

CI Lab Notes

From the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, with the support of the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Benton Foundation, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Afro-American Studies and Research Program, Illinois Informatics Institute and Community Informatics Initiative

A bibliography and weblibliography of Arab Chicago

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This Lab Note reflects the first stage of a three-year research project known as eChicago. This project is funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the full title of the project is Chicago community informatics: Places, uses, resources. Our interest here is to examine the population of Chicago, in particular a subset of ethnicities and community areas, and analyze how these communities are navigating the digital age. Stage one is to understand the communities today and discover how they are represented in cyberspace. Thus our initial products include a weblibliography/bibliography on each community.

Further work will entail surveying the communities for public access computing sites (Places), interviewing members of community organizations on how they use digital tools (Uses), and helping a subset of these groups create digital resources that represent their cultural heritage and identity (Resources). Our theoretical framework centers on social capital and social networks.

The method employed in this bibliography/weblibliography was to search (1) the University of Illinois Library catalog and databases and (2) the Web, starting with Yahoo and Google but following all possible links. We worked in both English and Arabic combining the search terms Chicago, Arab, Arabic, Arabian, Islamic, along with history, language, health, women, Islamic centers, business, restaurant, food, seniors, technology, sports, politics, attitude, music, communities, non profit organization, Palestinian and Lebanese. Additional search terms in Arabic included, for example:

عرب شيكاغو – العرب في شيكاغو – العمالة العربية في شيكاغو
– الصحافة العربية في شيكاغو – المطاعم العربية في شيكاغو
الفلسطينيون في شيكاغو – اللبنانيون في شيكاغو – السوريون في شيكاغو.

We defined “Arab” as “a member of an ethnic group which identifies as such on the basis of either genealogical or linguistic grounds, sometimes including Arabized populations.”¹ For the categories in the weblibliography, we adopted the 21 categories laid out in Alkalimat (2004) and added one more, Non-Profit Organizations. Resources were not found for each of the 22 categories. Languages on the websites are indicated and where a particular country of origin in the Arab world seems to

predominate in a resource, this is also indicated.

This bibliography/weblibliography is a work in progress and will be updated. The urls listed reflect our recent search but are subject to change. If you know of missing items, we would appreciate hearing from you at the address below.

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The Community Informatics Lab is a research facility opened in January 2008 in order to study the interaction of local communities and information technology in the tradition of the bench sciences, with a physical lab space for multiple projects. Its goal is to perfect current methodologies and develop new ones. Current projects include eChicago (ethnic communities and technology use), TOP Data Archive (creating and using an archive of 600+ community technology projects), eBlack (creating and using two online datasets regarding African American Illinois and African American Studies), Pnet 15 (reviewing the 15 year history of PrairieNet), and Community Technology on Earth (coding and analyzing documented instances of community technology).

The CI Lab looks forward to becoming a research tool available for faculty and students studying local communities or carrying out research in local communities. We welcome inquiries and visits from across the university, the state, and beyond. A weekly pot luck dinner (Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 in LIS 341) is open to all.

For more information, contact Kate Williams, The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 501 E. Daniel Street MC-493, Champaign, Illinois 61820-6211 USA, tel (217) 244-9128, or email katewill@uiuc.edu.



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ⁱ "Arab" definition, Wikipedia.org, accessed February 23, 2008 at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab>.