This report provides an overview of presentations and discussions from a two-day workshop held in the Jordan Museum, Amman on the 27th and 28th of June 2018. 28 official Jordanian and 32 UK delegates attended the meeting, together with some additional Jordanians from the Department of Antiquities. Unfortunately, HE Prof Monther Jamhawi, the Director General of the Department of Antiquities could not attend as he was called away to UNESCO meetings in Bahrein. HE Lina Annab, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities was able to attend part of the first day to listen to presentations. Two representatives from the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) attended the meeting.

The workshop was opened with welcome addresses by Ihab Amarin, Director of the Jordan Museum, Adam Walker, Head of International at the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Samia Khouri, Director of Museums and Awareness in the Department of Antiquities (DoA), on behalf of Monther Jamhawi, and Gayathri Warnasuriya of the British Embassy. Introductions placed the meeting in context, explaining the importance of the Khalidi name in the fund title to recognise the Jordanian biochemist and artist Usama al-Khalidi for his desire to achieve international collaboration through science. The roles of AHRC, UKRI and BEIS were explained with regard to the Newton fund system. The Newton Fund was noted as supporting collaborations which promote the economic development and social welfare of countries involved. Adrian Cole of the Science and Technology Facilities Council of the UK provided an introduction to their work. He noted they were keen to work cross council and had facilities for the non-destructive analysis of cultural materials. STFC has a small budget in the Newton Khalidi programme.

The aims of the workshop were set out as:

1) To launch the heritage programme
2) To bring together experts from UK/Jordan to build new relationships/research
3) To demonstrate the importance of cultural heritage to sustainable development in Jordan
4) To inform, scope and build initial partnerships for joint UK-Jordan research projects

The call for applications will be launched shortly after the workshop, calling for projects 2-3 years in duration, with grants of several £100k. Projects have to be collaborative and on the themes, with a PI in each country, plus investigators, research assistants, and wider partners as appropriate. The Jordanian PI need not be defined in UK terms and might not have to be at a university. Up to £250,000 over 2-3 years could be provided on the UK side (FEC), plus
Jordan matching funding. Projects have to respond to the key themes of this workshop, projects cross-cutting the themes would be welcome. Projects must contribute to the economic and social welfare of Jordan. The call will open in late July and close in mid-November with a joint review panel in December, and project to start by February 2019. The call may require or encourage a networking or partnership component for the initial stages of projects.

The two-day workshop was divided into three case study presentations, interspersed with four main themes:

- Theme 1: Re-writing the History of Jordan through script analysis, historical docs and archaeological discoveries
- Theme 2: Digitisation and the use of technology in the interpretation, presentation and restoration of cultural heritage
- Theme 3: Cultural heritage and sustainable growth
- Theme 4: Museums and community engagement

Each theme was briefly introduced by a Jordanian and a UK speaker and followed by small group discussions, with each group presenting its key observations at the end of the discussion. On the final day participants separated into groups to discuss the themes, and finally to consider potential projects.

Case Studies

Steven Mithen of the University of Reading gave a presentation on the Faynan Heritage Project, a project seeking pathways to economic development through eco-tourism, large scale archaeological excavations, and education. Ihab Amarin discussed the role of the Jordan Museum, and how it is constantly having to reposition and transform as the world changes. Mike Robinson of the University of Birmingham talked about using world heritage for sustainable development. He noted that in 2015 UNESCO brought sustainable development perspectives to world heritage to tackle the 17 sustainable development goals, emphasising that this is often not about what is happening in the site, but how the site can be used.

Theme 1 - Re-writing the History of Jordan through script analysis, historical docs and archaeological discoveries.

This theme was introduced by Omar al-Ghul of Yarmouk University and Carol Palmer of the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL). The main point expressed was the need for Jordanians to write their own history. Colonial perspectives have alienated ordinary people in Jordan from their cultural heritage and history of everyday lives has to be produced to reconnect people with their heritage. The classification of heritage before 1750 as archaeology (athar) and post 1750 as heritage (turath) further separated people from their past. Jordan is mature enough now to live with multiple identities and these should be reflected in its history.
This introduction was followed by small group discussions, with each group reporting its main conclusions. Key points that arose included:

- The large scale of Jordanian history is a challenge and it is difficult to absorb in a single study. It has to go beyond current geographical/political boundaries and requires a multi-disciplinary approach.
- Who owns Jordanian history? It is not just the academic world and it is important to consult with people. There is a need to make people proud to be Jordanian.
- How do local, untold stories of daily life affect the current narrative? Again, this requires connecting with people and their oral history.
- How do global historical narratives come through Jordan?
- What is the truth, there are multiple narratives, is there a single true story to tell?
- Why should people care? The past is political and both Jordanian and UK experts need to decolonise their approaches.
- How can we connect to the deeper past, beyond oral history? Can similarities in everyday lives be used as a way to help people recognise the deep past as their own heritage.

