



An Arabic-Multilingual Database with a **Lexicographic Search Engine**

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An Arabic-Multilingual Database with a Lexicographic Search Engine

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Abstract. We present a lexicographic search engine built on top of the largest Arabic multilingual database, allowing people to search and retrieve translations, synonyms, definitions, and more. The database currently contains about 150 Arabic multilingual lexicons that we have been digitizing, restructuring, and normalizing over 9 years. It comprises most types of lexical resources, such as modern and classical lexicons, thesauri, glossaries, lexicographic datasets, and (bi)/tri-lingual dictionaries. This is in addition to the Arabic Ontology – an Arabic WordNet with ontologically cleaned content, which is being used to reference and interlink lexical concepts. The search engine was developed with the state-of-the-art design features and according to the W3C’s recommendation and best practices for publishing data on the web, as well as the W3C’s Lemon RDF model. The search engine is publicly available at (<https://ontology.birzeit.edu>).

Keywords: Arabic · Multilingual lexicons · Online dictionary · Language resources · Lexical semantics · Lexicographic search · W3C lemon · RDF · NLP

1 Introduction and Motivation

The increasing demands to use and reuse dictionaries (of all types) in modern appli-

Mustafa Jarrar, Hamzeh Amayreh: **An Arabic-Multilingual Database with a Lexicographic Search Engine**. The 24th International Conference on Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems (NLDB 2019). Pages(234--246), LNCS 11608, Springer. 2019.



<http://www.jarrar.info/publications/JA19.pdf>

Why Lexical Resources!

- ❖ The importance of lexical resources (dictionaries, thesauri, wordnets, linguistic ontologies) is increasing in many application areas, such as:
 - NLP tasks and applications
 - Information search and retrieval
 - Multilingual big data
 - Multilingual semantic web
 - Data integration
 - among many others.
- ❖ Lack of Arabic Lexical resources for human use!
- ❖ Lack of Arabic Lexical resources for NLP!

Digitize, Collect, Build, then clean and link

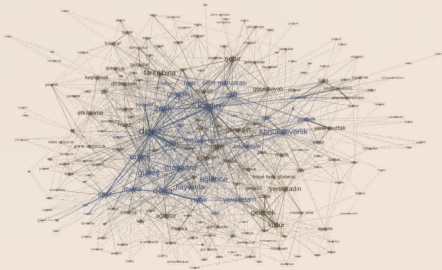
Solution



- Make available online for people
- Make available through APIs for NLP applications

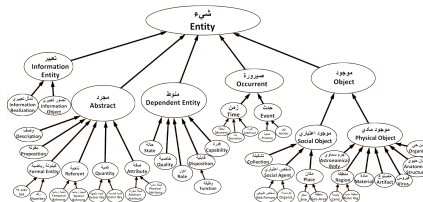
Lexical Resources at Birzeit University

Lexicographic Database



The largest Arabic-multilingual database (semantics & morphology)

