



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO



**AUC LIBRARIES**

## MAIN LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the AUC Main Library is to support the instructional and research needs of the AUC community, facilitating the transformation of information into knowledge by providing personalized services and a robust online environment. Accordingly, the Main Library plays an active and integral part in the University's pursuit of excellence in all academic and scholarly programs.

## THE HISTORY

The AUC Library has a long and distinguished history. By 1922, three years after its founding, AUC constructed a small reading room as part of the School of Oriental Studies at the Tahrir campus. By 1962, the library was located in Hill House, and in 1982, it moved into a spacious new facility on the Greek Campus. The move of the Main Library to the New Cairo Campus took place in the summer of 2008.

The Rare Books and Special Collections Library (formerly the Creswell Library located in the Arabic studies department), was inaugurated in 1990 in a turn-of-the-century villa, to open its doors in 1992. It moved to the AUC New Cairo Library building in 2010.



"Turning a class loose" in a library is a new idea in Egypt



## MAIN LIBRARY



The AUC Main Library in New Cairo has the largest academic English-language collection in Egypt, as well as major paper and electronic information resources in Arabic and other languages. The Main Library provides the AUC community access to many key online scholarly journals in relevant disciplines through over 100 subscriptions to databases, as well as through our discovery tool, Library One-Search, which allows for seamless, simultaneous searching of both our paper and electronic holdings.

Located on the plaza level of the Main Library, the Learning Commons is a collaborative, technology-rich environment where library users have the tools for both work and study. Library users receive research and technological support from librarians, IT staff members, and student technology assistants. In addition to the multimedia lab on the plaza level, the library features group study rooms and computer stations on all floors, with over 250 public-access PCs and 90 wireless enabled laptops available for use within the libraries.

In addition to the Learning Commons, Research and Information Services oversee research assistance and instruction offered to students and faculty. Library services also include research instruction and support in addition to the Learning Commons. Libraries and Learning Technologies (LALT 1010) a required one- semester course in information literacy, introduces freshmen to the fundamentals of research and encourages the critical evaluation of library resources. Upholding the spirit of

discovery and free inquiry proper to the liberal arts tradition, LALT is a foundational part of AUC's core curriculum. Additional instruction is offered to undergraduate and graduate students in all disciplines, as well as to faculty, staff and eligible external users. Members of the AUC community also benefit from an international virtual collaborative research service 24/7.

The Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Department handles more than 4,000 requests annually from the AUC community for materials needed for teaching and research, but are not currently held in the libraries. The department also provides copies of our holdings to institutions worldwide through ILLiad, an electronic document delivery system that allows patrons to submit their requests, check their statuses and retrieve received articles.

As OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) members, the libraries benefit from the SHARES program, an international sharing partnership, allowing our faculty members and students onsite access to collections and services at other SHARES institutions. The AUC Libraries contain over half a million items, located on four floors, with extensive e-book collections that enable off-campus research and blended learning opportunities. Faculty members and students enjoy access to





over 80,000 online full-text scholarly journals across all specialties.

The AUC Main Library assists faculty members and students with their information needs. It applies international standards in cataloging, and liaises with departments across the University to ensure the ongoing relevancy of its collection, playing an important role in the accreditation process.

**The Center of Excellence for the Middle East and Arab Cultures** is an idea, vision and rational plan for building collections in subject areas that the libraries are well-positioned to document by virtue of our location and the strength of our existing holdings. To do this, the center strives to develop definitive collections in particular areas like information materials in Arabic. There are current subscriptions to over 250 Arabic-language periodicals, as well as holdings of more than 460 other Arabic-language journals. Additionally, the collection includes over 70,000 Arabic language monographs.

The center also promotes scholarly access to the library's rich holdings through the creation of digital collections in the Rare Books and Special Collections Library's (RBSC) Digital Library, as well as the publication of original texts.

## **RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY**

Located on the top floor of the AUC Library building, the Rare Books and Special Collections Library (RBSCL) holds internationally renowned collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, archival collections and other materials. Its mission is to preserve the cultural and artistic heritage of Egypt and the greater region. It is a research collection, stressing primary source materials. These unique resources strengthen the ability of faculty members to teach, students to learn and scholars to produce original research. Of particular note is the Creswell Collection of Islamic Art and Architecture, as well as other special collections in Egyptology, regional architecture and regional photography. Additionally, the RBSCL holds the personal papers of Egyptian politicians, social activists, artists, photographers and Coptic scholars. Furthermore, it has an impressive set of digital initiatives, as well as an active oral history program.

## **DIGITAL ARCHIVE AND RESEARCH REPOSITORY (DAR)**

AUC's Digital Archive and Research Repository (DAR Repository) preserves the intellectual, creative and scholarly culture of the AUC community. Its collections consist of scholarship from students, faculty and staff. These include original research, theses and publications that are deposited in DAR making them accessible worldwide.