In the summary discussion, the following points arose:

- Jordanian history is a vast topic, but rewriting it has to be human centred.
- It is a politically sensitive topic, both due to the colonial past and the multiple identities in modern Jordan. Projects on this theme have to be led by Jordanians.
- Experts and local people need to work together to tell multiple narratives, local and global, Jordanian and regional, to reach different audiences and meet what people want. Jordan is sufficiently mature to recognise the complexity and sensitivity of history.
- Historical research should stress continuities and connections between past and present to help people relate to their heritage, and bring them closer to the deep past.

Theme 2 - Digitisation and the use of technology in the interpretation, presentation and restoration of cultural heritage

This theme was introduced by James Smithies of King’s College London and Ahmad Freeman of the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Governance, access to the resource, the complexity of the data and the scale of projects were all important issues, as were post-project issues of sustainability in terms of budget and skills. Project objectives should define documentation, enhance experience, help interpretation, technology transfer, commercial opportunities.

These introductions were again followed by small group discussions, with each group reporting its main conclusions. Key points that arose included:

- A scoping exercise is needed. It is important to avoid re-inventing the wheel with new projects starting from scratch. Jordan is already a Middle Eastern leader in some areas
and research projects could help strengthen this role. Much data has been digitised, but is not openly available online, or not compatible with other digital platforms.

- Post-funding costs can be very expensive and digital technology projects should include capacity building and training.
- The purpose and accuracy of the data have to be established. Should digitisation focus on presentation or preservation (instability in the region makes the latter very important)? The digital record can be used for monitoring conservation. Digitisation is a tool, not an objective.
- Jordan has multiple private and hidden archives. People are digitising their own lives now – can that be curated?
- The ethics of digitisation are important and have to be factored into all projects.
- We can visualise things that no longer exist, where evidence is not visually impressive, or have been reburied. Digitisation can be a good engagement tool, social media is particularly good for engaging youth. Accessibility within a Jordanian context is very important.

In the summary discussion, the following questions arose:

- What does the digital heritage landscape currently look like, what capacity has to be built, and how can it be integrated into a national framework?
- How can digital technology be used in Jordan for engagement, outreach and publicity?
- How can technology in cultural heritage be used to help develop the Jordanian tech sector?
- How can technology be used to safeguard heritage?

**Theme 3 - Cultural heritage and sustainable growth**

Ihab Amarin and Ksena Chmutina of Loughborough University introduced this theme. They emphasized that sustainability is now within the spirit of the world heritage convention. Heritage is affected by tourism pressure, the pressures created by economic growth/development, the lack of technical capacity for management and conservation, the lack of resources to support measures required to protect the heritage, acts of vandalism, and the failure to enforce regulations designed to protect heritage. Mitigation measures should be used as an opportunity to support social wellbeing, and the role of cultural heritage in society.

These introductions were again followed by small group discussions, with each group reporting its main conclusions. Key points that arose included:

- There is a need for local consultation, how do communities value and identify their heritage? How does heritage support local identities? How do people want to use their heritage (they may not want tourism)?
- People’s futures are important as well as the past. Local communities may have an expectation of rapid benefits from heritage projects, but sustainability is about more than tourism. What is the value of the informal economy? Looting, as an alternative use of heritage, is not sustainable, nor are craft products. How does heritage include
and support traditional skills and knowledge? Traditional food products may be very sustainable, but may not be directly related to formal heritage and the economic benefit may be indirect through heritage branding.

- How can all the many sites be managed? Local people should manage their own sites. There is a need for local champions.
- What is the goal of research and heritage, not all sites are important for sustainable growth. Jordan should use in country skills, reducing its reliance on foreign consultants. There is a need for evaluation of the many projects that have been undertaken on Jordan.

In the summary discussion, the following points arose:

- World Heritage Sites are potential nodes of development, but the development may relate to how the site can be mobilised. Research should be undertaken on opportunities deriving from heritage sites.
- Tangible and intangible heritage should be more integrated, the intangible heritage may contain greater prospects for sustainable development and traditional skills may help to reduce disaster vulnerability. Research should be undertaken on economic diversification beyond tourism.
- Focussing on intangible heritage and away from the site itself may help address inequity in distribution of the benefits of cultural heritage.
- There are different scales of governance, national, regional, local (site/place). Sustainable sites require resource efficient resilient infrastructure.
- There needs to be support provided to the informal sector to help develop SMEs.