Arabic Ontology



Classification of the meanings of the Arabic Terms - formal Arabic Wordnet

Dialect Corpus



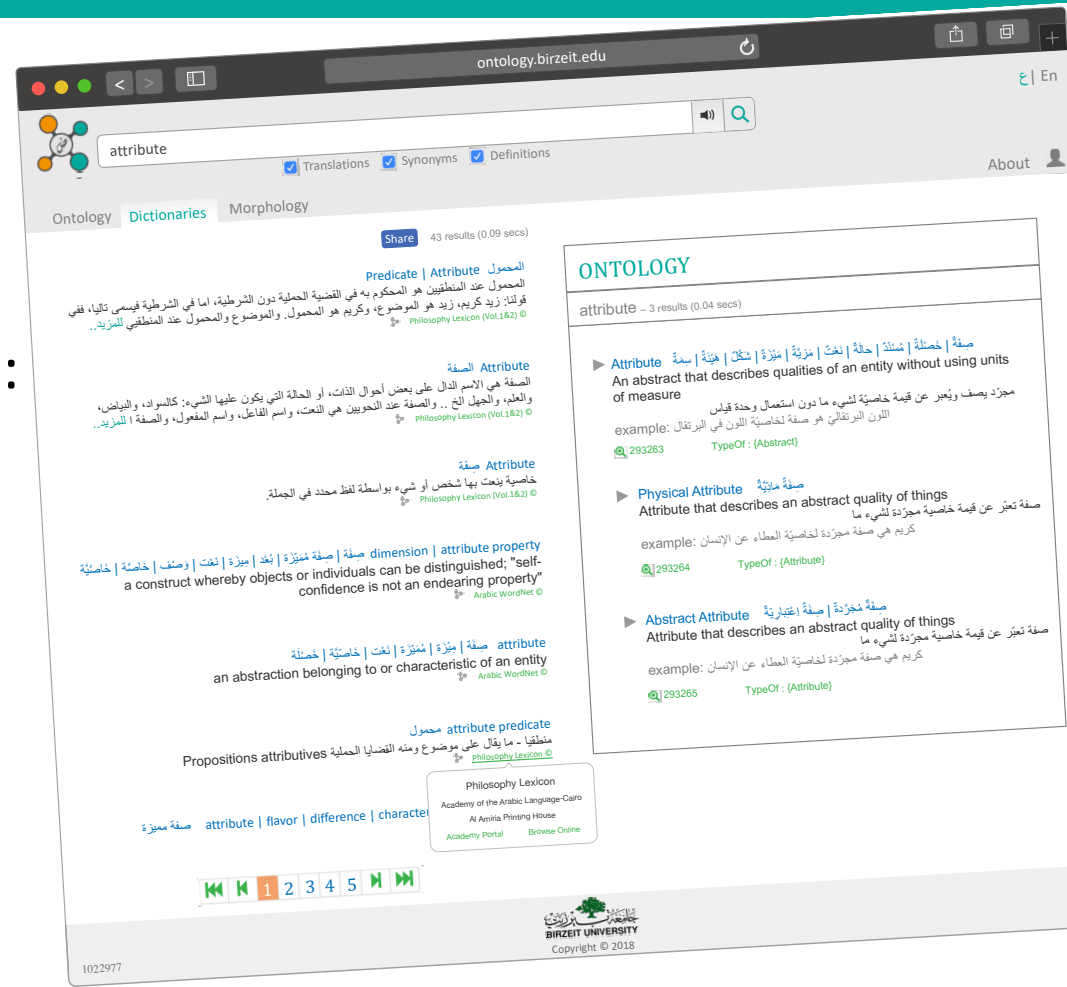
A large text in dialect, each word is annotated with 16 features

Linguistic Big Data Graph via a
Lexicographic Search Engine

The Lexicographic Database

The Lexicographic Database

- The largest lexicographic Arabic database
- Contains most lexicon types: glossaries, thesauri, bi/trilingual dictionaries, morph datasets, **Arabic Ontology**, and more.
- Covers most domains: science, technology, law, business, art, philosophy, ...



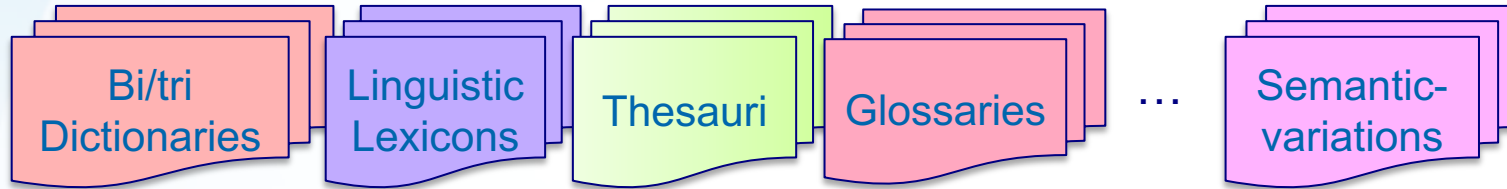
<https://ontology.birzeit.edu>

Some Statistics

Currently!