## **EXHIBITS, LECTURES AND EVENTS**

The libraries are involved in many other activities that serve the academic community, including the organization of exhibitions and academic events. The Main Library utilizes the foyer area for displaying works completed by the AUC community, and it has several exhibit cases that are used in accordance with the Library Foyer Policy, while free-standing exhibits are also considered. Lecture series are hosted in the Serenity Room. The Rare Books and Special Collections Library holds a regular series of events, including at least one major exhibit each year, as well as lectures in the Nadia Niazi Mostafa Room. In pursuit of innovation, and in cooperation with hundreds of other academic libraries worldwide, the AUC Libraries take part in the "International Games Day" as an annual event in collaboration with the Center for Learning and Teaching and the University Academic Computing Technologies.

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE AUC LIBRARIES?

It is through the generosity of people like you that we are able to further expand our collections. The collections have been the recipient of numerous valuable donations of books over the years, including Boutros Boutros –Ghali, Father Pierre Riches and Anis Mansour. If you would like to contribute to our collection, we would be most grateful. The library accepts both financial and in-kind donations.

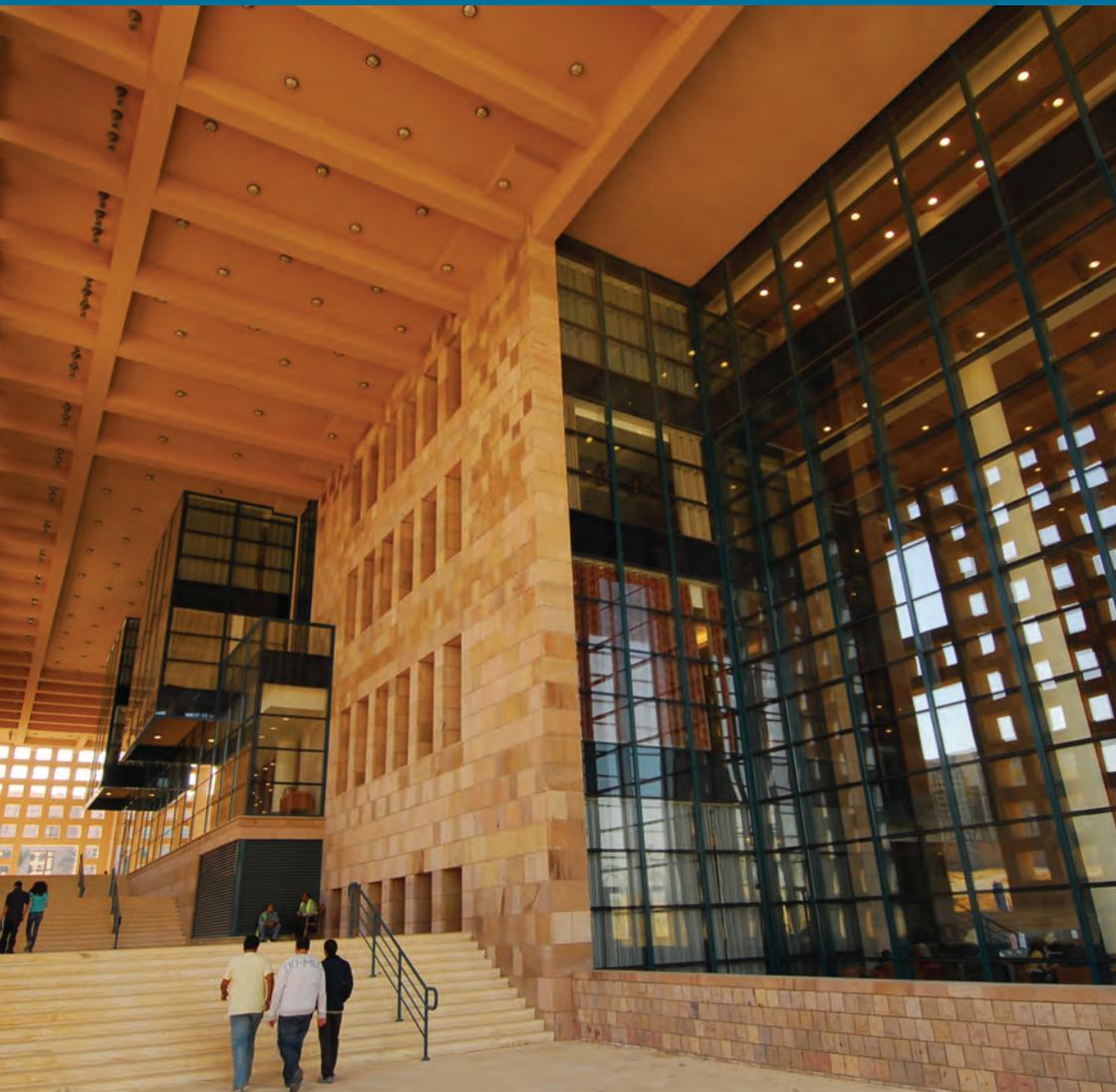
Financial donations can be offered through the following link:

**[donatenow.networkforgood.org/aucgiving](https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/aucgiving)**

In-kind donations can include individual books, journal series or entire private collections. For further information or to donate books, please use this link:

**[forms.aucegypt.edu/libforms/donatebooks.aspx](https://forms.aucegypt.edu/libforms/donatebooks.aspx)**





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