Arabian Humanities

Instructions to authors

General instructions

Articles submitted to Arabian Humanities should be original articles and should not have been submitted to other journals published in English, French or Arabic.

When sending the article via email, please specify your full name, the institution you are affiliated to, your position, as well as the title of the article.

Articles should be typed up on a recent version of Microsoft Word, either Mac or PC, and using RTF file type, with a 12 point font and with a line spacing of 1.5

Articles should not exceed 8,000 words, including footnotes. An exception might be made in case of extracts from texts in their original version as well as their translation, in which case only the latter will be taken into account.

A 150 word abstract will be provided along with the article, specifying its objectives and conclusions, as well as a list of no more than 10 keywords, specifying the geographical area and time period covered.

The article will be submitted to a first evaluation by the editors, then anonymously by two persons known to have the required expertise in the topic covered by the proposed article, either members of the editorial board or proposed by them. The two evaluators will express, where necessary, remarks and recommendations prior to article publication, and in any case, whether the article should be published or not.

The document is to be sent to Sylvaine Giraud, editorial assistant (edition@cefas.com.ye) and to Juliette Honvault, editorial director for Arabian Humanities (jhonvault@yahoo.fr)

General article presentation

Authors will avoid making their identity explicit, including in the references made in their own bibliography, so as to ensure their anonymity during the evaluation process. Likewise, they should avoid acknowledging peers in writing the article–such credits can be added on after the evaluation, and at the author’s request.

Authors are kindly requested to:
Respect the spelling of specific letters when quoting texts in languages other than that of the article (e.g. Nuñez)

1) headings & subheadings

Should be presented as such:

1. Section heading [14 point font]

1.1 Sub-section heading [12 point font]

1.1.1 Sub-sub-section heading [12 point font]

1.1.1.1 Sub-sub-sub-section heading [12 point font]
2) Spelling & punctuation

-American as well as British English spellings are allowed (e.g. color/colour; analyze/analyse; traveling/travelling), but authors should be coherent in their choice, and are requested not to use both.

- Likewise for quotations: if American English is chosen, then American style formatting should be used, the final period or comma belonging inside the quotation marks; otherwise, if the British style is used, they belong outside the quotation marks.

- Refrain from using serial commas: blue, green and yellow (and not blue, green, and yellow).

- When capitalizing, check the dictionary; when in doubt, do not capitalize e.g. President Obama; president of the United States; the president.

3) Abbreviations

Use 20th century, not twentieth century;

Use 1990s, not 1990’s or the nineties.

Pages: Use p. 52, p. 52-58 and not 52-8 nor pp. 52-58.

4) Footnotes

Footnote numbers should appear as exponents, numbered consecutively throughout the text, before any punctuation.

In addition to comments, remarks and various quotations, the references to any work appearing in the bibliography should be added in as footnotes, using a 10 point font, single spacing, in small capitals (accented if required) and in an abridged format: author's surname; year of publication, page; as shown below:


If several references exist for one given year: 1999a, 1999b, 1999c. (no op. cit., o. c., loc. cit., art. cit).

Ibid. should be used when quoting the same work in two consecutive notes.

5) Transliteration

Authors are kindly requested no to use any special transliteration font and to limit themselves to characters commonly available on a keyboard, in adherence to the following conventions:

The hamza will be indicated by an apostrophe.

Short vowels are a, i, u.

Long vowels are ā, Ė, ū.
Consonants are, in the Arabic alphabet order:

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The slash "/" before letters s, d, t, z, h will be replaced by a dot under the said-letters during typesetting.

The tā’ marbūta should be transliterated as a and not ‘ah’: al-Hudayda (and not al-Hudaydah)

Unless otherwise required, colloquial pronunciation shouldn’t be transliterated with any more precision.

All Arabic words should be transliterated along those lines, except for:

- Place names, the spelling of which has become common usage in English (e.g. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Aden, Sana’a, Mecca, Mamluk, Khedive, Saudia Arabia, Bahrain, Hadramaut, Qur’an, shariʿa, ʿulamaʾ, Kaʿba…)
- Adjectives such as Sana’ani, Hadrami, Djeddawi, Tihami will also be considered regular adjectives (e.g. a San’ani boy)
- The names of living individuals may be spelled according to their preferred English spelling.

Transliterated Arabic words will be italicized (kibsa, kafāla, jazīra...), except for proper names.

Proper names will be capitalized, just the name and not the article: al-Kibsî ; al-Najdi, unless at the beginning of a sentence.

Also, and in strict adherence to Arabic spelling:

- The article is not assimilated: al-shams, and al-qamar alike.
- The particles wa- and fa- and prepositions bi- and li- are not considered standalone words: al-dirāsāt wa-l-bu/hāth, bi-l-kitāb.
- Which is not the case for fī however : fī al-Yaman.
- ‘Abd Allāh, ‘Abdal-La/tif, etc... will be transliterated as such.
When "Ibn" is before the surname, it should be transliterated as follows: Ibn Khaldûn, Ibn Ba/t/tû/ta; but, in the middle of a name, it should be transliterated as follows: Abû Mu/hammad al-/Hasan b. A/hmad b. Ya’qûb al-Hamdânî.

6) Bibliography & footnotes

The bibliography at the end of the article should comprise all the references quoted, in compliance with the following rules:

- References are listed alphabetically by author
- In the case of several references for one author, these should be listed chronologically and, if necessary, as follows 1999a, 1999b, 1999c
- Journal titles shouldn't be abbreviated
- English capitalization rules for transliterated titles should be used. All major terms should be capitalized, but not articles, prefixes, coordinating conjunctions, nor prepositions (even when joined to pronouns).
- Author surnames will in accented small capitals (if your computer won't allow you to do that, the surname should be in lowercase with the first letter in uppercase): author surname, hard space, followed by the initial of the forename stopping at the first vowel (thus TH. For Thomas, CHR. For Christoph). For compound forenames, J-CL, W. M. (hard space). Over three authors, use et al.
- For a reference in Arabic, the author's name will be specified in full, surname(s) before forename(s), which are in lowercase.

E.g. for a whole book:


For an article:


7) Tables and illustrations

If visual documents can or are required to illustrate an article, it's preferable to scan them and send them to CEFAS as different documents. Please make sure the illustrations –drawings & photos, plans, maps and charts bearing writing- have enough contrast to undergo digitization and reduction. They can also be provided as EPS or TIFF file types (with a 300 dpi resolution when using grayscale, 1200 dpi in bitmap for line drawings) with a printout. No JPEG format, please. Thank you for adding a caption to each picture.

Please gather said-captions on a separate sheet, remembering to acknowledge photo credits. Only public domain pictures or for which the authors have got permission to reproduce will be published. Please don't forget to mention in the text of your article precise references to the plate (numbered in roman numerals) and figure (numbered in Arab numerals).