Reports on Scientific Conferences and Symposia

Under supervision of

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This section includes the following reports:

1. A report on the 4th Conference of the Graeco-Roman Department of Archaeology and Studies, of Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University; titled: "*Aspects of Cultural Interaction between Egypt and the Near East during the Hellenistic and Roman Periods*". Prepared by both of: Prof. Dr. Fathia Gaber, and Associate Prof. Heba Naem; Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University**.**

2. A report on the symposium: "*The Unified Arabic Standard for the Management Systems of Electronic Journals Publishing* ", prepared by Miss Roqayah Mohamed Mahmoud El-Sayed, a student at the Department of Library and Information science, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University.

Report on the 4th Conference of the Graeco-Roman Department of Archaeology and Studies, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University, Titled:

"Aspects of Cultural Interaction between Egypt and the Near East during the Hellenistic and Roman Periods"

希腊化和罗马时期埃及与近东文化互动的方

By

Prof. Dr. Fathia Gaber

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The conference was held at the conference hall of the Faculty of Arts on November 7th and 9th, 2024. At the beginning an art exhibition was inaugurated in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Hany Khamis (see Figs. 1, 2), with the conference rapporteur, Prof. Dr. Fathia Gaber, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heba Naeem, the head of the conference organization.

After that, the Dean honored three professors from the Graeco-Roman Department of Archaeology and Studies for their significant contributions to the department: Prof. Dr. Magdy Kilany (Professor of Greek and Roman Philosophy), Prof. Dr. Magda Al-Nuaimi (Professor of Greek and Latin Literature), and Prof. Dr. Bahia Shaheen (Professor of Greek and Roman Archaeology). Following this, the audience viewed a video showcasing the professors' achievements throughout their long tenure in the department.

On Thursday, two sessions were conducted. The first session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Ghani, a Professor of Greek and Roman History in the department. He discussed the Palmyrenes in Egypt during the Roman era, highlighting their significant role and the relationship between them and the Persians. Additionally, two other research studies were presented during this session; see (Fig. 3)

Dr. Naglaa Mohamed Abbas, from the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, discussed the cultural significance of the horse in ancient Egypt and Iran. This role was expressed through various archaeological media, including metalwork, sculptures, and inscriptions; highlighting its importance in the social, economic, and religious affairs of both Egyptians and Persians.

Prof. Dr. Fathia Gaber, a Professor of Greek and Roman Archaeology, presented her research on the topic of classical and Egyptian influences in Persian architecture. This study provided a historical background of the Persian lands to examine the varying degrees of cultural exchange between the Persians and the civilizations they encountered, particularly the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. The focus was on architecture, especially in prominent cities such as Pasargadae and Persepolis, which are adorned with buildings featuring Egyptian, Greek, and Roman elements.

The second session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Fathia Gaber, Head of the Department of Archaeology and Greek and Roman Studies; see (Fig. 4).

 In this session, the following three research presentations were held:

First, Dr. Taysir Hamdi's [1]research was titled: "T h e Origin of Intoxicating Beverages in Ancient Iraq: Their Similarities and Differences with Their Counterparts in Ancient Egypt". She stated the Archaeological and documentary evidences to elucidate the impact of these beverages on the lives of ancient peoples. Second, Dr. Mamdouh Mohamed Al-Qaradawi, who holds a PhD in Coptic and Byzantine Archaeology and Arts, conducted a research on the depiction of the naked eye in Greek, Roman, and Coptic art up to the

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[1] A lecturer at the Egyptian Archaeology at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University.

seventh century AD. In this study, he determined the origins of the eye and its use as a symbol of either good or evil in various contexts in Egypt.

And third, Evangelos Galanis: MA, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece presented an online presentation titled: " Eastern Elements in 'Alexandrian' Identity: A Case Study of Hellenistic Cemeteries". This paper aimed to investigate the emergence of the identity within the Hellenistic cemeteries of the cosmopolitan Ptolemaic capital and the influences exerted by the Eastern world on this identity. Through a critical overview of existing monuments—including typology, decoration, and funerary practices—this study attempted a preliminary analysis of the constituent elements and coherent ideas that shaped "Alexandrian" cultural identity during the Hellenistic period.

The third session of the conference, held on Saturday, November 9th, was chaired by Prof. Dr. Mona Mohamed El-Shahat, a Professor of Greek and Roman Archaeology department, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University, who spoke about the symbolism of Augustan peace, with a discussion of its role and significance in the Roman provinces, including a detailed explanation of the Ara Pacis Augustae, its sculptures, and their meanings and symbolism; see (Fig. 5)

During this session, several speakers shared their research papers, as follows:

First, Dr. Christina Ibrahim, PhD in Coptic and Byzantine Archaeology and Arts, and an inspector of antiquities at the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, presented on the topic of Luminous Aura between the East and Coptic Art.

