996 till today. The purpose of the Internet Archive is to include the main part of the World Wide Web collection. Since the web changes rapidly—the average lifetime of a page on the Internet is 100 days—this snapshot is retaken every two months. In April 2002, the Internet Archive in San Francisco donated a copy of the Internet Archive to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The Archive at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina includes 10 billion web pages from 1996-2001; 2000 hours of Egyptian and US television broadcast and 1000 archival films. It represents 100 terabytes of data stored on 200 computers.

Entering its second phase, ISIS has just concluded an agreement for building the second generation machines for web archiving, the Petabox. The Petabox is a machine designed by Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive, to safely store and process one petabyte (a million gigabytes) of data. The machine features low power consumption, multi-operating systems, easy maintenance and software to automate mirroring. New machines for the 2005 collections will be designed and manufactured locally.



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Synchronization with the Internet Archive in San Francisco has become faster and more reliable since the 155 Mbps bandwidth upgrade.

### **OACIS**

Initiated by Yale University Library, Online Access to Consolidated Information on Serials (OACIS) for the Middle East creates a publicly and freely available electronic union list of serials and journals from or about the Middle East. The mission of OACIS is to improve access to Middle Eastern serials in libraries in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East and to make scholarly literature from, and about, the Middle East widely and easily available to scholars around the world.

The OACIS system was launched in November 2003 and currently comprises 16 partners (including 11 US universities, one German, one Jordanian, one Syrian, one Lebanese and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina), 42 languages (with the top collections in Arabic, Persian and Turkish) and over 23,000 unique title records.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has been acting as a major Middle East partner in OACIS since August 2004. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina catalog records have been incorporated in the OACIS catalog with quarterly updates taking place since January 2005. The

Bibliotheca Alexandrina also directed a digitization discovery project which has helped significantly in planning for future online delivery of journal article content through OACIS. Scanning, processing and OCRing of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Yale University Library copyright-free collections are currently in progress, with 23 volumes digitized for demonstration purposes.

In January 2005, a mirror site of the system was launched at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The mirror site will enhance access to the OACIS database in the Middle East region and will serve as a backup to the original. A content retrieval web interface for the digitized serials and journals has also been designed and implemented. Implementing a system for automatic uploading of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and other partners' records to the OACIS server has been completed. Automatic updating of the OACIS catalog is being designed and an Arabic web interface for the collection is being implemented.

In April 2005, two software engineers from the ICT Department joined Yale University as interns for 2 months during which input forms were implemented for libraries with no Library Information Systems (LIS) in order to add their records and help them understand and work with Marc

21 format. Input forms were also implemented for metadata of digitized journals, for which automatic updating was implemented as well.

### **UNL**

The mission of the Universal Networking Language (UNL) program, initiated within the United Nations and devised by the Universal Networking Digital Language (UNDL) Foundation, is to enable all people to generate information and have access to cultural knowledge in their native languages. UNL is an artificial language attempting to replicate the functions of natural language in human communication. UNL applications will vary including creating multilingual web pages, UNL encyclopedia, etc. Currently, 15 languages have been incorporated and a number of institutions have started to work on their respective native languages. In July 2004, partnership with the UNDL was established and an agreement was signed in favor of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to host the Ibrahim Shihata Arabic-UNL Center (ISAUC). The Center is funded by the ARAB Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) in honor of the memory of Dr. Ibrahim Shihata, an international jurist and expert on international developments, and a great promoter of Arabic culture. ISAUC will play the major role in designing and implementing

the Arabic component in the development of this language and will act as an active language center for Arabic.

By June 2005, progress had been made in three different components. Firstly, the Arabic Dictionary has been designed and the first version has been produced with about 49,000 entries. In addition, the workflow has been established for developing the Deco rules within the Arabic deconversion component and the Deco rules design has been completed. Finally, design of the UNL Library Information Systems (LIS) is in progress in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

### **DAR & UDBE**

In order to maintain the digital library collections, and to develop our role and mission, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina developed the Digital Assets Repository (DAR) and the Universal Digital Book Encoder (UDBE).

#### **The Digital Assets Repository (DAR)**

The Digital Assets Repository (DAR) was developed at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to create and maintain the digital library collections. The system acts as a repository for all types of digital material and provides public access to digitized collections through

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web-based search and browsing facilities. DAR is also concerned with the automation of the digitization workflow and its integration with the repository. The digital laboratory plays a major role in this respect.

The management tools developed within DAR will help the BA preserve, manage and share its digital assets. The system is based on evolving standards for easy integration with web-based interoperable digital libraries.

DAR has the objectives of:

- Integrating the actual content and metadata of varieties of object types included in different library catalogs into one homogeneous repository;
- The automation of the digitization process such that human intervention is minimized and the outputs are integrated within the repository system;
- The preservation and archiving of digital media produced by the digital laboratory or acquired by the library in digital format;
- Enhancing the interoperability and seamless access to the library digital assets.

#### **The Universal Digital Book Encoder (UDBE)**

For the purpose of facilitating the electronic publishing of digitized

material, UDBE (Universal Digital Book Encoder) was devised as a framework for the universal encoding of multilingual image-on-text documents, binding images and text in a compound format that allows retrieval systems to search the text layer and highlight hits on the original page images. The presented UDBE framework renders it possible to utilize OCR results of any engine to compile image-on-text documents in any valid target format by adopting the proposed Common OCR Format (COF). The current implementation of the UDBE illustrates the concept by implementing an OCR Converter for Automatic Reader and Format Handlers for the DjVu and PDF target formats, making it possible to produce multilingual – namely, Latin, Arabic, and Persian – image-on-text documents in an automated fashion, providing efficient image compression, multilingual text support and multi-paging.

In its performance evaluation, UDBE has shown to be comparable to other systems capable of producing Latin image-on-text, namely, Acrobat, FineReader, and LizardTech's Document Express. It has shown that DjVu and PDF file sizes are large compared to UDBEs.

### **The Digital Library Federation**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina was recently invited to join the Digital Library Federation (DLF) as a Strategic Partner. The membership was officially announced on 1 June 2005.

Michael A. Keller, Stanford University Librarian and President of the DLF's Board of Trustees, states: "The Bibliotheca Alexandrina's digital library initiatives extend the leading edge of digital librarianship by the creation of new professionals, by experimentation, by portal development, and by the addition of content, which includes the digitization of 15,000 Arabic books annually, the development of the Digital Library of the History of Egypt, and the scanning of numerous image collections."

The DLF is a partnership organization of academic libraries and related organizations that are pioneering the use of electronic-information technologies to extend their collections and services.

New partners are selected based on demonstrable evidence that the institution:

- is able to contribute to DLF initiatives through staff time and creative leadership;
- shows evidence of substantial

digital accomplishments and of digital library initiatives that are advanced or advancing beyond start up or project-based phases;

- is an acknowledged regional, national, or international leaders in some part of the digital library arena; and
- has some research and development capacity that is available to the library and is devoted to digital library developments.

By virtue of its cultural mission and advantaged situation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was deemed an ideal partner both in terms of group process and operations. Further, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina possesses an advanced infrastructure and substantial experience in digitizing, processing and encoding books, especially in the Arabic language. In effect, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was invited to join the DLF in order to further develop and promote its current infrastructure and enrich the efforts of DLF and partners.

Being a DLF Strategic Partner would enable the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to participate in the world-wide effort of development and promotion of strategies and standards for creating and maintaining sustainable and scalable digital collections. As a partner, the benefits for the

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Bibliotheca Alexandrina will include the increased use of improvement and broadening of access to their collections and it will serve as a platform for further collaborative programs. Benefiting from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's experience as a digital library and its current digital collections, the partnership will endorse the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's goals of becoming a leading library in the digital age.

For the end-users, the DLF service will provide new and dynamic research tools providing easy integrated access to digital resources. This opens new possibilities for innovative research. It is worth noting that Bibliotheca Alexandrina is the second DLF Partner from outside the USA, the first outside US and Europe (after the British Library) and the first in the Middle East.



■ ICT System Operators

## DLF PARTNERS

<i>Bibliotheca Alexandrina</i>	<i>North Carolina State University</i>
<i>British Library</i>	<i>Pennsylvania State University</i>
<i>California Digital Library</i>	<i>Princeton University</i>
<i>Carnegie Mellon University</i>	<i>Rice University</i>
<i>Columbia University</i>	<i>Stanford University</i>
<i>Cornell University</i>	<i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
<i>Council on Library and Information Resources</i>	<i>University of Chicago</i>
<i>Dartmouth College</i>	<i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>
<i>Emory University</i>	<i>University of Michigan</i>
<i>Harvard University</i>	<i>University of Minnesota</i>
<i>Indiana University</i>	<i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
<i>Johns Hopkins University</i>	<i>University of Southern California</i>
<i>Library of Congress</i>	<i>University of Tennessee</i>
<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>	<i>University of Texas at Austin</i>
<i>National Archives and Records Administration</i>	<i>University of Virginia</i>
<i>New York Public Library</i>	<i>University of Washington</i>
<i>New York University</i>	<i>Yale University</i>

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## ■ Championing Change

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The Arabs are proud people, and today, more than ever, they yearn for freedom, self-rule, democracy and the rule of law. Long postponed in the name of national and international imperatives, reform will no longer be denied. The forces of change are challenging the forces of stasis on every Arab society. A younger generation is pushing open the gates to the labor force and to public life. Over 50% of the Arab World is under 25 years old and this more than anything else, has put the Arab Reform Agenda front and center in every Arab capital.

Every country needs national champions of reform to step up to the plate. Experience has shown that in order for reforms to be successful and lasting, they must be home grown and driven by forces inside the societies concerned. Reform, credibly articulated from within, not perceived as the artifact of external forces or the result of forced intrusions, is a reform that will take root and succeed over the long haul. It was against that backdrop that the idea of a civil society initiative, based in Alexandria, was born.

In March 2004, 160 distinguished Arabs from 18 Arab countries, gathered at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt to firmly and unambiguously state their positions on the all important issues of reform.

The Alexandria Declaration of March 2004 is a remarkable document, for its clarity, its balance and its comprehensiveness. It sets a course and defines a framework, covering everything from Political reforms (democracy, human rights, freedom and the rule of law) to Economic reforms (removing trade barriers, youth employment, regional integration and integration with the world economy), Social reforms (family, education and the removal of all forms of discrimination against women), and Cultural reforms (the religious discourse as much as the public and media discourse, promotion of rationality and the scientific outlook). It categorically condemns all forms of terrorism, and focuses on the internal situation in many Arab countries. It recognizes that the start positions of many Arab countries are very different. However, if it does make allowances for these differences, it nevertheless, calls for reforms to be implemented without delay or hesitation.

What is more, the 160 participants actually drafted the document collaboratively, and produced this forthright statement in less than 48 hours of deliberations. They even agreed on a whole program to actively pursue the mobilization of the Arab Civil Society around the themes of reform, and immediately started



implementing this follow-up program, as can be seen from the Arab Reform Forum established within 24 hours of the conference in March 2004. During 2004/2005, every one of the promised actions did actually take place: conferences, lectures, Internet linkages, and discussion forums all happened on schedule. A more direct and vibrant involvement of the civil society is beginning to take hold.

A second conference, exactly one year after the Alexandria Declaration, allowed us to take stock of the situation. The results are quite encouraging. Attended by some 500 delegates from 16 Arab countries, presenting some 120 “success stories” of the actions of the civil society, the conference witnessed a marked change in the tone of the discourse and the tenor of the discussion.

It will be up to the members of the civil society to push the reform agenda, show imagination and come up with real proposals, promote public discussion and undertake effective actions at the community level as we assume a much bigger role in bringing the Egypt of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to life.

Many have focused obsessively on the political dimensions of reform. However, the Alexandria Declaration had, correctly, focused on the socio-cultural and the economic in addition

to the political. Of these, the hardest and arguably the most important will be the socio-cultural dimensions of Arab reform.

Tradition needs to be respected and integrated into the present and used as a foundation for launching a better future. A critical approach needs to be fashioned that interprets tradition in contemporary terms. There is a need for new discourse which is critical, open and tolerant of the contrarian view, and which will be the basis for the creation of a mode of cultural expression. A new language that permeates the arts, letters and the public realm, that incorporates the new but anchors it in the old.

Science must be regarded as an integral part of culture, informing the worldview and affecting behavior, promoting fundamental ethical values.

Guided by these goals, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has continued working hard on championing change and promoting reform in various fields during the years 2004 to 2005.

The Arab Reform Forum, based in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, has a four-pronged program to deepen and strengthen the reform current in Egypt and the Arab world. The first level deals with essential concepts such as human rights, freedom of expression,

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and the meaning of citizenship. The next level addresses country-specific issues and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has placed the reform of education in Egypt at the top of its list, followed by youth and economic reform in Egypt. The third level focuses on inter-Arab economic integration. The fourth focal issue is the strengthening of Arab civil society.

This year has witnessed reform efforts in the following:

**Arab Info Mall  
(Website portal project)**

The Arab Reform Forum is proposing a tri-lingual (Arabic, English, French) web portal project under the name of “Arab Info Mall” through which Arab non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would present their activities. A dedicated workspace for each NGO will put forward the organization’s name, contact information, activities, areas of interest and all related news and reports.

The Info Mall project will provide web access through which the Arab NGOs can both contribute, observe and participate in published reform activities. The Info Mall will establish a complete contact database for each member Arab Civil Society organization, allowing these organizations as well as interested

individuals, to exchange opinions and ideas in a discussion forum. Info Mall users will be able to participate in discussions blanketed under a user uniformity erasing all prejudice against age and sex. This will encourage the capacity building of each organization and also provide the links and networking capabilities to learn from each other. In turn, this knowledge will give power to those receiving it.

This proposal was discussed with all the participants at the March 2005 conference who enthusiastically adopted it and asked the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to implement it. It should be functional by the fall of 2005.

**Dialogue Forum**

The Dialogue Forum in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina provides an opportunity for the meetings of talented, creative, and sophisticated thinkers, authors and writers. It has gathered intellectuals, as well as scientists, from Egypt and the Arab World in order to exchange thoughts and ideas on various issues that affect modern societies. The dialogues are held and followed by an open question-and-answer session for exchange of ideas.

Dialogue among diverse groups of Egyptians and inter-Arab dialogue are as important as the Euro-Med,



■ *Renewing Religious Discourse,*  
Mahmoud Hamdy Zaqzouq

East-West or North-South dialogues. For this purpose, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Dialogue Forum has provided an environment in which creative and critical dialogue between eminent Arab intellectuals is possible. The discussions tend to nurture the spirit of understanding, cooperation and sense of tolerance of the topics presented.

By June 2005, the Forum organized 39 events covering a wide range of topics that met the current evolutions in the Arab World, such as “Human Rights” and “Islam in Our Times”, in addition to other scientific and medical topics raised, such as “Liver Disease in Egypt”. Moreover, this year has witnessed the first poetic night of the Dialogue Forum since its initiation.

Finally, the Forum has invited remarkable figures from different horizons to witness and explicate current events in the Arab World.

### **Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)**

The birth of the Arab Reform Forum (ARF) was an immediate product of the first reform conference within the concern of reform in the Arab region. The ARF is expanding its activities and efforts to cooperate with other similar reform activities inside and outside the region. One of the most important efforts, is the involvement of the ARF with Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) that mainly started with the Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Egypt. The Founding Members of the network include, besides the ARF and the ARI, several Arab Institutes from Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

The Arab Reform Initiative is a network of Arab research and policy institutes with partners from the United States and Europe who provide assistance as well as intellectual backing for the project. The research agenda includes thematic monographs, policy briefs, public opinion surveys, workshops, annual reports and websites, all with the aim of formulating policy recommendations that can advance reform in the Arab world.

It is important to note that this initiative is based on a comprehensive definition of reform which privileges issues of democratization, good governance, while also addressing issues of socio-economic and cultural transformation as well as social justice. The network's conception of reform also takes into account the particularities of the region, and the internal variation among Arab countries.

### Further Actions

For the coming year (2005/2006) the Bibliotheca Alexandrina will expand its role in the Arab world by holding at least two conferences outside Egypt, and will also host important new initiatives at its headquarters. These include topics of women and peace.

### Women

No issue looms larger on the reform agenda than the status of women. It is the ultimate litmus test for whether the Arab societies have finally made a transition to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Global experience highlights the emerging centrality of women. They are the true vectors of development. There is ample evidence that the key to development lies in the education of girls and the empowerment of women. These are the single most important actions that any developing society can undertake: the education of girls

and the empowerment of women. Indeed, women's rights are human rights. These must be protected by the rule of law, where all are equal before the law, and no-one is above the law.

### Peace

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina will join with the Suzanne Mubarak International Women's Peace Movement (SMIWPM), which Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak founded. It is an international movement devoted to women and peace, the first to emerge from the Arab world entitled the ) and the UN University for Peace. It is planned to launch an Institute for Peace Studies at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in December 2005, to promote the culture of peace locally, regionally, and internationally.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is thus becoming an important actor in championing change for a better



Women's International Peace Movement website



■ Participants of the Beacon for Freedom of Expression Conference

future for Egypt, the Arab World and the world at large. This is reflected in the number of reform conferences which took place during 2004/2005:

- Education Reform in Egypt (December 2004)
- Role of Youth in Reform and Modernization (February 2005)
- Economic Reform in Egypt (March 2005)

#### **Beacon for Freedom of Expression (September 2004)**

The “Alexandria Statement” issued on 14 March 2004, states that “genuine democracy requires guaranteed freedom of expression in all its forms, topmost among which is freedom of the press, audio-visual and electronic media” and “canceling any form of censorship of intellectual and cultural activities to support freedom of thought, augment creativity and free it from any religious, traditional, private, or political authority under the

pretext of public interest. The advance of nations depends on guaranteeing freedom to all intellectual and creative thinkers.”

The Statement also confirms the needs to “exempt the Arab cultural production from any kind of censorship or customs regulations in all Arab countries” and finally it recommends, establishing “an Arab Reform Forum at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to act as an open forum for initiatives, intellectual dialogue and Arab projects.”. The Beacon for Freedom of Expression Project, and the conferences stemming from it in 2003 and 2004 are part of the general expression of the needs of the world to raise awareness about these issues and summon people to work at changes needed in their countries and in their institutions and organizations.

Nine Themes

III

# Nine Themes

■ of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina



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**I**n the less than three years since its inauguration, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has taken huge strides towards fulfilling the bold vision the international community had when it signed the Aswan Declaration. The past year in particular has been highly productive and has witnessed a rapid progress of development including the completion of the Administrative Statutes for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's operations, and an impressive calendar of events.

With a daring comprehensive vision of a twenty-first century institution, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina fosters a corporate spirit. The Director, managers and staff have worked together to address the nine themes outlined as an organizing framework for the outreach activities of this international institution. Projects, staff training, cultural and artistic events, specialized centers, workshops and conferences have all mapped into one theme or another. In an atmosphere of cooperation and interdependence, everyone worked tirelessly to make this year's achievements those of a truly unique complex.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is more than a library. Covering a wide range of activities, it has engaged in promoting its values of scientific thinking, cultural preservation, knowledge production and dissemination, dialogue and reform. With a clearly developed strategy for the future it has included present and future programs of training for all the staff and outlined its priorities in such projects as the digitization of heritage, the enlargement of special collections and the involvement in the development of the city. Conferences, exhibitions, workshops, publications, and acquisition of material and premises have swelled the Bibliotheca Alexandrina calendar of July 2004 – June 2005.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has been engaged in issues of paramount importance in the world today such as the values of democracy and freedom. The call for Arab reform, represented by the Alexandria Declaration was initiated at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Arab Reform Conference of March 2004.

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Public outreach has also been a Bibliotheca Alexandrina goal that is revealed in the collaborative work of some Bibliotheca Alexandrina programs with NGOs to empower citizens to help themselves. The proposals for the development of the Eastern Harbor are also another example of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's work on economic development.

The strong corporate spirit that has infused the Bibliotheca Alexandrina encouraged synergy within the vast complex, making all staff from various departments work toward common goals through a multitude of activities. Working as one, pooling their effort and creative thought to enhance the goal of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, departments addressed the nine themes that seek to fulfill the general mission of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina with specific projects conceived and designed to accomplish the strategic goals of this international institution.

Bibliotheca Alexandrina as a leader in the

# Digitization, Preservation and Management of Heritage

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■ Past and Present: Preservation of heritage, restoration of Villa Antoniadis



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**W**ith its feet firmly planted in an ancient civilization, and its ICT structure one of the most sophisticated in the region, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina regards heritage as one of its main priorities. This priority takes the form of the overall management of heritage, most importantly its preservation. Preservation can take place by instilling heritage in the mind of current generations through different means of acculturation, or by physically preserving heritage through its restoration storage/maintenance techniques. As the Library for the digital age and the new millennium, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina focuses greatly on the digitization of heritage, a means for both preservation and management, related to Alexandria, Egypt (including ancient Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Coptic, Islamic and modern), the Islamic world, Mediterranean Basin and Africa. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is well equipped for the task, with four specialized centers undertaking several projects for the digitization, preservation and management of heritage: the Center for the Documentation of Egypt's Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT), the Alexandria and Mediterranean

Research Center (Alex-Med), the Center for Calligraphy, and the Manuscript Center which also includes a restoration laboratory. In addition, there is the Manuscript Museum where some of its manuscripts are displayed either as originals, facsimile copies or in digitized form. The International School for Information Science (ISIS) has also played an instrumental role in digitizing heritage, providing the tools, facilitating the process and making it accessible to the public.

CULTNAT has contributed towards the documentation and dissemination of information related to heritage by:

- Implementing the national plan of action towards the documentation program, making use of the most up-to-date information technology in collaboration with the national and international specialized organizations.
- Increasing public awareness of cultural and natural heritage using all available media.
- Capacity-building for professionals in the fields of conservation and documentation of cultural and natural heritage.



■ CULTNAT premises were officially inaugurated by Mrs. Mubarak on the 16 September 2004.

As the world is getting more interconnected in the digital age, new technologies are becoming the important tools, CULTNAT is working simultaneously on various programs for documenting Egypt's cultural and natural heritage:

1. The archeological map of Egypt
2. The architectural heritage of Egypt
3. The natural heritage of Egypt
4. The Egyptian folklore
5. The musical heritage of Egypt
6. The photographic memory of Egypt
7. The scientific Islamic manuscripts heritage

In addition, CULTNAT has succeeded in developing impressive ways to communicate its research findings to the public. Online, the award-winning trilingual website ([www.etermalegypt.org](http://www.etermalegypt.org)) presents a treasure trove for anyone interested in Egypt and its history. Equally impressive is the award-winning "Cultural Panorama" or "CULTURAMA", the world's first nine-screen interactive projection.

This period 2004/2005 witnessed major strides both in projects, and in gaining international recognition for its efforts, new projects have been added to the overall mission of the Center:

- The digitization of the National Archives of Egypt (A four-year project which will start July 2005).
- Documentation of the Coptic Heritage.
- Documentation of the old Egyptian Press.
- Documentation of Heliopolis Company Documents.
- Documentation of Bank Misr and Talaat Harb Documents.
- Documentation of the Egyptian Presidential Palaces Contents.
- Documentation of the maps and documents of the Egyptian Geographical Association.

CULTNAT ([www.cultnat.org](http://www.cultnat.org)) has a set of exhibitions and projection areas namely The Stars riders Gallery, Culturama, Folklorama exhibition, and the Micro Gallery where all projects are showed and the whole set are available to public visits.

Within one year, CULTNAT has been active in electronic and paper publications, covering diverse areas and themes and including the following:

- Wild World of Egypt CD-ROM

- Cairo Architectural Heritage CD-ROM
- Wataniat Said Darwish Audio CD-ROM
- Asyut Governorate Atlas, Arabic and English
- El Minya Governorate Atlas, Arabic and English



■ Eternal Egypt Website

- Eternal Egypt CD
- The proceedings of the Conference on Heritage Management Mapping: GIS and Multimedia, Arabic and English
- Pharaonic Time line, Arabic and English
- Promotional materials (Bookmarks, Flyers, Brochures)

CULTNAT participated actively in a number of international events in different parts of the world, promoting its goals, showing all products and activities specially CULTURAMA and held a number of





■ CULTURAMA at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

exhibitions and conferences on both national and international levels in order to share ideas and thoughts with other people and civilizations namely:

- Towards documenting and digitizing of the Arab World Heritage, November 2005,
- Unimed Experts Group meeting, Lebanon, May 2005,
- International Frankfurt Book fair, Germany, October 2004,
- Selim Hassan: Discovering his Ancestors Grenoble Exhibition - France, September 2004,
- CeBIT exhibitions, Germany, March 2005, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Forum, Korea, May 2005,

- Egypt's Other Pasts, Washington, June 2005, Med7 Workshop, Malta, June 2005.

CULTURAMA has been extended to many other physical installations. The first one is utilized by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Visits Department. The show is open to the public on Sundays, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, free-of-charge, with prior reservation, and has successfully brought the interactive experience to the thousands of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The second is established in the building of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. Finally, the third unit (portable) was installed in

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the Frankfurt Book Fair, l'Institut du monde Arabe in Paris, and recently in Heliopolis on the occasion of its Centenary.



■ Digital Reconstruction of the Vanished Pharos of Alexandria

Furthermore, CULTNAT has developed, in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Antiquities and IBM corporation, a unique portal ([www.eternalegypt.org](http://www.eternalegypt.org)) which provides a host of new multimedia means for people around the world to learn more about Egypt. The website allows visitors to see Egypt, both as it was thousands of years ago and as it is today. It offers guided tours that go through the story of the pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic and Islamic periods of Egypt's history.

This website was recognized in the category of best innovative experimental application at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Culture and online: museum and the web 2005

held on 13-16 April in Vancouver, Canada.

Alex-Med is a late-comer of a consortium of European and Mediterranean partners within the framework of the Strabon Program. The Program objective is to build a web portal which aims to raise awareness and share the cultural heritage of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean basin. As the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is already present in Strabon through CULTNAT, they will share one server along with Alex-Med that will be based at the premises of the former.

The contribution of Alex-Med will be present in the heritage of Alexandria on the Strabon portal through the following projects:

- The digital reconstruction of the Pharos Lighthouse;
- The Ottoman mosques of Alexandria;
- A digital 3D model of the Qait Bey Fort.

The Alex-Med Strabon team received training on the structuring of data and adapting its format for the Internet. Another element of training will be that which the Heritage Unit will receive by MAP on the high-tech heritage recording methods such as photogrammetry and 3D scanning. This training will occur during the

actual documentation and making of the 3D model for the Qait Bey Citadel. The vanished Pharos, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, has intrigued scholars, architects and scientists who only have descriptions of the marvel but no accurate image. Alex-Med is working on a 3D digital reconstruction of the Pharos lighthouse, using these descriptions and is also trying to reconstruct how it fell. With the computer technology available today, it is possible to reconstruct a virtual model of the lighthouse, visualize existing hypotheses/theories regarding its initial design, and investigate certain issues. The scenario of the reconstruction will touch on questions such as:

- A seismic study from a structural engineering point of view of the collapse of the Pharos;
- How was the lighthouse lit?

- How do the underwater archeological pieces in the site relate to the lighthouse?

The output will be in the format of a CD and it will also be uploaded on the Internet on the Strabon portal. Digital reconstructions are also taking place of the Serapeum and the Kom el Dikka area.

Alex-Med has organized a number of conferences, among them:

- Entre histoire et mémoire, Alexandrie et la Méditerranée (12 – 13 December 2004);
- International Seminar of the Management of the Shared Mediterranean Heritage – 5<sup>th</sup> conference of the modern Heritage (29 – 31 March 2005);
- Lecture on Architectural Visions of a Cosmopolitan Architect by Jean Pierre Heim (14 April 2005).



Entre histoire et memoire Alexandrie et la Méditerranée; Conference - December 2004

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The Calligraphy Center has been active in working on the digital archiving of inscriptions and writings in Alexandria. The main aim of this project is to build an integrated digital library for Alexandria's historical writings and inscriptions, in order to continue the main project of documenting the inscriptions from all over Egypt. In addition, this project will help to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the city of Alexandria; besides which, it will make all the details of documented texts available for both the general public and researchers.

The project will study all the Islamic monuments from the calligraphic and epigraphic point of view. It involves

recording, transcribing and translating the unpublished inscriptions of approximately 500 monuments in Alexandria (Pharaonic, Greek and Islamic). The Project will archive the inscriptions that are in serious danger from water table damage and they will be recorded completely.

It should be noted that the principal interest will be to record lapidary inscriptions, in addition to many of which have been preserved on wood and stucco. It concentrates on historical and votive inscriptions, besides those which are religious and administrative.

This project, for the first time, will allow researchers to know how many



■ Artefacts from the Antiquities Museum

inscriptions each monument contains and where each one of them is published. Those who would benefit from this include historians, art historians, epigraphers, philologists and those working on the conservation of monuments. Therefore, it will be a major step forward in monument documentation. Work is on-going and it is estimated that 2005 will witness the first specialized monograph on Alexandria's documented inscriptions.

The Antiquities Museum has equally taken great strides in this field, through the project of introducing a Digital Guide in the museum. Applying digital technology, the guide will make the Bibliotheca Alexandrina a reference on all 1079 pieces in the Museum.

Much, if not all, of the Manuscript Center's work has to do with the digitization, preservation and management of heritage. Over the past year, the Center has been involved in the digitization of the following:

#### **The Al Hilal digital edition**

Through an agreement concluded between the Manuscript Center and Dar al-Hilal, with the aid of ISIS, an impressive project is currently being finalized to publish an exhaustive digital copy of the issues of al-Hilal magazine since its first publication in

1892. The issues of each decade are compiled on a CD and provided with search tools.

#### **Digital Manuscripts**

The Digital Archive project represents one of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's efforts to meet the challenge of the digital age. It aims at the production of comprehensive digital copies of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's manuscript collection numbering more than 6000 titles, as well as rare books, maps and important documents. So far, 600 manuscripts have been digitized. Moreover, digital copies of the collection are reprocessed in various software for purposes of consultation and study in the Manuscript Reading Room.

#### **Publication of the third set of the Digital Manuscript Library**

Every set comprises seven CDs, each with an unabridged rare manuscript.

#### **Publication of the Uppsala University Library Digital Collection**

The Manuscript Center is working on the publication of a digital manuscript collection of the codices held by Uppsala University Library, Sweden, within the framework of a bilateral cooperation agreement concluded between the two countries. Six rare manuscripts held at the Uppsala Library run on a sophisticated virtual browser that allows the user to turn the



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different pages of the original manuscript with a simple touch of the finger, and gives full control options such as magnifying and minimizing the image.

In its effort to manage heritage, the Manuscript Center organized several conferences:

#### **The Millenary Manuscripts**

This conference (26-28 September 2004) focused on a substantial part of the millenary manuscript collections the world over. Results of the conference included the publishing of the webpage a book entitled Millenary Manuscripts (October 2004), and conference proceedings (April 2005).

([www.manuscriptcenter.org/millenary](http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/millenary))

#### **Untrodden Areas in the History of Arabic Science**

This conference (28-30 September 2004) was jointly organized by the Manuscript Center and the Institute for the History of Arabic Science (Aleppo University, Syria).

([www.manuscriptcenter.org/history](http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/history))

#### **Signed Manuscripts**

Between 26-28 April 2005, topics covered included autographed manuscripts, marginalia, commentaries, ex-libris inscriptions, collations references, or *ijazas* written in the handwriting of leading Arab scholars. The term “signed manuscripts” also

covered the autographed *Ma’ajim al-Shuyukh*, original scientific treatises, etc. ([www.manuscriptcenter.org/signed](http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/signed))

#### **MELCOM International Conference**

The Middle East Librarians Committee (MELCOM) met at the BA, 23-25 May 2005. It is the European Association of Middle East Librarians, a non-governmental organization enhancing cooperation among individuals and institutions in Europe, North America, and the Middle East devoted to all aspects of librarianship, book collecting, the book trade and publishing.

([www.manuscriptcenter.org/melcom](http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/melcom))

In addition to conferences, the Manuscript Center also organized the participation of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in the Frankfurt Book Fair (October 2004), the London Book Fair (March 2005), and the Cairo Book Fair (January 2005). It supervised the cultural activities accompanying the Bibliotheca Alexandrina International Book Fair (February 2005).

The Manuscript Center provide a museographic display service for its visitors to the Museum Exhibition Gallery. The tour guides assigned to the Exhibition Gallery give informative tours from the marvels of the past to the wonders of the digital age in five languages: Arabic,

English, French, German, and Italian. Progressing from the rarities of manuscript and book holdings, to Manuscript Center publications, the tour ends with a glimpse at the manuscript virtual browsers, manuscript digital library, and the Manuscript and Rare Book Museum virtual visit.

