
ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Correspondence Round Table

ITISALAT DISCUSSION OF CD-ROM PROTECTION/PIRACY PROBLEM

In *Manuscripta Orientalia*, vol. 2, No. 2 (1996), the article "A robust and versatile solution for the digital publication of manuscript material" by Hansje Braam and Marc Vandamme (Utrecht University) was published. The discussion of some ideological and technical problems concerning CD-ROM editions of the manuscript heritage, which are being realized now in several libraries and research centers, was proposed there. The information about the similar program of the Vatican library (IBM technical and software support) shows that the idea of using digital technologies for this purpose has a good future.

Nearly simultaneously with the publication in *Manuscripta Orientalia*, the subscribers of ITISALAT (The Internet Forum on Arabic Computing) started discussion on the protection of CD software against piracy. The discussion seems to be a real success of ITISALAT. It is so interesting that we decided to propose correspondence on the problem to the attention of the *Manuscripta*

Orientalia audience which is much wider than that of ITISALAT.

Among the most active participants of the discussion we have to mention George N. Hallak, ARAMedia Group, Arabization & Software Center, who initialized the discussion; Adrian Brockett, Quest MultiMedia; Abdel-hadi, Systems Engineer/Nike; Andrew Freeman, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan; Alec McAllister, Arts Computing Development Officer, Computing Service, University of Leeds.

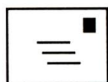
You may remember that issue No. 3 of vol. 1 (1996) of *Manuscripta Orientalia* also contained the material connected with the ITISALAT (it was Arabic/Farsi OCR that was discussed). Proposing the present discussion, we would like to wish all *Manuscripta Orientalia* and ITISALAT subscribers an outright victory over piracy and pirates, who sometimes intend not only to steal our work but also to destroy our private life.

A bas les pirates!

Efim Rezvan,

Manuscripta Orientalia Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Paul Roochnik, ITISALAT Moderator



We have been working very hard on our upcoming release of a CD-ROM in English, French, and Arabic for Windows and Mac. Our developers are utilizing Adobe's Acrobat 2.01 (.pdf) technology.

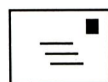
We are writing to you requesting your help and recommendations for means of protection and security of our work on the CD-ROM against piracy.

We kindly ask you to advise us if you know of such a product. If so, please post or e-mail the source of such product or company that works best with Acrobat, preserving the integrity of our work.

In case this is the wrong place to request such information, please advise of a good source to contact for such information.

Thank you,

George N. Hallak



We protect our CDs with "Laserlock" technology which is proving very effective. The games industry is using it more and more. It works on both hardware and software levels... You can't copy to another CD. You can copy to a hard disk BUT you have to have the original disc in the CD drive to run your program. We'll be happy to forward any further information.

Adrian Brockett

* To subscribe, send the command (A) to address (B): (A) — subscribe ITISALAT your-1st-name your-last-name (B) — list-serv@listserv.georgetown.edu (for more information, contact: Dr. Paul Roochnik, Moderator, ITISALAT e-mail: roochnik@ios.com).