She discussed the Greek origins of the aura, derived from Helios' crown, known as and Selene, the goddess of the moon. She explained that, Initially, Coptic artists adorned the heads of rulers and gods with this motif; however, its use later became restricted solely to Christ and the saints.

Second, Ms. Kholoud Mohamed Shoukry, a PhD researcher of the Department of Archaeology, Greek and Roman Studies at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, spoke on the topic of glass weights, Roman cymbals, and glass coins from Egypt and Palestine. Her research highlights the findings from excavations at several archaeological sites in both regions, which have uncovered circular glass pieces inscribed with symbols or inscriptions; commonly referred to as glass weights. Some researchers call them as Sanaj, have origins dating back to the Roman and Late Roman

(Byzantine) periods. The inscriptions or symbols, typically found on one side (and rarely on both), vary in their political, religious, economic, or other significance. This paper aimed to explore these weights from archaeological, historical, and artistic perspectives, in addition to assessing their purposes and whether these varied across different eras.

And third, Associate Professor Dr. Heba Naeem, an Assistant Professor of Greek and Roman Archaeology of the Department of Archaeology, Greek and Roman Studies, presented on the topic Synthronon as a Common Architectural Element between the Churches of Egypt and the Near East. The synthronon is a distinctive feature of church architecture, located in the eastern apse. It typically took the form of a semicircular staircase with several steps, often seven, on which the clergy are seated according to their ecclesiastical ranks. At the top of the steps, in the center, the chair of the patriarch or bishop was located, usually carved from stone or marble, symbolizing stability and permanence. The bishop's seat, positioned above the steps beneath the image of Jesus Christ, signifies that the bishop derives his authority as the overseer and caretaker of the church from Jesus Christ, the true shepherd and ruler of all. This research aimed to identify the origin of the synthronon and its initial appearance in churches, as well as to trace the development of the synthronon's form in Byzantine and Coptic churches, and to understand the similarities and differences between them.

At the end of the third session, the conference recommendations were presented, which include important insights from both the professors, and the audience. Notably, there was a confirmation of the conference's regularity each year, as well as a focus on various topics related to the Greek, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine eras. Additionally, the attendees recommended publishing all presented articles in a special issue and suggested dedicating a portion of next year's conference to undergraduate research, providing students with the opportunity to conduct and present scientific research; see (Fig. 6)

This was followed by the distribution of certificates to the participants of the conference.

At the end of this event, a video was presented honoring the outstanding and distinguished students of the academic year 2023-2024 of the Department of Archaeology, Greek, and Roman Studies, who were awarded by certificates of honor; see (Fig. 7)

Many professors from the Departments of Geography, History, and Theater, as   well as the Mediterranean Institute within the faculty, attended the event, along with several students from the department. Additionally, guests from various Egyptian universities, including Damanhour, Tanta, Mansoura, and Ain Shams, were present, as were colleagues from the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities; see (Fig. 8).

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to theFacuty's administration for their unwavering support and attention. I also extend my thanks to the organizing committee: Associate Professor Heba Naem, Dr. Samar Yousry, Dr. Mona Ashour, Dr. Randa Saeed, Ms. Sara Sabry, Ms. Dina Atta, Mr. Kyria Magid, and Ms. Amira Alaa; as well as the staff and junior staff of the department.

A report on the seminar titled:

"The Unified Arabic Standard for the Management Systems of Electronic Journals Publishing"

电子期刊出版管理系统的统一阿拉伯语标准

By

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The Isa Cultural Center, in collaboration with the Bahrain Library and Information Association, organized this scientific seminar via Zoom on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 4:30 PM Mecca time. Dr. Kariman Beknam Sedky Abdelaziz (Associate Professor of Information Science at the Department of Library Science, Archive, and Information Technology at the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University) highlighted the unified Arabic standard for electronic journal management systems, reviewed the latest technologies used in managing electronic journals, and discussed the importance of modern aesthetics for electronic journals.

During the seminar, the following topics were discussed:

1. The unified Arabic standard for electronic journal management systems.

2. The Open Journal System (OJS).

3. Workflow within the Open Journal System.

4. The stages of creating an automated system for managing electronic journal publishing.

Dr. Kariman began her talk by saying:
"The digital transformation of the modern era has led most journals previously published in print to transition to electronic formats. Consequently, many systems for managing electronic journal publishing have emerged, both commercial and open source. It became essential for Arabic journals to keep pace with this development, evaluate the various systems, and select the one that best suits their needs. This necessity inspired the creation of the unified Arabic standard for electronic journal management, issued by the Arab Federation for Library and Information science (AFLI)."