Other activities include the Escorial Manuscript Electronic Database; reprinting the First Digital Manuscript Collection; preparing the material for the second book in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Rare Collections Series, entitled *Alexandrian Works*, restoring 27 manuscripts, 221 rare books and five rare maps; preparation of a catalog for 569 manuscripts covering grammar, language and morphology;

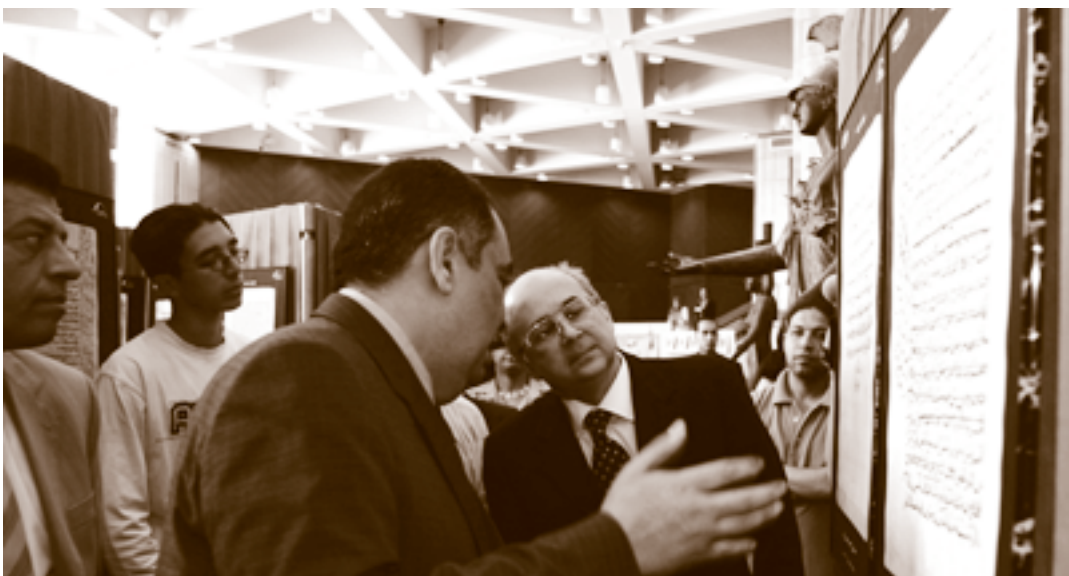
cataloging 137 photocopied manuscripts; and controlling and revising the manuscripts registers and inventory works.

Activities of ISIS, whose work along with the ICT Department were described in the “Highlights” section of this report, include developing systems and frameworks that facilitate in the digitization and management of heritage processes.

Projects worked upon during this past year were:

- l’Institut d’Egypte
- Nasser Digital Library
- Description de l’Egypte
- Million Book Project
- Internet Archive

(see *Highlights* chapter)



■ Dr. Youssef Ziedan and Dr. Ismail Serageldin at the Signed Manuscripts Conference



Center of excellence on

# Specialized Topics

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■ Selection from the Rare Book Collection



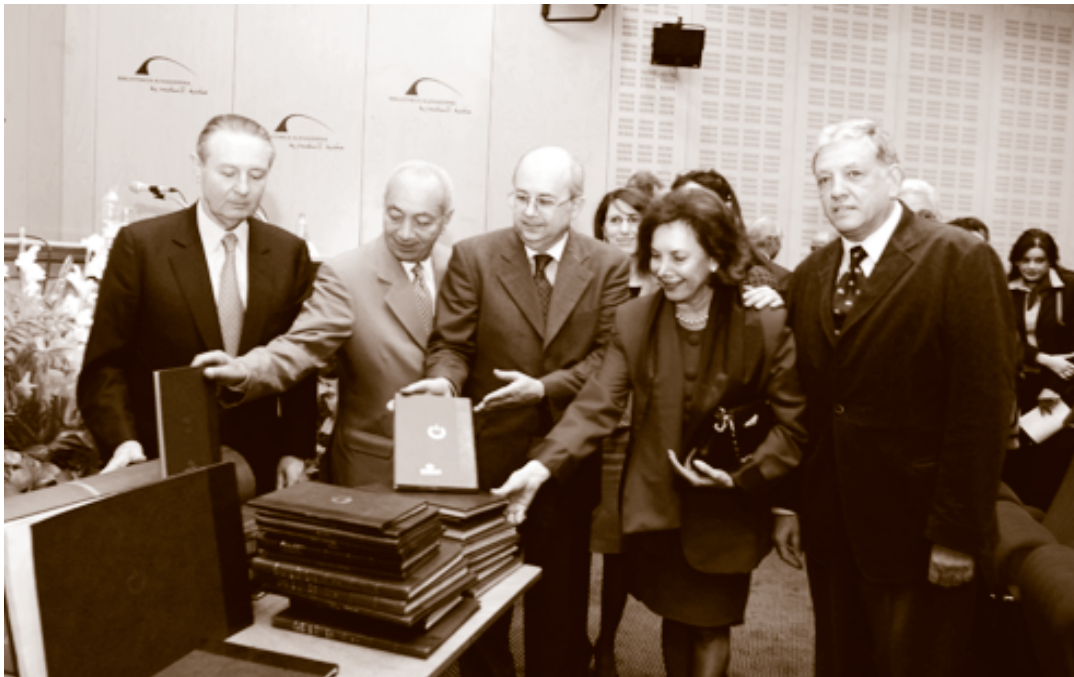
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**E**ach center and institute is specialized in its own topic, and contributes to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's mission to be a center of excellence in specialized topics. The Library Sector has made great advances in enhancing its specialized libraries, providing distinguished service to its patrons, and increasing its acquisitions in certain subjects such as ethics of science, and technology and development.

While it is starting to specialize in topics such as peace and gender studies, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is

already becoming a reference in specific areas such as the Ancient Library of Alexandria, and ancient and modern Alexandria, in which Alex-Med is taking the lead in documentation and research.

One of the missions of Alex-Med is to be a resource center in material relating to the tangible and intangible heritage of Alexandria. As such, it has compiled several databases and conducted research in various areas. Its databases include references covering Alexandrian writers and poets; transportation, industry, housing and land uses; material



■ Books donated in celebration of Omar Toussoun

available on Alexandria in Dar al-Wathaiq (Cairo); and in all the libraries in Alexandria. In terms of research, Alex-Med has already published a monograph on Omar Toussoun: Prince of Alexandria, and is in the process of publishing the following books, monographs and CDs: Mohamed Ali; the architects Mahmoud El-Hakim and Anas Serag El-Din; Bonaparte in Alexandria; Marinetti, the memoirs and poems of Desmond O'Grady; memoirs from members of the Zogheb family; the Syrians in Alexandria; the Ornat and the Municipality of Alexandria; Ancient Egyptian Influences on Greco-Roman Murals in Alexandria; Stained Glass Murals and Mosaics in Alexandria's 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Religious Buildings; Alexandrian Cinema in the 1920s and 1930s; and the Arts in Alexandria. In addition, Alex-Med has scanned and cataloged 350 drawings from the Alexandria Waqf archives.

Alex-Med has organized specialized conferences over the past year, covering:

**“Entre histoire et mémoire: Alexandria et la Méditerranée” Conference**

This conference was organized on 12 and 13 December 2004, in co-operation with the French Cultural Center, Senghor University and the

Swedish Institute of Alexandria. The focus was on the dialogue of civilizations in the Mediterranean through the interaction between History and Memory, as found in the Alexandrian example and in a comparative approach with their experiences in the Mediterranean region.

**First Seminar on Urban Landscaping**

On 20 and 21 December 2004, Alex-Med organized a seminar intended for the discussion and exchange of ideas with specialists and people working in the domain of urban landscaping. The aim was to create programs and suitable executive plans to enable the national committee responsible for urban planning to work on projects such as:

- Policy-making: issues and strategies
- Management of Cities: organization structure and function
- Conservation of Cities: issues and problems
- Landscaping: natural and man-made
- Legal issues: laws, standards and guidelines
- Art in the city
- Education and public awareness
- Advertisement and publicity
- Projects
- Recommendations

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### **International Seminar on the Management of the Shared Mediterranean Heritage (ISMARMED)**

Bringing together researchers, strategic planners and architects, practicing professionals, national and international policy-makers from the two sides of the Mediterranean basin, the ISMARMED Seminar aimed at concretizing the idea of a shared Mediterranean heritage related to their common civilization and shared history; to reinforce their common and diverse identity.

The seminar held between 29 and 31 March 2005, was supported by the European Union within the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> PCRD. It was also the fifth in a series of regional conferences on the Modern Heritage launched by the UNESCO since 2001.

The Manuscript Center has been active in recording 12,574 rare books and 85,841 books from special collections in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina database. It has also augmented the rare books collection to 28,769 books distributed as follows: 8,000 rare books, 20,000 books donated by Ain Shams University, 235 books donated by Boutros Ghali, and 534 books donated by the National Library of Greece.

Since January 2005, the Calligraphy Center has been working on the unique exhibition of “The Journey of Writing in the Land of Pharaoh”. Using the new technology of the Culturama, this exhibition will be the first project to explore how writing has developed in Egypt, displaying the different phases of inventing writing, such as: Ideogram systems (Hieroglyphs, Hieratic, and Demotic), consonant systems (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish) vocalic systems (Greek, Coptic), and syllabic systems (Cuneiform). Among the writing systems that will be represented in this exhibition are: Graffiti, Hieroglyph, Hieratic, Demotic, Coptic, Meroitic, Greek & Latin, Hebrew, Proto-Sinaitic, Carian, Aramaic, Cuneiform, Arabic, Armenian and Georgian. The exhibition targets different cohorts, aiming to increase cultural awareness in the community. One of the main objectives of this exhibition is to be able to tour the world's most famous writing museums in order to engage people in the cultural heritage dialogue and to make them aware of Egyptian culture and its major contributions to humanity. The exhibition will be digitized and placed online to guarantee universal access.



ISMARMED Exhibition

Actor in the

# Sustainable Development of the City

iii



■ Statue of Alexander the Great, Horreya Street, Alexandria





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**T**he Bibliotheca Alexandrina owes much to its founding city. It has therefore set a priority to become an active partner in the rejuvenation of the city of Alexandria by promoting its urban, economic and intellectual development in a sustainable and comprehensive manner. Such a target involves anchoring the BA in the community by focusing on public outreach, programs that involve women, children and youth, and the city in terms of urban, cultural and economic development. This involves galvanizing the civil society, youth, experts, world leaders and the Governorate in re-planning the city, preserving its urban heritage, and reaching out to children and underprivileged sections of society through special programs.

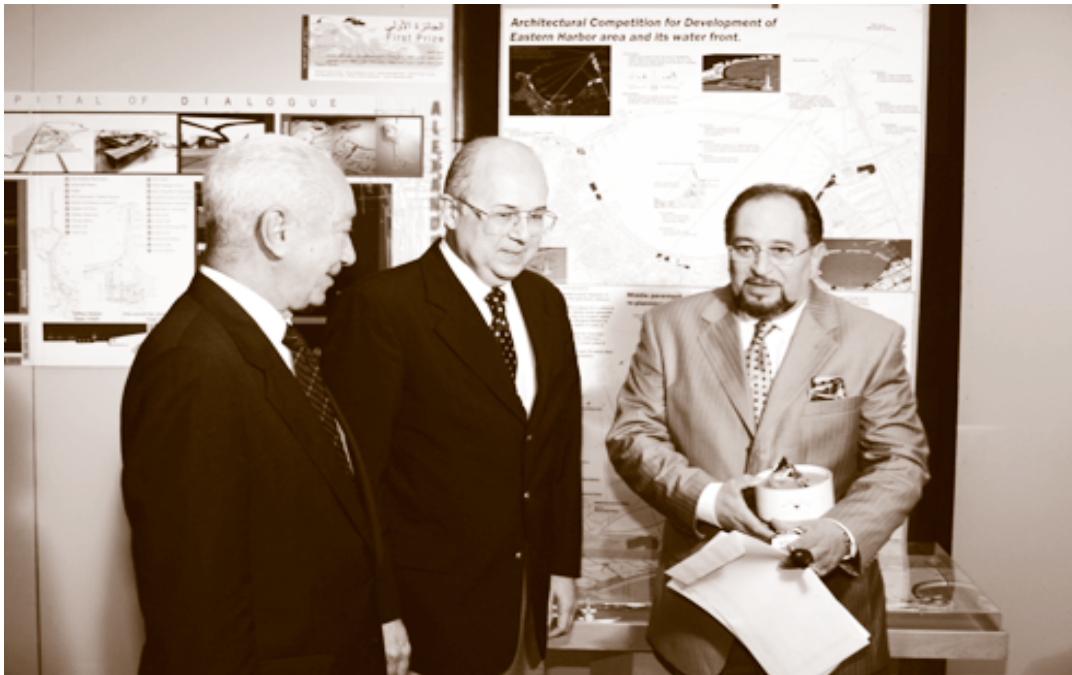
Alexandria boasts a rich urban heritage that is also a clear example of its modern cosmopolitanism. If preserved and developed properly, it could add to the cultural tourism attraction and revitalize the economy of the city. Alex-Med occupies center stage in this area.

This rich heritage represents different periods: from the Greco-Roman amphitheater to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the city continues to grow on superimposed layers. However, the lack of knowledge of its value is a major persistent problem.

As a means of raising this awareness, Alex-Med has worked greatly towards the project of grouping of sites or archeological, historical or artistic importance into thematic tours available to both visitors and inhabitants of the city. Scientific and historical information about the selected sites will be gathered, and will be used to develop a series of information panels and leaflets as well as other informative medias. This information will be provided in Arabic, English and French.

Road signage will also be designed and placed in the city, in order to facilitate mobility along the itineraries and the different sites, as well as mobility inside the city in general. Accompanying the project will be a map of Alexandria, on which the different sites will be clearly marked.

In an effort to engage the citizens in the fate of their city, Alex-Med is giving students summer training in surveying and documenting four important buildings at risk. It has also undertaken to survey Qait Bey Fortress. Most importantly, a series of books on the Mosques of the Turkish Town are forthcoming. These will not only document the fast disappearing Ottoman heritage of the city, but will also stimulate an interest in their preservation. In addition, two maps of the city are being prepared. One is



Architecture Competition

funded by the European Commission and will concentrate on the cultural aspects of the city, to encourage cultural tourism and raise awareness among the population of Alexandria. The other is a more comprehensive map which focuses on the urban pattern of the city. This project is being undertaken because in spite of the importance of Alexandria from the heritage point of view, it lacks an updated map that represents it properly. Residents along with visitors of the city often encounter problems trying to locate a street in the city. The project is performed by using different computer software to update the Base

Map digitized from a satellite image taken in March 2003. The resulting map, which is aimed at the general public as well as tourists, will be based on field surveys that are supposed to cover all minute details, such as the numbers and functions of buildings, the names of districts, squares and important landmarks, and the current and previous names of streets. These surveys are undertaken by students so that they participate in the development of their city.

The guide will be published first in Arabic, then in English, and will be updated and republished every five years.

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Working in close cooperation with the Governorate of Alexandria and with international partners, Alex-Med is preparing a strategy for the development of the waterfront of Alexandria so that it could better serve the local and international community. Alex-Med prepared a design for the development of the area around the Bibliotheca Alexandrina which was produced as a CD and was exhibited at the Venice Biennale 2004 and at the BA in February 2005. A competition was also organized for young Egyptian architects around the same theme, which resulted in an exhibition and publication of their work. A seminar was held on the present and future of the Eastern Harbor (February 2005).

The aim of the awareness and outreach programs is to reach out to the civil society by either encouraging citizens, researchers, children, youth, women and underprivileged people to come to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and make use of its resources and programs, or by actually going out to them if their mobility is restricted in any way. (Examples of these programs are discussed under theme five, as they deal with the particular outreach to children.)

The Visits Department has taken great strides in assessing the needs of their visitors both within Alexandria's

Library and its city at large. Through constant interaction, the Visits Department was able to translate these needs through the following:

- Introducing visitors to the Alexandria Monuments Plasma Screen at the entrance of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, providing the opportunity for visitors to Alexandria to obtain an overview of the archeological sites in Alexandria via the Plasma Screen display.
- Assisting the visitors of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in enjoying their trip to the city of Alexandria, by preparing a guidebook about the city of Alexandria, including details about archeological sites, hotels, cultural centers, consulates, shopping malls and other pertinent information to facilitate their stay.

The Visits Department has also been working hard towards increasing the number of visitors by implementing an effective marketing strategy for public outreach. This plan came as a result of the cooperation and teamwork of all its staff as of the beginning of 2005.

The plan aimed at targeting schools, universities, social and sports clubs, orphanages, hotels, professional associations and travel agencies. To realize this plan, the Department sent a representative once a week to the

various target groups to explain the facilities and services at the BA, and encourage organizations to plan visits to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

To-date, contact has been established with most of the schools in Alexandria, and other schools around the city are in a larger plan to bring as many Egyptian schools to the BA. Similarly, good working relationships have been established with many travel agencies and professional associations.



■ Bust of Serapis - Antiquities Museum

In order to improve the overall quality of service offered, the Visits Department makes use of the suggestions and comments of its visitors. All suggestions from the public are acknowledged either by telephone, e-mail or regular post.

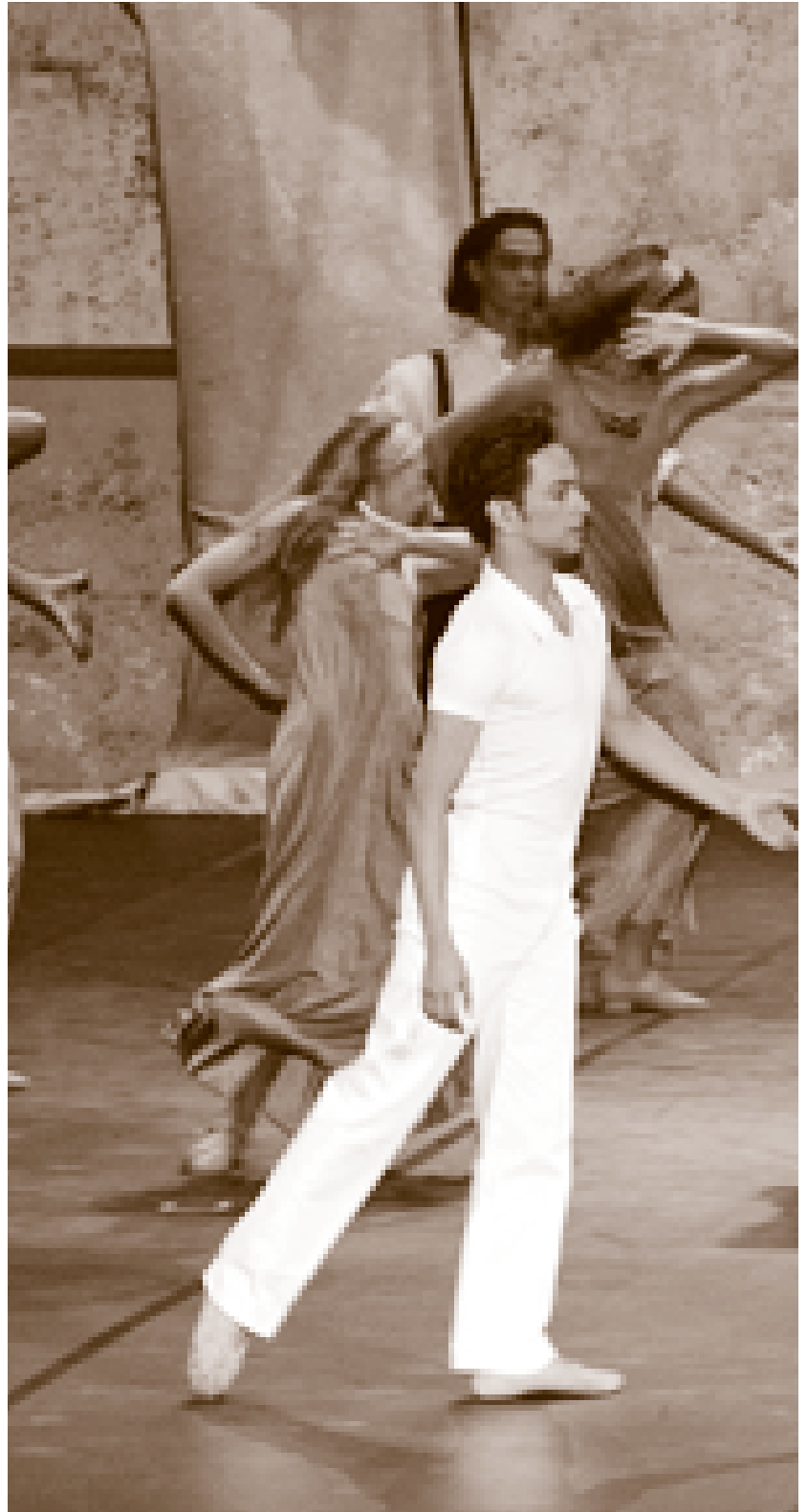
Public awareness about history and culture has been stimulated by the Antiquities Museum, which introduces programs on Egypt's heritage through media and electronic publications. It promotes the historic role of Alexandria through its production of booklets, flyers and postcards.

The CSSP and the Planetarium Science Center (PSC), in cooperation with the Governorate of Alexandria and its waste handling company, are working jointly on the Waste Handling Project, which aims at raising public awareness for proper handling, reuse and separation of garbage and reducing the amount of waste materials. Beginning with internal awareness, a questionnaire was prepared and submitted to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff to collect preliminary feedback about their current awareness. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina will act as a pilot site to test the response of employees on waste reduction and separation policies.

Innovator in

# Cultural and Artistic Interaction

iv



■ *Lorquiana, Cairo Opera Ballet Company*





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**T**he Arts Center is a cultural center engaged in creative arts, a source of human development. The ultimate goal of the Arts Center is to reshape the cultural landscape and link Egyptian citizens to the present and, hence, to the future. Innovation in the areas of music, theater, plastic arts, cinema and a school for amateur dramatics, is sought on several levels:

- National level  
Taking into consideration the Arab-African roots of Egypt;
- International Euro-Mediterranean level  
Placing high on its priorities an ‘openness’ to all cultures and arts of the world;
- Artistic creative level  
Developing various programs in the fields of music, theater, plastic arts and cinema and rendering them available to the public. Some of the programs focus on middle-class youths;
- Training and educational level  
Providing training and education in various artistic domains nationally and internationally. In the past few years, the Arts Center has forged partnerships with international bodies, and managed to obtain partial funding for its programs from its partners, in addition to the exchange of expertise.

The approach adopted by the Arts Center, integrating art and education, has given the Center a special status among the world’s cultural network, leading it to become an active and effective partner in the region. This has led to the foundation of several world artistic events, such as the *Imagining the Book Exhibition*, an international meeting on contemporary arts and different concepts and insights related to the idea of the book, which has now become a Biennale in its own right. This Biennale is held every other year in turn with another specialized Biennale entitled The Artist’s Book.

This year, the Second Session of the *Imagining the Book Biennale* (6-17 April 2005) witnessed artists discussing different modern and traditional media, including installation, video art, narration, and narrative creation, in addition to using paper, metal, glass, wood, stones, chemicals, paint, graphics, expressive forms of mixed materials, 3D objects, and sound and light media. The title of this year’s session was *Desert Inside-Out*, indicating a change in the Library’s orientation, as it focused in the past on the West and Middle East. The session aimed at initiating a dialogue with desert culture and African culture in the light of *Imagining the Book*. It addressed African identity in two areas: African



■ Second Session of Imagining the Book Biennale

artists who live within their societies and are influenced by their cultures; and African artists who live far from their societies and have interacted with other cultures.

With respect to music, the Arts Center has organized workshops, for children and adults, while the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Chamber Orchestra performed 26 concerts, both within the premises of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and in other venues. Participation also took place with the welcoming of 37 musical talents and groups from various parts of the world.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Chamber Orchestra has given almost 100 various performances in-house, thus promoting refined musical culture in the Alexandrian community.

Pursuant to that role, the Arts Center has developed a special outreach program this year to widen the scope of its activities to cover a larger number of audience. A series of free concerts were given in cultural centers, universities and schools in Alexandria, in which the remarkable 14-player orchestra performed fine music forms such as solo recitals, quartets and chamber music.

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The following are several points pertaining to the positive turnouts of those concerts for the audience and the Orchestra:

- Drawing a larger audience by giving performances in different venues, thus promoting fine music appreciation;
- Dividing the Orchestra into smaller groups, such as in recitals, duets and quartets, which allows more concerts to be provided annually without undertaking any extra costs;
- Such concerts give the Orchestra players the opportunity to show their individual skills and talents, which gives them impetus to exert more efforts to reach excellence; this, in turn, positively reflects on the performance of the whole Orchestra.

Theater, too, played a prime role in the cultural and artistic endeavors of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. An amateur theater workshop for adults was established, while the stage of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center played host to nine varying genres of plays, from the dramatic and comedic to the dance-oriented.

Special celebrations also held the limelight, such as the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Shadi Abdel Salam (March 2005), a renowned Egyptian cinematographer, screen

writer, costume and set designer. This involved an official inauguration of the World of Shadi Abdel Salam Exhibition, an innovative dance performance adapted from one of Shadi Abdel Salam's most famous films, (*al-Mummia*), by one of Egypt's leading modern choreographers, Mahmoud Reda, and was concluded with the screening of the film *The Night of Counting the Years* for which he won several world awards.

The exhibition includes a collection of the artists' portraits of set decorations and costumes for some of his films, such as: *Wa Islamah*; *Antar Ibn Shadad*; *Almaz wa Abdu Al-Hamouli*; and *Amir El-Dahaa*, in addition to 1,300 books and references from his library on ancient Egyptian civilization; Islamic civilization, arts and architecture; Egyptian history, cinema and theater; and African civilization and literature. The exhibition also displays some of his furniture, copperware, medals, prizes and certificates. A special room was created for the screening of his many films.

The above are to mention a few events amongst a plethora of plastic arts exhibitions, cinema screenings and film festivals, and seminars which took place regularly throughout the year.



■ Diamond Jubilee celebration of Shadi Abdel Salam

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The Calligraphy Center has held a cultural season during the last year hosting archeologists and famous calligraphers from Egypt and different parts of the world to give lectures, helping the Center to achieve one of its major objectives. This season was held in cooperation with various local and international institutions.

Lectures held covered:

- The Historical Inscriptions of Sinai
- The Origins of Writings in Egypt
- The Cachette of Karma Statue
- Some of the behavioral aspects in Ancient Egypt through texts
- The History and Development of Arabic Calligraphy
- The Evolution of Kufic Calligraphy
- Arabic Calligraphy Techniques: the use of computer programs
- Arabic Calligraphy Techniques: silkscreen method of print
- Ancient Egyptian Language
- Ancient Egyptian Civilization Creations and Achievements
- Ancient Egyptian Art
- Papyrus in Ancient Egypt
- Writing Tools in Ancient Egypt

In addition, three major conferences/forums took place discussing the essential points related to writing, inscriptions and calligraphy.

### **Towards Better Arabic Calligraphy (July 2004)**

This conference was organized in cooperation with the General Egyptian Society for Arabic Calligraphy, the Education Directorate of Alexandria and some faculties of Alexandria University. The conference was the result of great efforts which lasted 10 months, during which the Center held discussion sessions in order to study the problem of handwriting not conforming to standards. This problem includes the lack of attention given to the art of Arabic Calligraphy from students of all educational stages, as well as the general public.

The Calligraphy Center invited a group of specialists in calligraphy, the Arabic language, curriculum and teaching method, university professors and the media. The result of these sessions was a number of views and ideas defined and limited by a committee, to re-factor the importance of the art of handwriting into the syllabi and teaching methods.

### **Ancient Egyptian Calligraphy (April 2005)**

The granite wall surrounding the Bibliotheca Alexandrina reflects the inscriptions and writing of the ancient world, hence reflecting the role of the BA in compiling human knowledge from throughout the ages, in its attempt to become a center of human civilizations.



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The Conference aimed at studying the Ancient Egyptian Calligraphy, and within this framework, it examined: Hieroglyphic, Hieratic, Demotic and Coptic writings; as well as the language of the Ptolemaic Eras; comparative studies of various calligraphies; new studies in the field of Ancient Egyptian grammar; writing tools and materials; and the role of writing in establishing cultures and creating dialogue among these cultures.

**Second International Forum of Calligraphy, Writings and Inscriptions of the World throughout the Ages**

The main aim of the Forum was to gather specialists in all fields of calligraphy studies to present new discoveries and researches in calligraphy. This Forum will be held every two years.

Within this framework, it covers the study of calligraphy according to certain axes, which follow the historical and geographical classification of the calligraphies of the following civilizations or geographies: Ancient Near East; Far East; Classical and Contemporary; Arab-Islamic; Africa; and Latin America.

The study of calligraphy in each civilization or geographical area is based on the inclusion of studying their calligraphy within the framework of: evolution and development; patterns of calligraphy; mutual effects; aesthetics of calligraphy; content of inscriptions; modern research fields; writing tools; the relation between form and content; symbols of writing; and the modern techniques and research related to the formations of calligraphy.

Incubator for

# Children's Talents

V



■ Painting from a children's art workshop





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**H**elping to create a future generation capable of making contributions to the increasingly developing world of technology is a top priority for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Adamant to take part in forging the future of Egypt and the region, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has devoted many programs to encourage, foster and develop children's talents in art, science and technology. Not only has it dedicated two specialized libraries, within its complex, for children and youth, but it has also devoted countless projects and workshops to introduce the world of books and knowledge to the younger generation.

Working towards this goal, the Visits Department plays an active role in instilling the love of knowledge in young people by making their visit to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina a pleasant and interesting one. Creating a presentation in three languages: Arabic, English and French about the Ancient Library of Alexandria, the revival project, and the vast complex of the current Bibliotheca Alexandrina, has made the library tour both an informative and educational experience for children. The presentation narrates a simplified story supported by animated cartoons and music, for children ages 4 to 8 years.



■ Children's Suzuki Performance

Cultural and historical knowledge are the basis of a learned nation, thus the Antiquities Museum performs a vital role in making the younger generation better acquainted with its own unique history and the treasures of its country. Weekly Museum Education Programs and workshops are organized. In addition, the museum's expert staff is engaged in a process of public outreach whereby they visit schools to introduce teachers to the Museum's programs and activities, and invite them to bring their pupils to the Museum to further their education.

The Arts Center contributes greatly to tutoring and encouraging artistic

talents in children by offering workshops in arts, choral, and musical instruments, as well as an amateur theater ensemble to present plays to the public.

Fostering musical awareness in children is a key element for building their artistic make-up, and in most recent times, reveals real undiscovered young talents.

Hence, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Chamber Orchestra (BAO) has developed a series of morning music lectures for preparatory school pupils. This specific age group has been selected, considering it is the phase at



Young Scientists at the PSC

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which personalities are shaped. The lectures aim to introduce children to the basic components of classical music, and points of similarities and differences from other musical patterns, through live performances using various instruments.

The first-of-its-kind in Egypt program depends on the BAO as a live explanatory tool rather than the usual audio and visual recordings, which creates an interactive environment for the children and helps nurture a basic musical awareness in them. The program has been a great success as it benefited some 300 children to-date.

Similarly, the Planetarium Science Center conducts science training and mentoring and presents special planetarium shows for children. Through hosting a variety of activities, programs, workshops and outdoor activities that give talented children a chance to stand out, the “young scientist” club fosters young talents and gives them a chance to generate ideas for workshops and exhibits for their peers. In addition, these young people are encouraged to work as volunteers with the Explainer (guide) team in guiding and explaining science to other children.

Environmental awareness is yet another priority when it comes to catering for and tutoring children at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

The YESBU (Youth for Environmental Sustainability and Better Understanding) is an association that performs its activities under the umbrella of the Center for Special Studies and Programs at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It was first launched in 2002 and aims at raising environmental awareness among school children, and creating an awareness of the meaning and implications of “Sustainable Development”. Fifty mentors and advisors in addition to approximately 500 students constitute the body of members of this association. In addition, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in collaboration with the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE), which has a highly efficient and greatly appreciated masters program that specializes in preventive environmental strategies, has implemented the Young Masters Program (YMP) since 2003. This program was developed by Lund University in Sweden and has been adapted for young people between 15 and 18 years. It encourages youngsters to explore the practical applications of science education and scientific research. The program involves more than 460 students from schools in Alexandria and Cairo who meet on a weekly basis to present and discuss their projects.

Particularly important is the BA's commitment to helping children acquire the necessary tools that will aid them to become active participants in the digital age. It therefore offers special programs to introduce young people to computers. These include "The Library @ Your corner", and a roving "book mobile" that takes the digital and printed forms of the book to schools and orphanages. In the same vein, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is currently working towards launching its new "Hole in the Wall" program, emulating India's pioneering experiments to bring computers and the Internet to underprivileged children. This is achieved by provoking children's curiosity and ability to learn by experimentation, through installing computers in street kiosks.

