AGAPS
Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies

UAE RESEARCH RESOURCE GUIDE

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GENERAL SUGGESTIONS:

- Get business cards made on arrival (at a typing shop; there's one in Dubai Mall for example) with your local phone number.
- Download WhatsApp.
- Emails rarely get results; if possible get a phone number and send a WhatsApp.
- Personal introductions are key. Cold calling is rough.
- The UAE has no "research visa" (so check with your granting institution if they require one). The closest you can get is to have an organization sponsor your residency visa and list your occupation as researcher.
    - Should you manage to get a sponsor and a residency visa, you must legally get a UAE driving license (your US license no longer entitles you to drive). You must also "close" your visa 14 days before you leave, even if it's expiring anyway.
- Bring several passport photos and copies of your passport info page.

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1. UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOLARLY FOUNDATIONS:

- American University of Sharjah
- American University of Dubai
- University of Sharjah
- Zayed University – Abu Dhabi, Dubai
- New York University – Abu Dhabi
- Sorbonne Abu Dhabi
- Abu Dhabi University
- UAE University – Al Ain
- Shaikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi Foundation (largely education policy research), RAK

[1] For some of the entries below, I've listed the contact people but haven't included their contact information. I'm happy to connect people but don't want to publicize these emails. Just drop me an email if you would like more information: bethd@u.northwestern.edu

2. NYU – ABU DHABI LIBRARY

- **Location**: On the top floor of student center building at NYU. There are coffee shops and dining facilities in the same building, adjacent and one floor down.
- **Operating hours**: Generally 8a-5p Sun-Thurs; often closed Fri & Sat.
- **What to bring**: Photo ID; NYU alumni should bring their ID
- **Contact details**: nyuad.library@nyu.edu, (971)2-628-5544
- **Website**: https://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/library/using-the-library/visitors.html
- **Resources & Notes**: Technically there is no sign-in so you don't need special permissions to enter. However, as of July 2018, you need an appt on campus to park, so you'll need some contact with the university to get parking access if you're driving. Alternatively you could take a taxi or Uber, and just walk in!

3. BARJEEL ART FOUNDATION

- **Location**: Offices in Al Qasimi Building, Sharjah, at the corner of Al Mraija St and Al Arouba St (opposite the central souq and King Faisal Mosque).
- **Operating hours**: By appt only – the Barjeel closed its spaces at Al Qasba in early 2018.
- **Contact details**: Sultan al Qassemi
- **Website**: www.barjeelartfoundation.org
- **Resources & Notes**: This is/was Sultan's personal collection, and in addition to art works he also has keeps some catalogues and books about art in the region. However, most importantly, ALL of Barjeel's catalogues are available online here: http://www.barjeelartfoundation.org/downloads/.

4. MARAYA ART CENTER – COMMUNITY ROOM

- **Location**: 2nd floor of Al Qasba, Sharjah (Maraya Art Center gallery spaces on 4th floor).
- **Operating hours**: Sat-Thurs, 10-7. Entry to exhibitions free; to use the community room it's 5 AED and includes wifi.
- **Website**: www.maraya.ae
- **Resources & Notes**: There is a small library that includes all of Maraya's exhibition catalogues and a few other books. It's a great place to work – there are desks and plugs, and wifi is 5 AED/day. There are also Starbucks and Costa coffee, as well as some decent food options in the Qasba within walking distance, and you can pay for metered parking directly outside or opt to park in the giant sand pit across the street.

5. JAMEEL ARTS CENTER - DUBAI

- Art Jameel announced this space and it will open in 2018. My understanding is that they will have an open access library dedicated to arts and culture of the Arab world. Antonia Carver is the director of Art Jameel; Uns Kattan is another contact person. More info here: https://artjameel.org/centres/jameel-arts-centre-dubai/.

6. MEEM GALLERY – NOOR LIBRARY

- **Location**: Meem is located in Al Quoz across from Mall of the Emirates, on the northern side of Umm Suqeim. Coming west from the Al Asayel/24th St intersection, be sure to take the first slip road on your right (otherwise you cannot gain access).

- **Operating hours**: By appt only – the library is the personal collection of Meem owner Charlie Pocock.
- **Contact details**: Meagan Kelly-Horsman, who runs the gallery, can facilitate contact.
- Tel : +971 (0)4 347 7883, Fax : +971 (0)4 340 1640, E-Mail : info@meemartgallery.com
- **Website**: www.meemartgallery.org
- **Resources & Notes**: The library is stunningly beautiful but also amazingly comprehensive. The collection is among the most extensive libraries I encountered in the UAE – Pocock has collected major exhibition catalogues and press, as well as artists' monographs and books about art in the Middle East and far East for years. Meem staff prefer to make copies/scans for you.

7. EMIRATES FINE ARTS SOCIETY

- **Location**: EFAS is in the Heart of Sharjah area, directly across from the Sharjah Art Museum and adjacent to Sharjah Art Foundation offices.
- **Operating hours**: Technically after 4p daily but it's best to make an appt.
- **Contact details**: Nasser Abdullah, former EFAS chairperson, would be the one to contact. Ali Abdan recently assumed the chairship.
- **Website**: www.artsuae.ae
- **Resources & Notes**: The one-room library at the society headquarters has extensive Arabic language material on art (the only one I've found to date). It is however not catalogued according to a standardized library system, so prepare to spend some time digging. Having your own hand-scanner, or using your camera on your phone, is helpful.