Category	Lexical Concepts	Lexical entries	Synsets	Translations pairs	Glosses	Semantic relations
Total (Millions)	1.1 M	2.4 M	1.8 M	1.5 M	0.7 M	0.5 M
Sub Counts		1,100K Arabic 1,100K English 200K French 3K Others 1,300K Single-word 1,000K Multi-word	800K Arabic 800K English 200K French 50K Others	1,000K English-Arabic 300K English-French 200K French-Arabic	400K Arabic 300K English 1K Others	170K Sub-super links 29K Part-of links 260K Has-Domain links 30K Other links

Constructing the Database (9 years)

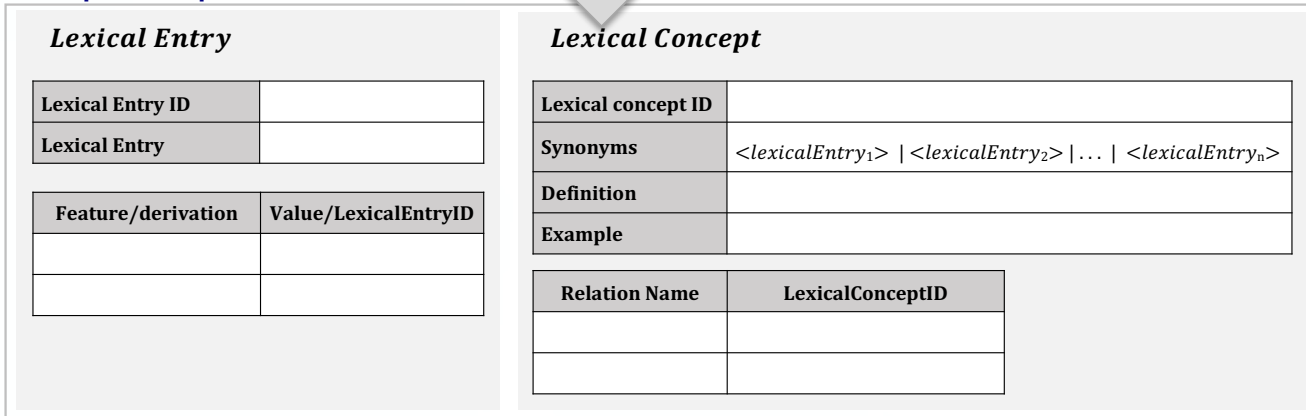


manual
digitization
150 lexicons

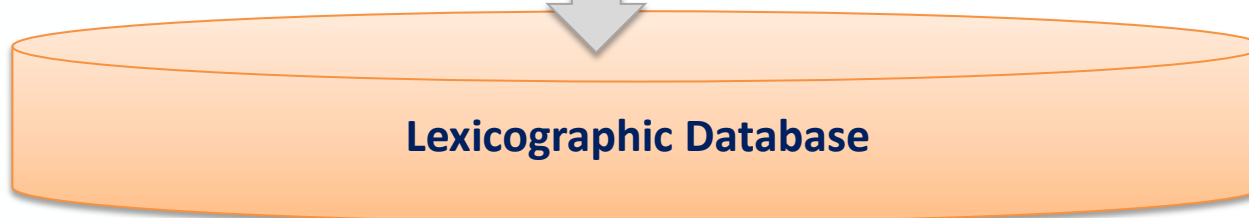
multilingual, semantics,

morphology, features...

Temp Templates



Semi-automatic
cleaning and
normalization



Cleaning and Normalization

- Lexicons are typically designed to be printed and used as hard copies.
- Big challenges when converting them into a machine processable format.

Examples of challenges:

Challenges induced by ordering:

“accelerator (linear..)”, “affinity (chemical)”, “drawing (final)”, “earth (the)”, and “crush (to)”, “tube (pipe)”, “academy (of art)”

Subterm synonymy:

“liquid drier, drier”, “calomel electrode, calomel”, “kelvin's scale, kelvin's absolute scale”

Long multiword lexical entries:

“buildings or other structures recurrent taxes on land”. Such cases of long and “poor”

Character set: Same characters and symbols have different encodings across different languages (e.g., the dash, quotations, punctuations, and whitespaces),

➤ **See 30 parsers at:**

Hamzeh Amayreh, Mohammad Dwaikat, and Mustafa Jarrar. **Lexicon Digitization -A Framework for Structuring, Normalizing and Cleaning Lexical Entries**, Technical Report, Birzeit University 2018.

Obtaining Copyrights

- Obtained permission from each lexicons owner (individually contacted).
- Most accepted!
- Show lexicon name and © copyright symbol beside each result.
- Promote lexicons (click to see lexicon info)

The screenshot shows a web browser at ontology.birzeit.edu with a search for 'attribute'. The search results are displayed in Arabic and English. A callout box highlights the 'Philosophy Lexicon' entry, which includes the name of the lexicon, the Academy of the Arabic Language-Cairo, and the AI Amiria Printing House. The callout box also contains links for 'Academy Portal', 'Browse Online', and 'Buy'.