Likewise, The Children's Library plays an active role in preparing the younger generation for the age of knowledge. In addition to the facilities it offers such as a computer lab and a multi-lingual variety of books, the Children's Library also provides programs that encourage young people to read through games and activities. Librarians perform puppet shows for children, conduct storytelling sessions and hold workshops on a variety of educational topics. Children are also given a chance to practice their artistic talents in the arts

and crafts corner of their library and are trained to conduct research through the Research-for-All program. The Children's Library Reading Competition is yet another example of encouraging the young to read and acquire knowledge, and in the summer, children are invited to join the summer programs that teach them to discover, learn, and pass their time in a productive manner.

Likewise, the global online community "TakingITGlobal.org" inspires youth to make a difference. It is a source of information on issues which also provides opportunities to take action, and acts as a bridge to get involved locally, nationally and globally through its website. TIG currently has over 1200 members in Egypt and its open Forums: "Youth in the Middle East: How Interconnected are They?" and "Youth Participation in Egypt", took place at the BA on 21 September and 6 December 2004, respectively.

The Calligraphy Center conducted educational courses for the young and old, covering calligraphy and writing, Arabic calligraphy to improve handwriting, and an Ancient Egyptian language course dealing with inscriptions and the civilization.

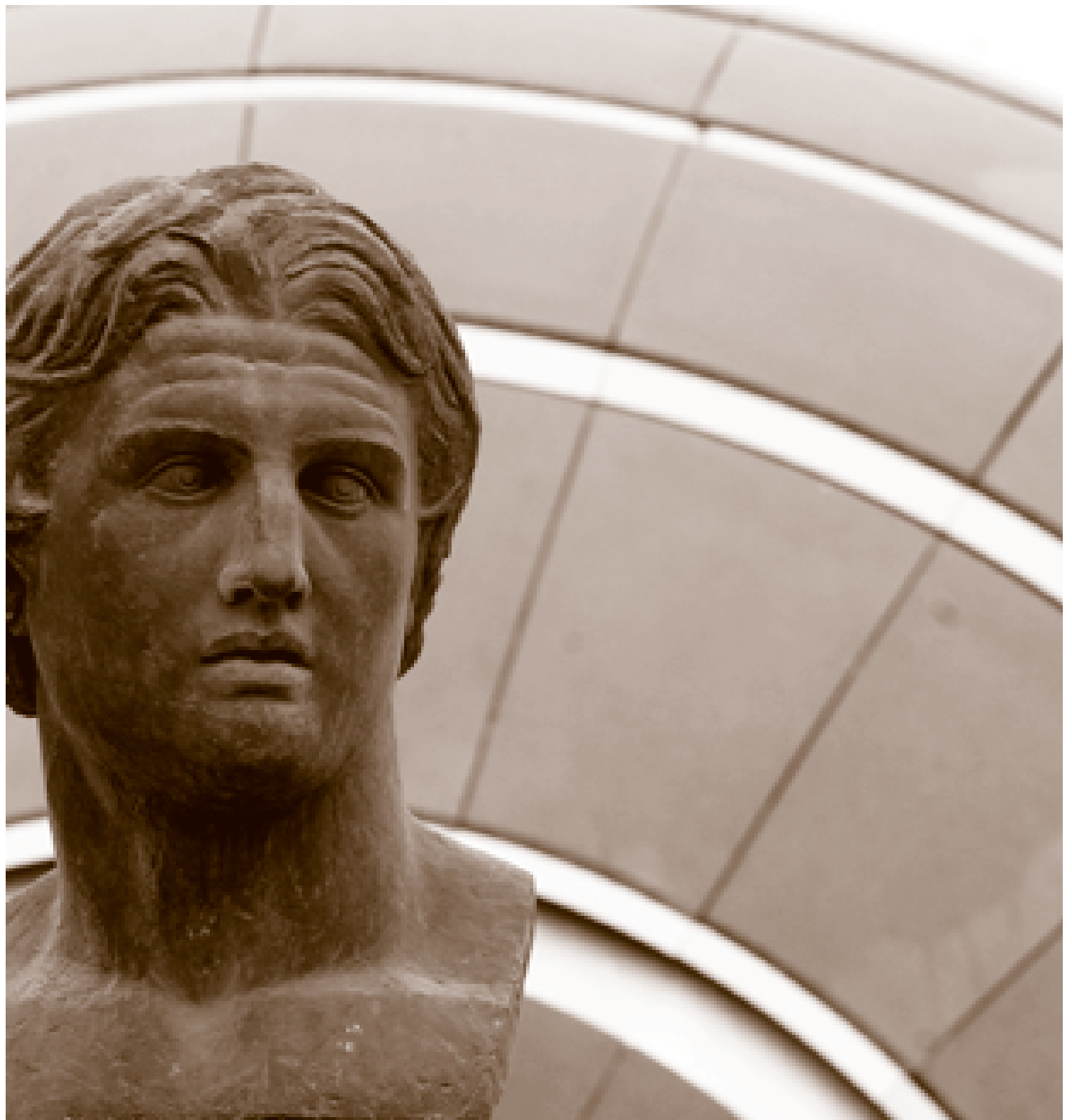
Promoter of

**Science and  
Technology**

vi



■ Alexander the Great in front of the Planetarium





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**T**hrough a variety of activities and programs, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina promotes the culture of scientific thinking and encourages research. In addition to the introductory programs offered by the Planetarium Science Center (PSC) the institution funds research grants that offer graduate students a chance to work with renowned international scientific institutions and scientists. Hosting international scientific conferences is yet another example of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's dedication to bringing world leaders in the areas of science, mathematics and technology together in Alexandria.

Introducing young people and gaining their interest in science has been one of the important achievements of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Through the various activities at the PSC, children are encouraged to explore scientific facts and theories, thus bringing them closer to science and scientific culture, and widening the base of young scientists in Egypt. The various Summer workshop programs and activities introduce young people to different fields of science, such as physics, the human biology, mechanics, the environment, electricity, archeology, and astronomy. A paper-recycling workshop is one of the activities taking place at the Exploratorium, where children are

encouraged to reuse all their waste paper. "On the footsteps of Eratosthenes" is a major annual event, hosted in June, where children measure the earth's circumference with the same methods that Eratosthenes used nearly 2000 years ago at the Ancient Library of Alexandria. Exploring the horizons and finding out more about our cosmos is one of the activities that fascinate visitors of all ages. Other astronomical questions are posed to provoke curiosity and encourage interest.

Due to its important function as a promoter of science and technology in Egypt and the region, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has undertaken the monumental task of promoting the ethics of science and technology. The new institutes of the Arab Society for Ethics in Science and Technology (ASEST), motivating Arab scientists to partake in the dialogue between scientific communities, and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), promoting scientific capacity and excellence, are soon to play an active role in regulating the impact of science and technology on humanity and the environment. These representative bodies will take part in global discussions and decision-making with regard to the ethics of science.



■ Dr. Mohamed Hassan and Dr. Ismail Serageldin at TWAS



■ TWAS Participants

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To further augment its plan to promote the culture of science, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is currently working towards completing the second phase of the History of Science Museum, in collaboration with the French Ministry of Higher Education, that will comprise the section covering the Renaissance to the Contemporary Era. Similarly, the creation of the Academia Bibliotheca Alexandrinae (ABA) will enhance excellence in science and the arts and cultivate openness to others.

Increasingly recognized as a powerful voice of rationality and the values of science, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina engages in a systematic outreach for dialogue through local seminars, sponsoring science clubs and hosting international conferences. It works with partners in Pittsburgh, USA, to promote the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Supercourse: a high level teaching tool that provides free on-line lectures covering epidemiology, general science and other topics by top researchers in the world.

Science can be effectively used as a tool and venue for intercultural dialogue. The participation of the PSC in the UNESCO-declared festivity of the World Year of Physics (WYP), to celebrate the centennial of Einstein's miraculous year, is a manifestation of this fact. The Planetarium Science

Center organized a year-long festivity in 2005, the highlight of which was the Einstein Symposium held in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, 4-6 June 2005. The symposium was honored by Nobel Laureates and world authorities in the fields of physics and astrophysics. The BA adapted an exhibition from a bigger exhibition created by the American Museum of Natural History, New York; the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles; with the generous support of Jack and Susan Rudin, and the Skirball Foundation, which was shown at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina as part of the festivity. A series of monthly lectures was held throughout the year at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina as Nobel Laureates graciously accepted to address our university students, graduates, and post graduates in these lectures.

Concurrent with the various lectures and seminars, activities for school children are hosted at the Planetarium Science Center to experience Einstein's theories, thus opening the fascination of physics to new generations.

Along the same lines, the Research Hub Project, developed as the CSSP's proposal for the "Change Management Project", aims at becoming a focal point for the



■ Einstein exhibition

dissemination of good practice, advice, resources and materials and for the delivery of needs-based quality skills training for young researchers.

Seeking to revive its past historical scientific mission and to be recognized by scientists all over the world as one of the best global linkage venues for eminent researchers and scientific institutions, the Center for Special Studies and Programs (CSSP), supports researchers and scientists in advancing their work through international collaborations. Starting January 2004, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has been offering annual research grants for young Egyptian postdoctoral researchers in the following areas: Agricultural Sciences; Earth Sciences; Biology;

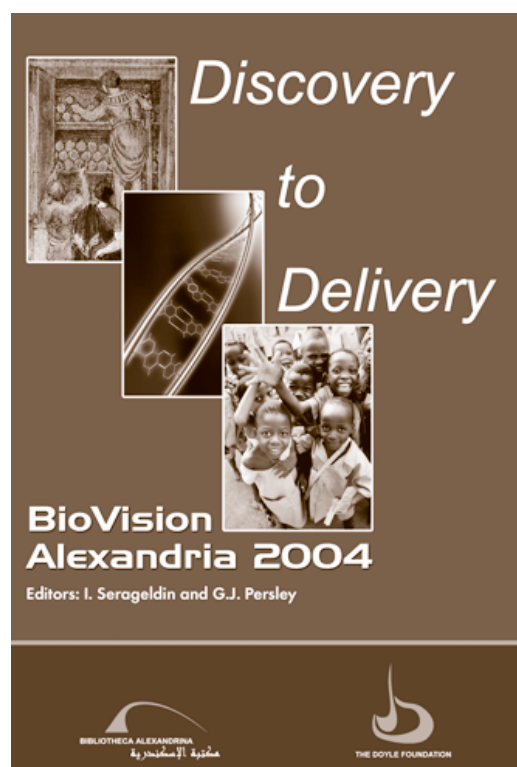
Information Technology; Biochemistry and Biophysics; Mathematics; Chemistry; Medical Sciences; Engineering Sciences and Technologies; and Physics and Astronomy. Final selections were by an International Reviewers Committee and nine researchers were selected.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) is another Fellowship program that provides funding for exceptionally talented and innovative people to pursue tailor-made programs for personal creative development. Award holders span the sciences, arts and technology sectors. NESTA offers a cultural leadership award for a young talented leader from a cultural organization in United Kingdom to

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spend 6 months at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, fully funded by NESTA with the support of the British Council.

Hosting a number of first class international scientific conferences such as BioVision 2004 and Einstein 2005, is an example of the Institution's commitment to promoting science and technology on the local and regional levels. With these conferences, publications are issued documenting the event. "Discovery to Delivery: BioVision Alexandria 2004", edited by Dr. Gabriel Persley and Dr. Ismail Serageldin, was issued and distributed at the BioVision 2005 event in Lyon, while the document "Colors of BioVision Alexandria 2004", announced the forthcoming BioVision Alexandria 2006.



■ Discovery to Delivery: BioVision Alexandria 2004



Einstein Symposium Poster

Catalyst for

# Reform in the Region

vii



■ Second Annual Arab Reform Conference, March 2005





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**T**he Bibliotheca Alexandrina has pledged itself to be the promoter of the values of democracy, and regain its ancient position as a beacon of light, not only of knowledge, but also of freedom of expression. Within this enlightened framework, it has already received the database “Beacon for the Freedom of Expression” from the Norwegian Government and organized a conference covering this topic. However, the role of the Institution goes far beyond being the archive of censored material. The Alexandria Declaration of March 2004 on Arab Reform, which was the fruit of meetings with the civil society rather than governments, has had global resonance and was published in Arabic-English and Arabic-French. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina’s dedication to being a catalyst of reform in the region and the promoter of the values of democracy and freedom of expression has led it to create the Arab Reform Forum which is providing the space for other Arabs to meet and discuss issues of reform and democracy.

The Arab Reform Forum, based at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, has a four-pronged program to deepen and strengthen the reform current in Egypt and the Arab world. The first level deals with essential concepts such as human rights and freedom of

expression. As part of a Norwegian and Arab partnership, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has organized several meetings on the freedom of expression and has hosted the annual meeting of the Arab Human Rights Organization. Next year, a special session on the meaning of citizenship will be held. The next level addresses country-specific issues and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has placed the reform of education in Egypt at the top of its list. The third level focuses on inter-Arab economic reform. With regard to this third level, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina will be hosting meetings of economic experts in collaboration with the Arab League. The fourth focal issue is the strengthening of Arab civil society towards which the Bibliotheca Alexandrina held a meeting in March 2005 on the successful stories of Arab non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Second Annual Arab Reform Conference reviewed all the reform-related activities in the past year, including the role of civil society in reform (June 2004); Freedom of Expression (September 2004); Education Reform in Egypt (December 2004); the Role of Youth in Reform and Modernization (February 2005); and Economic Reform in Egypt (March 2005). There was a consensus from the participants representing 16 Arab countries to hold

the Arab Reform Conference in early March at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina every year. Furthermore, it has been agreed that other activities should be organized throughout the year in the host country as well as other Arab countries.

With this determination to be the catalyst of reform in the region, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina welcomed the Beacon for Freedom of Expression Project. In addition to the database received from the Norwegian Government, the Beacon for Freedom of Expression Symposium 2004 was hosted as part of the general expression of the needs of the world to raise awareness about reform issues and summon people to work towards bringing about change in their countries, institutions and organizations.

Since the establishment of the Arab Reform Forum, a website was launched last year in co-operation with ICT, which contains all activities, reports, programs, news. The dissemination of information through the website is very critical and essential for reform in particular for the young generation who regularly deal with information technology.

The Arab Social Research Observatory is a project that aims at measuring and recording the process of reforms in the Arab countries concerning democratization within the scope of economic, social, political and cultural aspects of reform. The observatory will depend on all available data reports published and non-published, establishing a specific indicator for each area as well as field studies and surveys.



■ Second Arab Reform Conference March 2005

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The Observatory will produce an annual report, general report and sector report on each area of reform.

Intellectual and academic freedom are fundamental issues for reform in the region. Accordingly, addressing these issues forms a critical part of the agenda of reform at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Central to the Arab and African intellectuals' debates since the 1980's, these issues have gained new dimensions due to recent global socio-economic, political and cultural changes. Thus, the CSSP hosting the "African-Arab Conference on Intellectual and Academic Freedom" in September 2005 is a timely event. The outcome of such a conference is not only to promote the understanding of the phenomenon intellectually, but also to help Arab and African intellectuals identify future strategies for achieving intellectual and academic freedom. The conference will be sponsored by The Regional Scientific Committee for Arab States of the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge together with the Arab & African Research Center in Cairo, CODESRIA and the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.

### **Regional Arab Dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Innovation and Sustainable Development**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), organized a Regional Arab Dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Innovation and Sustainable Development (26-28 June 2005).

The main objectives of the dialogue were to:

- Provide a platform for strategic discussions among relevant stakeholders on trends and thematic issues in the area of intellectual property (IP) and their implications for sustainable development;
- Analyze current trends in IP standard-setting in the Arab region;
- Explore links between sustainable development policies and IP in areas such as health; nutrition; access to information and knowledge; and the protection of cultural goods, folklore and traditional knowledge;
- Develop a "regional agenda" for development-oriented IP policies and informal mechanisms for its advancement, through joint research and networking.

Some of the recommendations of the dialogue were:

#### General trends in the field of IPRs

- General raising of awareness, resulting in a balanced, feasible, comprehensive and result-oriented strategy at the national level on the various aspects of IP.
- Preparing briefing on meetings and translating them into Arabic, ensuring they are distributed through existing channels to government bodies, universities, research institutes, and NGOs.
- Ensuring an ongoing process of cost-benefit analysis on any new IP norms and standards.
- Encouraging more active participation and coordination among Arab countries in IP-related multilateral forums.
- Ensuring bilateral and regional trade agreements, which involve Arab countries, do not undermine their rights to preserve the flexibilities and exceptions enshrined in the TRIPS Agreement.

#### Access to knowledge and educational material

- Ensuring that new treaty or agreement obligations related to copyright do not undermine existing rights facilitating access to knowledge.
- Encouraging national and regional coordination between relevant bodies.

- Promoting the collective bargaining between Arab universities on one hand and the publisher and knowledge providers on the other.

#### The protection of expressions of folklore, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in the Arab region

- Preserving cultural and natural heritage.
- Ensuring that legislation reflects the rights and interests of all stakeholders in the collection of heritage.
- Including the teaching of heritage in national teaching curricula.
- Ensuring the non-imposition of unnecessary elements (technical barriers) covered by one or more forms of IP in order to avoid elimination of competition from Arab countries adopting identical functional elements that originates, or is inspired by, traditional knowledge. ([www.iprsonline.org](http://www.iprsonline.org))



■ From left: Christoph Spennemann, Ricardo Ortiz, Ismail Serageldin, Pedro Roffe

Apex for

# Networking and Partnerships

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■ Internet Archive, partnership with the USA





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**T** rue to its objective to be Egypt's window on the world, and the world's window on Egypt, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has taken full advantage of its powerful information and technology infrastructure and specialized academic centers to forge partnerships and create networks that would link it with important cultural and scientific institutions worldwide. Its efficient ICT structure and specialized centers encourage international institutions to forge partnerships of joint projects for research and digitization. Partnerships include connecting with networks, collaborating on joint projects, signing agreements and protocols, and hosting or merging with foundations and institutions.

### **Networks and Institutions**

#### **Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is hosting the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, which was officially inaugurated in April 2005 and whose main premises are in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center. The first common institution jointly established and financed by all 35 members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as an

instrument of the Barcelona Process, the Foundation's primary objective is to bridge the gap between people and organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean, develop partnerships in social, cultural and human affairs, and develop human resources, promoting understanding and exchanges between civil societies.

In January 2005, a website was launched by the ICT Department, describing the Foundation's background, program and events and was translated into Arabic and French. Since then, the website has been accessed with a monthly average of over 52,000 hits. The Foundation promotes a dynamic concept of dialogue between cultures through co-operation between civil society partners in education, culture, science and communication, strengthens intellectual cooperation and capacity-building in fields such as human rights, democratic citizenship, sustainable development, learning, knowledge and information society, gender and youth, and contributes to shaping the Euro-Mediterranean space as an area of co-operation, exchange, mobility, mutual understanding and peace. ([www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org))

One key element of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures is the role to be played by the so-called National



■ Launch of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation

Networks. In each country one institution has been defined by the Euro-med partners to play the role of head of the national networks. In Egypt, Alex-Med is the coordinator of the National Network and works to create and mobilize a network of civil society institutions working in Egypt, in order to generate joint proposals of activities to be proposed to the Foundation.

The Foundation is also working closely with Alex-Med, which is the national network of networks for the dialogue between cultures. The two have held meetings with local and international networks.

### **Goncourt Academy**

In collaboration with the *Centre Français et de Cooperation*, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina celebrated on 11 and 12 December 2004, the centenary of the creation of the Goncourt Academy. The prestigious Prix Goncourt highly anticipated by the media and the general public for French fiction, was first established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Brothers Goncourt, although it is now greatly differentiated from its original conception.

The president of the Academy, Mrs. Edmonde Charles-Roux, accompanied by two Academy members Michel Tournier and Didier Decoin, and

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Professor Robert Kepp from Bâle University, were invited by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to speak about the history and particularities of the renowned Academy.

Following this event, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is preparing a publication on the Goncourt which will include a foreword by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Director, texts of speeches and extracts of the round-table discussions held during the presence of the Academy members in December.

This event will be resumed by inviting Taher Ben Jelloun, Goncourt Laureate in 1987, and Amin Maalouf, Goncourt Laureate 1993, to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

#### **TWAS-ARO Regional Office**

The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) Regional Office for the Arab Countries aims to promote the activities of TWAS and its affiliated organizations: InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP), InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP), Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNISO), Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS), in the region. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world, and its principal goal is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for

sustainable development in the South. Its members in the Arab Countries include over 30 distinguished scientists from 12 different countries in the region. The TWAS Arab Regional Office was launched in June 2005 and the TWAS 16th General Meeting is due to take place at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina from 29 November to 4 December 2005.

#### **YES Networks best practices**

This project is an action plan seeking to support the efforts of the participants of Youth Employment Summit (YES) Networks all over the world. It aims to form a secretariat for following-up, monitoring and evaluating the best practices of the YES Networks worldwide. Within the international youth movement and global response to meeting the challenges of youth unemployment, an international partnership was announced between the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign and the Youth Employment Network (YEN) initiatives. The YES Campaign, launched at the Alexandria Summit (September 2002) at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina by 1600 delegates from 120 countries, is a civil society movement for youth employment. An Egyptian delegation headed by Dr. Serageldin and including members from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, represented Egypt in the YES Campaign

Milestone Conference held from 4-7 October 2004, in Vera Cruz, Mexico. YES Mexico 2004 was the YES campaign's first milestone event, bringing together diverse stakeholders from youth organizations, governments and NGO's as well as leaders in academia.

#### **Arab Online Virtual Institute**

This project entails a virtual set-up which will be located at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and will specialize in the development of Vocational Education and Training. Created jointly with the Arab League, the Virtual Institute will focus on four main areas:

- TVET-research and labor market analysis;
- preparation and enforcement of HRD-policies;
- presentation of the Arab region in the international discussion; and
- building research-capacity in the region, for the region and by the region.

#### **Protocols, Agreements and Partnerships**

CULTNAT signed a major agreement with Dar El Kutub to digitize the holdings of old maps and Islamic rare papyri. The duration of the project is one year; the overall aim is to digitize 10000 maps and 7000 Islamic rare papyri.

CULTNAT is taking responsibility for implementing a database of all the holdings of the National Archive of Egypt (Dar El Watha'iq) estimated 90 million records and the digitization of 100,000 selective documents covering the main historical events of Egypt. This is a project that was agreed upon between the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the Ministry of Culture.

CULTNAT is also establishing with the Luxor City Council, the Mubarak Heritage Center in Luxor, housing CULTURAMA and IT Heritage Exhibition. This is an agreement between the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the Luxor City Council.

CULTNAT is an effective partner with the European Commission in the following projects:

#### **Euro-med Heritage II (Patrimoines Partagees)**

This project aims at improving the knowledge of the architectural and urban heritage of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Mediterranean basin.

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### **Traditional Water Techniques (Shaduf)**

This project aims to contribute to the development of a bank of information on traditional and indigenous technologies and to focus attention on the rich and versatile water and wastewater related heritage in the Mediterranean region.

### **Defense System on the Mediterranean coast (SidLim)**

This project aims to build a website for the distributed databases of the participating countries on their coastal defense systems, in addition to restoring an old defense-related building in each participating country and creating a museum near that building.

### **Strabon**

This project aims to offer the Mediterranean world a coherent group of online information systems which are multilingual and multimedia, dealing with the cultural heritage and touristic activities.

### **NOESIS**

This project aims to analyze old manuscripts with a non-destructive method leading to the accurate dating of the manuscripts. A criteria for dating manuscripts in a certain period will be developed for further use by historians and manuscripts experts.

### **Uni-Med cultural heritage II**

This project aims to improve cooperation in the field of cultural heritage preservation, restoration and management by implementing extended cultural heritage databases, a dedicated portal and training courses in relevant fields.

The Antiquities Museum has been collaborating with several national and international organizations to ensure maximum mutual benefit between countries and institutions. The Museum's collection of 1079 artifacts has been used for research by outside scholars during this year. It has been cooperating with the Papyrus Museum of the Austrian National Library in Vienna to organize lectures, seminars and workshops. It has developed cultural relations with the Antiquities Museum and International Institute of Papyri in Italy. In addition, letters of Agreement and protocols have been established between the Antiquities Museum and the Papyrus Museum of Syracuse in Italy. This agreement aims at supporting study, research, exchanges and shared experiences in general and particularly in the area of restoration, safeguarding and exhibition of papyri.

Alex-Med negotiated an agreement with the Regional Management Support Unit of the Euro-Med Heritage Programs to undertake

training of Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff. So far two training sessions have been held in Italy, one in Morocco, one in Jordan and three in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, on Communications for Development; Project Design and Project Management. Numerous Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff members received training in all sessions.

As well as the Strabon, Alex-Med is also involved with another European Commission project:

**Mediterranean Voices: Oral History and Cultural Practices in the Mediterranean**

Involving 13 Mediterranean cities, the project documents the experiences of cosmopolitanism in the Mediterranean. This project constitutes an ethnographic investigation of the cosmopolitan oral heritage amongst the residents of several historic urban quarters in the Mediterranean. At the outset, the objective is to collect oral histories and memories of residents living in, or who have cultural/familial associations to particular neighborhoods in the following Mediterranean cities: Alexandria, Algiers, Bethlehem, Bologna, Granada, Istanbul, Las Palmas, Aix Marseille, North Nicosia, South Nicosia, (Ciutat de Mallorca), Crete, Valletta.

The material collected will ultimately be deployed in order to create a virtual representation of the cosmopolitan urban spaces and everyday cultural practices which define the ‘uniqueness’ of these neighborhoods. At the same time the emphasis is on the identification and dissemination of the idea of a Mediterranean regional cultural heritage constituted and continuously nourished via historic trans-national and diasporic links between the Mediterranean cities chosen as part of this project.

The project is in its third and last year throughout which Alex-Med recorded some 110 interviews tracing the oral memories of Alexandrians from 15 different ethnicities and three faiths. The closing event of Med-Voices is expected to take place at the Library’s premises in November 2005.

**“Shared Spaces in times of Crises” Exhibition**

As part of Med-Voices project. “Shared Spaces in Times of Crises” exhibition was held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina between 16 December 2004 and 16 January 2005. The exhibition’s focus was periods of crises as a common theme in the history of five Mediterranean cities which are: Alexandria, Ancona, Bethlehem, Beirut and Split.



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The exhibition was opened by Dr. Traugott Schöfthaler, the Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures, and was presented in a lecture given by Dr. Mohamed Awad.

From Alexandria, the exhibition traveled to Oman, and will go on to Italy, Lebanon and Bethlehem.

In the area of science, the PSC has entered into various partnerships both locally and internationally to enhance abilities and effectiveness. Locally, the PSC is working with the various international cultural centers located in Egypt, and with the Ministry of Education to facilitate working schedules with school students and children. International collaborations include the internship of two PSC employees in the Baltimore Science Center, and of the PSC Director in the San Francisco Exploratorium. Cooperation with France includes: the region PACA (Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur) which has immensely helped in the training of Exploratorium Explainers (guides) and the hosting of two resident French volunteers at the PSC, who have helped in many workshops as well as establishing contacts with similar centers in France; the program "Les Petits Débrouillards" with whom an agreement has been signed to work

collaboratively on various activities; The Exploratorium team participated in the "Expo Sciences project" that took place in France during July 2004, where school children from Alexandria presented their work along with schools from seven other Mediterranean countries through the project "Les enfants expliquent les sciences aux enfants". Their book won the first prize in this contest.

### **La Main à la Pâte**

The advanced technology that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina boasts has enabled it to form partnerships in the creation of specialized websites. One example is *La Main à la Pâte* (LAMAP), a French educational program which incorporates a website that promotes scientific investigation within the framework of primary school education.

Initiated in 1996 by Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize winner for Physics in 1992, managed by the French Academy of Sciences, and given the



■ LAMAP Website



support of many partners, *La Main à la Pâte* will create an mirror website. Appreciating the considerable role that sciences and technologies play in our lives, and the essential effect of this teaching in building our capacities, the BA has partnered with the French Academy of Sciences to build this equivalent website. This is the first partnership to be created between the French Academy of Sciences and an Arab country.

Through ISIS, the PSC and the Publishing Department, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina will be contributing to the project through developing and launching the Arabic website following the same structure as the original, selecting and adapting material relevant to the Egyptian curriculum, and translating these pages, while adding back ends, new functionalities and administrative functions, building a network of Arabic scientists who will be contributing to the discussion forum, and promoting the use of the Arabic site within the Egyptian community.

Collaborating with UNESCO is yet another example of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's position as an apex for networks and partnerships. As a host of the program of the UNESCO/Suzane Mubarak/Japan-Egypt Friendship Research Fellowships for the Empowerment of

Women in Peace and Gender Studies, which has two cycles one starting in June 2005 and the other in June 2006, the BA welcomes ten women per cycle to conduct research in the areas of peace and gender studies. The program aims at enabling the upgrading of knowledge developments in areas relating to peace and gender issues and supports innovation, research and information in these fields. As the host institution, the library provides the researchers with academic advisors, housing facilities and an educational program which includes field visits, seminars and lectures. The first cycle, which began in June 2005, brought to the library ten women scholars from different countries worldwide making use of the BA's wonderful facilities and experiencing the scholarly atmosphere provided by the building's magnificent structure and its holdings.

Meeting point for

# Dialogue and Understanding between People

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■ Opening of the Peace Camp, May 2005



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**F**ounded by Alexander the Great to be a center for cultural plurality and diversity, Alexandria has been the cosmopolitan city immortalized by history, literature and the imagination. Today, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has taken long strides to recapture that spirit of tolerance and multiculturalism. Dialogue can be encouraged in various areas through culture, science, art and intellectual endeavor. Through conferences, seminars, joint projects, and artistic residencies, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina provides the space where minds can meet and ideas flow.

In collaboration with the World Bank, Alex-Med organized a two-day event around the theme “Mediterranean City: Dialogue Among Cultures”. The event included an exhibition in which the 12 partner Mediterranean cities participated, a CD and a publication. There was also a public policy forum, as well as concurrent sessions, in which policy-makers, architects, NGOs, and economists discussed the present and future of Mediterranean cities. The project was financed by the Italian Trust Fund for Culture and Sustainable Development and managed by the World Bank. Mayors of the concerned cities, representatives of the civil and business



■ From left: Mohamed Awad, Ismail Serageldin, Abdel Salam El-Mahgoub  
Mediterranean City: Dialogue among Cultures.

societies as well as urban development specialists from the major Mediterranean cities gathered in a public policy forum, discussing the policies needed for their cities to develop and contribute to the overall development of their countries. The event was inaugurated by a concert in which the Italian tenor Vincenzo la Scola sang (21 February 2005).

During the Public Policy Forum of “Mediterranean City: Dialogue among Cultures”, the participants discussed the future development of their cities and expressed the will to improve their partnership and therefore underlined the need to make an inventory of the existing Euro-Mediterranean co-operations.

To respond to this appeal, Alex-Med intends to launch a website entitled “The Observatory for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperations” to be a tool to obtain precise data and relevant overviews on Euro-Mediterranean partnerships concluded between the different actors of the Euro-Mediterranean region, since the Barcelona Declaration in 1995.

([www.euromedcoop.org](http://www.euromedcoop.org))

Alex-Med also organized, in collaboration with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Arts Center, an exhibition (29 September up to 31 October 2004) between Belgian

artist Jocelyn Mouttoule and Egyptian artist Jihan Soliman around the theme of Alexandria. The Belgian artist lived in Alexandria and worked with the Egyptian painter, resulting in a dialogue through art. A website was created in conjunction with the event ([www.bibalex.org/medcity/](http://www.bibalex.org/medcity/)).



■ Emanuel Mbi and Dr. Ismail Serageldin - Mediterranean City: Dialogue among Cultures

The Calligraphy Center has been very active in organizing conferences, seminars and lectures concerning the evolution of human knowledge of inscriptions from pre-historic eras to the present. The conference, Towards Better Arabic Calligraphy, was held 20-22 July 2004, and was organized in collaboration with the General Egyptian Society for Arabic Calligraphy, the Education Directorate of Alexandria and some faculties of Alexandria University. It was accompanied by an exhibition entitled The Deterioration and Creativity of Arabic Calligraphy, and included the work of the three

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pioneers of Arabic calligraphy, Sayed Ibrahim, Mohamed Ibrahim and Kamel Ibrahim, among others. “The Second International Forum of Calligraphy, Writings and Inscriptions of the World Throughout the Ages” (24-26 April 2005) gathered specialists in all fields of calligraphy studies from all over the world to create specialized dialogues amongst them and to present new discoveries and research in calligraphy.



■ Calligraphy Conference, April 2005

During the year 2004-2005, a total of 20 general lectures were given by renowned speakers on matters relating to calligraphy, a field of knowledge common to all humanity.

The CSSP has organized a number of seminars and conferences in collaboration with other institutions to promote dialogue among youth and to bring together specialists in the areas of Mediterranean studies and sustainable development.

