MaDiH (مديح): Mapping Digital Cultural Heritage in Jordan

The Project

MaDiH (مديح): Mapping Digital Cultural Heritage in Jordan is a two-year project funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), in partnership with King’s College London, Hashemite University, the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), the Jordan Department of Antiquities and Jordan Open Source Association. The project will contribute to the long-term sustainable development of Jordan’s digital cultural heritage, identifying key systems, datasets, standards, and policies and aligning them to government digital infrastructure capabilities and strategies. Defining a robust technical and operational architecture for digital cultural heritage will assist the Department of Antiquities and Jordan Museum in their planning processes, help product development teams develop their systems, facilitate the aggregation of valuable datasets held in disparate repositories and ensure data generated from research activity is properly stored and widely accessible. Analysis will also result in the identification of infrastructural gaps and opportunities for further development including system development, data aggregation, online learning, and expansion to support refugee studies. Practical prototyping will ensure analysis and lessons learned are cost-effective and aligned to real-world scenarios and a series of workshops with stakeholders from the cultural heritage, research, government and technology sectors, will ensure the project fulfils the needs of the local community. A hackathon, led by the Jordanian Open Source Association, will ensure analysis and lessons learned are aligned to educational and commercial opportunities. Key outputs from MaDiH, which will be made available online, will include:

- A policy white paper, identifying relevant national and international policies, frameworks, and standards and making recommendations for their future adoption and/or implementation.
- A technical white paper, listing requirements for improvements to existing infrastructure, systems, and tools and make recommendations for their future implementation.
- A prototype National Data Catalogue listing the datasets found over the course of the project.
- A prototype National Heritage Portal indicating the potential for future systems development and data aggregation.
- Training in Research Software Engineering delivered by King’s Digital Lab (King’s College London).
## Job Description

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<tr>
<th><strong>Post title</strong></th>
<th>Post-doctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) / Research Assistant (RA)</th>
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<td><strong>Host</strong></td>
<td>Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL)</td>
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<td><strong>Term</strong></td>
<td>18 months, from June 2019 (most likely shortly after Eid al Fitr)</td>
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<td><strong>Interview date</strong></td>
<td>April 10th / 11th</td>
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<td><strong>Salary</strong></td>
<td>Range of Assistant Professor at a Jordanian public university</td>
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<td><strong>Responsible to</strong></td>
<td>Director, CBRL Amman (for Jordan &amp; UK Principle Investigators)</td>
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### Role purpose

We are seeking a self-motivated individual with a passion for Jordanian cultural heritage and digital tools and methods. The post is a 1.0 FTE 18-month appointment as a Post-doctoral Research Assistant (PDRA) or Research Assistant (RA) hosted by CBRL in Amman and supervised by Dr Carol Palmer (CBRL Amman) on behalf of Dr Fadi Bala’awi (Hashemite University, Amman), Dr James Smithies (King’s College London), Assoc. Prof. Sahar Idwan (Hashemite University, Amman), and Dr Pascal Flohr (Institute for Archaeology / EAMENA, University of Oxford).

The MaDiH PDRA / RA will be essential to the success of the project. They will hold an advanced degree or equivalent experience (doctorate preferred) in a cultural heritage field such as archaeology. Other Humanities disciplines or architecture will be considered. Applicants with Computer Science backgrounds and a strong understanding of Jordanian cultural heritage are encouraged to apply. In addition to a solid knowledge of Jordan cultural heritage / archaeology, applicants should either be able to demonstrate engagement with technical topics (digital archaeology, digital history, digital humanities, computer science) or a willingness to learn. Introductory training in Research Software Engineering (RSE) will be offered at the start of the appointment at King’s Digital Lab in London. This position will provide excellent opportunities for career development. Excellent English language skills are required for production of technical documentation and contribution to white papers and research outputs.