Search results for 'attribute' (3 results, 0.04 secs):

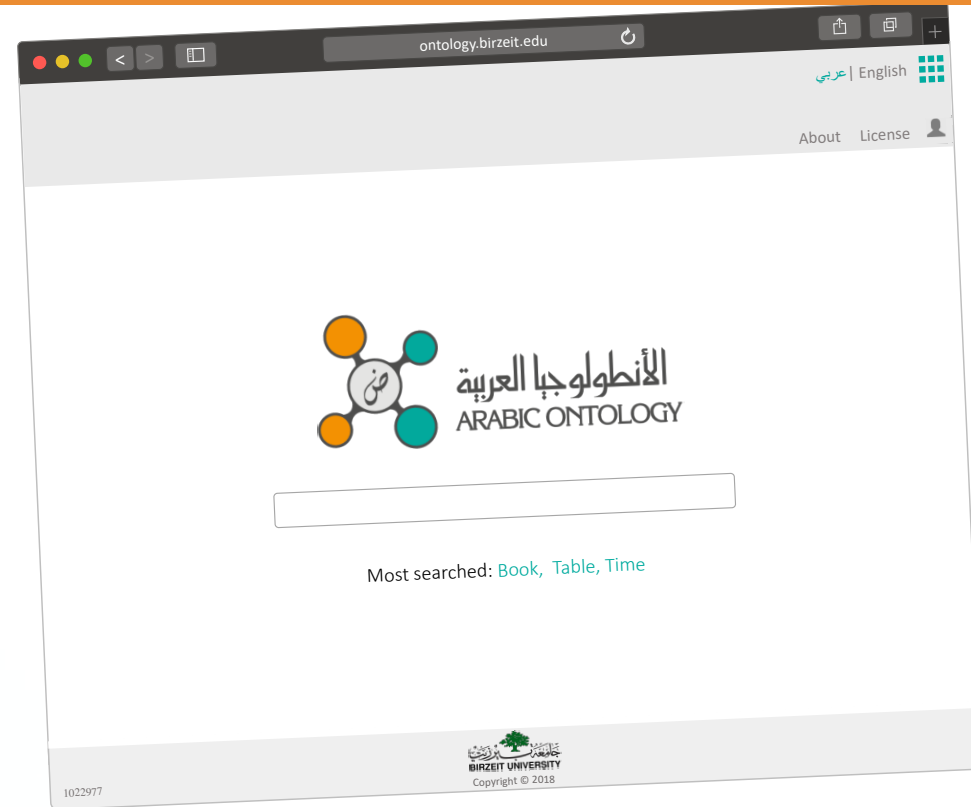
- Attribute** | صفة
An abstract that describes qualities of an entity without using units of measure
example: اللون البرتقالي هو صفة لخاصية اللون في البرتقال
293263 TypeOf: (Abstract)
- Physical Attribute** | صفة مادية
Attribute that describes an abstract quality of things
example: كريم هي صفة مجردة لخاصية العطاء عن الإنسان
293264 TypeOf: (Attribute)
- Abstract Attribute** | صفة مجردة
Attribute that describes an abstract quality of things
example: كريم هي صفة مجردة لخاصية العطاء عن الإنسان
293265 TypeOf: (Attribute)

Philosophy Lexicon
Academy of the Arabic Language-Cairo
AI Amiria Printing House
Academy Portal Browse Online Buy

Lexicographic Search Engine

Lexicographic Search Engine

- **Free access to people:** students, translators, researchers, Arabic learners ...
- **API accessible** for NLP applications.



<https://ontology.birzeit.edu>

Reference:

Mustafa Jarrar, Hamzeh Amayreh: **An Arabic-Multilingual Database with a Lexicographic Search Engine.** NLDB 2019. Pages(234--246), LNCS 11608, Springer. 2019.