A public seminar, The Role of Youth in the Dialogue between Cultures (7 December 2004), was organized by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Goethe-Institut, and was hosted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The event looked at the role of NGOs, civil society, the importance of education and knowledge, and the German point-of-view on the Middle East. The Mediterranean: State of the Art and Future Issues International Symposium (2-4 October 2004), was organized with the participation of the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French Embassy in Egypt, the Institute of Research and Development, and Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, and was held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. This event brought together different scientific groups from all walks of life to encourage collaborative joint studies in years to come. The main objectives of the Regional Dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Innovation and Sustainable Development (June 2005) are to: provide a platform for strategic discussions among relevant stakeholders on trends and thematic issues in the area of intellectual property (IP) and their implications for sustainable development; analyze current trends in IP standard-setting in the Arab region; explore linkages

between sustainable development policies and intellectual property in areas such as health, nutrition, access to information and knowledge goods; and the protection of cultural goods and folklore, develop elements of a “regional agenda” for development-oriented IP policies and informal mechanisms for its advancement, through mainly joint research and networking.

CULTNAT has participated actively in a large number of international events in different parts of the world, promoting CULTNAT goals, showing all CULTNAT products and activities (especially CULTURAMA) and sharing ideas and thoughts with other people and civilizations. The aim is to foster a spirit of dialogue and provide a space where minds can meet and ideas flow. An average of 19 participations in international meetings have taken place, including:

- International Festival of the five Cultures, **Morocco, July 2004;**
- SHADUF Kick-off Meeting, **Belgium, July 2004;**
- Selim Hassan discovering his ancestors on the occasion of the IX International congress of Egyptologists in Grenoble, **France, September 2004;**
- Strabon workshop, **Morocco, October 2004;**
- Second Regional preparatory conference for WSIS partnership for building the Arab information society, **Syria, November 2004;**
- The Regional Evaluation Session in The European Commission, **Belgium, November 2004;**
- SHADUF Meeting, **Algeria, February 2005;**
- Uni-Med Meeting, **Lebanon, February 2005;**
- Patrimoines Partagés Meeting, **Morocco, February 2005;**
- Institut du monde Arabe, **France, February 2005;**
- Kick off meeting of Sid Lim Project, **Spain, February 2005;**
- The Image of the Other Images of a Cultural Heritage, **Turkey, February 2005;**
- CeBIT Exhibition, **Germany, March 2005;**
- Cultur-Med Conference, **Italy, April 2005;**
- Workshop on "Cultural Heritage Protection in times of conflict", **Jordan, April 2005;**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Eumedis International Conference, **Jordan, April 2005;**
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Reinventing Government, **Korea, May 2005;**
- The World Summit Contributory Conference on ICT & Creativity, **Austria, June 2005;** and
- ICT for all, **Tunisia, 2005.**



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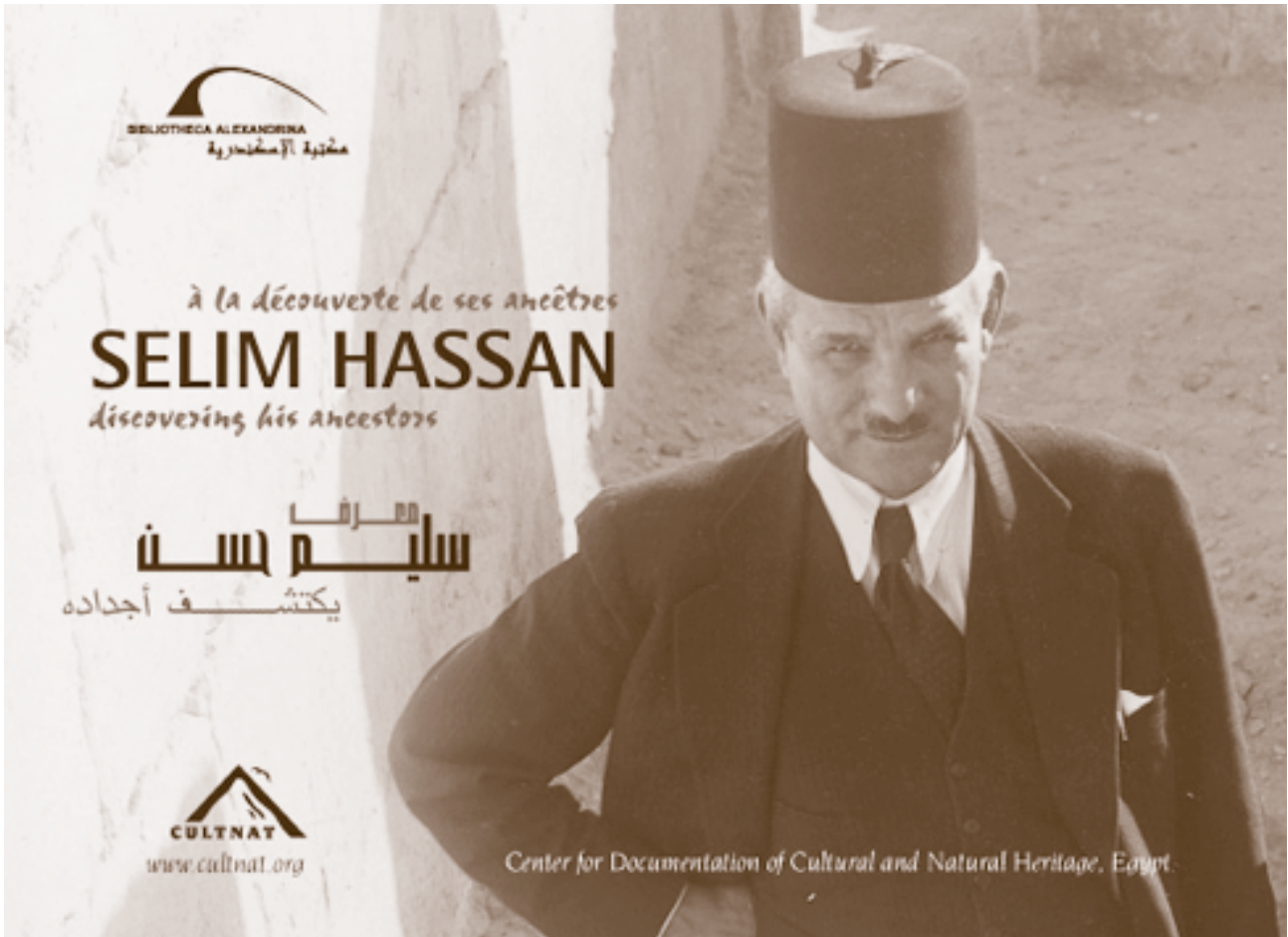
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In reference to the agreement signed by Dr. Ismail Serageldin (representing the Bibliotheca Alexandrina) and Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali (representing Center Rene-Jean Dupuy for Law and Development) and in a cooperation program for the year 2005, a Colloquium was organized by the Academic and Cultural Affairs Sector on 28 April 2005 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on “l’Ethique dans les relations économiques internationale”. Eminent professors from the Faculty of Law of Geneva and France participated.

### **Advisory Committees**

Over two years ago, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina established nine advisory committees covering the fields of literature, arts, science, technology, childhood, human sciences, information, development, environment, philosophy, religions, history, geography, and antiquities. These committees play a substantially vital role in the creation of a basic

connection between the mind of Egypt, represented in elite scientists and intellectuals, and the BA’s administrative and technical bodies. In the context of effective communication, committee meetings are held on quarterly basis not merely to brief the committees’ members on the work scope and different activities of the BA. They also serve as an opportunity to seek guidance on new initiatives and studied proposals to be adopted by the BA and integrated within its executive projects. A case in point are the: “National Atlas of Egypt” and the “Egyptian Figures in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries Encyclopedia” projects; in addition to the seminars, workshops and conferences aiming to maintain a link between society and the BA and provide real opportunities to creativity and renovation of thought. A quarter to one-third of the members of the advisory committees is changed every year, which guarantees optimum idea contributions from the maximum number of intellectuals and scientists.



CULTNAT Selim Hassan Project

Support

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IV

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# Support

■ Departments

Departments

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**T**he Bibliotheca Alexandrina is often described as a vast complex of interlocking parts. To this end, the achievements of many of the projects which have been described in this report, fulfilling the nine thematic strategies of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, have depended not only on the department in question, but on the cooperation between the varying departments and centers. Ultimately, there is one Bibliotheca Alexandrina with one vision. This corporate vision is clearly visible in light of the work which is undertaken both in the foreground, and that which occurs in the background. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina as a corporate team, works cohesively to ensure that it fulfills the goals it sets out to achieve.

This section introduces the departments which provide endless support to the service of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina as a whole.

#### **PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT**

Established in October 2004, the Publishing Department plays an essential and central role to the activities of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It is responsible for maintaining the image of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina through its printed publications and website, ensuring that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina logo stands for quality and professionalism.

Comprised of three units, the Publishing Department is responsible for the peer reviewing, language revision, editing, translation of its printed material, for the BA's publications, documents, posters, flyers, and any other form of written communication, as well as for the BA website

#### **The Peer Review Unit**

A publication will only stand when its data is sound. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina ensures that any publication carrying the Bibliotheca Alexandrina logo is of academic value, and in keeping with its overall mission and ethics. The Peer Review Unit screens all publications by gathering expert scholars on any given subject matter of the publication, to review, comment and clear the submitted texts, before any further steps are taken toward publishing the material.

#### **The Translation and Language Control Unit**

The main function of the Translation and Language Control Unit is to translate, proofread, edit and revise all Bibliotheca Alexandrina publications in the three official languages (Arabic, English and French). This is with the aim to maintain a high standard of accuracy and consistency as well as in keeping with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina spirit of becoming a true center of excellence.



#### ■ New BA Website

The Unit thus aims to:

- To develop new terminology for use where none exist in the target language, carrying out linguistic research and preparing terminological glossaries in the three official languages.
- To ensure effective coordination with other departments and units.
- To encourage in-house translators and revisers to improve their skills.
- Build up a pool of freelance translators and editors to work with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina with well-defined rates and expected output quality.

Between the period of October 2004 to June 2005, the Unit has been responsible for the following:

- 500 translations
- 6,500 revision tasks

While over 50 % of the tasks were documents, the remainder consisted of books, brochures, flyers, posters, newsletters, invitations, programs and postcards.

One of the major projects belonging to the Publishing Department, is the standardization of terminology, formats and forms across the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The preparation of a style book is underway to assist in ensuring consistency of terminology used throughout the institution as a whole.

#### **The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Website Unit ([www.bibalex.org](http://www.bibalex.org))**

To ensure that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina website is a dynamic, authoritative medium that supports and reflects the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's goals through the application of web technology, the Website Unit closely monitors and manages the content and overall look of the website.

The Website thus aims to:

- Enhance the BA's presence on the Internet and broaden its recognition worldwide.
- Be a reliable source of online information on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, its services, activities and news.
- Provide a reliable medium for BA departments and centers to

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promote and disseminate information about their activities.

- Update pages on a frequent and timely basis in order to retain credibility as an authoritative source of information on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina for audiences.
- Maintain high standards in presenting accurate online information in an appealing and professional manner (in the three designated languages: Arabic, English and French).
- Become a mechanism for increased participation in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's activities and programs.
- Create an online community from around the world (via e-newsletters, and online moderated e-forums).
- Become an authoritative source of information on Alexandria and Egypt.

Between July 2004 and June 2005, there have been a daily average of 53,132 hits for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina website. In February 2005, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina French website was officially launched.

#### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina issued its third audited final accounts, in accordance with Egyptian and

international accounting standards using ORACLE Financials. Monthly and quarterly financial reports were routinely produced throughout the 2004/2005 fiscal year. To assist in fundraising, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina applies flexible budgeting techniques that are linked to strategic planning modules. In addition, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina manages and keeps track of international projects in cooperation with international organizations like the World Bank, UNESCO, the European Commission and other donors. Funds received are being audited, and cost receipts are produced and forwarded to donors.

The financial status for the fiscal year 2004/2005 can be perused in the *Financial Statement* section of this report.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Administration Department is one of the core departments of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina serving its staff and visitors through the following units/sections:

- Inventory
- Sales
- Purchase
- Conference Center
- Transportation
- Travel
- Registry and Archive



### **Inventory Unit**

This year witnessed the acquisition of a new piece of land (60 km away from Alexandria) to construct a new warehouse to cater for future expansions. The Unit continued their rigorous control and monitoring over all stock items and materials procured by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Fourteen specialized sub-inventories were established following the main inventory. All of these inventories (at the BA, Shallalat, CULTNAT, Antoniadis and Moharram Bey) are shared through the ORACLE system.

### **Sales Unit**

Sales achieved through the Bookshop amounted to EGP 1,671,547 between July 2004 until June 2005, while dealing with 57 different suppliers.

### **Purchase Unit**

Twenty-one tender meetings were conducted as well as 83 bid meetings. The custom clearance section cleared 72 shipments during the reporting period, while seven contracts were issued.

### **Conference Center Halls Section**

The Conference Center has been extremely active throughout this period, ensuring that all 466 events of the year were properly catered for and appropriate venues allocated according to the nature of the event. The scope of the events and activities which occurred at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center, can be better appreciated in the *Calendar of Events* section of this report.



■ Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center - Entrance

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### **Travel Unit**

Responsible for the travel and accommodation arrangements for both Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff and guests, nationally and internationally. The Travel Unit attended to 2,254 different requests during the period covered by this report.

### **Transportation Unit**

Responsible for the transportation arrangements for both Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff and guests, within Egypt. The Transportation Unit is equipped with:

- 3 vans
- 4 15-seater buses
- 2 28-seater buses (donated by Chrysler)
- 7 cars
- 1 Book Mobile car
- 2 small motorcycles

### **Registry and Archive Unit**

As the Bibliotheca Alexandrina strives to open dialogue between cultures and form partnerships, communication plays an essential role. The Registry and Archive Unit is responsible for such outgoing and incoming correspondence.

Number of incoming mail during reported period:

Surface mail: 12,268  
Registered mail: 4,450  
Incoming faxes: 4,179  
Special courier: 3,418

Number of outgoing mail during reported period:

Surface mail: 4,245  
Registered mail: 1500  
Special courier: 3,260  
Advertising mail: 32,148

### **PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

Corporate culture and spirit could not be achieved without the essential role of the Personnel Department. The staff of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is the true backbone of this organization, without which, the visions and goals would simply remain written words rather than actual living projects and achievements.

The Personnel Department looks after the human resources of the BA, ensuring that every staff member fully benefits from the dialogue and understanding emanating from within the organization, as well from the training offered. Through this mutual cooperation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina asserts that through the high caliber of its staff, it realizes its aim to be a true center of excellence.

During the past year, the Training Unit of the Personnel Department primarily administered three types of training courses:

- Staff self development courses
- English Courses
- Computer Courses (organized and delivered by the ICT Department)

Staff self development was built around special collaboration protocols with institutes in Alexandria providing language and computer skills. These are the Centre Culturel Francais d’Alexandrie, the Spanish Cultural Center, the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport, and the Goethe-Institut.

To date, 220 staff members have benefited from external language training. These account for 20% of the total Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff.

Through a partnership with the Amideast Center, in-house English language training courses were organized. Prerequisite levels of English competencies were assigned according to each job category and resulted in the following competence profile:

- Custodial staff were required to achieve the basic language knowledge.
- Specialists and administrators were required to achieve the intermediate level.
- Secretarial staff and managers, both junior and senior, had a prerequisite of achieving the advanced level.

A total of 679 staff members have taken or are currently taking English language course. This total includes 14 staff members who have taken more than two successive levels.

As a center of excellence of an international standard, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is striving to accomplish this role by creating Intellectual Capital.

Creating such Intellectual Capital represents the focus of the Personnel Department’s roles, which translates its activities in two areas:

- Improving the competence of employees at all levels through various training and coaching programs.
- Improving the level of commitment by introducing the work conditions that motivate people.

Among the measures of commitment the Personnel Department is monitoring two indicators which reflect commitment: absenteeism and delays. As commitment level increases both of them decrease.

#### **INTERNAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT**

The Internal Security Department aims to safeguard all the activities and events taking place in the BA building, Conference Center, and other facilities outside the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in coordination with the hosting bodies, such as the Cairo International Book Fair, which included some of the rare and precious holdings of the BA, as well as the Alexandria Book Fair and the Computer Fair (Kouta, Alexandria).

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The Bibliotheca Alexandrina's security cadres and personnel receive constant training. Hence, the Internal Security Department pursues an effective training strategy to raise the security awareness level of its staff. It conducts staff refresher training on internal security measures. It also provides external training on facility security, civil defense and fire fighting. Regular meetings are held to identify vulnerabilities and impediments to internal security plans and measures.

Moreover, the Internal Security Department has developed a peer training program where staff members are delegated to the Higher Nasser Military Academy in Cairo for a period of two and a half months.



Internal Security at the Entrance of the BA

## **ENGINEERING**

The primary objective of the Engineering Department is to maintain the value of the building, books, equipments and other services through strict adherence to preventative and maintenance programs and safety procedures.

One of the main tasks is to prepare the different halls for the important events held, such as Presidential visits, galas, international book fairs, exhibitions, and dialogue forums, among many others.

The Engineering Department is responsible for executing all the upgrades required concerning the Bibliotheca Alexandrina complex regarding architecture, furniture, mechanics, electrics, ornaments, office supply machines, various assisting tools and audiovisual aid facilities.

The past year has focused on activating several new technologies:

### **BMS Control Unit**

This unit consists of three main systems:

### **Building Management System (BMS)**

This is a computerized management system designed to meet the operation and work management needs of the building. It is considered to be the

skeleton and main spine for all modern buildings. The BMS System is made up of intelligent controllers, which receive information, take decisions and initiate actions. The BMS monitors plant status, faults and alarms.

Control strategies are soft-wired allowing every controller to span a range of design applications. This also allows changes to be made in the control software during commissioning and subsequent operation of the systems. The BMS provides a control and monitoring system of the entire building and its equipment.

#### **Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)**

CMMS, a fully web-architected asset management system, provides unparalleled capability for cost-effective, asset-intensive, and results-oriented maintenance operations. The configuration of this system is customizable and designed to enhance workflow and increase production.

#### **Mechanical Unit**

Responsibilities included:

- Reviewing offers submitted by the facility contractor for consumables and spare parts;
- Preparing technical specifications for the purchaser of all mechanical and air conditioning spare parts;

- Following-up maintenance programs;
- Reviewing and analyzing FMC performance;
- Modifying mechanical and air conditioning systems for the entire BA complex; and
- Refurnishing the three existing chillers of the BACC in case of emergencies.

#### **Light Current Unit**

Achievements in this area included:

- Completion of bookshelves lighting modification and upgrades in the main library reading area;
- Providing all technical studies, preparations and installation of the new elevators in the BACC;
- Study of re-programming and modification of the fire system for the BA and BACC buildings to comply with international standards;
- Ensuring that all life safety systems and system components were fully operational and maintained;
- Conducting periodical fire tests to ensure that results are compliant with the NFPA standard;
- Adapting existing life safety systems with new modifications required for the different zones in the building according to international standards; and

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- Preparing and studying the installation of software for the MATV systems and the Main Satellite Antenna TV System.

### **Power Unit**

The Power Unit is responsible for the overall implementation, operation, maintenance and safety of the BA's electrical functions. During the year 2004-2005, the Power Unit has been responsible for the electrical work of the BA as a whole, including the following:

- Designing and executing more than 350 computer, UPS, telephone and standard outlets;
- Executing a new raceway for new fiber optic cables to connect the library with STM1 155Mb/S;
- Implementing new track lights for three halls in the BACC with spot lights for the lighting of the podium and the stage; as well as for the VIP entrance to the building;
- Designing and conducting the construction of the new location of the Taha Hussein Library;
- Implementing a 380 volt electrical outlet for the paper-cutting disk in the high volume copy machine room;
- Preparing the new location for the Culturama in the first basement and carrying out all electrical work related, including constructing the

wood base for the screen and the installation units for the nine projectors;

- Maintaining all necessary electrical requirement for all the BA work stations;
- Designing and executing all electrical systems in the phase 1 renovation of the Shallalat building;
- Preparing all electrical requirement for 506 events during this period;
- Supervising the preparation of all electrical requirements for the Gala occasion in October 2004, as well as the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Book Fair in April 2005;

### **Audiovisual Unit**

#### **Fully Digital Simultaneous Interpretation System**

In accordance with the engineering policy of applying up-to-date technologies and being the promoters of modern science and technology, the simultaneous interpretation system was digitized to be fully modular and fully digital and able to be reconfigured according to actual needs. This allows simultaneous interpretation of up to four languages per hall for seven different halls besides one mobile system used as tour guide system.

A digital editing system for both audio and video materials was installed to

meet the needs of producing CD's using the most updated digital audio restoration system for audio materials.

#### **Audiovisual equipment**

There are 14 different halls in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Complex. All accommodate conferences, seminars and meetings. A full set of updated audiovisual equipment has been installed in four rooms by audiovisual, fully digital, fully modular systems enabling our staff to patch equipment as per actual need, through these wide facilities. Audiences can listen and watch events taking place in the Great Hall and the other three halls simultaneously.

Facilities and tools available at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center Halls include:

- Audio and Video conference
- Audio Cassette recorder
- Overhead projector and video imagers
- VCR
- DVD
- Interpretation system

#### **Architectural, Interior Design and Furniture Unit**

Responsible for the refurbishing and architectural design of numerous areas in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, including the following:

- IT training labs;
- The new Manuscripts hall;

- The first phase of the Shallalat building renovation project;
- The new handicapped toilets in the Conference Center;
- The architectural design of the Borg El-Arab project (an administration building, two storage buildings and their services);
- The architectural design of the TV studio in the new extension building including an elevator for the handicapped; and
- The architectural design of the new extension of the Children's and Young People libraries.

The Unit was also responsible for the manufacturing and installation of the following equipment and furniture:

- The Mediterranean Cities exhibition equipment;
- The panorama exhibition equipment;
- The modifications of the IT labs computer desks (75 desks);
- The modifications of the Exhibition Unit's showcases;
- The equipment of the Culturama hall;
- Science experiment equipment related to the Exploratorium activities; and
- The Einstein Conference equipment especially the Einstein exhibition equipment and the publicity booths.



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### **Ornamental & Pest Control Unit**

The pest control program is working on the elimination of all kinds of pests, whether rodents or insects or any other kind of pest, in order to avoid any side effects on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's staff or properties. Therefore, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) accepted by the WHO and considered environmentally user-friendly, has been implemented.

The accomplishments are as follows:

- Treatment of all cables (computer, telephone, electrical) by repellent against rodents based on natural products;
- The usage of the Isolation Technique, dividing the BA into different sectors, treating each sector accordingly;
- Isolation of electrical panels in the BA and Conference Center using spraying foam;
- A special program was implemented dealing with water drainage; and
- Samples which were taken from various places within the BA on a regular basis were examined and treated in case of any infection.

### **ICT SECTOR**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is dedicated to being a true digital library for the future. In June 2002, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department was

established with the mission of building the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's digital infrastructure and providing state-of-the-art digital and telecommunication services to BA staff, online users, and visitors.

In January 2005, the International School of Information Science (ISIS) joined the ICT Sector as a research center with the mission of incubating digital and technological projects, thereby promoting and nurturing innovations in the field of information science.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Since its initiation, the ICT Department has been committed to the development, implementation, and support of digital computing and telecommunication services and technologies that reinforce the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's goal of becoming a library for the new digital age and a contributor to both Egypt's, and the world's, cultural and intellectual life.

Services provided by the ICT Department have an impact on nearly every aspect and operation of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Some of the Department's primary services and accomplishments are described as follows.



### **Infrastructure and Connectivity**

The ICT Department facilitated the establishment of one of the best digital infrastructures in Egypt, connecting the eleven floors of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center (BACC) and the Science Museum through a backbone of fiber optical cable. Foiled twisted pairs were used for horizontal cabling, wiring more than 2,900 outlets. Deploying Gigabit Ethernet technology has ensured high performance. In addition, leased lines connect the Shallalat branch, Swedish Institute (to serve the Anna Lindh Foundation), and one of Bibliotheca Alexandrina's cultural centers located in Cairo (CULTNAT) to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina network, thus allowing their staff full access to the services offered by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

### **Staff Computing Services**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff use a group of electronic services including e-mail, secure Internet browsing, centralized printing, and shared document storage. These services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are protected by daily backups.

### **The Intranet**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Intranet provides automated services and important information to assist staff,

including the telephone directory, bulletin board, contact database, hall reservation for events, international event database, statutes, standard Bibliotheca Alexandrina forms, discussion forums, travel and project reports, tutorials, and much more.

### **Internet Access**

Available for Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff at a speed of 10 Mbps and increased to 155 Mbps in January 2005, Internet access from within the internal Bibliotheca Alexandrina network is protected so as not to allow insecure downloads or other threats to the internal network.

### **E-mail and Office Services**

Secure personal e-mail is available for Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff to facilitate internal cooperation. FTP (file transfer protocol) service is also available allowing authorized users to exchange documents, files, programs, and other archived data over the Internet with Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff. In order to fulfill further work requirements, all staff workstations are equipped with the latest versions of operating system and applications software required by their users.

### **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)**

Oracle Financial Applications (OFA) has been acquired and installed for the automation of the general ledger, payables, receivables, purchasing,

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inventory control and fixed assets. Advanced reporting tools (Oracle Reports Builder and Oracle Discoverer) have also been acquired and installed to facilitate the process of creating customized reports and data analysis.

#### **Human Resources**

Oracle Human Resources (OHR) has been acquired and installed for the management of staff data. In addition, a payroll system and tools for recording and managing administrative decrees and staff performance appraisal have been developed and enhanced. A staff tracking and attendance reporting system is also deployed and is fully integrated with the Staff Access Control System. A web application has also been developed to facilitate online submission of CVs.

#### **Access Control and Ticketing Systems**

Thirty-two automatic gates distributed across 12 different locations within the Library have been installed for the automation of ticketing control used by visitors and access control for Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff. The ticketing control system controls the access of Bibliotheca Alexandrina daily visitors and Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff, thus controlling the revenue and monitoring the number of visitors. The 4 point-of-sales units have been increased to 8 during the

past year. The system is integrated with the ERP and membership systems and the circulation module in the LIS. The access control system regulates access of staff and business visitors.

#### **Archiving and Document Management**

An automated web-based system will soon provide the Bibliotheca Alexandrina with an integrated solution to administer the growing amount of non-structured information found in documents. This will cover capturing information from all sources (paper, microfilm, fax, e-mail, text, HTML, etc.), OCRing, indexing and finally provide this information in a searchable form for any authorized user. In the meantime, an archiving application has been developed and deployed for indexing registry correspondences.

#### **Automated Fax Service**

This service allows every authorized computer user to send/receive faxes through his/her workstation. Deployed to all the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's departments, the service is considered a step towards the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's plans to be a paperless institution. It also maximizes the use of the resources and eliminates the need for fax machines and dedicated lines. The system holds a full copy of sent/received documents for archiving purposes. The number of fax accounts



have been increased to 50 accounts, of which 30 are distributed among the BA's departments.

### **Training**

A complete program has been designed to train Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff in-house on the major software packages required. The program is based on the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) curriculum and is taking place within Bibliotheca Alexandrina training labs, accommodating 32 participants. Course scheduling, trainee registration, attendance tracking, course evaluation and lab reservation have been automated and published through the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Intranet. Four courses have been offered so far. Over 1,000 employees were trained since May 2004; 916 were tested, 715 of whom were successful.

### **Technical Support**

Technical support is provided for the use of computers and peripherals across the Bibliotheca Alexandrina community, with services ranging from software installation, troubleshooting and support for desktop applications.

In March 2005, a new web-based Call Center was deployed for easier dispatching of requests from the staff to technical support. Statistics about types of problems and how frequent

they occur are recorded in the Call Center database. The system acts as a knowledge base for future technical reference.

### **System Automation**

Many tools and applications are constantly being developed to help automate and facilitate the work of different departments. Examples include the:

- Visiting application;
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina Friends Newsletter;
- ICT Inventory System Manager; and
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Press Today.

The 'Bibliotheca Alexandrina Bookshop Point-of-Sale' application was recently developed offering the Bibliotheca Alexandrina bookshop an automated sales solution, which will improve customer service as well as manage the large collection of products.

### **Telecommunication Services**

#### **Video Conferencing (VC) and Web Casting**

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has established Video Conferencing facilities enabling the participation of up to four parties in live conferences. The system operates using both IP and/or ISDN technology. Fixed VC systems serve the Board of Trustees

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(BoT) room and the four main halls of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center (BACC), while a mobile unit with two plasma screens provides VC services at various locations within the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The technology deployed will be extended to build a distance-learning center. During the past year, over 10 VC sessions for various conferences, workshops and exhibitions have taken place with parties from several countries including Egypt, UK, USA and Ukraine.

The successful deployment of a web cast system provides real-time transmission of encoded video under the control of a dedicated server to multiple recipients simultaneously. Conferences, lectures and other multimedia content can now be broadcasted to users worldwide through the Internet, with the help of the recently developed web casting portal. This has also facilitated interactive participation in video conferences through the web. The system also offers broadcasting of archived events.

#### **The Telephone System**

The telephone system has been upgraded to comprise 100 external lines, 1,020 programmed extensions, four operator consoles, 25 PremiCell devices, 200 Direct Inward Dialing

(DID) numbers, a hunting group of 20 incoming lines and 1000 voicemail accounts. A new application was applied for telephone administration and management. The system monitors voice and data communications traffic throughout the network by measuring, managing and reporting on their status. The application also features checking system integrity and performing maintenance procedures and tasks. An “auto attendant” feature was activated in January 2005. In June 2005, the system software and hardware was upgraded to provide a more powerful processor, external and internal caller ID support, increased backup memory capacity, support for new editions of digital telephone sets, and support for IP capabilities.

#### **Plasma Screens Display System**

This system consists of three plasma screens (50-inch each) located at the entrance levels of the main library and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference Center (BACC). The screens are controlled by the ICT Department using Scala InfoChannel IC200 software. The system is applied to display multimedia shows to announce and focus on conferences and other Bibliotheca Alexandrina activities. Three other plasma screens are also installed serving the Internet Archive and the Hole-in-the-Wall

projects. Portable screens have been used for various Bibliotheca Alexandrina events, including Med-Cities Voices exhibition, Arab Reform Forum workshops, Einstein Symposium, etc.



■ Plasma Information Screen

### Web Services

Websites have been created to serve the various conferences organized by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina during the past year, including the following:

### Beacon for Freedom of Expression

[www.bibalex.org/beaconforfreedom/](http://www.bibalex.org/beaconforfreedom/)

### What Happened to the Ancient Library of Alexandria

[www.bibalex.org/fateseminar/index.htm](http://www.bibalex.org/fateseminar/index.htm)

### MedCity: Dialogue among Cultures

[www.bibalex.org/medcity/](http://www.bibalex.org/medcity/)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum on Calligraphy, Writing and Inscriptions

[www.bibalex.org/calligrpahy2005/index.html](http://www.bibalex.org/calligrpahy2005/index.html)

### Einstein Symposium

[www.bibalex.org/Einstein2005/](http://www.bibalex.org/Einstein2005/)

### CSSP Research Grant Form

[www.bibalex.org/English/researchers/CSSP/grant.htm](http://www.bibalex.org/English/researchers/CSSP/grant.htm)

### CSSP Newsletter

[www.bibalex.org/csspnewsletter/subscribe.aspx](http://www.bibalex.org/csspnewsletter/subscribe.aspx)

### Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures

[www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org)

### Arab Reform Forum

[www.arabreformforum.org](http://www.arabreformforum.org)

### Women for Peace International

[www.womenforpeaceinternational.org](http://www.womenforpeaceinternational.org)

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## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS SECTOR**

The Sector serves as the focal point for external and public relations contacts, media and communication activities and guided tours services. It has the primary responsibility for liaising with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, foreign diplomatic missions, cultural centers, international organizations as well as Egyptian embassies and consulates throughout the world. The Sector seeks to promote a high profile image of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, harmonizing all promotional, informational and outreach activities and conference services, and ensuring a seamless implementation of the mission and policies of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, through an informed and supportive public opinion, both local and international. It also assists in executing the activities of all the departments, centers and diverse events, ranging from major conferences to workshops, exhibitions and symposia.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS DEPARTMENT**

The Public Relations and International Contacts Department is faced with the sensitive and enormous task of implementing the activities that have befallen it in order to live up to the image expected by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's administration and,

more importantly, by world public opinion. It is, therefore, within this global perception of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina that both the administration in general and the Public Relations and International Contacts Department in particular operate.

This has been made possible through, first and foremost, raising the knowledge and awareness of the staff as to the importance of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's role as "a center for dialogue between people and civilizations." It has also been made possible through the application of technology, especially the technology of information, which enables the Public Relations and International Contacts Department to maintain a substantial contact database. This in turn, provides the Public Relations and International Contacts Department access to individuals and related information at the click of a 'mouse'. It also enables the establishment of a two-way conduit between the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the public at large.