**Theme 4 - Museums and community engagement**

Arwa Badran of Durham University and Fatima Mari of Jordan University introduced this theme, asking what kind of engagement we need and how can we harness it. The need to engage the community, especially young people, to create a culture of museum lovers was stressed. Options included more formal education and giving people hands on experience within the museum.

Small group discussions came up with the following key points:

- Whose heritage is this – more community consultation is required. Local communities have been disenfranchised by experts. People should be encouraged to be proud of their heritage. There are many potential stakeholders and audiences, but there is a need to push beyond current audiences, which will need new strategies. However, you can’t make people engage with their heritage. Museums are often targeted at tourists, not community. Museums need to be more family friendly. Engagement is not just about young people though.
- What is done to train teachers? Partnerships should be developed between museums and schools. Museums should be in more modern buildings, with more technology to better present their collections. Museums needed to undertake greater outreach. Museums need more rotation of exhibits, but they should also be more varied in what they display, not just archaeology. They should be about stories, not just objects.
• There are serious issues regarding how to store things, there is finite capacity, and decisions need to be made about what needs to be curated.

In the summary discussion, the following questions arose:

• National museums are part of the colonial legacy, and there is a need to step away from this.
• Local consultation has to be seen to have an effect, and one aspect is ensuring that museum interpretation fits into local stories – emphasising the Jordanian and local specificities.
• Museums have to be inclusive by linking present to past, landscapes of continuity, eco-museums.
• Access to public space, museums are about community, not just children.
• Make museums more interesting places:
  o co-design, co-curation, with local stakeholders, public participation
  o rotating exhibitions
  o mobile museums, alternatives to museums
  o archiving local and private collections
  o curating intangible heritage
  o not just archaeological objects in museums, contemporary collections, museums about things and people
• Museums need to develop greater capacity for sustainability.

Theme 5: Cross cutting themes

It was noted at the start of the meeting that the AHRC was keen on interdisciplinary approaches and during the meeting many of the discussions of potential projects noted considerable overlap between the different themes.

• One point that came up in many discussions was that local communities are an essential part of heritage. Problems lie in the way ‘the most significant’ cultural heritage has been identified, cutting it off from community with boundaries and buffer zones. Cultural heritage has been overly limited to the archaeological/architectural patrimony, placing it under the control of experts and removing it from the community. Research projects and experts have to engage with these communities.
• Heritage is a potential educational resource for the development for local communities, employment, a driver for professionalism, enhances urban environments (social wellbeing, good citizenship), and is a driver for innovation by motivating creativity. Work needs to be undertaken to realise this potential.
• The (re-)writing of local heritage/history is vital to enable cultural heritage to be used to support sustainable growth – as this process should re-connect people to their past and help them mobilise their heritage to support present day lives. Decolonisation approaches have to be developed. Research is needed to help create alternative livelihoods – not just relying on heritage tourism.
• Vulnerable groups (including refugees) have been sucked into urban contexts, but losing traditional skills and rights in the process. There is a need to support place making in an urban context, with the re-construction of meaning and identity. Rewriting a Jordanian history and making museums reflect ordinary lives would both support such initiatives.

• The focus on preservation of the physical fabric of heritage, seeing all development as destructive, has often destroyed the meaning of heritage to contemporary populations, for example moving the Bedouin out of the caves in Petra. This can be mitigated by improving information flow on emerging policies from UNESCO to site managers. There is poor coordination between stakeholders – development consultants and heritage curators. Research is required on how to reconnect people to their heritage and retain its meaning. The interpretation of heritage should include contemporary conceptions.

• We need to produce better empirical evidence on how cultural heritage sustains development. Cultural heritage is affected by natural hazards, conflict, development, while the loss of traditional skills increases vulnerability to disasters. Research is needed on how deep time data can be used to inform future management and develop resilience to reduce vulnerability. Digital technology can be used to help monitor heritage. Past projects need to be evaluated to assess their efficacy and the success of governance systems.

• People should become more concerned with their heritage and history. It is vital to connect with a younger generation and this can be partially fulfilled by promoting heritage in education. Museums are a good place to start to fulfil the need to present the past to make it more comprehensible. There is a need to develop a museum-going culture, making museums accessible and interesting. Digital technology can help here too, e.g. apps to visualize archaeological sites.

• Jordan has multiple private and hidden archives. People are digitising their own lives now – can that be curated? Can the contemporary familiarity with digital technology be used to help rewrite history?

• We can visualise things that no longer exist, where evidence is not visually impressive, or have been reburied. Digitisation can be a good engagement tool, and social media is particularly good for engaging youth with heritage. Accessibility within a Jordanian context is very important

A final session consisted of discussions between prospective project partners discussing initial thoughts and ideas for projects.