Lexicographic Search Engine

- Search **150 lexicons** for definitions, synonyms, specialized translations, morphology, ontology...
- **Accurate!** compared with machine translation.
- **The first of its kind!** e.g., there are no similar search engines for English lexicons!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://ontology.birzeit.edu/about>. The page features a search bar at the top with the text "Search Arabic and English terms ...". Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "Ontology", "Dictionaries", and "Morphology". The main heading is "Lexicographic Search Engine" with the subtitle "The largest Arabic lexical database: Arabic Ontology + 150 Arabic dictionaries." The page is divided into two main sections: "The Arabic Ontology" and "150 Dictionaries".

The Arabic Ontology
An Arabic Wordnet with ontologically-clean content. Classification of the meanings of the Arabic terms, based on state-of-art science, rather than on speakers' naive knowledge, see[1].

150 Dictionaries
Multilingual dictionaries were digitized and integrated. Only the semantic features (definitions, synonyms, translations) are currently displayed, soon the morphological features.

Ontology Top Levels
The top levels of the Arabic Ontology tree are the most abstract concepts in Arabic; they are philosophically and logically well defined. This figure shows only the top three levels.

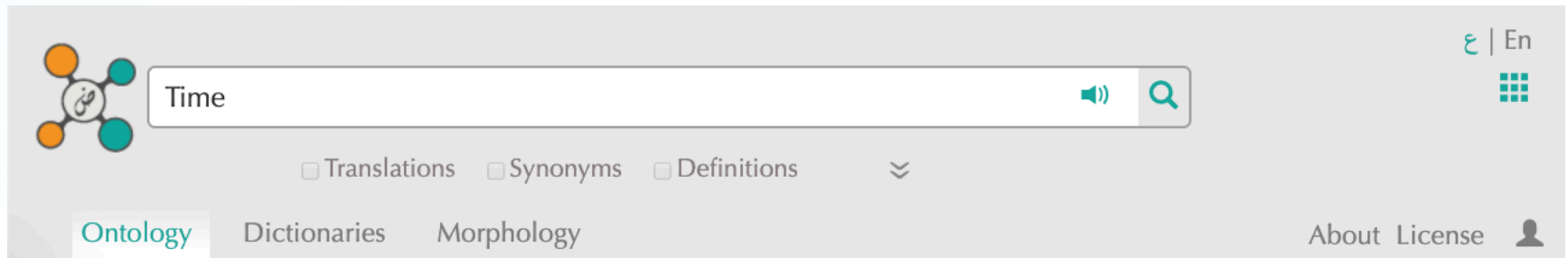
The ontology tree diagram shows the following structure:

- Entity (كائِن)
- Information Entity (مَعْلُومَاتِيّ كائِن)
- Abstract (مُجَرَّأ)
- Dependent Entity (مُعْتَمِد كائِن)
- Occurrence (مَوْجُودَاتِيّ كائِن)
- Object (مَوْجُودَاتِيّ كائِن)
- Physical Object (مَوْجُودَاتِيّ كائِن مَوْجُودَاتِيّ كائِن)

<https://ontology.birzeit.edu>

Search Taps

Ontology tab: results in this tab are ontology concepts retrieved only from the Arabic ontology. The tab also allows expanding and exploring the ontology tree.



Time

Translations Synonyms Definitions

Ontology Dictionaries Morphology

About License

▶ time | مَدَّةٌ | زَمَنٌ | فِتْرَةٌ

An occurrent representing a region in the timeline, realized by its starting and ending points, its length represents the temporal dimension of events or objects

مَجْرَدٌ يُمَثِّلُ جِزَاءً مِنْ خَطِّ الزَّمَنِ الْمَدْرَكِ، تَدْرِكُ ذَاتَهُ بِنَقْطَةِ بَدَايَةِ وَنَقْطَةِ نِهَائِهِ طَوْلَهَا يُمَثِّلُ زَمَنَ أَحْدَاثٍ أَوْ مَوْجُودَاتٍ

example: يستغرق دوران الأرض حول الشمس زمناً يعرف بالسنة:

293570  TypeOf : {Occurrent}

▶ Interval | Time Interval | فِتْرَةٌ | فِتْرَةٌ زَمَنِيَّةٌ

Amount of time, its length is calculated based on the the temporal dimension of astrological events, its starting and ending points are not equal, and has no gaps.