The Public Relations and International Contacts Departments organizational structure fosters a corporate culture that is dynamic, flexible, and addresses the themes the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has outlined as its goals. The Department's thematic





involvement revolves mainly around issues pertaining to:

- Networks and Partnerships; and
- Dialogue and Understanding between People.

These two themes form the bulk of the Public Relations Department's work. It initiates, establishes and maintains networks with local and international organizations such as cultural centers, schools, the associations of International Friends, UNESCO, the World Bank and the European Commission respectively. As for the latter theme, the Public Relations and International Contacts Department lends its support to all the conferences, seminars, forums and cultural events held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

The Public Relations and International Contacts Department is able to fully support the aims and goals of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, by raising the efficiency and competence of its staff through training in the form of attending workshops on Communications and Marketing; and expanding the contact database of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina by recruiting undergraduates from technical colleges, training them in the system implemented at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina thereby, gaining the necessary qualifications to work in the expansion and maintenance of the actual database.

## **MEDIA DEPARTMENT**

### **LOCAL AND ARAB MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

The Media Department is responsible for developing the BA's communication policies and practices, generating its materials and publications and providing information about the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to audiences through a variety of outlets.

The Department has opened a window for the audience in Egypt and the Arab world on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its various activities. The expanded coverage of the Department competed with, and sometimes outperformed, the international standards by covering all viewpoints with objectivity, integrity and balance, thus bringing into the spotlight the impact of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on the lives of people.

The Media Department relates the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's latest developments and keeps a complete record of what it produces in a large database which is made available to the audience.

The ultimate goal of the Media Department is to set up a more proactive relationship with the audience, where the audience is not simply a visitor at the other end of the line. The viewers of the Bibliotheca

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Alexandrina are, and will always be, an integral part of the news reporting and news making process.

The objectives therefore are to:

- Raise public awareness about the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its activities;
- Promote a better and wider understanding of the activities and role of the BA by providing timely and accurate information about its major activities and accomplishments;
- Explain policies and activities wherever and whenever needed and initiate media-related material surrounding events and conferences;
- Provide editorial support, photography and media services for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's website, events, exhibitions, meetings, and conferences as well as general informational materials, and;
- Prepare necessary press coverage plans for all events.

### **Editorial Unit**

The Media Department, therefore takes responsibility for editorials which include; press releases, which are often printed 'as received'; the monthly newsletter designed to attract readers from Egypt and the Arab world which is sold in the BA Bookshop and distributed amongst

Egypt's Intellectuals, Media representatives and Bibliotheca Alexandrina Friends; the e-newsletter issued on a monthly basis and sent to the contact database via e-mail; press kits which include all the necessary material covering a certain event; and the visual bulletin, which is a weekly news-bulletin for the Egyptian TV's Visual Information Channel providing valuable information about the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's various sectors.

### **Press Center**

The main responsibilities of the Media Department's Press Center, are:

- Targeting newspapers, television stations, radio stations, local magazines, and alternative media;
- Creating an exhaustive database and mailing list that includes the contacts of all the local and Arab representatives and news outlets and continually revising, updating, and categorizing it;
- Establishing daily contact with, and response to the media needs;
- Sending press releases and background material prepared by the editorial section to all contacts via e-mail, fax, or even overnight courier;
- Providing follow up by calls to make sure journalists know about the events and thereby increasing chances of gaining coverage;

- Assisting in professional coverage of the BA's activities for TV, radio, and print media representatives, through offering the services available in the Press Room. The Press Room is equipped with every means to facilitate the work of journalists, reporters and other media representatives. It contains four computers provided with free Internet access, a printer, two fax machines, and a photocopier;
- Preparing for press conferences and media information gatherings;
- Arranging for interviews and preparing background material; and
- Arranging numerous radio and television interviews of senior managers, supervisors and heads of units to discuss their activities.

### **Photographs and Archive**

Photography is always of primary importance as it plays a role in the visual documentation of all the activities of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Photographs are taken of keynote speakers, performances, and exhibitions. These are in turn archived with captions added, thus becoming a depository of photographs for all the BA's departments and units.

Photography is also used in conjunction with other modes of representation such as the website and

the various publications, for the distribution to media outlets.

### **Media Archive**

The Media Archive monitors and documents all material published by the media about the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in newspapers and on the Internet, and issues a daily e-mail to all Bibliotheca Alexandrina staff via the Intranet. It monitors public opinion about the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in order to determine and evaluate public attitudes. This step is necessary to provide input into the planning process, to serve as an "early warning system" for potential problems, to secure internal support and to increase the effectiveness of the communication.

### **Digital Beta Cam Archive**

The Media Department digitally video archives all major events and activities taking place at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and uses the material for preparing media productions and TV programs.

### **Special Publications**

*Culture and Development: The Challenge and Response* is the latest published work in Arabic by the Media Department at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The book is a presentation of the World Bank's role in numerous development projects around the world, including the

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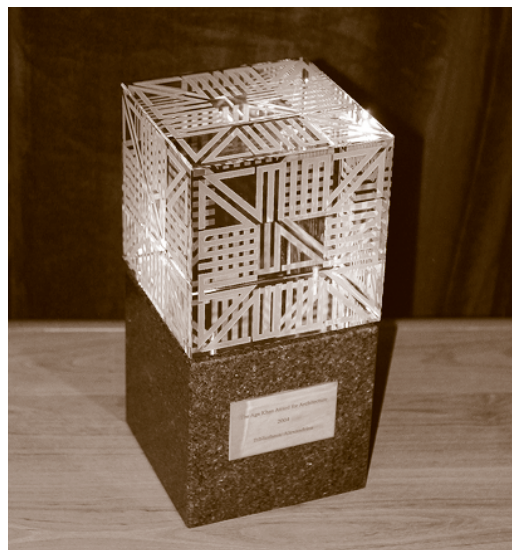
revival of the Library of Alexandria and the creation of the Al-Azhar Gardens in Cairo. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is expected to host a photo exhibition under the same title, within the next few months.

*Renovation and Authenticity in Islamic Architecture* is another publication to be released in the Fall of 2005. It highlights and documents all the proceedings and projects that received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The book contains information on architects and firms, reports, and special case studies.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture seeks out and recognizes examples of architectural excellence, encompassing concerns as varied as contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, re-use, and area conservation, as well as landscaping and environmental issues. Through its efforts, the Award also seeks to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of societies in which Muslims have a significant presence. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina was one of the proud recipients of this award in November 2004, among seven other architectural designs. A celebration was held in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Conference

Center in December 2004, honoring many prominent figures who were involved in the project.

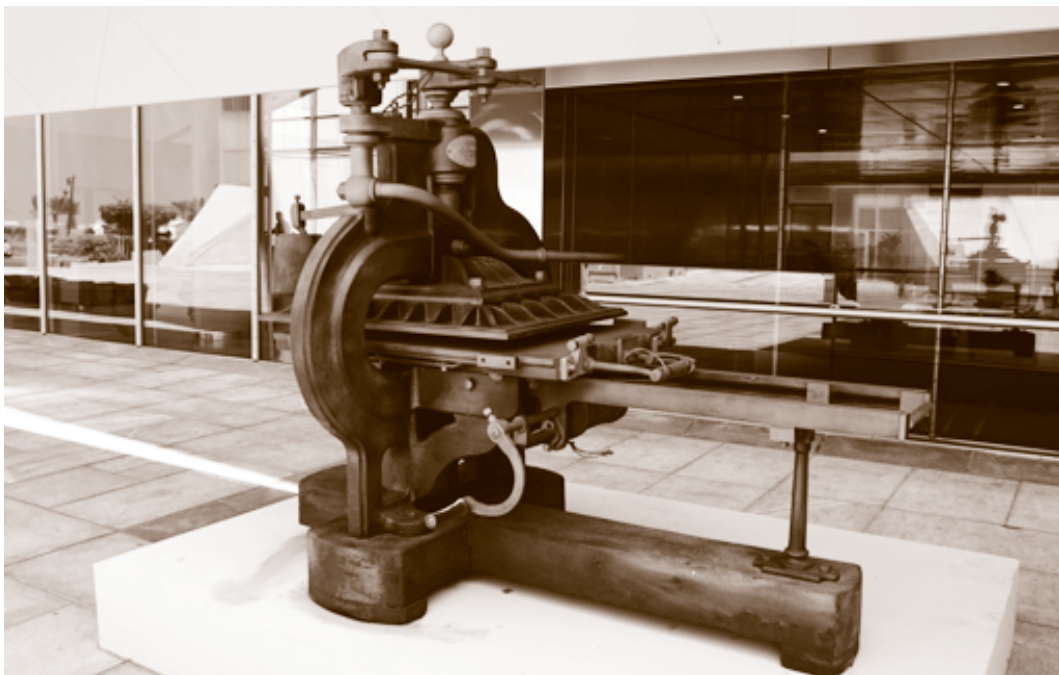
In light of this prestigious award, the Media Department is organizing an international exhibition to examine the trends and implications of architectural transformations in the Islamic world, and will display all the recipient projects of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. A catalog is being designed to address all these aspects of development in the built environments of Muslims, as they bring together government officials, architects, academics, planners, social scientists, designers, and architectural writers. The exhibition and catalog will be held and produced in the Fall of 2005.



■ Aga Khan Award for Architecture

One of the most notable successes achieved by the Media Department is related to the recent acquisition by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina of the Boulaq Printing Press. The Boulaq Press, brought to Egypt by Mohamed Aly in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, is living evidence of a significant period in Egyptian history. The Boulaq Press, with its steel machines and hard supplements, is witness to the immense transformations that Egypt passed through, as a new era of renaissance and development commenced. The BA therefore, has undertaken the mission of re-introducing the Boulaq Press to people in Egypt and around the world.

The Media Department is currently in the process of publishing a new book about the Boulaq Press, as well as establishing a museum that will exhibit the machines and reveal its historical role in Egyptian cultural life. It would only be fair to mention that the Boulaq Press was the main force behind this historical transformation that transferred Egypt from the dark ages of ignorance and setback, into the route of knowledge, freedom and awareness. All this occurred primarily because of the Boulaq Press, which presented Egyptians wider knowledge in a new form: the printed book.



■ Boulaq Press Exhibition

Financial

V

# Financial

■ Statement

Statement







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## AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To The Members Of The Board Of Directors Of Heliopolis Alexandria

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of Heliopolis Alexandria as at June 30, 2005 and the related accounts of revenues and expenses and the cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Heliopolis's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Egyptian standards on Auditing and in the light of provisions of applicable Egyptian laws and regulations. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as assessing the overall financial statement presentation. We have obtained the information and explanations which we considered necessary for our audit. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above together with the notes attached thereto present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Heliopolis Alexandria as of June 30, 2005 and the results of its operations and the cash flows for the financial year then ended.

KPMG Hassan Elwan

Alexandria, in September 4, 2005



Calendar

VI

# Calendar

■ of Events

of Events



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### Celebrations

- Signing the Final Cooperation Agreement between the Library of Alexandria and the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Gazi Husrev-Begova Library
- The 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Chilean Poet Pablo Neruda
- Honoring Distinguished Employees in Different Governmental Sectors in Alexandria Governorate

### Conferences

- Information Science & Technology Center Management CISTM2004

#### 1 Towards Better Arabic Calligraphy

- Cardio Alex 2004
- The Regional Consultation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right of Adequate Housing in Alexandria

### Exhibitions

- Deterioration and Creativity in Arabic Calligraphy
- 2 The Salvador Dali Centennial Celebration
- DNA 50 Exhibition

### Lectures

- Renewing Religious Discourse, by Mahmoud Hamdy Zaqzouq
- Environment and environmental issues, by Salah Soliman, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- A Trip to the Sun, by Omar Fikry
- Modern Trends in Developing Education and Environmental Sustainability
- Team work and its importance, by Mayssa El-Nayyal, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- Violence and Children, by Nabil Khalaf, Children's and Young People's Libraries' Summer Program
- Astrology, by Omar Fikry, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- Collecting Post Stamps, by Wael Shalaby, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- How to make spare time useful, by Mayssa El-Nayyal, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- Alexandria's Environment, the Green Corner, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- Scientific Thinking, by Ismail Serageldin
- Learn to Learn, by Sherine Hassan Abbas Helmy, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program

- Using the DNA Fingerprint in fighting crimes
- A Trip to the Moon, by Omar Fikry
- Viewing Egypt through Egyptian Eyes, by Ateyat Al Abnoudy
- Orientation on Library Services
- Quantum Gravity, by Mohammad El-Naschie
- Mars, King of Planets, by Omar Fikry

### Meetings

- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers' Union

### Performances

- The Waves, by Mary Magdalene (Swedish Dancing Drama), The Third International Summer Festival
- Omar Khayrat (Concert), The Third International Summer Festival
- Oud Nights, The Third International Summer Festival
- Artistic Night with the Marimba, The Third International Summer Festival
- Modern Egyptian Music, The Third International Summer Festival
- Khaled Shams and the Friends of the Sea, The Third International Summer Festival
- Extracts from International Musicals, The Third International Summer Festival
- 3 Harp Concert, The Third International Summer Festival
- Music of TV Series, The Third International Summer Festival

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- The British Council's 8<sup>th</sup> Café Scientifique entitled Genetically Manufactured Food: pros and cons, by Professor Hanaa Ismail
- Changes in Egypt: Prospects and Obstacles
- Literary Seminar, Ahmed Khaled Tawfik

### Workshops

- Water Policies towards the year 2017: Given data, assumptions and Means of Execution
- Ethics of Media in Situations of Conflict
- Information Society and the Alexandria Document
- Educational Reform
- Electricity
- Chemistry

## August 2004



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### Conferences

- Twelfth Optics Conference
- Information Society: Developing Education in Egypt, inaugurated by President Hosni Mubarak

### Exhibitions

- Third Optics Exhibition
- The Salvador Dali Centennial Celebration

### Lectures

- Modern Trends in Developing Education and Environmental Sustainability
- Arab Heritage, by Youssef Ziedan
- 1 Teeth Health, by Khaled Mansour, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- A Trip to the Moon, by Omar Fikry
- Art of Music, by Azza Madyan
- Thinking Skills, by Magdi Helal, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- Galileo, by Omar Fikry
- Giant Saturn and its Rings, by Omar Fikry
- 2 How to read History, by Mahmoud Amin, Mustafa El-Abadi, Gamal Hagar and Mohammad Ali El-Kordi
- Hurricanes and Earthquakes
- Return to Mercury, by Omar Fikry
- Memorial Coins, by Wael Shalabi
- Genetically Modified food debated
- DNA lecture - Video Conference

### Meetings

- Meeting of El-Sharkeya, El-Dakahlia and El-Gharbiya Writers, and Honoring Alexandrian Writers
- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers' Union

### Performances

- Fayrouz Trilogy (films): Seller of the Rings, Land Traveling, The Guard's Daughter
- Messing with the Mind (play), The Third International Summer Festival
- Animation Cinema
- 3 Three Pennies (opera)

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- Secret Files of Egyptian Revolution, by Tarek Habib and Salah Fadl
- Discussing Messing with the Mind, by Khaled El-Sawi
- Listen to your Body, by Sameh Shehata, Children's and Young People's Libraries Summer Program
- Exchange of Ideas on the Turkish Town

### Work shop

- Sky Jewels, organized by the Exploratorium -Astronomy
- Mechanics



## September 2004



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### Celebrations

- The Inauguration of Two New Additions to the Underwater Archeology Exhibition at the Exploratorium

### Conferences

- 1 The Global Environment Youth Convention
  - The First International Conference of the Manuscript Center: Millenary Manuscripts
  - The Opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium for the History of Science: Untrodden Areas in the History of Arabic Science
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> Alexandria Anesthesia and Intensive Care Conference (ASAIC 2004)
  - EDUC-Canada 2004

### Exhibitions

- The Works of Mika Waltari
- 2 The Paintings of Jocelyne Mottoule and Jihane Soliman (Alexandrie: Mémoire des Temps)
    - Arts Market

### Lectures

- Environmentally preserved areas in Egypt
- Us Versus the Other, by Hoda Zakariya, Professor of Political Sociology, Zagazig University
- Economic and Educational Reform in Malaysia, series of lectures given by former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamed
- Literature and Borders, Summer Academy, Swedish Institute
- Newton and his World
- Our Diet between Health and Balance, by Mohammad Mohammad Youssef, Professor of Science and Technology of Food, Faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria University
- The Mediterranean: State-of-the-Art and Future Issues
- Biodiversity
- The Many Faces of Human Cloning, by Lori Andrews
- The Waltari Society: Lectures and Discussions



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- Untraditional Solutions for the Growth of Population Issue
- DNA, by Julie Hill
- Lecture on DNA-Video Conference
- Development of Kufi Calligraphy, by Mounir Sharaani
- World of Manuscripts
- Learn Hieroglyphics at BA

### Meetings

- The Annual Summer Meeting of the Egyptian Society of Ophthalmology
- Meeting of Committees of the BA Friends Association
- Psychiatry Club Meeting, Pfizer Company
- Meeting of Specialized Advisory Committees and the Annual Meeting of Intellectuals
- Monthly meeting of Alexandria Writers' Union-Seminar
- Othology and Audiology National Meeting of the Egyptian ORL Society

### Performances

- The Encounter between East and West, Joint Egyptian European Production
- Piano Recital by Micha Tokaj
- BA Amateurs' School (Concert)

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- Exchange of ideas on the Turkish Town
- What Happened to the Ancient Library of Alexandria?

### Symposiums

- Beacon for Freedom of Expression

### Workshops

- 3 Children explain Science to Children
  - Preparatory Workshop on the Beacon for Freedom of Expression
  - National Atlas of Egypt
  - Human Body

## October 2004



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### Celebrations

- 1 Second Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Library of Alexandria
- Science Week Festivity

### Conferences

- Arab Lawyers' Union Conference
- Eighth Alexandria Anesthesia and Intensive Care Conference (ASAIC 2004)
- The Mediterranean: State of the Art and Future Issues
- First International Conference for the International Day of Rheumatism

### Exhibitions

- The Paintings of Jocelyn Mottule and Jihane Soliman (Alexandrie: Memoire des Temps)
- The Works of Mika Waltari

- 2 Anna Pavlova: the Ballet Legend

- Treasures of Arab, Byzantine Navigation

### Lectures

- Learn Hieroglyphics
- Cancer Disease, by Professor Rafik Khalil
- Meeting with Family Courts Experts, organized by National Council for Women in association with the Ministry of Justice and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

### Performances

- Works of Mozart, Handel and Mohammad Saad Pasha
- Saxofourte concert, organized by the BA Arts Center in association with Goethe Institute



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- 3 Oud Recital by the Syrian Artist Gassan Youssef

- Biographical and Autobiographical movies, Shahrezad's Song, directed by Miclosh Rosa 1974, presented by Azza Madyan
- Mohammad Mounir and the Schal Sick Brass Band, organized by the BA Arts Center in association with Goethe Institute
- Egyptian Works (Concert)
- Storytelling by Ramadan Khater
- Three Operas in an Hour
- Costantinople (a Canadian Concert)

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Meetings

- Plenary Meeting for Geotechnical Engineering Conference
- Seventh Annual Meeting of the BA International Friends
- Monthly Meeting of Alexandria Writers' Union
- Meeting of Greek Architects
- Meeting of Swedish Delegation, SIDA members and several Ambassadors

### Seminars

- Development of Tourism Sector, Current and Expected Developments, by tourism expert Samir Sadek

### Workshops

- Alexandria Carry-on: Voice and Movement

## November 2004



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### Celebrations

- 1 Fifth Celebration in Honor of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Donors
- 2 Research Grants

### Exhibitions

- Graphic Art, by four master printmakers  
Mediterranean Voice

### Lectures

- Giving Meaning to Mathematics,  
by Ahmed Gabbar, History of Science specialist
- Norwegian Libraries
- Early Sound Films in Egypt, presented by the  
Historian and Critique Ahmed El-Hadari
- Participation of Women in the Democratic Process  
in Egypt
- The Experience of the National Library of Russia



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### Meetings

- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers' Union

### Performances

- 3 WAMA Group (Concert)
  - Jazz-Flemenco Group, Fran Molina and  
Lourdes Zamalloa
  - The Anfoushi Folklore Troupe

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- History of Techniques applied in Arabic Calligraphy

### Workshops

- Educational Reform in Egypt
- Swiss Project: Al Setara Play
- Electricity



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## December 2004



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### Celebrations

#### 1 Anniversary of Academie Goncourt

- Celebration in honor of contributors to the establishment of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina building, on the occasion of receiving the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA)

### Conference

- The African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Conference: Towards Strong African Economic Relations
- The Role of Youth in the Dialogue among Cultures, by Ambassador Gunter Mulack and Ismail Serageldin

#### 2 Educational Reform in Egypt

- Entre Histoire et Memoire, Alexandrie et Mediteranee
- Educational Ethics between Teachers and Students
- Regional Consultations among Civil Societies in West, Central and North Africa organized by LEAD International
- Architectural Heritage and Cultural Identity
- 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information

### Lectures

- The National Research Center (Training and Capabilities Center)
- Smoking and its Hazards, by Essam Gouda Hasanin
- Counseling and Guiding Parents to the Best Ways of Raising their Children
- Argentinean Literature, by Santiago De Luca
- Strehler and the Mozart Theater, by Eleonora Vasta
- The Era of Mohamed Aly and the Development of Egypt: Advantages and Disadvantages, by Younan Labib Rezk and Omar Abdel-Aziz
- The Lives and Scientific Impact of Faraday and Maxwell
- "Shajarat Al-Dur", by Azza Heikel

### Meetings

- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers' Union

### Performances

- Independent Bands Festival
- 3 Swiss Project: Al Setara Play
- Cinema of Naguib Mahfouz (Short Films), presented by Short Film Researcher Safaa El-Leathy
- Creative Forum for Independent Theater Groups (Europe-Mediterranean) Second Edition
- Art School's Music Concert
- BA Orchestra Concert

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- Human Rights: Universal, Private and Challenges of our Age
- Urban Planning
- The Egyptian Society for the Study of GIT and Hepatic Disorders and Endoscopic Intervention

### Workshops

- International Water Policy Workshop entitled The Provision of Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Worldwide by 2025
- Animation Workshop Celebration
- International Training Workshop for Medical Students
- Chemistry
- Mechanics



## January 2005



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### Celebrations

- 1 The appointment of Ismail Serageldin Hans Christian Andersen (HCA) Honorary Ambassador, and the donation of a collection of Andersen's works in Arabic to the BA. The Celebration was attended by HRH Prince Joachim of Denmark, HE the First Lady of Egypt and HE Ambassador of Denmark to Egypt

### Conferences

- The Third General Practitioners Conference

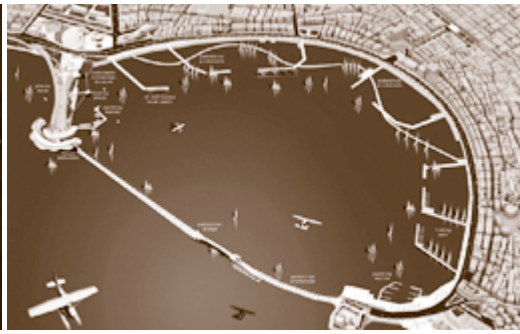
### Exhibitions

- 2 Med Voices: Shared Spaces in Times of Crises

### Lectures

- Divine Love for Muhi-al-Din bin Arabi, by Youssef Ziedan
- Knowledge in the Digital Age
- The Ancient Egyptian Language, by Abdel Halim Nureldin
- The Verses in the Manuscript Mural, by Youssef Ziedan
- Healthy Diets
- How to Prepare Magazines
- Western Financial Flow Toward the Middle East: The Potential Impacts on the Socio-Political, Economic and Cultural Fields
- Modern Trends in Developing Education and Environmental Sustainability

- 3 Story telling for children and young people, by Yakoub El Sharouny



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### Meetings

- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers Union

### Performances

- Creative Forum for Independent Theater Groups (Europe-Mediterranean) Second Edition
- Dance Performance Analysis from a Choreological Perspective
- American Cinema
- BA Chamber Orchestra

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- Marine Environment Conservation

### Symposiums

- Aerospace and Automotive Technology

### Workshop

- Swiss Project: Al Setara Play
- Information literacy training for information officers in rural and sub-urban regions
- Schlumberger SEED
- Optics
- Astronomy

## February 2005



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### Celebrations

- The Faculty of Medicine's celebration of the graduation of its 2003 class
- Omar Tousson's Celebration
- 1 Inauguration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alexandrina International Book Fair
- Celebrating the International Day of the Mother Language, organized by Lisan Al-Arab Association.

### Conferences

- Interact with Today's World
- Nephro Alex 2005: The 24th Annual International Conference of Egyptian Society of Nephrology
- 2 Mediterranean City: Dialogue among Cultures

### Exhibitions

- Croatian Exhibition: The Challenge of the Cravat

### Lectures

- How to Deal with Others Successfully, by Maysa El Nayal
- Ancient Egyptian Civilization by Abdelhalim Nureldin
- Ancient Egyptian Mummification
- Libraries for Schools in an Achieving Society
- Ancient Egyptian Arts
- Women and Memory Association: Reviews, Publications and Presentations, featuring Hala Kamal and Omayma Abu Bakr, moderated by Youssef Ziedan
- Political Image of Women, featuring Salma Abd El Gabar and Noha Antar, moderated by the Poet, Abdel-Moneim Salem
- Magellan's Journey around the World, featuring Omar Fikry
- Women in ancient Egypt and Oriental Religions, featuring Abdelhalim Nureldin and Alaa Ereibi, moderated by Mohamed Salah
- The Role of Youth in Modernization and Reform
- Women between Reality and Imagination, featuring Youssef Ziedan and Heba Raouf Ezzat, moderated by Ramy El-Gamal
- Computer, Society and the Future, by Yousry Saber El Gamal
- Women and the Egyptian Artistic creativity, by Mostafa El Razzaz
- Women and Cinema, by Hala Khalil and Wesam Soliman, presenting the movie Ahla El Awkat

### Meetings

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the 19<sup>th</sup> ENCOM Meeting, Electricity and Energy Ministers from the Eastern Nile Basin countries (Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia).

- Ismail Serageldin's meeting with media representatives
- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers Union.

### Performances

- Al Setara, The Curtain (Play)
- European Cinema Festival, in collaboration with the European Union (EU)
- Abdel-Hamid El-Shweikh and the BA Chamber Orchestra
- Oud Recital, featuring the Syrian musician, Ghassan Ali Youssef
- Poetry Recital featuring the poet, Mohamed Rafik Khalil
- Women and Art, modeling Om Kolthoum, featuring Ratiba El-Hefni, moderated by Sherif Mohie Eldin
- Poetry recital featuring the poet, Ahmed El Shahawy and the musician, Said Shafik with the Oud
- Stars of Classic Music, featuring Inas Abdel Dayem, Neveen Alooba, Nesma Abdel Aziz and Manal Mohie Eldin
- 3 Oriental Jazz (Concert)
- BA Chamber Orchestra and cello soloist, Walter Grimmer.

### Programs

- Research-for-All.

### Seminars

- Poet and Critic
- Do Mediterranean Countries form a Cultural Unity Despite their Historical Diversity?
- East Harbor and Alexandria Cultural Heritage Preservation
- Calligraphy Tools through History
- Liver Diseases in Egypt, featuring Waheed Dos and Faisal Younis, moderated by Gaber Asfour
- The Center for the Study of Professions (CSP)

### Workshops

- Med-Cities Project – World Bank Representatives Supervisory Mission
- Training Course on Communication for Development
- Schlumberger SEED
- Information literacy training for information officers in rural and sub-urban regions
- Astronomy

## March 2005



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### Celebrations

- Egyptian Women's Week: On the occasion of the International Women's Day and Egyptian Women's Day, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) has organized a series of seminars, presenting films directed by Inas El Degheidy, Egyptian director
- Graduation Party of the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
- International Theater Day

### Conferences

- Sixth Pan Arab Congress of Endocrinology and Diabetes
- Second Arab Reform Conference
- An International Colloquium: The Auditoria of Kom El-Dikka in the Cultural and Educational Life of the Late Antique City
- Mediterranean City: Dialogue among Cultures

### Exhibitions

- Panorama of Contemporary Egyptian Ceramic
- Art Masters

1 Exhibition of the International Seminar on the Management of the Shared Mediterranean Heritage (ISMARMED)

- Second Arab Reform Exhibition

### Lectures

- The Importance of Papyrus in Different Civilizations
- Marginalized Women, by Iman Beberz and Belal Fadl, and presenting the movie Saye' Bahr.

2 Past, Present and Future of Information Technology, by HE Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, and Ismail Serageldin

- The Nile, by Roushdy Said
- Environment, science and art, by Mohamed El-Nasha'ie
- Papyrus in ancient Egypt, by Abdelhalim Nureldin
- Male-female relationship in Roman and Greek eras, by Mohammed Abd-El-Ghani
- Hepatitis Today and Tomorrow: American and Egyptian Experiences



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- Mosaic Museum: A unique experience in the development of Touristic Archeological sites in Alexandria, by Enayat Mohamed Ahmed
- Antiquities Museums: Present and Future, by Abdelhalim Nureldin and Ahmed Nawwar
- Blending of Cultures in Ancient Alexandrian Heritage, by Mona Haggag
- The development of Kufi writing
- Presentation for the Students of the Faculty of Economics & Political Sciences.