The speaker introduced the Unified Arabic standard, issued by the (AFLI), as a scientific reference providing a roadmap for establishing and activating electronic platforms for publishing scientific journals.

She explained the objectives of the standard, which aimed to achieve the following:

1. Provide a list of electronic journal management systems available on the internet, whether commercial or open-source.
2. Select functional and technical specifications that should be present when implementing an automated system suitable for managing electronic journal publishing, ensuring compatibility with the needs of Arabic journals.
3. Clarify the roadmap for acquiring and activating a journal management system that ensures the organization of workflow stages in the journal, from article submission to publication and availability.

The speaker highlighted that the standard is divided into three sections:

1. The First Section:

A theoretical framework that identifies and lists electronic journal management systems, both commercial and open-source. Approximately 11 commercial systems and 10 open-source systems were cataloged. Additionally, some commercial and Arab platforms utilizing electronic journal management systems were presented.

2. The Second Section:

A list of descriptive and technical specifications for electronic journal management systems, prepared based on a checklist designed for this purpose.

3. The Third Section:

A practical guide that explain the steps for designing an electronic journal managed using an open-source journal system. The guide specifically uses the Open Journal System (OJS) as its model.

She also said that the Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems can be accessed through the following link:

https://arab-afli.org/upload/index.php?share/file&user=1&sid=vZQHBX3S

The speaker then explained that the standard was developed to serve various entities, including libraries, research institutions that wish to adopt an integrated automated system for managing the publication process of their scientific journals, departments of library and information

science in Egyptian and Arab universities, and institutions involved in publishing electronic scientific journals, including those in Egypt and the Arab world.

She also clarified the factors relied upon in preparing the standard, which are as follows: Reviewing intellectual production, direct observation, preparing a checklist.

The speaker then discussed electronic journal management systems, which are considered part of digital content management systems, as shown in the following diagram:

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.

Figure (1) electronic journal management systems

The speaker then proceeded to define electronic journal management systems, stating: *"These are programs used to automate all functions related to managing and publishing scientific journals, starting with article submission to the journal, followed by peer review, and then scientific and technical editing, ending with making the journal available for use, and marketing. These systems can be available for use either for a fee or for free, once their codes are made available, allowing them to be modified and redistributed freely without restrictions."*

The speaker then explained that Adopting systems for managing scientific journals offer several advantages, including the following:

1. Expanding the publication of scientific articles in accordance with open access principles.

2. Overcoming the financial resource challenges faced by scientific journals due to the rising costs of printing and publishing.

3. Addressing the issue of delays in publishing articles by saving time and effort spent on tasks.

4. Enhancing the journal's reputation and increasing citation rates due to free availability online.

5. Accelerating scientific progress and increasing scholarly productivity.

6. Ensuring long-term preservation of journal content.

7. Fostering interaction and communication between authors, journal editors, and peer reviewers.

She said that Electronic journal management systems are divided into:
- **Open-Source Systems** (10 systems)

- **Commercial Systems** (11 systems)

The following diagram illustrates a list of commercial systems, with the most well-known system used on the Egyptian journals platform available on the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, which is the iknito system.

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.
Figure (2) the commercial systems, used on the Egyptian journals platform available on the Egyptian Knowledge Bank.

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.

Figure (3) a list of open-source systems available on the internet

Open Journal System (OJS):

- It is an open-source system created in 2002, specifically for publishing peer-reviewed scientific journals. It provides a software infrastructure not only for archiving and displaying articles of scientific journals, but also for complete management of the publishing process, based on carefully studied steps and the workflow processes for each journal.
- It is released under the General Public License (GNU) and was developed by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) through collaboration between the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University.
- It is characterized by supporting multiple languages, including Arabic and English, and can be downloaded for local use. It is one of the most widely used open-source journal publishing platforms, utilized by over 3,500 journals worldwide.

During the seminar, a list of Arabic journal platforms that have adopted the electronic journal management system was presented.

As for the features of the Open Journal System (OJS), the speaker discussed them as follows:

1. **User-friendly:** The system's interface is easy to navigate for users, and it supports multiple languages, including Arabic and English.

2. **Accessibility:** The system is accessible to all users through the internet or by downloading it locally to their devices.

3. **Security:** The system ensures the flow of information by verifying the user's identity through a username and password. User activity logs are maintained and can be exported and saved.

4. **Availability:** The system operates correctly at all times for all users.

