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Basic reference works for the study especially of hadith & Islamic law.

1. Modern biographical dictionaries. Besides the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, here are three essential directories of writers:

- Brockelmann, Carl. *Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur*. 2nd edn. 2 vols. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1943-9. Supplementband. 3 vols. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1937-41. PJ7510 BRO.1. A listing of all known Arabic manuscripts with short biographies and lists of other biographies of their authors. To use, v. Richard S. Cooper, 'How to use the *GAL*', *MELA notes* 3 (October, 1974), 18-20. Note that each subject's *'urf* is indicated by italics in the Supplementband, spaced letters in the first two volumes. These are usually the convention to go by to avoid confusion (e.g. to call him 'Abd al-Razzāq' rather than 'al-Ṣan-ānī', 'Ibn Abī al-Wafā' rather than 'al-Qurashī'). Here is an example of its usefulness even to those who have no German.
- Kaḥḥālah, 'Umar Riḍā Kaḥḥālah. *Mu'jam al-mu'allifin: tarājim muṣannifī al-kutub al-'arabiyyah*. 15 vols. Damascus: al-Maktabah al-'Arabiyyah, 1376-81/1957-61. PJ6031 KAH. Lists many more authors than Brockelmann and Sezgin without detail as to manuscripts. It is often easier to start here, then follow his reference to Brockelmann.
- Sezgin, Fuat. *Geschichte des arabischen Schrifttums*. 11 vols. to date. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1967-2000. PJ7510 SEZ. Volume 1 covers Qur'an, hadith, law, theology, and Sufism. Like Brockelmann in volume 1 (i.e. covering only authors of works that survive in manuscript), more comprehensive in later volumes, but none goes beyond persons who died in the first third of the fourth/eleventh century. To be supplemented for MSS by Hikmat Bashīr Yāsīn, &al. *Istidrākāt 'alá Tārīkh al-turāth al-'arabī*. 8 vols. Al-Dammām: Dār Ibn al-Jawzī, 1422. Arab. d. 15007.

2. Medieval biographical dictionaries.

Get to know the titles cited by Brockelmann, Kaḥḥālah, and Sezgin. One exists in translation:

- Ibn Khallikān (d. Damascus, 681/1282). *Kitāb Wafayāt al-a'yān = Ibn Khallikan's biographical dictionary*. Translated by Mac Guckin de Slane. Paris: Oriental Translation Fund of Great Britain and Ireland, 1842-71. FOL DS38.4.A2 IBN 1842.

One unusually well-edited is this:

- Al-Dhahabī (d. Damascus, 748/1348?). *Siyar a'lām al-nubalā'*. Edited by Shu'ayb al-Arna'ūt, &al. 25 vols. Beirut: Mu'assasat al-Risālah, 1401-9/1981-8. DS38.4.A2 DHA 1981. The last, index volume is often a good starting place if one has only a *kunyah*, *nisbah*, or some other part of someone's name. Stops at 700/1300, though—for the last two generations, see the 1997 edition in remote storage.

3. Dates.

A hijri year is a period of 354 or 355 days usually overlapping two years of the Common Era. Hijri years are divided into twelve lunar months. See W. Wright, *A grammar of the Arabic*

language, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn (Cambridge: Univ. Press, 1896-8, repr. 1999), 2:248-9, to read dates. Many convert by guessing, but this looks like unacceptable carelessness to me. I favour H. G. Cattenoz, *Tables de concordance des ères chrétienne et hégiriene*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (Rabat: Editions Techniques, 1954). However, <http://emr.cs.iit.edu/home/reingold/calendar-book/Calendrica.html> is a fairly easy-to-use, comprehensive online calculator.

#### 4. Names.

Brockelmann and Sezgin are nearly always accurate as to the transcription of names (e.g. who's 'Uqayl, who 'Aqīl?). Here are the most comprehensive guides in Arabic:

- Ibn Ḥajar al-'Asqalānī (d. Cairo, 852/1449). *Tabṣīr al-muntabih bi-taḥrīr al-Mushtabih*. Edited by 'Alī Muḥammad al-Bijāwī, revised by Muḥammad 'Alī al-Najjār. Turāthunā. 4 vols. Cairo: al-Dār al-Miṣrīyah lil-Ta'līf wa-al-Tarjamah, 1964?-7. BP136.48.I27 IBN 1965.
- Ibn Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Qaysī (d. Damascus, 842/1438). *Tawḍīḥ al-Mushtabih fī ḍabṭ asmā' al-ruwāḥ wa-ansābihim wa-alqābihim wa-kunāhum*. Edited by Muḥammad Nu'aym al-'Irqasūsī. 10 vols. Beirut: Mu'assasat al-Risālah, 1414/1993. Arab. d.10483.

In looking up names, one special hazard is alphabetical order. First, *lām-alif* is often counted a separate letter between *wāw* and *yā'*; hence, 'Alā' will come after 'Alī and 'Awn, not before. Occasionally, the last three letters will be in order *wāw hā' yā'*. Theological considerations will often make Aḥmad appear before other names beginning with *alif*, Muḥammad before other names beginning with *mīm*, and 'Umar, 'Uthmān, and 'Alī in this order under the letter '*ayn*.