### Meetings

- Specialized Advisory Committees' meeting
- Arab networks' meeting of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue among Cultures.
- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers Union

### Performances

- Alexandria Cosmopolitan Rotary Club Concert

### 3 Guitar Music Week

- Al Nour Wal Amal Orchestra (concert)
- The Desert of Shadi Abdel Salam (play)

### Programs

- Research for All

### Seminar

- The Centre for the Study of Professions (CSP)
- International Seminar on the Management of the Shared Mediterranean Heritage (ISMARMED)

### Workshops

- Training Course on Communication for Development
- Enhancing Competitiveness for SMEs in Egypt
- Cultural Diversity in Andalusia
- Human Body
- Optics





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### Celebrations

- The Silver Jubilee of the ABB Alexandria Branch
- Sidi Gaber Girls Language School's End-of-year Festival
- Opening of Imagining the Book II Biennale

- 1 Official opening of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation
- Dag Hammarskjöld Centenary
- Launching Ceremony of the Federation of the African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, and Professions
- Celebration honoring archeological Scientists in Alexandria

### Conferences

- Yehia Hakki's life and works
- The Egyptian North West Coast on the International Tourism Map
- Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness, Entrepreneurs Business Forum
- Second International Forum on Calligraphy, Writing and Inscriptions
- International Signed Manuscripts Conference
- Faculty of Medicine 26th Annual Conference
- Ethics of International Economic Relations

### Exhibitions

- Panorama of Contemporary Egyptian Ceramic
- The Third Eye, Natalia Vico's Exhibition
- Exhibition of the International Seminar on the Management of the Shared Mediterranean Heritage (ISMARMED)

### Lectures

- Modern Trends in Developing Education and Environmental Sustainability
  - Learn Hieroglyphics at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
  - Pharmaceutical and personal care products as non-traditional Pollutants, by Mohamed Abdel Salam
  - Mosaic in the Alexandrian School, by Ezzat Kadous
- 2 Egypt, as I see it, by Natalia Vico
  - Reduced Gravity: Effect on Human Body (video conference)
  - Calligraphy and Script used on Papyrus Documents
  - Early tools used in Arabic calligraphy, by Megahed Tawfik El Guindy
  - Forms of Ancient Egyptian technology in Ancient Alexandria, featuring Hussein El Sheikh, Professor of Greco-Roman Archeology, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University
  - Historical facts surrounding Alexander the Great, by Mahmoud El Saadany

- Jean Pierre Heim: Architectural Visions of a Cosmopolitan Architect
- The Sunken Antiquities: Past and Present, by Ibrahim Darweesh, Director of the Alexandria National Museum
- Science Fiction and Future Sciences, by Nabil Farouk
- Data Management Solutions for Education
- Earthquake-Induced Tsunami: Causes and Effects
- Reduced Gravity
- Titan, by Sebastian Charnoz

### Meetings

- Joint Meeting of the IFA Technical Sub-Committee and Committee
- YES Networking Meeting
- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers Union, attended by Mohamed Zaki El-Ashmawy and writers from the Governorates of Dakahliya, Gharbiya and Sharkiya
- Meeting of the Professor and Assistant Professor National Promoting Committee

### Performances

- Geneva Quintet (concert)
  - Guitar Gala: Emad Hamdi, Karim Frege and Hossam Shafei accompanied by the BA Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sherif Mohie Eldin
  - Diamond Jubilee of Mahmoud Reda
  - William Shakespeare Film Festival
- 3 Piano Duet featuring the soloists, Maria José de Bustos and Maria José Barandiaran, playing works of Ravel, Albeniz and others
  - Khaled El Shweikh and BA Chamber Orchestra

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- Freedom in Arab Countries, featuring Mohamed Nour Farahat
- Optical Mark Read (OMR) Technology
- The Universal Portrayal of Alexandria in novels

### Workshops

- Series of workshops accompanying Imagining the Book II Biennale
- Training Course on Project Management (Regional Management Support Unit-RMSU)
- Theater for Change
- Development and Empowerment of Civil Society Organizations and Citizens
- Mechanics



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### Celebrations

- Pioneers Language School's End-of-Year Festival
- Dag Hammarskjöld Centenary
- The annual celebration of the New Sidi Gaber Language School
- Sidi Gaber Language School's End-of-Year Festival
- Elkods School's End-of-Year Festival
- The Egyptian American School's End-of-Year Festival
- Prize awarding for Architectural Competitions

### Conferences

- Egyptian Federation for Construction and Building Contractors

#### 1 Peace Camp

#### 2 MELCOM International 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

- Annual Diagnostic Imaging
- UBS Investment Forum
- Arab UNESCO Clubs Forum

### Exhibitions

- Dag Hammarskjöld Exhibition
- #### 3 Imagining the Book II Biennale
- Roboalex Center

### Lectures

- Ancient libraries, by Mervat Seif El-Din, Deputy Director of the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria.
- Mercedes Vagal, the Uruguayan Poet and Writer
- Cosmopolitan Alexandria and the Library of Alexandria
- The Iliad and the Odyssey by Homer, by Ahmed Etman
- Tobacco Control
- Creativity and Arab Culture, by Ali Abdelrazek Galaby, Professor of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University
- Learn Hieroglyphics at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
- Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity, by El-Sayyid El-Khayyal
- The KEO Satellite, by Jean-Marc Philippe, President, KEO Project
- Lecture Series on Einstein (video conference)

2

- Housing and Development Bank: The Housing Savings Program under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities.
- Knowledge Transfer Program, Payment System
- Modern Trends in Developing Education and Environmental Sustainability
- How Plants Sense and Respond
- Technological Achievements in Space Invasion
- Credit Suisse Presentation

### Meetings

- Meeting of the Peer Review Committee
- First Meeting of the Scientific and Drafting Committees of the Egyptian Figures in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries Encyclopedia
- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers Union
- CMA CGM Management Meeting
- Unilever Mashreq Meeting

### Performances

- Easter Celebration: The Better Life music band featuring its famous Easter hymns
- Chamber Orchestra concert for leukemia patients
- Arts School concert
- African and Asian Cinema screening films from Japan, India and Burkina Faso
- Hip-hop Dance

### Programs

- Research-for-All

### Seminars

- Imagining the Book II Biennale
- Pioneers and Schools of Arabic Calligraphy
- Children and Knowledge in the Arab Nation
- Cultural Identity in the Face of Globalization

### Workshops

- Training Course on Design (RMSU)
- Climate Change over Africa
- Second Workshop for the National Atlas of Egypt Project
- Robotics



1



2



3

### Celebrations

- Launch of the TWAS Arab Regional Office
- Celebration of the Egyptian Ministry of State for Administrative Development and the Alexandria Governorate

### Conferences

- Einstein Symposium 2005
- Cardio Alex 2005

### Exhibitions

- Einstein Exhibition
- Boulaq Press
- On the Footsteps of Eratosthenes
- Homage to the Ancient Library of Alexandria

### Lectures

- Seretide, organized by GlaxoSmithKline Egypt
- Modern Trends in Developing Education and Environmental Sustainability
- The Global Compact Toward Growth, Current Challenges and Future Prospective: A Case Study on Mansour Manufacturing and Distribution Group
- Cosmic Acceleration
- Learn Hieroglyphics at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
- Physics of Space Flights (videoconference)
- Earthquake Risks in the Middle East
- Challenge in Frontiers of Science and Technology
- Geometry of Arabic Calligraphy and its Effects on Contemporary Photography

1 Cosmic Acceleration - Edward Witten

2 How to win a Nobel Prize - Leo Esaki

### Meetings

- Meeting of Distinguished Cultural Figures
- Meeting of the Egyptian Association for Water and Energy with the ADS Project Partners
- Monthly Meeting of the Alexandria Writers Union
- Regional Arab Dialogue on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Innovation and Sustainable Development

### Performances

- Spanish Film Festival
- Soloists of the BA Chamber Orchestra
- Enrico Macias Concert
- Arab Cinema from the East and the West

### 3 BA Chamber Orchestra

- Sergent Garcia (concert)
- BA Supporters' Concert
- Omar Khayrat (concert)

### Seminars

- The Cultural Role of Alexandria in Egyptian and Arab History
- Cairo in Movies
- Principles of Leadership: From Effectiveness to Greatness (videoconference)
- Water Desalination via Renewable Energy

### Workshops

- On the Footsteps of Eratosthenes
- Einstein Children Corner
- King Mariout Observation with Denis Savoie

Statistical

VII

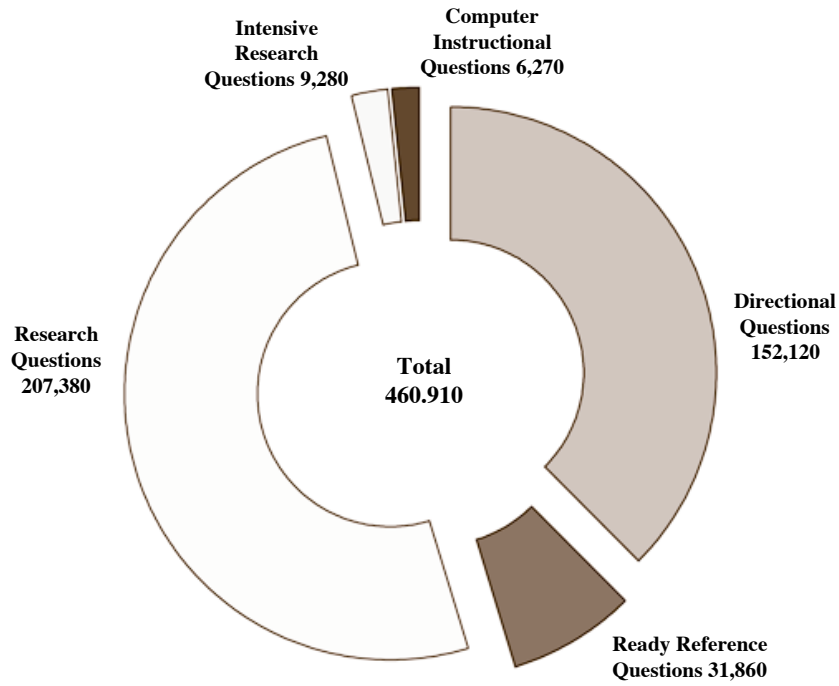
# Statistical

■ Snapshots

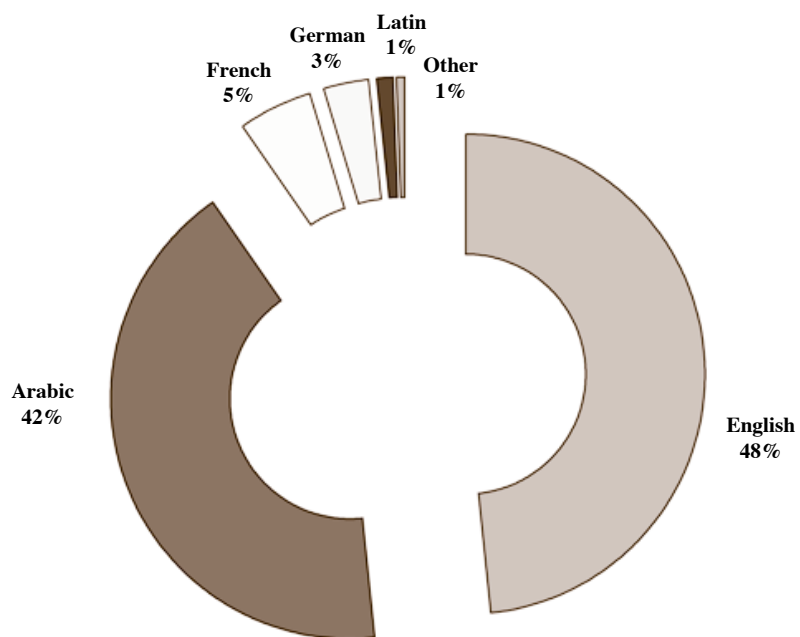
Snapshots

## Library Sector

### Reference Desk Inquiries

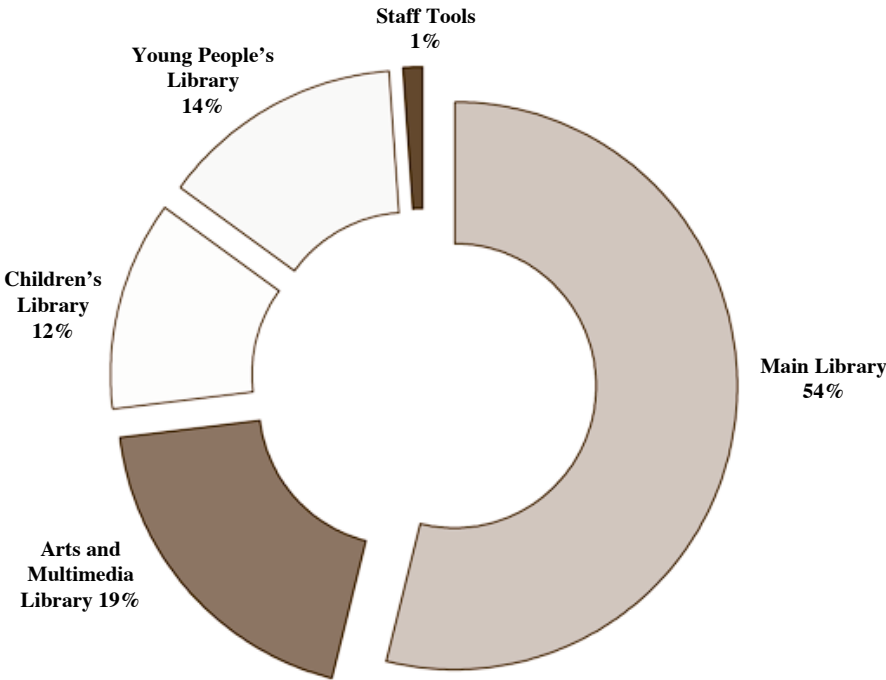


### Material Acquired

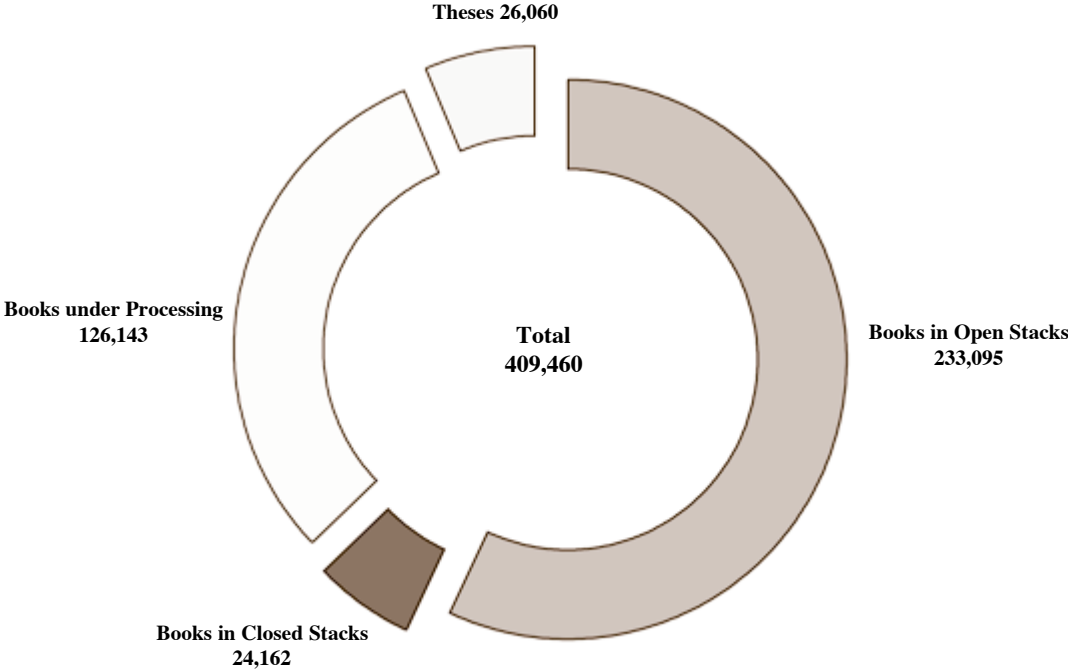




### Library Acquisitions

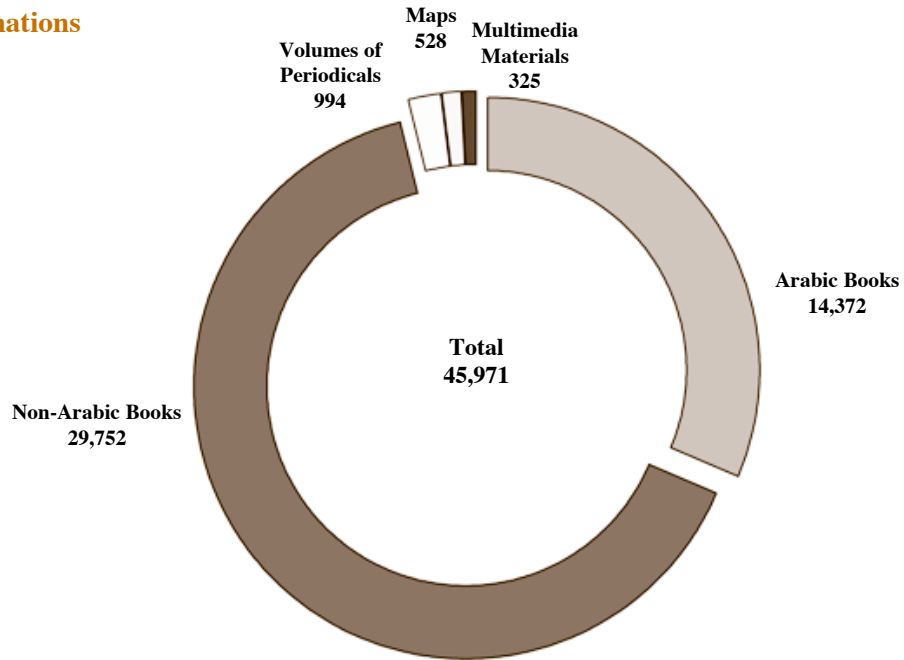


### BA Collection

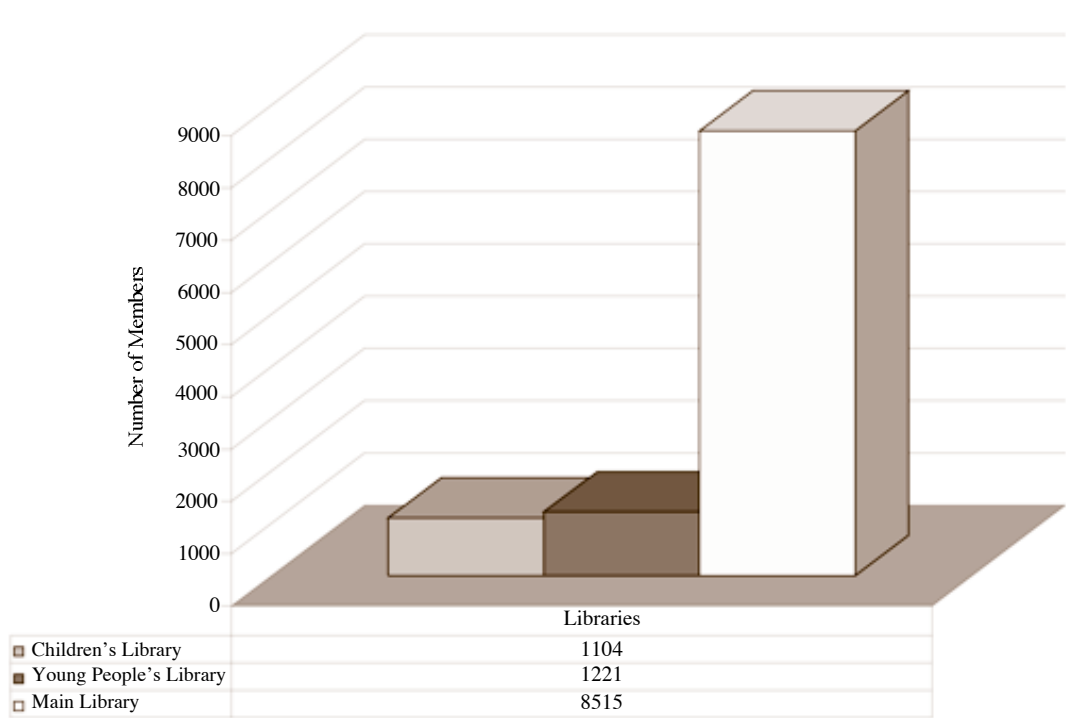




## Donations



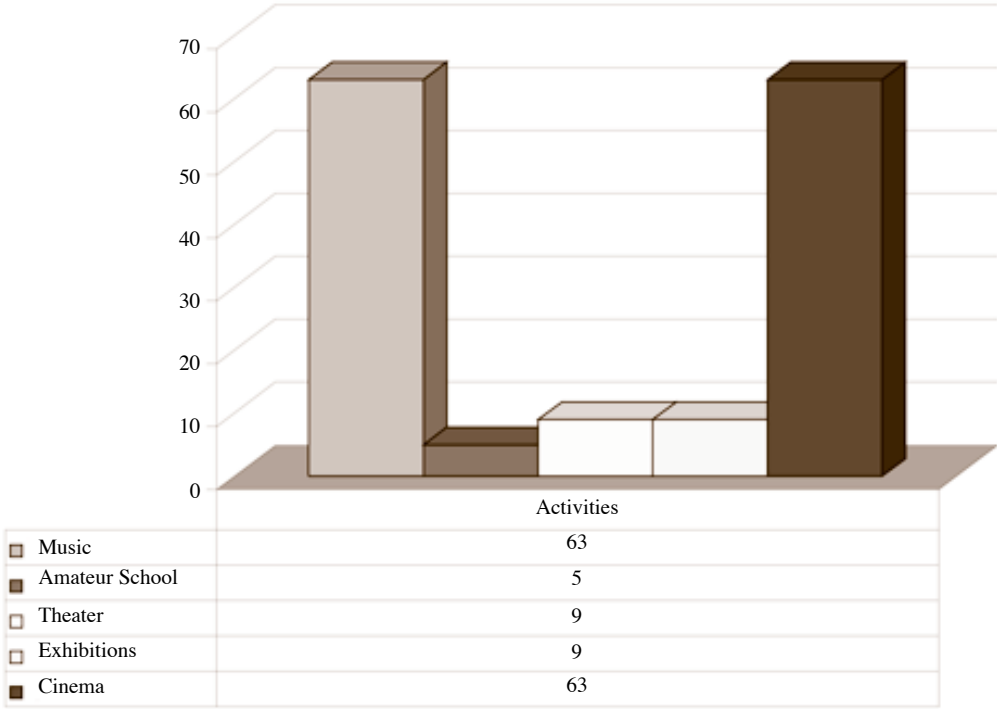
## Library Memberships





# Arts Center

## Arts Center Activities

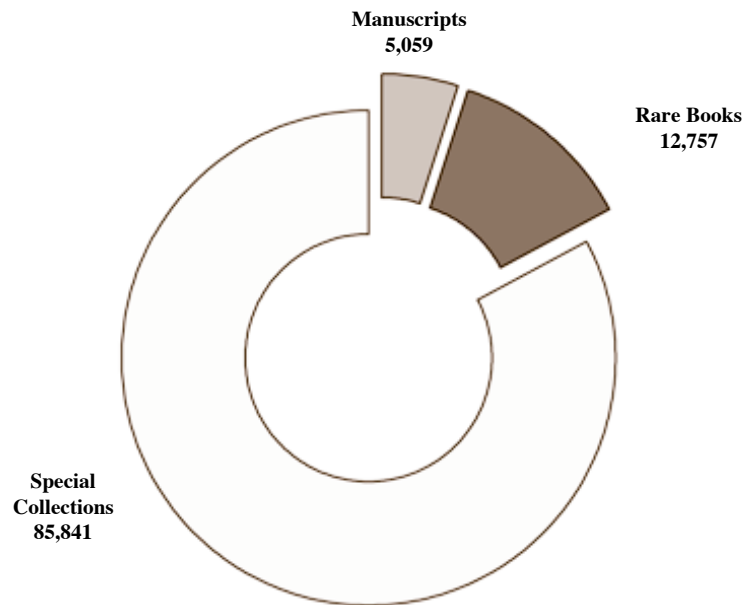


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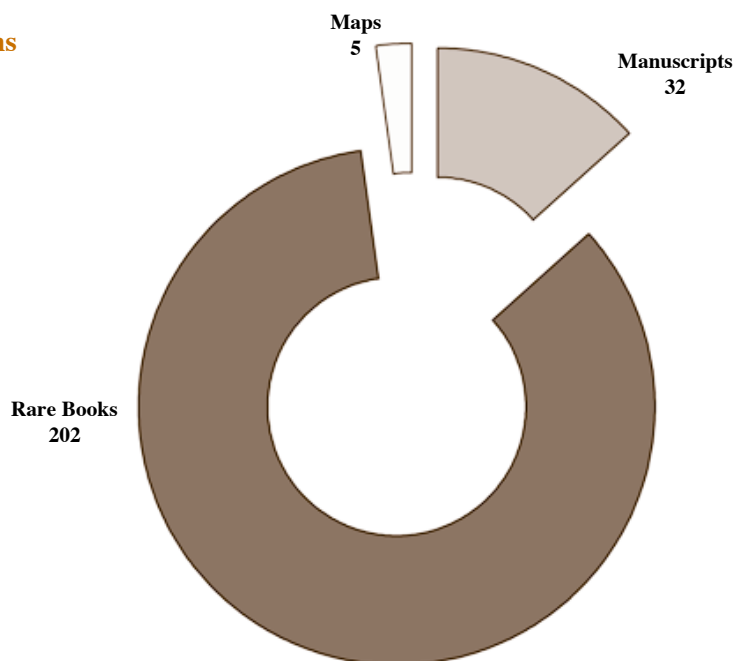
## ■ Manuscripts and Rare Books

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### Manuscript & Rare Book Collections

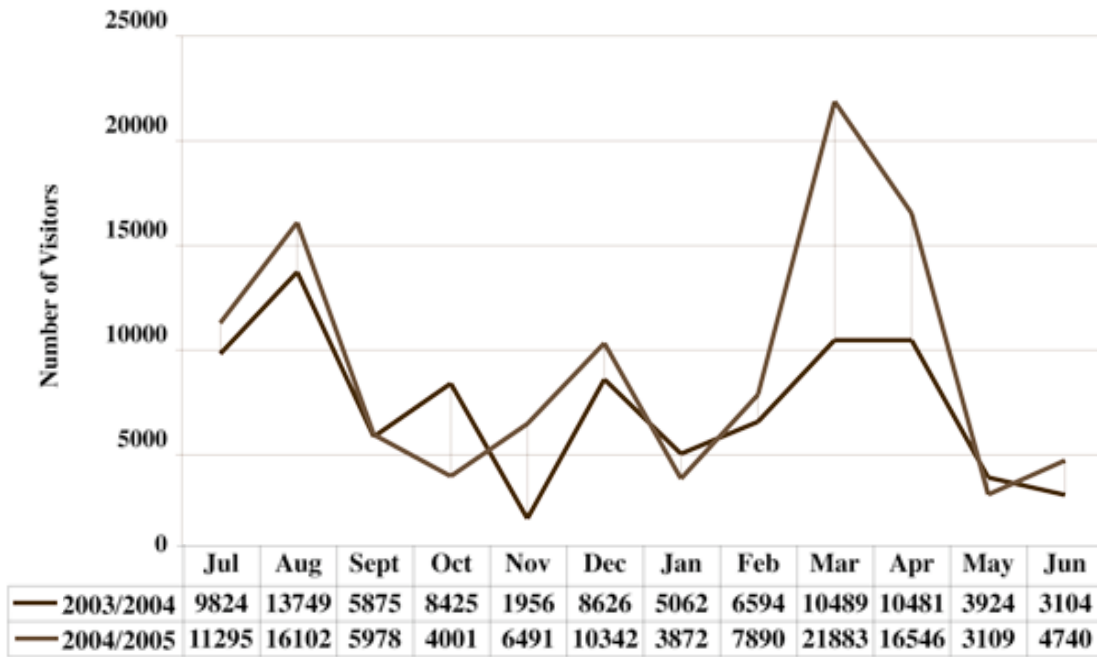


### Restorations



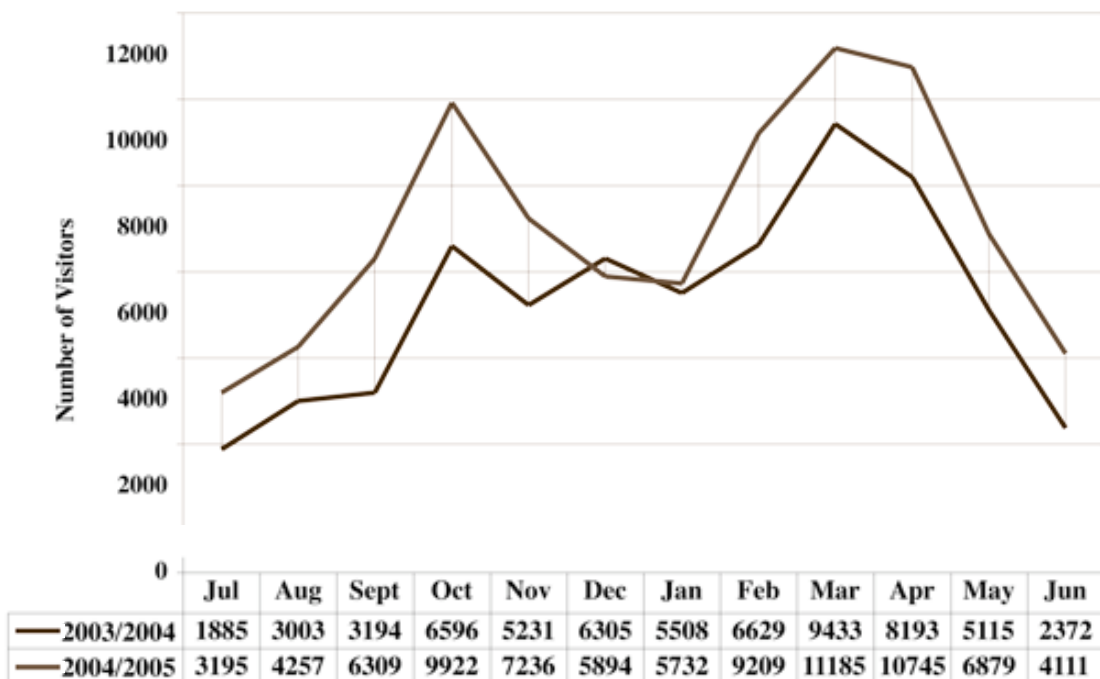
## ■ Visitors

### Egyptian Guided Visitors

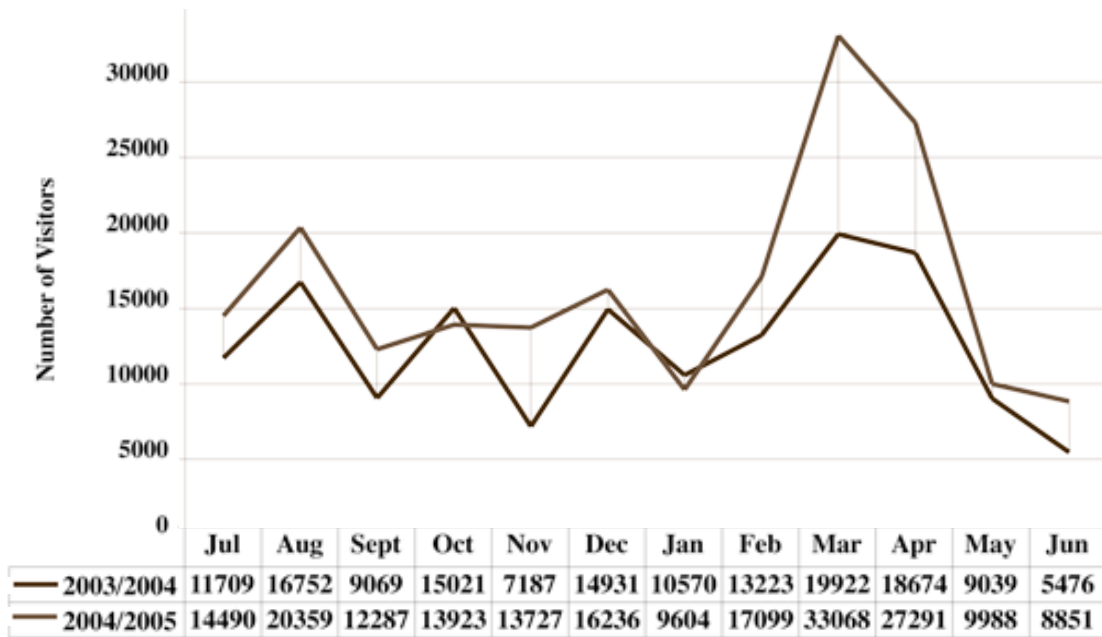


Comparison 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

### International Guided Visitors



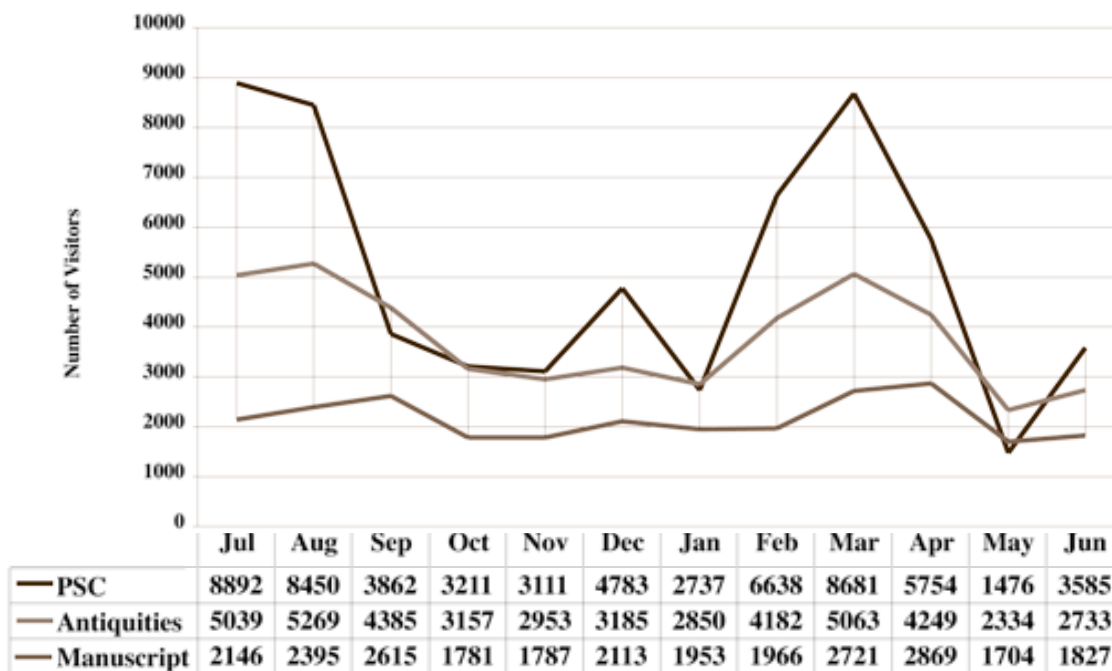
## Total Guided Visitors



Comparison 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

## BA Museum Visitors

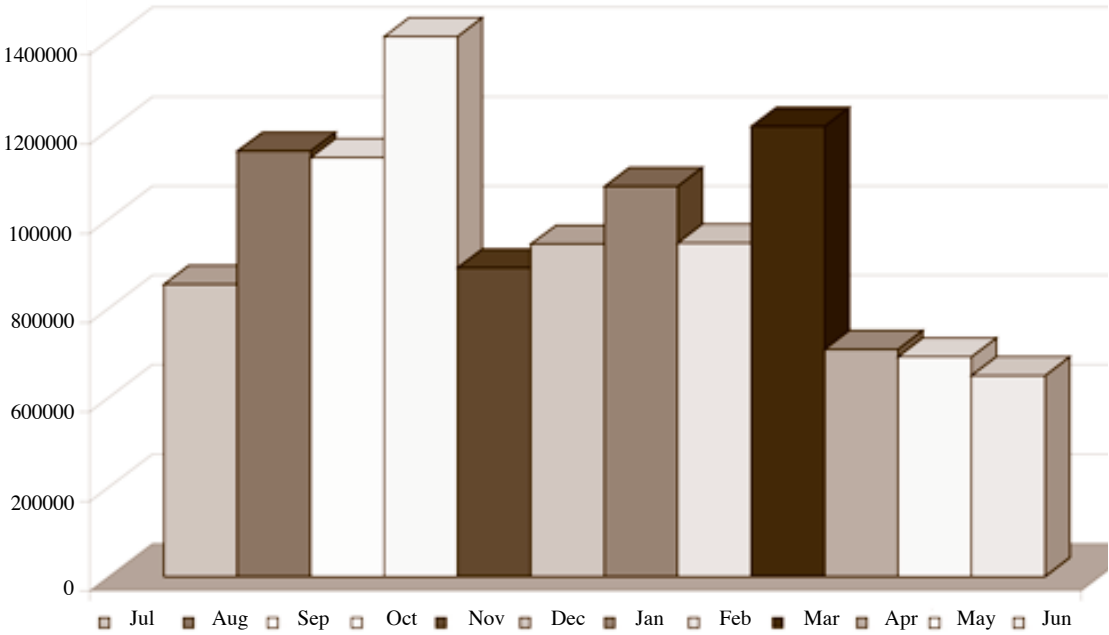
(figures are based on number of tickets sold)