5. **Performance:** The system performs efficiently and quickly in carrying out tasks such as sending notifications, submitting articles for publication, and other operations.

6. **Maintainability:** The system can be easily updated to adopt new technologies or fix any issues, with the ability to export and back up the database or import it into the system, ensuring that it remains adaptable and sustainable.

The speaker then continued her discussion by explaining the stages of creating a comprehensive automated system for managing the publishing process of electronic journals (creating an electronic journal), which are as follows: *Planning, Design, and Implementation*.

- **<u>The planning stage, which involves the following set of factors:</u>**

1. Defining the system.

2. The organizational and administrative structure of the system.

3. Defining policies that regulate operations within the system.

4. Material and software requirements.

5. Physical and human resources.

6. Evaluation and review.

- **<u>The design process, which involves defining and designing the following:</u>**

1. Search and retrieval.

2. System pages and site map.

3. Setting up the external server.

4. User management.

5. Database and external storage.

The speaker also presented a series of diagrams illustrating the different accounts or users and their permissions in the Open Journal System (OJS), marking the beginning of the journal management process.

She, then, proceeded to define the steps for creating a journal on the system, as illustrated in the following images:

تَحديد آسم المجلة وكذلك اسم الناشر

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.

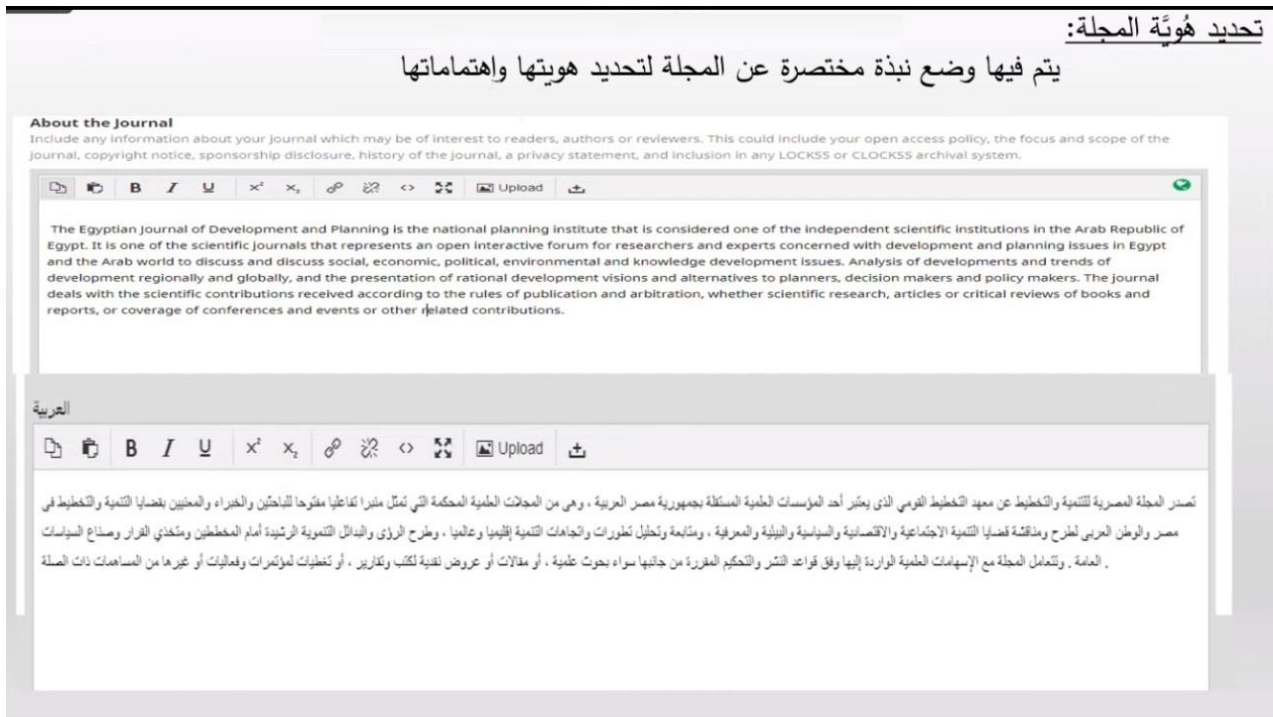**Figure (4) the first step for creating a journal on the system**

تَحديد وصف المجلة:
يتم وضع بيانات وصف المجلة من خلال تحديد عنوان فرعي يظهر تحت اسم المجلة، كما يتم تحديد الهيئة الإستشارية التي تقوم بالإشراف على المجلة

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.

