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**ADOBE ACROBAT 2.0 AS A MEDIUM FOR ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING IN ARABIC STUDIES  
(WINDOWS VERSION)**

**Producer:** *Adobe Systems Incorporated*

**System requirements:**

- 386- or 486-based personal computer (or Pentium)
- Microsoft Windows 3.1 or greater
- 4 Mb of RAM for Acrobat Exchange and Acrobat Reader
- 8 Mb of RAM for Acrobat Distiller

**Method of testing:**

- computer used  
Compaq DeskPro XL 590, CPU Pentium 90,  
16 Mb RAM
- platform  
Microsoft Windows 3.1  
Microsoft Windows 3.1 with Arabic support  
("bi-l-i'timad")
- texts and PostScript files produced with  
Microsoft Word for Windows 6.0a  
Microsoft Arabic Word for Windows 6.0a  
NISUS 3.4 (Macintosh)

The Adobe Acrobat Pro 2.0 package comes with Adobe Reader 2.0, Adobe Exchange 2.0 (PDFWriter), and Adobe Distiller 2.0, together with a limited purpose version of Adobe Type Manager 3.01. An upgrade of the Reader (version 2.1) is available from Adobe Systems (<ftp://ftp.adobe.com> or <http://www.adobe.com>).

The Windows version of the Adobe Acrobat family of programs performs essentially the same as the Macintosh version described in an earlier review (*Manuscripta Orientalia* 1/2, <http://www.hf-fak.uib.no/i/midtspraak/acrobat.htm>). In general PDF (portable document format) files retain all the formatting and detail of hard copy and can handle both Latin diacritics and Arabic script, although there are occasional problems with screen fonts, and image quality must be reduced if files are to be kept to a manageable size. PDF files can be produced directly from word

processing programs by PDFWriter, which is part of Acrobat Exchange. They may also be generated from PostScript files by Acrobat Distiller, including files containing Arabic fonts. PostScript files can be created from most word processor or page layout programs or by using the printer option offered by Acrobat Distiller Assistant. Acrobat Reader, which allows viewing on screen, simple searching, and printing out, is available free. Acrobat Exchange permits the inclusion in a PDF file of hypertext links to other files, including sound and video clips. Exchange also provides sophisticated searching techniques (see below on Adobe Catalog). Compared to word processor files, PDF files tend to be rather large, but they can be considerably reduced, often to little more than the size of the word processor original, by the exclusion of Type 1 (PostScript) fonts.