

Font and Typographical Considerations

Plan

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1. Arabic Style and Calligraphy

Arabic styling and writing has its origin in Islamic art and civilization, essentially used to decorate mosques and palaces, as well as in beauty manuscripts, books, and especially to copy the Koran. Arabic script is cursive making it viable to support different geometric shapes overlapping and composition. Words can be written in a very condensed form as well as stretched into elongated shapes, so that scribes and artists of Islam labored with passion to take advantage of all these possibilities.

From the beginning of Arabic calligraphy, two tendencies or two types of styles can be seen emerging, the handwriting for the decoration of mosques and sculptures, complex and shaped enough, and writing style reserved for writing the Koran, easier to use and more readable.

Writings styles / Arabic Scripts then evolved according to cultural diversity, leading to regional calligraphic schools and styles (*Kufi* in *Iraq*, *Farissi* and *Ta'liq* in *Persia* or *Diwani* in *Turkey*), or to the purpose of writing, such as the copying and dissemination of the *Kor'an*.

In general we group under the generic term **Naskh** (copy/inscription) the scripts reserved for books and texts to be read, e.g. the *Kor'an*, and as **Kufi** (from city of *Kufa* in *Irak*) the stylish scripts ornaments oriented. Although further named styles appeared during the richer evolution of Arabic scripts.

2. Different Types of Writing Style

Basics and principles of Arabic writing were then defined by *Ibn Moqlah* (886-940 Hgra) @@add a ref. Welch 1979@@ who defined the Six Styles of writing: *Kufi*, *Thuluth*, *Naskh*, *Riqa'*, *Diwani* and *Ta'liq*.

Kufi

One of the oldest and well known Arabic scripts. It is characterized by its decorative and pronounced geometric forms well adapted for architectural design. The style grew up in the beginning of Islam for the need for Muslims to codify the Koran. @@ The script has some variations as *Al Mouthafar*, *Al Mukhamal*, *Al Handassi...*)@@

Thuluth

(The third) One of the finest Arabic scripts by its beauty and sight. Recognizable by the fact that the letters and words are very interleaved in its complex form. May be the most difficult in writing (need more skill), both in terms of letters or in terms of structure and composition.

Naskh

One of the clearest scripts at all, with clearly distinguished letters which facilitates the reading and the pronunciation. Can be written with small size (traditionally pens made of reeds and ink) which suits with writing longer texts written in boards and books intended for general population, especially the Koran. Currently *Naskh* is considered the standard script for almost all the Arabic and Muslim world.

Riqa'

The so-called in relation to a patcher, which is gazelle's leather. Designed to be used for education, daily (not artistic) writing and adopted in the Offices (*Deewan*) of the Ottoman Empire.

Ta'liq

aka Farisi (Iran), *Ta'liq* (hanging) combines *Naskh* and *Riqa'* (and *Thuluth*?). Beautiful script characterized by the precision and stretch of its letters, its clarity and lack of complexity. Considered as one of the best scripts in the world and is favored by many Arabs calligraphers.

Deewani

TBD

Others...

Nastaaliq Farissi

TBD as Persian version derived from *Nas(kh)* and *Taa'liq*. It is like a *Taa'liq* but easier to write and read...

3. Fonts and Styles


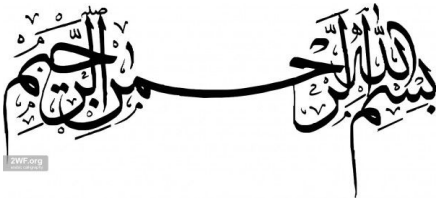
TBD.

Consider here technical constraints due to printing and computers.

4. Summary

Yet to be completed...

Style	Description	sample	Pic
<i>Kufi</i> (Diwan kufi here)	Early time of Islam 3rd or 4th century applied to the early scripts used to write the Koran difficult to write any long text	الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
<i>Naskh</i>	The script of choice for the Koran Popular for writing books because of its legibility Adapted for printing The most common font in printed Arabic	الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات	﴿ فِي الْبَدْرِ كَانَ الْكَلِمَةُ، وَالْكَلِمَةُ كَانَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. وَكَانَ الْكَلِمَةُ هُوَ اللَّهُ. ﴿ هُوَ كَانَ فِي الْبَدْرِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. ﴿ بِهِ تَكُونُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ، وَيَغْيِرُهُ لَمْ يَتَكُونُ أَيُّ شَيْءٍ مِمَّا تَكُونُ. ﴿ فِيهِ كَانَتِ الْحَيَاةُ. وَالْحَيَاةُ هَذِهِ كَانَتِ نُورَ النَّاسِ. ﴿ وَالنُّورُ يُضِيءُ فِي الظُّلَامِ، وَالظُّلَامُ لَمْ يَذْرِكِ النُّورَ.﴾
<i>Nastaaliq</i> (Farisi here)	developed in Iran in the 8th and 9th centuries (wp) Nas(kh)+Taaliq	الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
<i>Reqaa</i>		الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات	قال الله تعالى : وما أوتيتم من العلم إلا قليلا

<p><i>Diwani</i></p>	<p>Used in the Ottoman court to write official documents Difficult to read and write Still in use today</p>	<p>الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات</p>	
<p><i>Thuluth</i></p>	<p>Support Harakat Indicators Script par excellence for writing many different kinds of texts Used particularly for titles and architectural inscriptions</p>	<p>الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات باسم الله الرحمن الرحيم</p>	
<p><i>Rabat aka Maghrabi</i></p>	<p>Western Islamic world of North Africa and Spain Used for writing the Koran as well as other scientific, legal and religious manuscripts Not much used today.</p>	<p>الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات</p>	
<p><i>Taaliq</i></p>	<p>Arabic calligraphy designed for Persian language. Until replaced by <i>Nastaaliq</i></p>	<p>الإعجاب بالكتابة السحرية والمهارات</p>	

5. Remarks

@@ Consider readability and accessibility when styling and using newer fonts

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6. References:

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[3] "[The creation of style in Arabic writing](http://www.academia.edu/6434123/The_creation_of_style_in_Arabic_writing)"

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[5] "الخط العربي (Arabic Calligraphy)" <http://www.alargam.com/languages/khat/khat.htm>

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