Figure (5) the second step for creating a journal on the system

تحديد هُويَّة المجلة:

يتم فيها وضع نبذة مختصرة عن المجلة لتحديد هويتها واهتماماتها
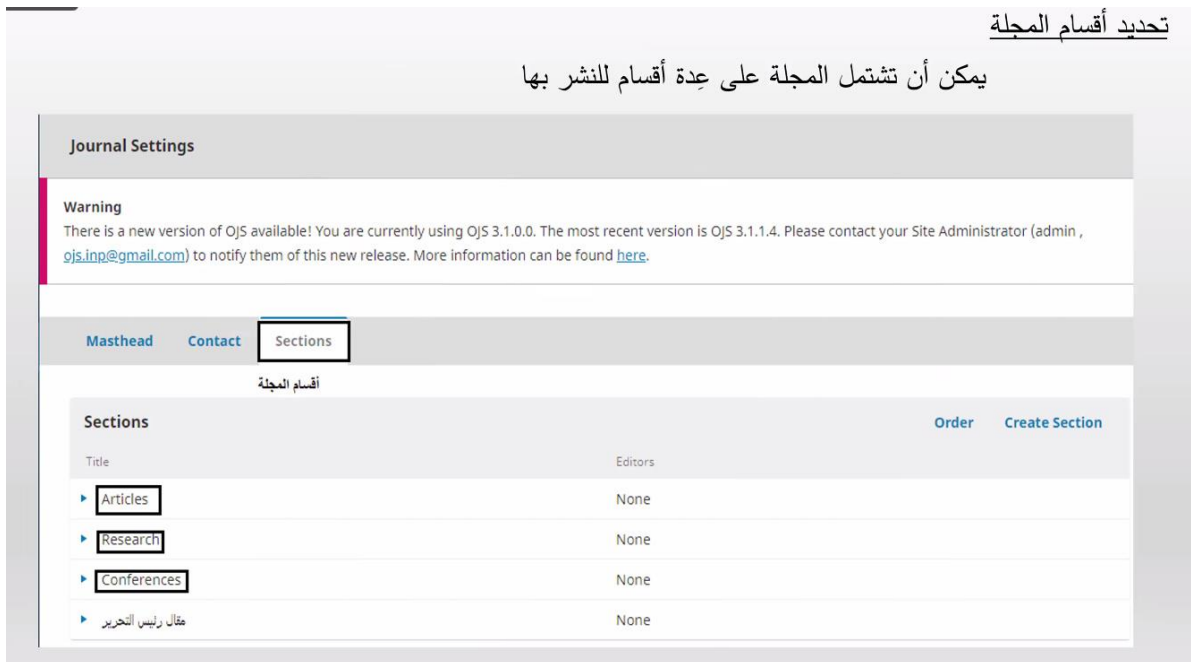

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.

Figure (6) the third step for creating a journal on the system

تحديد أقسام المجلة

يمكن أن تشتمل المجلة على عِدة أقسام للنشر بها

Bahrain Library and Information Association. (2024). The Unified Arabic Standard for Electronic Journals Publishing Management Systems. Online meeting via Zoom, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 3, 2024, 4:30 PM.

The setup and creation of the journal page on the system

Figure (7) the fourth step for creating a journal on the system

As for managing the publishing process, the following stages are followed: *submission, peer review, editing, and publication.*

The speaker then outlined the criteria for accepting articles for publication in the system, which are:

1. Clarity of the abstract, and its explanation of the research goal.

2. Clarity of the research problem, and its significance.

3. Clarity of the research objectives, and the feasibility of achieving them.

4. Clarity of the methodology used, and its appropriateness for achieving the research objectives.

5. Adequacy and comprehensiveness of the literature review.

6. Originality and innovation of the submitted research.

7. Coherence between different sections of the research.

8. Clarity of the figures and tables and their role in enhancing the understanding of the presented information.

9. Correctness of spelling and grammar in the research.

10. Accuracy of the results, and the way they are presented.

Finally, the speaker explained how to search and retrieve articles in the journal system, highlighting that the system provides multiple options for searching and retrieval. **Published works can be retrieved in two ways:**

1. Browsing articles – This allows users to browse the published articles within the journal issues without specifying a particular article.

2. Searching for specific articles, this can be done through simple or advanced search options.

Dr. Kariman concluded the seminar by saying: *"I hope that we have contributed to providing a comprehensive and integrated perspective on the criteria that should be considered when selecting the appropriate system for managing the publishing of electronic journals, and have offered a clear vision for those working in this field before making the decision to transition their journals to the electronic format, or to create platforms for offering national or specialized journals in specific fields."*