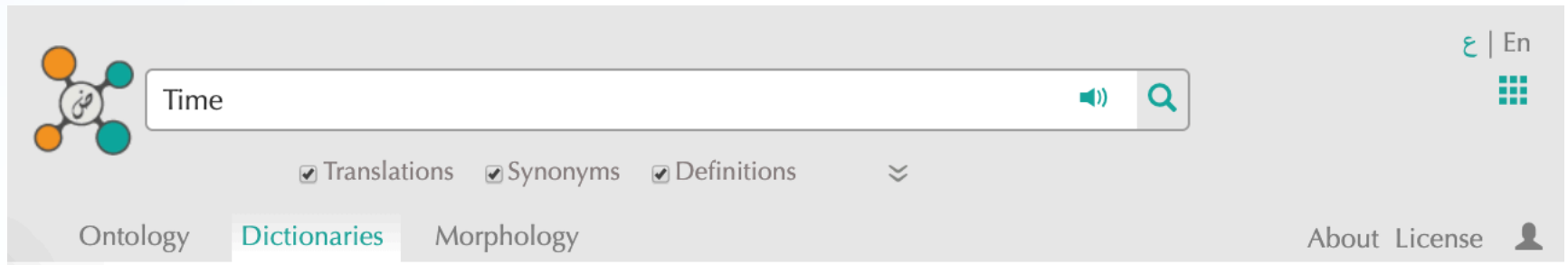
زَمَنٌ يُكَمَّمُ وَيُحَسَبُ بِنَاءٍ عَلَى مَا يَنَاطُ بِهِ مِنْ أَحْدَاثٍ فَلَكَيَّةٍ، لَهُ بَدَايَةٌ وَنِهَائَةٌ غَيْرِ مُتَسَاوِيَةٍ، تَخْلُو مِنَ الثَّغَرَاتِ الزَّمَنِيَّةِ

example: اللَّيْلُ هُوَ فِتْرَةٌ زَمَنِيَّةٌ بَيْنَ غُرُوبِ الشَّمْسِ وَشُرُوقِهَا:

293572  TypeOf : {time}

Search Taps

Dictionaries tab: results in this tab are lexical concepts retrieved from the lexicons.



The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing the word "Time". To the left of the search bar is a logo with four colored circles (orange, green, blue, red) around a central Arabic character. To the right of the search bar are a speaker icon and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are three checked checkboxes: "Translations", "Synonyms", and "Definitions". Below these are three tabs: "Ontology", "Dictionaries" (which is highlighted), and "Morphology". In the top right corner, there is a language selector showing "ع | En" and a grid icon. In the bottom right corner, there is a link for "About License" and a user profile icon.

time noun إسم زَمان

اسم مشتق للدلالة على زمان وقوع الفعل

Lexicon of Knowledge Engineering ©

Time الزمان

1 - الزمان الوقت كثيره وقليله. وهو المدة الواقعة بين حادثتين أولاهما سابقة وثانيتها لاحقة، ومنه زمان الحصاد، وزمان الشباب، وزمان الجاهلية. وجمع الزمان أزمنة، تقول: السنة أربعة أزم للمزيد..

Philosophy Lexicon (Vol.1&2) ©

Reaction-time زمان الانعكاس

زمان الانعكاس هو المدة الواقعة بين وقت حدوث المؤثر ووقت رد الفعل. وله عدة أنواع كزمان الانعكاس البسيط، أو زمان الانعكاس لمؤثرين مختلفي الشدة، أو لمؤثرين متحدين، أو الإجابة بإشارة م للمزيد..