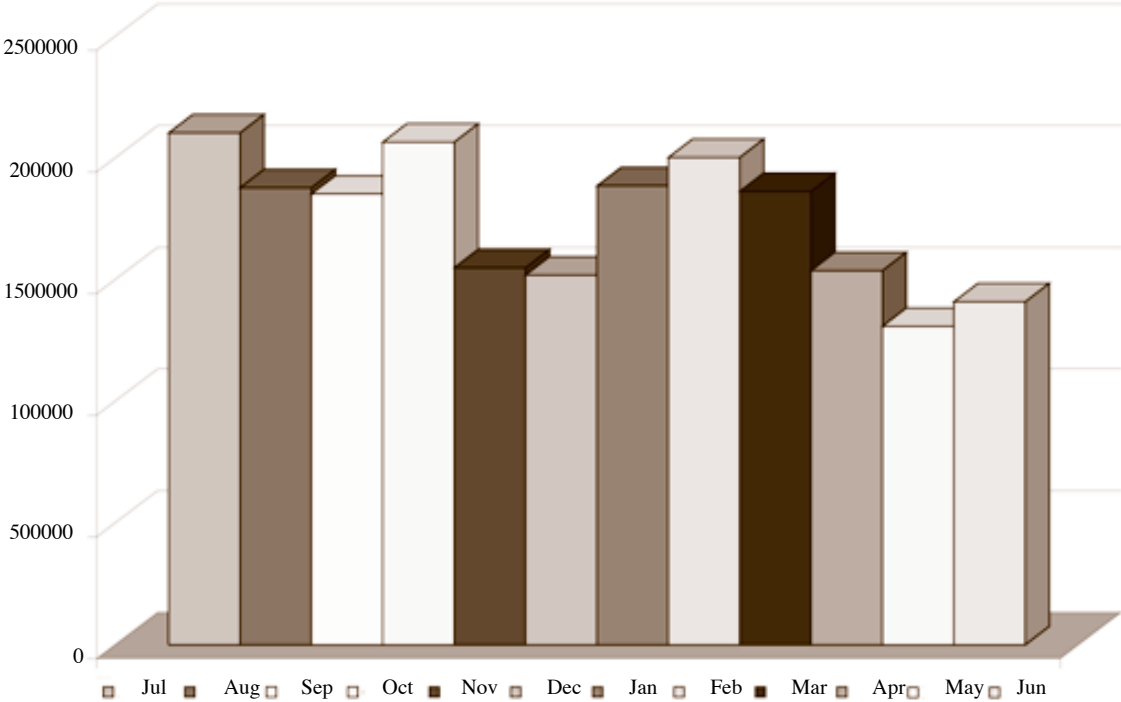


# ICT

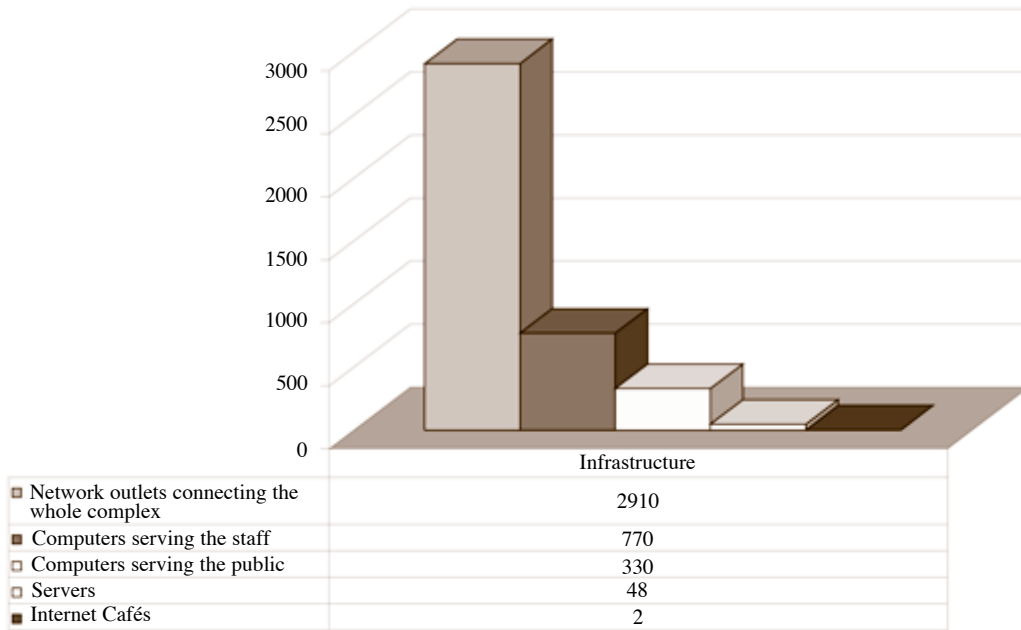
## Internet Archive Hits



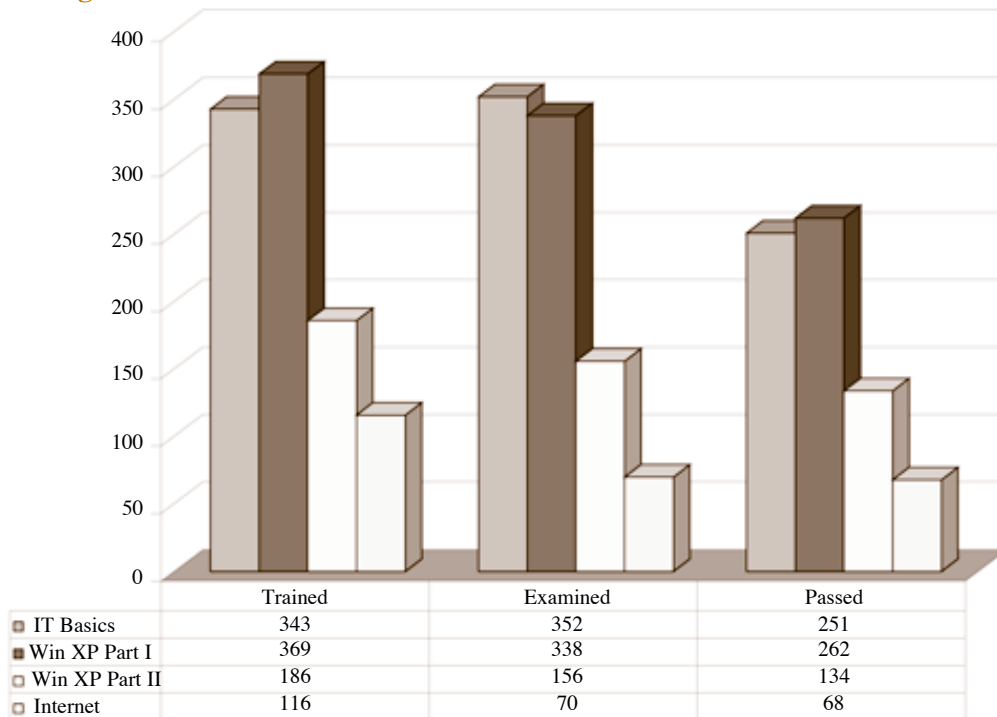
## BA Website Hits



## ICT Infrastructure



## ICT Training

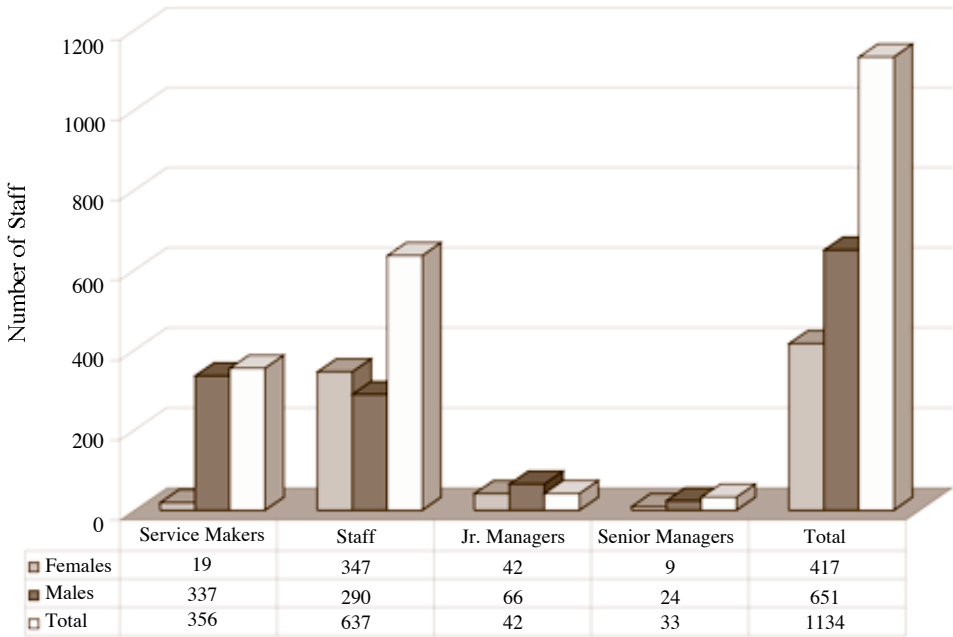




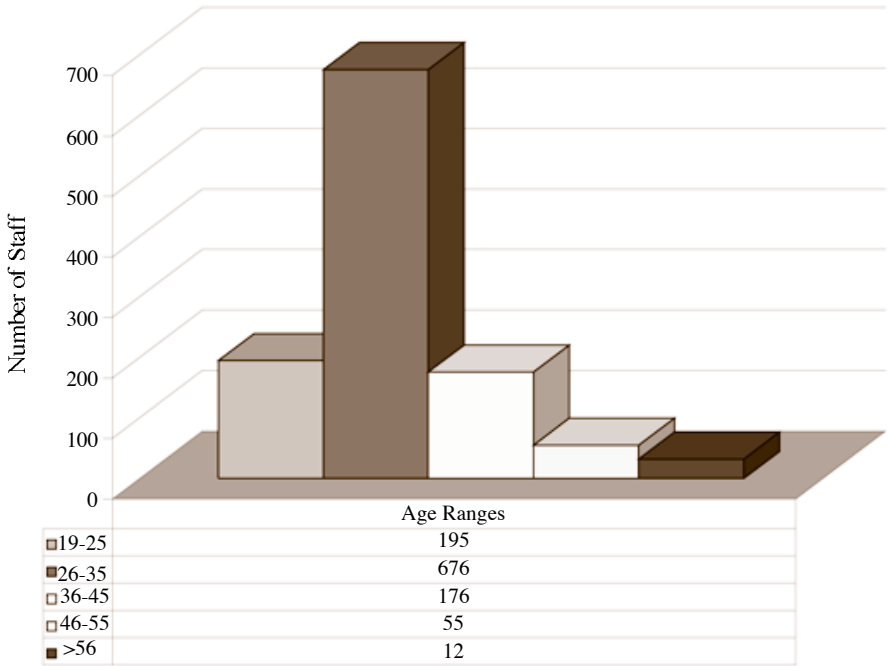


**Staff** Correct as at 18/9/2005

**Staff Gender Distribution**



**Staff Age Distribution**



These figures exclude 23 long-term Consultants

<b>SECTORS &amp; DEPARTMENTS</b>	<b>TOTAL NO. OF STAFF</b>
Office of the Director	<b>53</b>
Corporate Management	5
Staff	48
External Relations Sector	<b>50</b>
Sector Management	6
Staff	44
Information and Communication Technology Sector	<b>95</b>
Sector Management	2
Staff	93
Finance Administration Sector	<b>418</b>
Sector Management	7
Staff	411
Academic and Cultural Sector	<b>367</b>
Sector Management	10
Staff	357
Library Sector	<b>174</b>
Office of the Chief Librarian	4
Staff	170

**These figures include 23 long-term Consultants**



Board of Trustees

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VIII

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# Board of Trustees

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■ and Advisory Board

and Advisory Board

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## Board of Trustees

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Suzanne Mubarak has received a number of awards, honors and medals in appreciation of her distinguished efforts in the fields of women's and children's rights, activities for the disabled, promoting of education and health services as an integral part of the development process, and supporting the "Reading for All" campaign, and has participated in many international and regional conferences, meetings and round-table discussions on development, peace, children's rights, women's issues, environment, health and education. Suzanne Mubarak is the Founder and President of the Suzanne Mubarak International Women for Peace Movement, the Founder of Egypt's National Women's Committee and the Arab Women's Council, and chairs the Board of Trustees of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.



■ **Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak**  
Chair

### ■ **Ex-Officio Members**

Amr Salama, former president of Helwan University (2002-2004), assumed the post of Minister in July 2004. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, 1973, and is a Professor of Civil Engineering. He chaired Cairo University's Center for Technology Development and occupied a number of engineering research positions in Egypt and the United Kingdom.



■ **Amr Salama**  
Minister of Higher  
Education and Scientific  
Research

Ahmed Abul-Gheit, served as Egypt's Permanent Representative to the UN (1999-2004) and assumed the post of Minister in July 2004. Over the past 30 years, Abul-Gheit has served Egypt in numerous diplomatic roles, including: Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt for Cabinet Affairs; Egypt's Ambassador to Italy, Macedonia and San Marino; Chef de Cabinet; political Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt; and Political Counselor, Embassy of Egypt in Moscow. Abul-Gheit is a graduate of the Faculty of Commerce, Ain Shams University, Cairo, 1964.



■ **Ahmed Abul-Gheit**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Farouk Hosni was previously the Cultural Attaché and Director of the Egyptian Cultural Center in Paris, and Director of the Egyptian Academy in Rome before his appointment as Minister of Culture for Egypt 18 years ago. Some of his notable achievements have been: initiating the transferral of the current Egyptian Museum to the other side of the Pyramids Plateau, to create the largest museum in the world; developing and restoring Dar El-Kutub; and establishing the “cultural development fund” responsible for producing and promoting cultural products and subsidizing creative institutions and individuals. He received an Honorary Doctorate and was awarded the Prize of Culture of Peace, from Soak Gakai International University, Japan. He is one of the leading contemporary abstract painters and has held many national and international exhibitions.



■ **Farouk Hosni**

Minister of Culture

Abdel Salam El-Mahgoub served in the Egyptian Armed Forces and was later posted to a number of Egyptian embassies abroad as military attaché. He also served as a member of the National Defense Council and Vice President of the National Security Authority and was appointed Governor of Ismailiya from 1994 to 1997, when he was appointed Governor of Alexandria. Under his governorship, the city of Alexandria made significant strides toward comprehensive urban development and received the UNESCO award for the City of Peace.



■ **Abdel Salam El-Mahgoub**

Governor of Alexandria

Mohammed Abdellah is a Professor of Public Finance and Economics, Chairman of the Finance Department, and former Vice President of Alexandria University. He was also elected as Member of Parliament and chaired the Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee as well as several other committees. Mohammed Abdellah is the recipient of several awards of achievement and many honors.



■ **Mohammed Abdellah**

President of Alexandria University



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## ■ Individual Members

Ahmed Kamal Aboulmagd is a Professor of Law at Cairo University, Egypt, a practicing lawyer in the fields of constitutional and administrative law, a member of the Royal Moroccan Academy; member of the Institute of Islamic Research as Al-Azhar, member of the National for Women's Affairs, and Vice-President of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt. In 2001, he was selected by the UN Secretary General to co-author a document, endorsed by the General Assembly, entitled "Crossing the Divide" on dialogue among civilizations. He is author of several books and articles on legal philosophy, constitutional law, and Islamic reforms, including: *Dialogue Not Confrontation and A Contemporary Islamic Viewpoint*.



■ **Ahmed Kamal Aboulmagd**

Egypt

Martti Ahtisaari is former President of the Republic of Finland (1994-2000). Upon leaving office, Ahtisaari became co-chairman of the New York-based East West Institute and chairman of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group as well being founding Chairman of the Finnish NGO, the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), in 2000. He is a member of the Joint Advisor's Group of the Open Society Institute and the Soros Foundation, and serves as Chairman of the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation, and Global Action Council of the International Youth Foundation, as well as the board of WSP International. Martti Ahtisaari maintains his commitment to improving the international commitment to prevent crisis and conflict.



■ **Martti Ahtisaari**

Finland

Member as of 2004

Assia BenSalah Alaoui is a Professor of International Law and Director of the Research Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco. She is also co-President of the European Commission's Eminent Persons' Group on Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean. Assia BenSalah Alaoui serves on a variety of committees for Near-Eastern peace. A world renowned specialist in international economic law, she has written extensively on such diverse topics as food security, European Union, Maghreb and the Arab world, disarmament, and conflict prevention, and is the author of *Green Power; Red Peril; and La Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale*.



■ **Assia BenSalah Alaoui**

Morocco

Member as of 2004



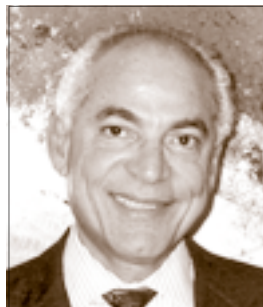
Lourdes Arizpe is Former Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO (1994-1998), secretary of the Mexican Science Academy (1992-1994) and Director of the Institute of Anthropological Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She is presently professor and researcher at its Regional Center for Multidisciplinary Research and President of the International Social Sciences Council (2005-2007). Author of 13 books, including *The Cultural Dimensions of Global Change: An Anthropological Approach* (UNESCO: 1995), and *The Cultural Challenges of Mexico* (2004). Her honors include Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships and honorary memberships in the Royal Anthropology Institute, England. She is also a member of the Academic Faculty of the Global Economic Forum in Davos.



**Lourdes Arizpe**

Mexico  
Member as of June 2005

Farouk El Baz is Research Professor and Director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University. He is renowned for pioneering work in the application of space photography to the location of groundwater resources in arid terrain. His recommendations led to discovering groundwater resources in the Sinai Peninsula, the Western Desert of Egypt, Oman and the UAE. He received numerous honors and awards, including NASA's Apollo Achievement Award, the Nevada Medal, and the Egyptian Order of Merit-First-Class. He is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and the African, Arab, and Islamic Academies of Science, and TWAS.



**Farouk El Baz**

Egypt/USA

Margaret Catley-Carlson is active in organizations that apply science and knowledge to national and international problems in freshwater governance, health, agriculture, environmental protection, and development finance. She is Vice-Chair of the International Development Research Centre, Canada; Chair Designate of the Board of Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, Syria; and Chair of the Global Water Partnership, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience, United Kingdom. Catley-Carlson has been Deputy Minister of Health in Canada, and Deputy Director of UNICEF, with the rank of UN Assistant Secretary-General. She has received eight honorary degrees and in 2002, became an Officer-of-Order of Canada.



**Margaret Catley-Carlson**

Canada

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Michael Cernea is Research Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs, George Washington University, USA. He was the first sociologist to join the World Bank and for over two decades served as the World Bank's Senior Advisor for Social Policy and Sociology. He served as member of the TAC/Science Council of CGIAR. He was elected to Romania's Academy of Sciences (1992), and as Honorary Professor and Chariman of the Science Board, Social Development Institute, Hohai University, China. He is the recipient of the "Solon Kimball Award" and the "Bronislaw Malinowsky Prize" for his contribution to his field. His most recent publication is: *Cultural Heritage and Development in the Middle East and North Africa*.



**Michael M. Cernea**  
Romania/USA  
Member as of 2003

Hans-Peter Geh is former President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and Emeritus Director of the Württembergische State and University Library in Stuttgart. He is a member of UNESCO's International Commission for the Revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria. Hans-Peter Geh held numerous positions in German libraries and literary associations and institutions, as well as international organizations. As Visiting Professor he lectured in several countries. He also served as co-editor of national and international journals.



**Hans-Peter Geh**  
Germany

Abdel Latif Al-Hamad is the Founding Director-General of the Kuwait Development Fund, and the Dean of Arab Development Efforts. He currently serves as Chairman and CEO of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). He also serves on many international boards, most recently the World Bank and the World Commission on Water in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



**Abdel-Latif Al-Hamad**  
Kuwait

Jean-Noel Jeanneney is the President of la Bibliothèque Nationale de France and professor of Political History and Media at Institut d'Etudes politiques, where he graduated and received his PhD in History (1975). He was President of Radio France and Radio France International. He was Deputy Minister of Trade (1991-1992) and Deputy Minister of Communication (1992-1993). Jean-Noel Jeanneney is author of several publications, his latest being *Quand Google défie l'Europe*, 2005.



**Jean-Noël Jeanneney**

France  
Member as of 2003

Kiyoshi Kurokawa is President of Science Council of Japan, Governor of the American College of Physicians Japan Chapter; and member of the Committee for the Science and Technology Policy of the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan, of the Institute of Medicine of US National Academies. He was Professor of Medicine, Schools of Medicine of UCLA, University Tokyo and Tokai Univ. Kiyoshi Kurokawa has been an executive officer of prestigious many national, international science and medical societies, a science advisor to the Ministry of Education and Culture of Japan, and served many advisory and academic committees of the Ministries of Japan.



**Kiyoshi Kurokawa**

Japan  
Member as of 2004

Anne Marie Lizin is President of the Belgian Senate and an independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on human rights and extreme poverty since 1998. She works extensively in the areas of women's and children's rights. She served as President of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights (1993-99). She represented the Belgian Government at the UN Summit for the Decade for Women and worked as a member of the UN Committee supporting women against Apartheid. She is a member of the Warburton Mission investigating the rape of women in the former Yugoslavia in 1991.



**Anne Marie Lizin**

Belgium  
Member as of 2004

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Julia Marton-Lefèvre was born in Hungary and is Rector of the University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica. Formerly she was Executive Director of LEAD International. She is also Vice-Chair of the World Resources Institute, a member of a number of boards and commissions; as well as a Trustee of the St. Andrew's Prize and a member of the Editorial Board of the New Academy Review. Before joining LEAD in 1997, she was Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU). Julia Marton-Lefèvre has co-authored numerous books and papers. In 1999 she received the AAAS Award for International Cooperation in Science. She studied history, ecology and environmental planning.



**Julia Marton-Lefèvre**

Hungary  
Member as of June 2005

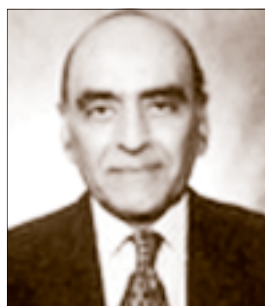
Luis Monreal is Professor of Museology at Barcelona University and presently General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. He is a conservation specialist and a Professor of Art History. He has held many positions in many institutions, including Director at UNESCO; Director of the Getty Conservation Institute until 1990; and is a member of various archeological missions in Egypt, Nubia, Morocco and Sudan. He has been the Secretary-General of ICOM since 1974 and is author of numerous works on art and archeology. He is a board member of the Museo Nacional Reina Sofia and of the Gala-Salvador Dalí Foundation in Spain.



**Luis Monreal**

Spain

Moeen Qureshi served as the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1993 where he initiated a number of strong reform measures. He was Senior Vice-President and Head of World Bank Operations (1986-1991). He is currently Chairman and Managing Partner of Emerging Markets Partnership; a member of the Board of the American International Group's Global Trade and Political Risk Insurance Company; and member of the Council for Foreign Relations, New York. He has served internationally as an advisor to several institutions and has chaired a number of commissions and committees dealing with international and public affairs. Moeen Qureshi has written extensively on international economic and political affairs.



**Moeen Qureshi**

Pakistan  
Member as of 2004

Roelof Rabbinge is Chairman/Dean of Wageningen Graduate Schools in the Netherlands and University Professor for Sustainable Development and Systems Innovation. He led various missions and agricultural programs in developing countries and served as Editor of several journals. He also served on the Board of Trustees of six centers of the Group of International Agricultural Research; was Chairman of the International Rice Research Institute Board of Trustees (1995-2000); and was co-Chair of the InterAcademy Panel on Food Security and Agricultural Productivity in Africa. He is presently a member of the Senate of the Netherlands Parliament; Chairman of the Royal Institute of the Tropics; and serves on the boards of various international agribusiness firms.



**Roelof Rabbinge**

The Netherlands  
Member as of 2003

Mamphela Ramphele, a South African national, is co-chair of the new UN Commission on International Migration since June 2004 and a Senior Advisor to the World Bank president. Prior to joining the Bank, Mamphela Ramphele was the first black woman to serve as Vice-Chancellor at Cape Town University, and has been honored for her contribution to the struggle against apartheid. She is a qualified medical doctor; and holds a PhD in Social Anthropology, a BCom Degree in Administration, and several diplomas. She is the author of a number of books and articles.



**Mamphela Ramphele**

South Africa  
Member as of June 2005

Ghassan Salamé is former Lebanese Minister of Culture (2000-2003). He has a Master in Law, 1974; PhD in Literature, 1975; and a PhD in Political Science, 1978. At present, he is Professor of International Relations in Political Sciences at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and a Senior Advisor to the UN Secretary General. Ghassan Salamé is or has been on the board of the International Crisis Group, l'Institut du monde Arabe, the Arab Thought Forum, and the Haut Conseil de la Francophonie. Author/editor of a dozen books, such as: *Quand l'Amérique refait le monde*; *Democracy without Democrats*; *The Foundations of the Arab State*, and *The Politics of Arab Integration*.



**Ghassan Salamé**

Lebanon



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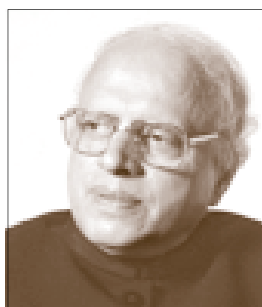
Rhonda Roland Shearer, is a New York artist, who has been represented by the Wildenstein Gallery since 1996, and has had numerous solo museum exhibitions including the Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, Tennessee; the Jacksonville Art Museum, Jacksonville, Florida, and the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, S.C. As Director and Founder (with the late Stephen Jay Gould), of the not-for-profit Art Science Research Laboratory, she has pioneered the development of both digital publishing and interdisciplinary scholarship. As an Associate of the Harvard Department (1998-2000) of Psychology, Rhonda Roland Shearer has published over 50 articles and lectured at leading universities (Harvard, Yale, Brown) on the historical importance of new geometries in the history of art and science.



**Rhonda Roland Shearer**

USA  
Member as of 2003

Monkombu Swaminathan has been acclaimed by TIME magazine as one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century, and one of only three from India, alongside Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. A plant geneticist by training, his contributions to the agricultural renaissance of India have led to his being widely referred to as the scientific leader of the Green Revolution Movement. Monkombu Swaminathan has received many awards and honors including First World Food Prize; Fellowship of the Royal Society of London; and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award in 2000. He currently holds the UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, India.



**Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan**

India

Laila Takla is a Professor of Law and Management and a Practicing Attorney, as well as the Founding President of the Egyptian Federation of Women Lawyers. She holds LLB, MA and PhD degrees. She is a member of many boards and international committees for legal affairs, economic reform, education, environmental and women's issues. She is the first woman in the world elected to chair a meeting of the World's Parliaments. She is the President of the Board of Trustees of UN Human Rights Programs. She is the Founder of the National Association of the Preservation of the Environment and of the Egyptian Federation of Women Lawyers. Laila Takla is author of a number of books.



**Laila Takla**

Egypt





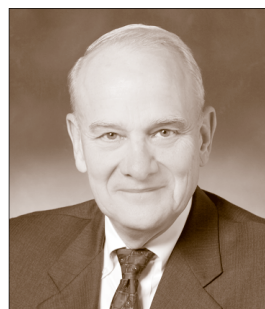
Marianna Vardinoyannis is UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and a Representative of the UNESCO Director-General for the international promotion of the Cultural Olympiads. She is an active international figure in social and cultural issues, such as peace, children's protection and health. She serves as Board Member of the "Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement" and of the MENTOR International Foundation; Member of the President's Council of the Special Olympics "Europe-Eurasia". She is the Founder/President of the "Foundation for the Child and the Family" and of the "ELPIDA" Friends' Association for Children with Cancer in Greece. She has received the Athens Academy Award (1997) and the Golden Cross of the Order of Benefaction by the President of the Hellenic Republic of Greece (2002).



**Marianna V.  
Vardinoyannis**

Greece

William Wulf is on leave from the University of Virginia to be President of the United States National Academy of Engineering. He founded and was CEO of a software company, Tartan Laboratories. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and many professional societies: ACM, IEEE, IEC, AWIS and AAAS. He is also a Foreign Member of the Spanish and Russian Academies. William Wulf headed the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (1988-1990), and was deeply involved in the development of the High Performance Computing and Communication initiative. He is the author/co-author of three books and over 100 papers, and holds two patents concerning computer architecture



**William Wulf**

USA

Ahmed Zewail is the 1999 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, for his pioneering development in the field of femtoscience. He is currently the Linus Pauling Chair Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Physics at Caltech (California Institute of Technology), and the Director of the National Science Foundation's Laboratory for Molecular Sciences. He holds more than 25 honorary degrees from around the world and he has been widely recognized with honors and orders of merits. Ahmed Zewail is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A., the Royal Society, UK, and the French Academy among many other academies and societies.



**Ahmed Zewail**

Egypt/USA

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## ■ Eminent members of the Advisory Board

(formerly members of the Founding Board of Trustees)

Hanan Ashrawi is presently the Secretary General of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH). In 1996, she was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council for Jerusalem. Hanan Ashrawi is well known as the Official Spokesperson for the Palestinian movement during the Madrid peace negotiations (1991-1993), and continues to be active in the efforts towards peace in the region. She was also a member of the Task Force on Higher Education convened by UNESCO and the World Bank.



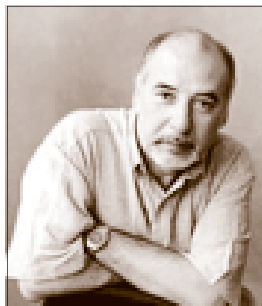
■ **Hanan Ashrawi**  
member as of 2004

Jacques Attali is a leading French commentator on social and economic affairs. He is an economics theorist and a Member of the Council of State in France. He is the founder and President of PlaNet Finance, an international non-profit organization using the Internet against poverty focusing on structuring the microfinance sector.



■ **Jacques Attali**  
member as of 2003

Tahar Ben Jelloun is a French writer and novelist of Moroccan descent. He has written many novels as well as books of poetry, prose and criticism. His works include *Solitaire*; *The Sand Child*; *The Sacred Night*, which received the Prix Goncourt in 1987, and *Error of Night*, which appeared in 1997. In July 2004, Tahar Ben Jelloun received the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for his novel *The Blinding Absence of Light*. He is a regular contributor to the French newspaper *Le Monde*.



■ **Tahar Ben Jelloun**  
member as of 2005



Umberto Eco is currently the President of the Instituto Italiano di Studi Umanistici and Weidenfeld Lecturer, Oxford University. He has a number of honorary doctorates from Universities around the world and 16 literary awards and decorations. He is author of over 25 novels, and including *The Name of the Rose*, which was enormously successful both as a novel and a film.



**Umberto Eco**

member as of 2003

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was President of Iceland for over a decade (1980-92), and is a well-known international figure. She is currently involved in many international activities and chairs UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. She is also a Distinguished Advisor for the International Youth Foundation, the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador of Languages, and the Goodwill Ambassador for the Conference against Racism and Xenophobia.



