



## NEMLAR Newsletter

News on Arabic language resources and Arabic language technologies

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### Issue 18

October 2009

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#### 1. News from the MEDAR project

##### The NEMLAR Network

We have decided to reconstruct the way the NEMLAR Network is working in order to make it easier for the members to share information and make contact. We have therefore created The **NEMLAR Network** group in LinkedIn. The Network is open to all experts in the field of Arabic language technology who share our goals. It is the intention that all members can use the network to discuss new activities, find partners etc.

Therefore we invite you to join the new **NEMLAR Network** group in LinkedIn <http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/2410852/> (You sign up as an individual).

You can contribute to the **NEMLAR Network** group by:

- giving a description of your fields of interest and expertise in Arabic language technology (in your LinkedIn Profile).
- linking to your activities and languages resources.

##### Interview on Al Jazeera Satellite Channel

MEDAR gave an extensive interview to **Al Jazeera** on August 18 2009.

The MEDAR consortium was represented by Prof. Mohsen Rashwan (RDI, Egypt), Dr. Khalid Choukri (ELDA, France) and Prof. Mustafa Yaseen (Al-Ahlyya Amman University, Jordan).

See the interview here [\(in WMV-format\)](#) or [\(in MPG-format\)](#)

- or download the files [\(WMV-format, 0,6 MB\)](#) [\(MPG-format, 0,3 MB\)](#)

## Online BLARK for Arabic

You can now find the very first version of the online BLARK for Arabic on our website:

<http://medar.info/BLARK/>

The **Basic Language Resource Kit** (BLARK) is defined as the minimal set of language resources that is necessary to do any precompetitive research and education at all. The definition is in principle intended to be language independent, but as specific languages do come with different requirements, instantiations of the BLARK may vary in some respects from language to language.

## 2. Upcoming Events

- [TRANSLATING AND THE COMPUTER 31](#)

19-20 November 2009

at the Congress Centre, London

- Call for Papers

[MACHINE TRANSLATION TWENTY-FIVE YEARS](#)

21-22 November 2009, Mitchell Hall, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK

Organised by: The Natural Language Translation Specialist Group of The British Computer Society (BCS-NLTSG).

- Arabization Annual Conference

For more information see: [www.taareeb.info](http://www.taareeb.info)

Contact: mhamalwy@hotmail.com

- [Impact of Media and New Technologies on Languages](#)

The Fifth International Conference

of the Faculty Al-Asun Minia University, December 7-9, 2009

at the Suzanne Mubarak Auditorium, Minia University, Egypt

- 1st Symposium on Automatic Processing of the Amazigh Language (SITACAM)

12-13 Dec 2009, Agadir, Morocco

[Web Site: http://www.encg-agadir.ac.ma/sitacam/](http://www.encg-agadir.ac.ma/sitacam/)

Contact Person: Ali Rachidi sitacam@gmail.com

- Symposium

[Towards A Transliteration Standard of Arabic: Challenges and Solutions](#)

15-16 December, 2009, Abu Dhabi, UAE

For more information contact: Dr Abdulrahman Al-Hashemi a.alhashemi@ioe.ae

- Call for papers

[Ninth Conference on Language Engineering](#)

23-24 December, 2009

The Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

- [ACSE 2010](#)

The Sixth IASTED International Conference  
on Advances in Computer Science and Engineering  
March 15-17, 2010  
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

- [INFOS 2010](#)

The 7th International Conference on Informatics and Systems  
28-30 March, 2010, Cairo, EGYPT  
[Special Track on Natural Language Processing and Knowledge Mining](#)

- Call for papers

[LREC 2010](#) - The 7th edition of the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference will take place in Valetta (Malta) on May 17-23, 2010.

### 3. Other news

#### Corpus:

A new version of the Crescent Quran Corpus is now freely available online at <http://quran.uk.net>. The corpus contains both morphological and syntactic annotation of the Quran in Arabic. Previous releases of the corpus focused on the morphology of Classical Arabic, but this new release now includes an in-progress syntactic treebank of the Quran.

#### Books:

- Semantic Deviation in the Arabic MT'ed English Text; Symptoms & Effects by Dr. Ahmed Ragheb Ahmed; RDI.

[Arab World for Publishing & Distribution-Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum foundation-UAE](#),  
July 2009.

- New Book on Arabic Second Language Acquisition of Morphosyntax by Mohammad T. Alhawary  
Yale University Press (April 2009)

[See description](#)

- New Book on Information Structure in Spoken Arabic. Edited by Jonathan Owens, Alaa Elgibali.

[See description at Routledge.](#)

#### Paper:

[Fassieh: A Semi-Automatic Visual Interactive Tool for the Morphological, PoS-Tags, Phonetic, and Semantic Annotation of the Arabic Text](#)

by Attia, M., Rashwan, M., Al-Badrashiny, M.

In IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech, and Language Processing (TASLP): Special Issue on Processing Morphologically Rich Languages, July 2009, Volume 17-Issue 5

#### 4. How to contribute to the MEDAR project

Please help by sending us information on coming events, new software, resources, books, papers and journals. We will distribute it via this newsletter and put it on the MEDAR homepage [www.medar.info](http://www.medar.info).

If you wish to contribute to the work of the MEDAR project, please fill in the survey questionnaire about your language resources and/or the industry needs for language resources.

You can find a link to the survey questionnaire at: [www.medar.info](http://www.medar.info)

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To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter, please send an email to: [nemlar@hum.ku.dk](mailto:nemlar@hum.ku.dk)

The newsletter is published by the MEDAR project [www.medar.info](http://www.medar.info) and produced by Centre for Language Technology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

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