#### 5. How to look up and cite hadith.

The basic concordances are two:

- Wensinck, A. J., &al. *Concordance et indices de la Tradition musulmane: les Six Livres, le Musnad d'al-Dārimī, le Muwaṭṭa' de Mālik, le Musnad de Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal*. 7 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1936-69. FOL BP135.2 W43 MUJ 1936. Alphabetical by Arabic root.
- ----- *A handbook of early Muhammadan tradition*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1927. BP135.W4 WEN 1927. Alphabetical by English subject.

Additional collections are covered by this work:

- Zaghlūl, Abū Ḥājir Muḥammad al-Sa'īd ibn Basyūnī. *Mawsū'at aṭrāf al-ḥadīth al-nabawī al-sharīf*. 11 vols. Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-'Ilmīyah, 2004/1424. BP135.2 Z25 ZAG 2004. By the opening words.

Zaghlūl's identification of the editions to which he refers is not adequate. A larger problem is how to refer to hadith reports. Since there are so many commercial editions of the Six Books, it is normally best to cite individual reports by *kitāb* and *bāb*, or at least the *kitāb* and the number of the *bāb* according to Wensinck's usage (indicated in Arabic hadith collections as the numbering of *al-Mu'jam*). Individual hadith reports are numbered differently in different editions (since it is often unclear whether to count separately or together versions with different *isnāds* but more

or less identical wording). However, the following editions of the Six Books may be identified as conventional:

- Al-Bukhārī (d. Khartank, 256/870). *Al-Jāmi‘ al-musnad al-ṣaḥīḥ al-mukhtaṣar min umūr rasūl Allāh . . . wa-sunanihi wa-ayyāmih*. No standard edition; however, the standard numbering of sections is from *Le recueil des traditions mahométanes*, ed. Ludolf Krehl & Th. W. Juynboll, 4 vols. (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1862-1908), used by Wensinck, while standard numbers were assigned by ‘Abd al-Bāqī, first published in Ibn Ḥajar, *Fatḥ al-bārī*, ed. Muḥibb al-Dīn al-Khaṭīb, 14 vols. (Cairo: al-Maṭba‘ah al-Salafīyah, 1380/1960), and now followed also now in many editions of the *Ṣaḥīḥ* by itself.
- Muslim (d. Nishapur, 261/875). *Al-Ṣaḥīḥ*. Edited by Muḥammad Fu‘ād ‘Abd al-Bāqī. 5 vols. (Cairo): ‘Isā al-Bābī al-Ḥalabī wa-Shurakā’uh, 1374-5/1955-6. Most editions now number individual hadith reports after this one.
- Abū Dāwūd (d. Basra, 275/889). *Al-Sunan*. Edited by Muḥammad Muḥyī al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd. 4 vols. Cairo: Maṭba‘at Muṣṭafā Muḥammad, 1354. Not a particularly good edition, but its numbering of individual hadith reports is now standard.
- Al-Tirmidhī (d. Tirmidh, 279/892). *Al-Jāmi‘ al-ṣaḥīḥ*. Edited by Aḥmad Muḥammad Shākir, Muḥammad Fu‘ād ‘Abd al-Bāqī, and Ibrāhīm ‘Aṭwah ‘Awaḍ. 5 vols. Cairo: Muṣṭafā al-Bābī al-Ḥalabī wa-Awlāduh, 1356-95/1937-75. Repr. with vols. 4 & 5 (by ‘Awaḍ) replaced by a 4th vol. edited by Kamāl Yūsuf al-Ḥūt. Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-‘Ilmīyah, n.d. Many editions now number individual hadith reports after this one.
- Al-Nasā’ī (d. Ramlah? 303/915?). *Al-Mujtabá*. No standard edition, but it seems that the numbering of this one is becoming conventional: *al-Sunan*, ed. Muḥammad ‘Aṭā’ Allāh al-Fūjayānī al-Amritsarī (Lahore: al-Maktabah al-Salafīyah, 1376, repr. 1976).
- Ibn Mājah (d. Qazwīn, 273/887?). *Al-Sunan*. Edited by Muḥammad Fu‘ād ‘Abd al-Bāqī. 2 vols. Cairo: Dār Iḥyā’ al-Kutub al-‘Arabīyah, 1952-4.

The OIL has some of these . A handy collection of all of the Six is *al-Kutub al-sittah*, Mawsū‘at al-ḥadīth al-sharīf (Riyadh: Dār al-Salām, 1420/1999), BP135.A1 M38 MAW 1999 Fol. Aḥmad’s *Musnad* is conventionally cited by volume and page in the 1890s Cairo edition, found in the margin of the better more recent editions.

- Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal. *Musnad imām al-muḥaddithīn wa-al-quḍwah fī al-zuhd wa-al-wara’*. 6 vols. Cairo: al-Maṭba‘ah al-Maymanīyah, 1313. BP135.A2 I145 IBN 1895 Fol.
- -----, *Musnad al-imām Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal*. Edited by Shu‘ayb al-Arna‘ūt, &al. 50 vols. Beirut: Mu‘assasat al-Risālah, 1413-21/1993-2001. Arab. d.10302 but another copy at the Pembroke College library. The only one that is more than a mere retyping of the 1890s edition; e.g. the eight-volume edition at BP135.A2 I144 IBN 1993.