**Vigdís Finnbogadóttir**

member as of 2003

Yolanda Kakabadse is President of the World Conservation Union and Executive President of Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, Ecuador. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Ford Foundation, and is the former Minister of Environment for Ecuador. Her affiliation with the environmental conservation movement officially began in 1979 when she was appointed Executive Director of Fundación Natura in Quito, which became one of Latin America's most important environmental organizations through the development of important processes for Ecuadorian society and the international community. She has received numerous honorary orders and awards, including the "Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Program" and the "Golden Ark Order", bestowed by Prince Bernard of the Netherlands in 1991.



**Yolanda Kakabadse**

member as of 2005

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Brian Follett is Chairman of the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the UK's Teacher Training Agency. He is a Professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford. Previously, he was Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University (1993-2001) and Head of the Department of Zoology in the University of Bristol (1978-1993). He was knighted in 1992, and served as Biological Secretary of the Royal Society (UK's Academy of Sciences) from 1987-1993. He has published about 300 scientific papers on biological clocks and seasonal reproduction. His involvement in libraries stems from chairing two national committees charged with improving academic library structures in the UK.



**Brian Keith Follett**  
member as of 2005

Adele Simmons is currently Vice Chair and Senior Executive of Chicago Metropolis 2020 where she directs the not-for-profit organization's work on human capital. This work focuses on early childhood education and workforce development. She has been President of the MacArthur Foundation for ten years. In her tenure at the MacArthur Foundation, Adele Simmons has overseen the distribution of over one billion dollars in grants. Four of the MacArthur grantees won Nobel Peace Prizes, including the leaders of the Oslo Peace Process. One of her major initiatives includes the establishment of the Energy Foundation.



**Adele Smith Simmons**  
member as of 2004

Wole Soyinka is winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, and has authored more than 30 works in the medium of plays, novels, poetry and essays, many of which have received wide translation. He is active on both artistic and human rights organizations such as the International Theatre Institute, the UN Commission on Human Rights, and the International Network of Asylum for Writers, of which he was the immediate former President. He is currently Dubois Fellow at Harvard University, Cambridge, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature at Obafemi Awolowo Nigeria, and Director of Literary Arts at the International Institute of Modern Letters, University of Nevada. Wole Soyinka has received many international honors, including serving as Goodwill Ambassador to UNESCO.



**Wole Soyinka**  
member as of 2005

Kazuo Takahashi is currently Professor, Division of International Studies, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan. He was formerly Director of the International Development Research Institute of the Foundation of Advanced Studies on International Development in Tokyo and Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo, Japan. Kazuo Takahashi serves on various committees of the Japanese Government and international bodies, such as the International Advisory Group for the World Bank, World Commission on Water for the 21st Century, Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare, Earth Council and Club of Tokyo.



**Kazuo Takahashi**

member as of 2004

Carl Tham is presently the Ambassador of Sweden to Germany and has served in several Swedish Governments as State Secretary, Minister of Energy and Minister of Education and Science. Carl Tham was Director-General of the Swedish International Development Agency for ten years. He serves on many commissions and committees and was recently appointed as a member of the task force on higher education convened by UNESCO and the World Bank. He is Co-Chairman of the Independent International Commission of Kosovo and a Member of the Commission of Human Security.



**Carl Tham**

member as of 2004

### **In Memoriam**

Stephen Jay Gould was an active member of the Founding Board of Trustees of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was deeply committed to the ideals of rationality and ecumenism. Stephen Jay Gould was a prolific writer and producer of scientific ideas. He was one of the most well known writers in science and among the few practicing scientists who has a continuing string of bestsellers on science for the general public, while remaining actively engaged with the most serious aspects of advancement of science. Science and humanistic values have lost a great champion and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its board lost a great friend. He will be sorely missed.



**Stephen Jay Gould**

1941-2002

Meet

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IX

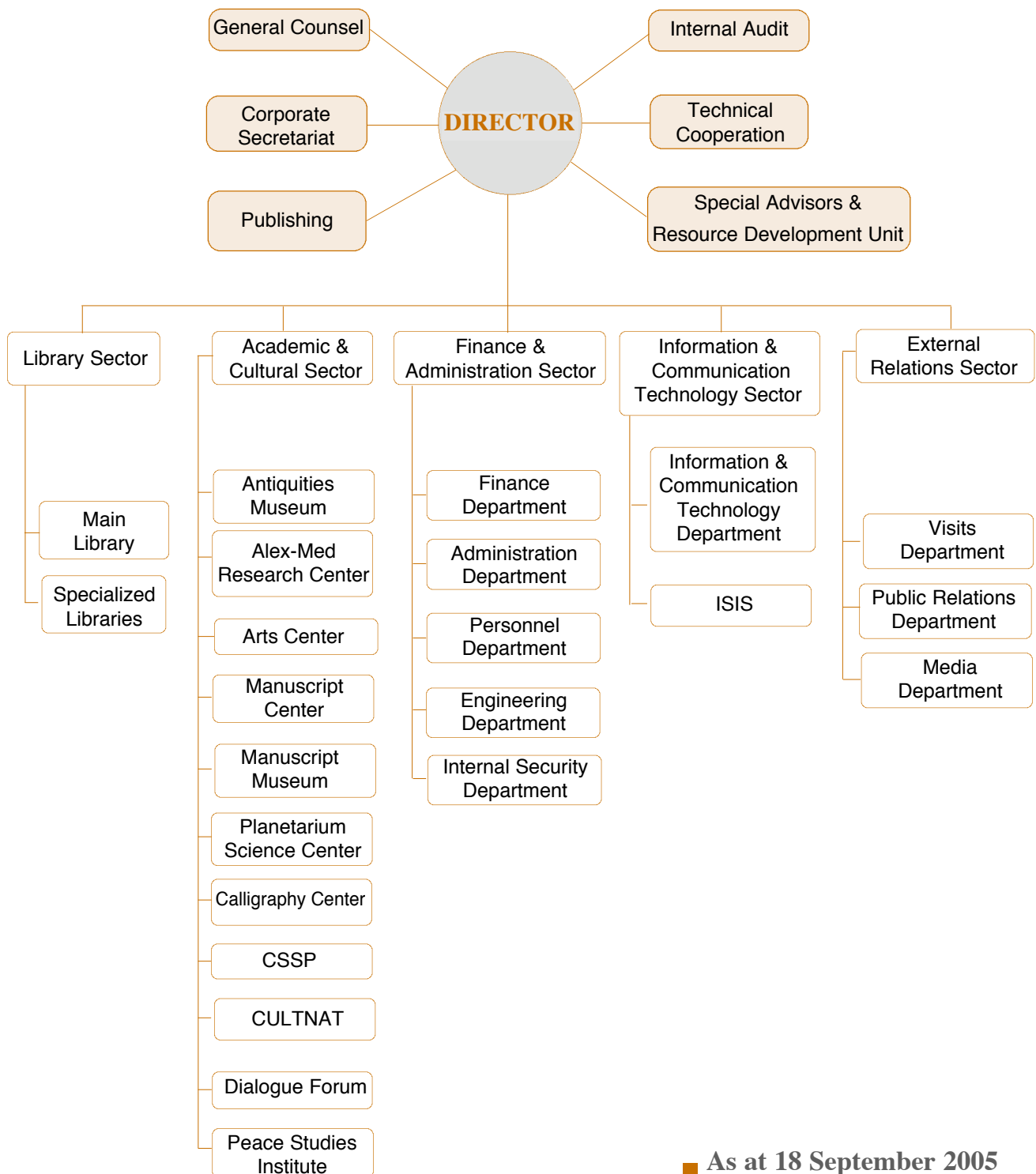
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**Meet**

■ the Management

the Management





## Director's Office



### **Ismail Serageldin**

*Librarian of Alexandria / BA Director*

Ismail Serageldin, Director, Library of Alexandria, also chairs the Boards of Directors for each of the BA's affiliated research institutes and museums, and is Distinguished Professor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. He serves as Chair and Member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions and civil society efforts. He is former Chairman, (CGIAR, 1994-2000), Founder and former Chairman, the Global Water Partnership (GWP, 1996-2000) and (CGAP, 1995-2000). Ismail Serageldin has also served in a number of capacities at the World Bank, including Vice President (1992-2000). He has published over 50 books and monographs and papers. He holds a Bachelor degree from Cairo University and Masters' and PhD degrees from Harvard University and has received 18 honorary doctorates.

## Legal Department



### **Mohamed Said El-Dakkak**

*Director / General Counsel*

Mohamed Said El-Dakkak is a Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law at Alexandria University, the former Vice-President of Alexandria University and Permanent Vice-President of the International Law Association based in London. He is the Secretary-General of the National Democratic Party in Alexandria, and was President of the Arab, Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Shura Council. Mohamed Said El-Dakkak is an active member of several societies, including the National Council for Human Rights.



**Zeinab El-Ghoneimy**  
Attorney-at-Law



**Hala Essalmawi**  
Attorney-at-Law

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## Resource Development



**Bernard Salomé**

*Special Representative of the Director*

Bernard Salomé has a diverse professional background in a wide range of international environments, including Deputy Director of the G7 Support Implementation Group in Russia and Head of the Economic Policy Office in Kosovo for the United Nations. An economist by training, Bernard Salomé graduated from the University of Paris with a degree in Business and was awarded a PhD in Development Economics with honors from the Sorbonne, Paris. He is author of eight books on development issues and seven World Bank reports.



**Hala Abdel Wahab**

Head of Resource  
Development Unit

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## Corporate Secretariat



**Hanan Mounir**

*Director*

Hanan Mounir has had extensive experience in various international and multinational organizations. Her last post was with the World Health Organization, Regional Office Alexandria, in Personnel and later in the division dealing with the World Development Program.



**Rania El-Bahtimy**

Head of Corporate  
Secretariat Unit

## Special Advisors



### **Abdel Latif Hassan**

*Senior Advisor for Special Projects*

Abdel Latif Hassan was former General Manager of Administrative and Financial Affairs at Alexandria University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma of Education. He has been involved in carrying out the directions of the strategy of the BA Director in all fields, including leading the team prior to, during and following the inauguration of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Abdel Latif Hassan has vast experience in the fields of administration, finance and governmental affairs.



### **Mohsen Youssef**

*Director / Senior Advisor for Special Projects*

Mohsen Youssef was an Education and Human Resources Specialist at the World Bank and UNESCO. His professional career includes expert work in the fields of media and microfinance projects to help the poor, especially women. Mohsen Youssef is a major organizer of professional conferences and workshops on environment, sustainable development, and fighting poverty and hunger. He conducted several research studies on community development, labor migration, as well as information and labor markets.



### **Ayman El-Amir**

*Advisor for Special Projects*

Ayman El-Amir has twenty years experience with the United Nations, ultimately holding the position of Director of the United Nations Radio and Television Service. Previously, he was Washingtons Bureau Chief of Al-Ahram newspaper; political columnist; Bureau Chief for the Middle East News Agency in Eastern Europe and North Africa; Director of UN Information Centers in Sudan and Somalia, the area office for southern Africa; and Press Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN in New York. He is a contributing writer for Al-Ahram.



### **Layla Abdelhady**

*Advisor for Special Projects*

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Layla Abdelhady is a graduate of Business Management from the University of Alexandria, 1966, and Library Science from the University of Toronto, 1978. She established the sections and units for the Library Sector during the initial stages of the new Library, as well as developing new methods for promoting library facilities and activities. She was the library Director of the American Cultural Center in Alexandria (1979-1993) and is author/co-author of several publications.



### **Azza El-Kholy**

*Advisor for Special Projects*

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Azza El-Kholy is an Associate Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, University of Alexandria. She was Executive Director of The TAFL Center and Director of The Language and Translation Unit at The Faculty of Arts of The University of Alexandria. Her research includes American literature and history, as well as translation and feminist criticism.



### **Salah A. Soliman**

*Advisor for Special Projects*

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Salah Soliman is a Professor at the Department of Pesticide Chemistry and Toxicology, Alexandria University. He was a Senior Research Scientist with the US Environmental Protection Agency and a visiting professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Salah Soliman served the International Program on Chemical Safety of the World Health Organization since 1992 until he became the Vice Chairman of the Risk Assessment Steering Group, since its establishment in 1999. He was awarded the first class Honorary Medal for Science and Art in 1981.

## **Internal Audit Department**



### **Mohamed Mansour**

*Deputy Director*

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Mohamed Mansour graduated from the Faculty of Law, Alexandria University in 1983. In 1985 he was Financial and Administrative auditor for the Central Auditing Organization. Between 2003/2004, he worked as a consultant for the Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and in October 2004 was assigned as Deputy Director for the Internal Audit.

## Publishing Department



### **Olfat Gafour**

*Director*

Olfat Gafour graduated from the English Department, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University and holds a Diploma in Linguistics and Literature. She served in the World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, for thirty-two years. She started her career in the Administrative Services as the Supply Officer, and later in the Publishing Department, as Publications Control Officer where she monitored the entire production process. She obtained vast experience in the field of Publishing in her dealings both locally and internationally.



### **Heba El-Rafey**

*Deputy Director*

Heba El-Rafey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in European Studies from London University, UK, 1995, and an Advanced Certificate in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK, in 1998. She returned to Egypt in 1999 and joined the marketing team for Unilever Egypt. Heba El-Rafey's career in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina began in 2001, and has progressed through a number of capacities, providing her with experience in the Library Sector, the Manuscript Museum and most recently in Publishing.



**Marwa Kandeil**  
Head of BA Website Unit



**Noha Omar**  
Head of Translation &  
Language Control Unit



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# Library Sector

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**Sohair Fahmy Wastawy**  
*Chief Librarian / Sector Head*

Sohair F. Wastawy received her Bachelor of Arts, Masters Degree and completed work toward her PhD thesis, in Linguistics from Cairo University, Egypt. She also holds an MLS from the Catholic University of America and a Doctorate degree in Library and Information Management from Simmons College, USA. She has been a practitioner in the information field since 1975 and was previously the Dean of Libraries at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago from 1988 until 2004.



**Lamia Abdelfattah**  
Head of Digital Library  
Services Section



**Azza Madian**  
Head of Arts & Multimedia  
Services Section



**Marwa El-Sahn**  
Head of Arts &  
Multimedia Library



**Ashraf Sakr**  
Head of Arts & Multimedia  
Processing Unit



**Manal Amin**  
Head of Technical Services  
Section



**Hend El-Shinnawi**  
Head of Acquisition  
Unit



**Suzen Ali**  
Head of Gifts and  
Exchange Unit



**Nermine Ghaly**  
Head of Circulation Unit



**Omnia Fatallah**  
Head of Public Services  
Section



**Manar Badr**  
Head of Collection  
Development Unit



**Dalia Gohary**  
Head of Reference  
and Instructional Service Unit



**Suzanne Samir**  
Head of Instruction  
Unit





**Osama Zakaria**  
Head of Taha Hussein  
Library Unit



**Ingy Abdel-Kader**  
Head of Children's  
Library Unit



**Sherine Said**  
Head of Young People's  
Library Unit



**Ronya Naim**  
Head of Enabling  
Infrastructure Section



**Rehab Ouf**  
Technical Assistant to  
Chief Librarian

## Academic & Cultural Sector



**Yehia Halim Zaky**  
*Sector Head*

Yehia Halim Zaky is Professor of Radiology at the Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University, and President of the Association of the French Speaking Physicians in Alexandria. Yehia Halim Zaky received his doctorate in radio-diagnosis in 1974, attended the Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires, Saclay, France, and received a DEA in Science from Paris, France, in 1971. He is the former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Alexandria University.

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## Antiquities Museum



**Badreya Mohamed Serry**

*Director*

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Badreya Serry is a specialist in Greco-Roman civilization. She was curator of the Coptic Department in the Alexandria Greco-Roman Museum for 25 years, where she took part in the renovation of the Greco-Roman Museum and its Coptic Department in 1984 and 1995 respectively. Joining the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 1999, she was involved in setting up the Antiquities Museum; compiling, registering and cataloging the items to be displayed. She has held two exhibitions in France 1998 and in Italy 2003.

## The Alexandria & Mediterranean Research Center (Alex-Med)



**Mohamed Awad**

*Director*

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Mohamed Awad is a historian of architecture, a practicing architect, a conservationist and founder of the Alexandria Preservation Trust, an NGO for the documentation and protection of Alexandria's architectural heritage. Mohamed Awad is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University. He publishes and lectures extensively, both in Egypt and abroad, on the modern history of Alexandria and its built environment. A leading expert in the field, Awad has been campaigning for the past 30 years for the preservation of Alexandria's urban heritage.



**Sahar Hamouda**

*Deputy Director*

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Sahar Hamouda is an Associate Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Alexandria University, and was the acting chairperson at Beirut Arab University. Her publications include translations and studies on comparative literature, postcolonial issues, and Alexandrian modern history. Sahar Hamouda was the recipient of the 2004 Alexandria University research award.

## Arts Center



**Sherif Mohie Eldin**

*Director*

Sherif Mohie Eldin holds a degree in Conducting from France, and a Masters in Musicology from the Cairo Conservatoire, where he was appointed as instructor in 1987. He was the Artistic Director of the “Citadel Festival of Music and Song” (1989-2001). He is the founder of the Akhenaton Chamber Orchestra, Cairo Chamber Orchestra, the former Arts Director and Principal Conductor of the first Chamber Orchestra in Alexandria, and former Managing Director of the Cairo Opera Orchestra. He was granted a Fulbright Scholarship for Arts Management at the American University in Washington DC, 2004. He celebrated the 20th year of his musical career by releasing a set of CDs containing all his musical compositions, 2004.



**Mayada Wassef**  
Head of Graphic and  
Printing Section



**Hany Saber**  
Head of Graphic Unit



**Ossama Khalil**  
Head of Printing  
Unit



**Gamal Hosni**  
Head of Exhibition and Art  
Collection Section



**Sherouk Talaat**  
Head of Exhibition Unit



**Nancy Mamdouh**  
Head of Art Collection Unit



**Mahmoud Abou Doma**  
Head of Programs  
Unit



**Shady Abdel Salam**  
Head of BA Orchestra  
Unit



**Mohamed Taha**  
Head of Technical  
Unit

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## Manuscript Center & Manuscript Museum



**Youssef Ziedan**  
*Director*

Youssef Ziedan is a professor of Islamic philosophy and a renowned specialist in Arabic heritage. He published more than 45 books in different fields of Arabic philosophy, science and culture. Of his 45 books, his critical edition of *Ibn al-Nafis'* voluminous medical encyclopedia (30 volumes) stands out as a major academic achievement. He is also one of the early exponents of content industry related to heritage in the digital age. He prepared a number of multimedia products that illustrate the enormous scope of Arabic intellectual and scientific heritage.



**Mohamed Soliman**  
Head of Heritage  
Publishing Section



**Sherine El-Sawy**  
Head of Rare Collections  
Section



**Hussein Kamal**  
Head of Restoration  
Section



**Ahmed Moussa**  
Head of Museum Display  
Unit



**Mohamed Mustafa**  
Head of Microfilm  
Section



**Sherif El-Masry**  
Head of Microfilm  
Archive Unit



**Noha Amrawy**  
Head of Copy and External  
Exchange Unit



**Tharwat Hendawy**  
Head of Administration  
Unit

■ **This department also comprises the following:**

- **Academic Activities & Specialized Translation Section**

## Planetarium Science Center (PSC)



**Hoda El-Mikaty**

*Director*

Hoda El-Mikaty received her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Communication from the University of Alexandria, Faculty of Engineering, and a Masters degree in Science in Parallel Processing from the University of Liverpool, England. Hoda El Mikaty joined the Research Center at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology, where she assisted in various simulation projects. She joined the Bibliotheca Alexandrina team in the Construction Monitoring Unit during the Library's construction phase, where she supervised the deployment of the Building Management System and Fire Alarm systems. She is a member of several scientific, cultural and social committees and societies.



**Omar Fikry**

Head of Shows and Programs Unit  
(Planetarium)



**Ayman El-Sayed**

Head of Fabrication Unit



**Mohamed El-Sayed**

Head of Events and Programs  
Unit (Exploratorium)

## Center for Special Studies & Programs (CSSP)



**Mohamed El-Faham**

*Director*

Mohamed El-Faham is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Arab Academy of Science & Technology, Alexandria. He received his BSc from the Alexandria University and his MSc and DSc from George Washington University. He is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), and is author/co-author of a number of publications. As Director of CSSP, he organizes a number of major annual scientific and technological conferences, and supports young Egyptian researchers through establishing sustainable networks of international collaboration.



**Amani Massoud**

Head of Scientific Activities Unit



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## National Center for the Documentation of Cultural & Natural Heritage (CULTNAT)



**Fathi Saleh**  
*Director*

Fathi Saleh is a professor at the Department of Computer Engineering, Cairo University. He held the posts of Ambassador, permanent delegate to UNESCO (1997-99), Cultural Counselor at the Egyptian Embassy in Paris (1995/97), Chairman of Computer Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University (1980-93). He was a member of UNESCO International Advisory Committee for Memory of the World Program, a World Bank listed consultant on development projects, and UNDP Consultant.



**Eglal Bahgat**  
*Deputy Director*

Eglal Bahgat is an expert in Documentation and Knowledge Management. She initiated and managed several national projects including: the implementation of the first Arabic software for Arab libraries, the National Project of Automating Egyptian Libraries and the Development of Egyptian Libraries Network. She now manages the Automation of the National Archives of Egypt Project. She is an active board member in a number of organizations related to libraries and documentation, such as the Integrated Care Society, the Mubarak Public Library, and the Maadi Public Library.



**Reem Bahgat**  
Assistant Director  
Head of Tangible  
Cultural Heritage Section



**Hala Barakat**  
Assistant Director  
Head of Natural Heritage  
Section



**Mohamed Farouk**  
Head of Information  
Technology Section



**Ayman Khoury**  
Head of Imaging  
Technology Section



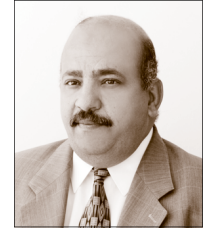
**Yasmine Maher**  
Head of Arts Heritage Program



**Malak Wahba**  
Head of Architectural Heritage Program



**Hind Mostafa**  
Head of International Relations Unit



**Nabil Abdel-Azim**  
Head of Internal Services



**Eman Elshaboury**  
Head of Eternal Egypt Program



**Lamia Fangary**  
Head of Public Relations Unit



**Tarek El-Hadary**  
Head of Finance & Administration Unit

## Calligraphy Center



### **Abdelhalim Nureldin**

*Director*

Abdelhalim Nureldin is Dean of the Faculty of Archeology, El-Fayoum University; Chairman of ICOM-Arab; and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge University, UK. He is ex-Chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, and former: Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Archeology, Cairo University; Chariman of the Archeology Department, Sanaa University; and Chariman of the Department. of Egyptology, Cairo University. A member of many executive councils, local and international committees, he is author/co-author of a number of publications. He has received many awards and medals, including: Achievement Medal, the Netherlands; Commander Decoration, Italy; Officer of National Order, France; and National Prize of Egypt in Social Sciences.



### **Khaled Mohamed Azab**

*Deputy Director*

(See Communications and Media)



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# Finance & Administration Sector

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**Yehia Mansour**

*Sector Head*

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Yehia Mansour was a former Contract Administrator for international companies in the Gulf States and Egypt. His expertise in foreign and local management practices for finance, internal audits, project accounting, budgets and accounting has enabled him to run an effective and efficient financial organization.

## Finance Department



**Mohsen Ali Shafie**

*Director*

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Mohsen Shafie was a Financial Manager at EECC (Mitsushita) and Emedic for twenty years in Saudi Arabia and Egypt before joining the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Among his chief responsibilities are preparing the annual operating and capital budgets, implementing the organizations costing systems, and controlling all banking activities.



**Khaled Mahdy**

Head of Management  
Accounting Section



**Mahmoud Askar**

Head of Cashier Unit



**Omar Hassouna**

Supervisor ORACLE  
System



**Mohamed Akl**

Supervisor Banks,  
Revenue & Fixed Assets



**Marwa Tantawi**

Supervisor Accounts  
Payable



**Magda Hatata**

Supervisor Document  
Control



**Mohamed Metwally**  
*Director, Government Accounting*

Mohamed Metwaly is a general manager of accounting, Ministry of Finance. A graduate of the Faculty of Commerce, Alexandria University, he has held various positions in different authorities and governmental organizations, including: Alexandria University, landing authorities, the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Supply, and Ministry of Health & Financial Inspection at the Ministry of Finance. He has been a member of the BA team since 1996.

## Administration Department



**Tawfik El-Nahas**  
*Director*

Tawfik El-Nahas was formally the General Manager of Orascom Distribution Company and a banker at the Arab International Bank. He has extensive experience in management, sales and financial management and is currently working on a PhD thesis on “The effect of internal marketing and employee’s behavior on customer satisfaction and organization branding” in the context of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.



**Mohamed Elsamak**  
Head of Conference Halls Section



**Mohammed Allam**  
Head of Conference Halls Unit



**Hanan Abdel-Razek**  
Head of Conferences and Events Unit



**Eslam Youssif**  
Head of Purchasing & Custom Clearance Unit



**Sanae Amr**  
Head of Transportation Unit



**Yasser Elsisi**  
Head of Inventory & Storage Control Unit



**Cherine El-Bakly**  
Head of Registry & Archive Unit



**Alyaa Aly**  
Head of Travel Unit



**Ingy Gad**  
Head of Sales Unit

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## Personnel Department



**Rafik Nakhla**

*Director*

Rafik Nakhla is a pharmacist with a postgraduate and Master of Arts degree in Quality Management. He has worked with multinational pharmaceutical companies, international organizations, and local businesses as a management development consultant. He is also a lecturer on sales and marketing in the Business Studies Division of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at the American University in Cairo since 1991, and a visiting lecturer on marketing and logistics at the Arab Academy Graduate School of Business since 2002.



**Alaa El-Shinnawi**

*Deputy Director*

Alaa El-Shinnawi is a retired colonel with extensive experience in administration, security and information systems. He is the former Head of the Computer Center at the Military Hospital of Alexandria, the Financial Information Systems Unit at the Egyptian Naval Forces, the Information Systems Unit at the Alexandria Military Enlistment Zone, and the Military Research Unit at the Information Systems Institute.



**Rania Nassar**  
Personnel Officer  
(Head of Unit)



**Marwa Wagdy**  
Head of Recruitment &  
Records Unit



**Naglaa Ibrahim**  
Head of Benefits Unit



**Mohamed Ibrahim**  
Training Coordinator  
(Head of Unit)

## Engineering Department



**Tarek Ahmed Yassin Essawy**

*Director*

Tarek Yassin is a civil engineer who worked with Snøhetta/Hamza Consortium during the construction phase of the library building. He was Senior Field Engineer at Dillingham/ABBSUSA and held various engineering and management positions in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



**Wafaa Mohamed**  
Head of Light Current Unit



**Talaat Badawy**  
Head of Power Unit



**Lewa El-Din Hegazy**  
Head of Audio-Visual  
Unit



**Ahmed Khamees**  
Head of Ornamental  
Plants Unit



**Hassan Rihan**  
Head of BMS  
Control Unit

■ **This department also comprises the following:**

- **Architectural, Interior Design and Furniture Unit**
- **Construction Unit**
- **Administration & Housekeeping Unit**
- **Mechanical Unit**

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## Internal Security Department



**Sherif Ammar**

*Director*

Sherif Ammar has extensive experience in police and disciplinary works, legal and criminal investigations, public tourist security and conference security arrangements. A holder of President Mubarak's Medal of Excellence, he has also received several awards from the Minister of Interior, as well as certificates of merit from various Egyptian universities. His previous appointments include: Deputy Director, Alexandria University Security, Medical, Scientific and Engineering Faculties (2000/2001); Director/Assistant to the Minister of Interior Bureau, Alexandria (1991-2000); Head of Investigations Unit, Tourism and Monuments Police, Alexandria; and Head of Security Unit, Egyptian Museum, Cairo.



**Nagi Anas**  
Head of Section  
Antiquities Museum



**Awadallah Fouda**  
Head of Industrial  
Safety Unit



**Tamer El-Awa**  
Head of Keys and  
Reception Unit



**Mahmoud Nekheila**  
Supervisor Industrial  
Safety Unit



**Mohamed Aboul Foutouh**  
Supervisor  
Keys Unit



**Mohamed Hany**  
Supervisor Industrial  
Safety Unit





**Wael Shams**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Mahmoud Attia**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Mohamed Abdel-Ghany**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Ihab Fahmy**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Mohamed Eid**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Ahmed Abdelatif**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Samy El-Leithy**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Hossam El-Din Mohamed**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



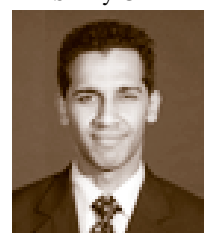
**Yasser Abdel-Rahman**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Salah Thabet**  
Head of Public  
Safety Unit



**Tamer Mohamed**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Ahmed Ali Ibrahim**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Mahmoud Abdel Salam**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Mohamed Alyan**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit



**Mohamed Zaki**  
Supervisor Public  
Safety Unit

# Information & Communication Technology Sector



**Magdy Hussein Nagi**  
*Sector Head*

Magdy Nagi is a Professor in the Computer and Systems Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University. He obtained his PhD in 1974 from the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, where he was a lecturer in Computer Engineering. His research interests are in operating systems, database systems, data warehousing, data mining and mobile computing. He is author/co-author of over 80 scientific papers, and is a consultant in the field of informatics to quite a number of national and international firms.

## ISIS & ICT Department



**Noha Adly**  
*Director*

Noha Adly is Associate Professor at the Computer and Systems Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University, Egypt. She obtained her PhD from Cambridge University, and has been a research associate at the AT&T Research Lab, Cambridge, UK. Noha Adly has been a Consultant for information systems in several firms. She is author/co-author of over 25 publications in the field of Information Technology and, a recipient of several awards, a member of the IEEE and ACM as well as various scientific and cultural committees and societies.



**Youssef Salah**  
Head of Operation and  
Technical Support Section



**Khaled El-Gazzar**  
Head of Digital Lab  
Unit (ISIS)



**Ahmed Samir**  
Head of Software  
Engineering Unit



**Youssef Mikhail**  
Head of System  
Administration Unit



**Ahmed Azara**  
Head of Web  
Administration Unit



**Aleya Rashad**  
PR & Administrative  
Affairs Coordinator



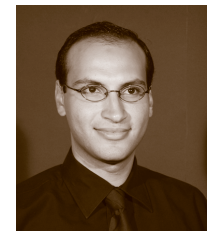
**Mahmoud Yakout**  
Head of Database  
Administration Unit



**Noha Khalil**  
Head of Training Unit



**Mohamed Zaghoul**  
Head of  
Communication Unit



**Ahmed Barghout**  
Head of System  
Analysis Unit



# External Relations Sector



**Taher Khalifa**

*Sector Head*

Taher A. Khalifa is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. His career with the foreign affairs began in 1968, where he served in several departments of the MFA, including Cabinet Ministers offices and many Egyptian Embassies , and was the ambassador for Egypt to Denmark, Republic of Lithuania and Republic of Chile. Taher A. Khalifa has received a number of decorations for his diplomatic services as well as distinguished awards.

## Visits Department



**Sherine Gaafar**

*Director*

Sherine Gaafar has been associated with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina since 1995. She began her career as a cataloger at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina for French, English and Spanish books. Later, she trained in public relations and customer services in Paris in different libraries, and became the supervisor, and ultimately, Director of the Visits Department, in 2002. Sherine Gaafar received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alexandria, Faculty of Arts, Library and Information Science Department. She is a member of social committees and societies.



**Nourhan Abdel-Aziz**  
Head of Reception Unit



**Yasmine Alexan**  
Head of Visits Unit

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## Public Relations & International Contacts Department



**Sherif Riad**

*Director*

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Sherif Riad has an extensive background in public relations. He was the Chamberlain of the Presidency at the Office of H.E President Mubarak, where he was responsible for the protocol of the Presidency. He is also the former Corporate Relationship Manager at Barclays Bank, Credit and Marketing Manager for Citibank for the Middle East and North Africa; and auditor at the Central Agency for Auditing and the Credit and Marketing Manager for the Egyptian American Bank.



**Mona El-Nashar**

*Deputy Director*

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Mona El-Nashar obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Alexandria, and began her career as an English teacher and teacher trainer in Egypt and Iraq, and a translator at the Ministry of Planning, Baghdad, Iraq. She is a member of the Friends of the Environment and Friends of Classical Music and Arts Associations in Alexandria, founding member of the Egyptian Association for Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and member of the CEOSS Alexandria Committee for the Dialogue of Cultures.

## Communication and Media Department



**Khaled Mohamed Azab**

*Director*

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Khaled Azab holds a PhD in Islamic Monuments from Cairo University. He specializes in Islamic monuments, has participated in several pertinent conferences and has published several books on archeology. Khaled Azab worked as an editor and correspondent in Al-Hayat and Afaq newspapers as well as other Arab newspaper, and was Head of Archeological Inspectors between 1994 and 2001.



**Nazek El-Wakeel**  
Head of  
Editorial Unit

■ **This department also comprises the following:**

- **Archive and Press Center**

