

IV. Muslim Networking: the Qur'an and the Hajj

This section of the module focuses on the early transmission of knowledge about Islam, in two ways. Firstly, it approaches the development and transmission of the Qur'an in written forms. Secondly, there is a discussion on how knowledge about Islam was transmitted via the Hajj. These sections are though guided reading.

Qur'an on paper

Bloom's book *Paper before Print* marks an important contribution to our understanding of the diffusion of knowledge about Islam. In the section provided, Bloom discusses early production of Qur'an manuscripts

Jonathan M. Bloom, *Paper before Print: the history and impact of paper in the Islamic world* (New Haven, London: Yale University Press, 2001). Chapter 3, 90-123.

If you are unable to obtain that book, see Bloom's [Silk Road or Paper Road?](#)

In the Oxford Islamic Studies Online, see the following article on the Qur'an: http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t243/e275?_hi=18&_pos=2

The Hajj

Knowledge about Islam was also transmitted through the Hajj. The pilgrimage became a meeting point for the exchange of information about Islam, with travellers from various parts of the Muslim world gathering to share in the sacred ritual established during the time of Muhammad (with a link to pre-Islamic practices). The hajj has continued to be a place where scholars (and others) come together, offering political and religious cohesion (at times), and status for those sponsoring pilgrimages or providing secure passage on the hazardous routes. F.E. Peters provides an overview of different journeys undertaken towards Mecca:

F.E. Peters, *The Hajj: The Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca and the Holy Places*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994), chapter II, 60-108 [available via Moodle]

Further reading

David W. Tschanz, 'Journeys of Faith, Roads of Civilization', *Saudi Aramco World* January/February 2004

<http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200401/journeys.of.faith.roads.of.civilization.htm>