The appointment is on a full-time basis (1.0 FTE) and the post will be located at CBRL’s Amman institute. Significant time will be spent liaising with project leads at King’s College London, Hashemite University and partners in the Department of Antiquities, Jordan Open Source Association and the Jordanian technology sector. The successful candidate will need to be available for training in London in June/July 2019.
Role Profile

Key objectives
- Lead the identification and documentation of datasets related to cultural heritage, held in Jordan and other countries, engaging a wide variety of stakeholders. Documentation will be entered into a ckan.org data portal, requiring confidence with online tools.
- Collaborate with team members at Hashemite University, King’s College London, and Oxford University, working to their requirements.
- Lead the organisation of workshops, with support and guidance from team members at the British Institute in Amman, Hashemite University, King’s College London, and Oxford University.
- Provide Arabic translations of English communications (website, social media) content.
- Work closely with UK and Jordan project team members on the production of a technical white paper and policy white paper.

Communication & networking
- Prepare and draft papers and reports for meetings and other events, dealing with complex information.
- Maintain regular contact with collaborators and key stakeholders.
- Participate in workshops and events within the MaDiH (مديح) project or externally in order to build relationships and contacts to facilitate future exchanges of information.
- Contribute to social media and outreach activities.

Decision making, planning & problem solving
- Develop a list of key stakeholders, noting characteristics and requirements, and use this to inform workshop planning and identification of datasets.
- Develop and maintain good relationships with a broad network, inside and outside Jordan, capable of identifying datasets and contributing knowledge and advice to the project.

Service delivery
- Gain and maintain up-to-date knowledge of digital cultural heritage, digital humanities and/or research software engineering best practice.
- Ensure work procedures and objectives are met in a timely manner and all reports and delivery requirements are met.
- Provide specialist advice and make recommendations to support informed decision making.
- Deal independently with queries relating to areas of responsibility.
- Deal with internal and external contacts, routine and non-standard queries, referring to others where necessary.

Analysis & research
- Write reports and maintain up to date documentation.
• Contribute to occasional multi-author research articles, technical papers, and conference papers.
• Provide analysis to form part of reports or other documents for use by the project team.

Team work, teaching & learning support
• Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.
• Take responsibility for maintaining good communication with team members in Jordan and the United Kingdom, using digital tools as required.

Sensory/physical demands & work environment
• Monitor and maintain appropriate records.
• Arrange and attend meetings and committees, requiring good listening and concentration skills in different environments in order accurately to record and distil action points from discussions.

Organisational chart

Director of the CBRL Amman (for Jordan and UK Principal Investigators)  
PDRA / RA
### Selection criteria

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications, knowledge, experience</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Bachelor’s Degree with a grade of at least 3.25</td>
<td>Degree in cultural heritage-related field, such as archaeology or architecture</td>
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<td>Either a PhD or equivalent working experience after a Masters’ Degree</td>
<td>Engagement with technical topics</td>
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<td>Strong affinity with cultural heritage</td>
<td>Experience of working in a cultural heritage field</td>
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<tr>
<th>Communication and networking</th>
<th>Fluent in English and Arabic</th>
<th>Experience in presenting research at conferences and in meetings</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Willingness to attend meetings and conferences</td>
<td>Familiarity with social media</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Able to explain complex concepts to non-specialist and specialist audiences, both verbally and in writing</td>
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<tr>
<th>Decision making, planning, and problem solving</th>
<th>Strong organisational skills</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Able to understand complex problems and applying knowledge to solve them</td>
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<th>Analysis and Research</th>
<th>Able to understand complex concepts</th>
<th>Experience of publishing peer-reviewed or other academic articles</th>
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| Teamwork, teaching, support | Experience of working successfully in a team as well as independently | |

| Other | Jordanian citizenship or a valid residency and work permit in Jordan | |


Hours of Work

8.00 am – 5 pm in principle (with a lunch break), but these can be flexible. Flexibility in working hours is essential, especially during the period of project workshops.

How to apply

Submit your CV and covering letter to: cbrl@bi-amman.org.uk. Names, positions, emails and mobile numbers of two referees are required, at least one of whom is a previous employer/professor, willing to give character references.

Please state in the subject line: MaDiH PDRA/RA

Closing Date

Please submit your application as soon as possible with a final closing date of 1st April 2019, midnight Amman time. We aim to conduct the interviews on 10/11 April. The covering letter should explain in no more than two sides of A4 why you meet the person specification and wish to work on the project. We will only contact individuals that we are interested to interview.

Start Date

June 2019