

DIGITISATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Report of the first Digitisation Sub-committee meetings held on 8 and 9 August 2006 at the Second Islamic Manuscript Conference, University of Cambridge, UK.

Members present: Dr. Seyed Mohammad Ahmadi Abhari, Dr. Mohsen Farid (Head), Mr. Sharif Jaghman, Dr. Abdelati Lahlou.

The members of the Digitisation Sub-committee in their first meeting made the following recommendations as tasks to undertake:

- I. To encourage co-operation and collaboration between members of the committee in all aspects of digitisation technology in terms of vision, projects and standards.
- II. To seek financial, logistical and technical resources and make them available to organizations that are in dire need of such resources to digitize the Islamic manuscripts and making them available to scholars and the public.
- III. To approach the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and find ways to get the organization to sponsor the establishment of mobile manuscript digitisation laboratories whose purpose is to become an international resource for those countries and national organizations that neither have the financial nor the technical expertise to undertake such projects.
- IV. To encourage member organizations (including individual collection keepers) to exchange mobile storage devices (such as optical disks and tapes) and allowing repositories to be made available to other organizations for referencing and cross-referencing purposes and provisioning to local users.
- V. To keep up-to-date with image and video coding standards.
- VI. To keep up-to-date with compression algorithms for storage.
- VII. To keep up to date with storage technologies that prolong the virtual life of manuscripts.
- VIII. To keep up-to-date with multimedia database theory and technology as a critical component of storage of manuscript information (data and meta-data).
- IX. To find ways to encourage membership.
- X. To create a directory of specialists, research projects and training courses.
- XI. To compile a list of standards, including guidelines and examples of best practice.
- XII. To determine required research and identify gaps in knowledge.

XIII. To seek participation in international projects that promote the preservation of Islamic manuscripts and learn from others that serve other types of manuscripts.

XIV. To promote the Digitisation Sub-committee's scientific work by participating in international conferences related to image processing, data mining, pattern recognition and related topics.

10 February 2007