Philosophy Lexicon (Vol.1&2) ©

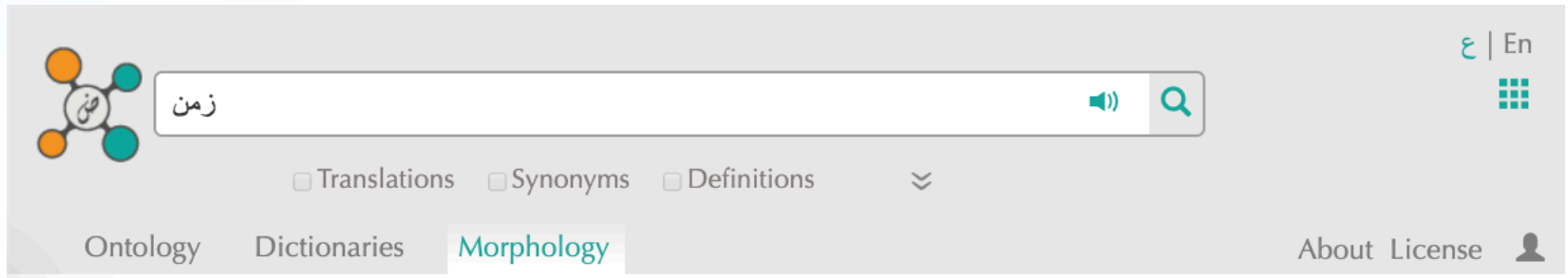
time زمان

وسط متجانس غير محدود تمر فيه الأحداث متلاحقة ، والمدة جزء منه . وقد يطلق على مدة معينة.

Philosophy Lexicon ©

Search Taps

Morphology tab: results are linguistic features, lemma(s), inflections, and derivations of the searched term (partially implemented!).



زمن

Translations Synonyms Definitions

Ontology Dictionaries **Morphology** About License

زَمَنْ
ج: أَزْمَانٌ، أَزْمُنٌ
المعجم الثاني ©

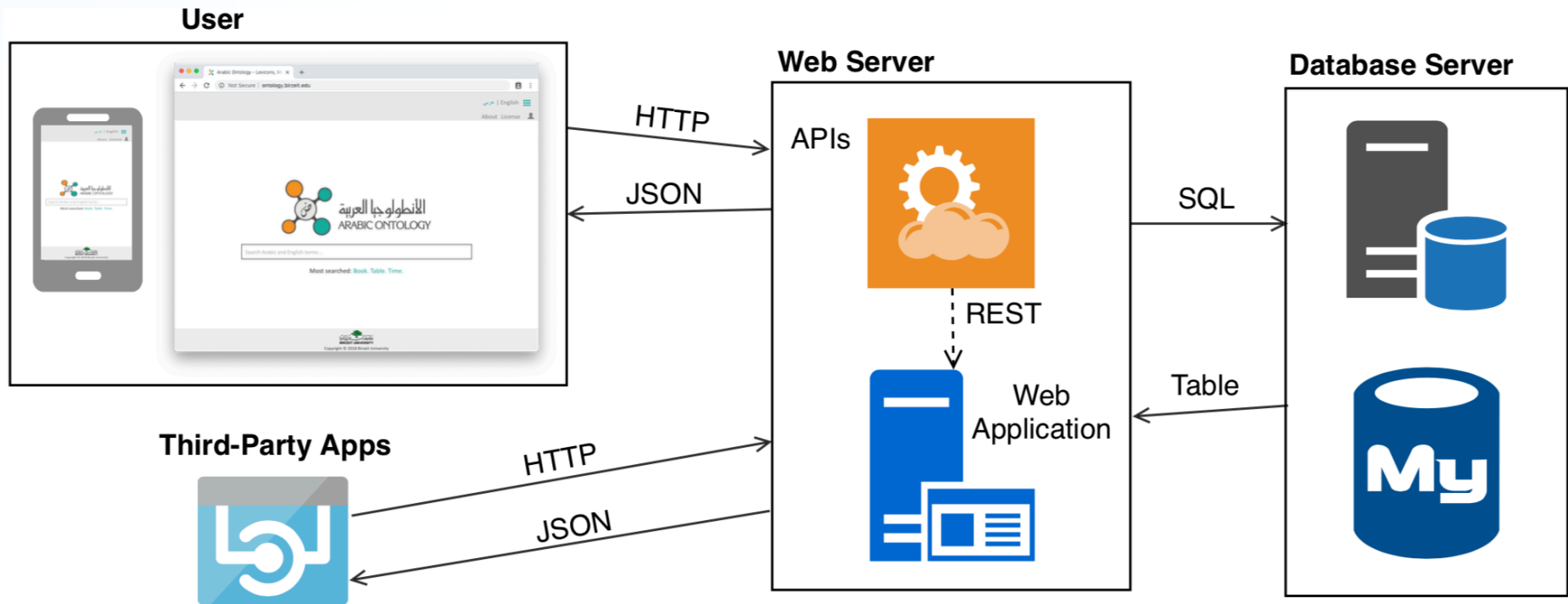
زَمِنْ
[ز م ن]. [ف: ثلا. لازم]. زَمِنْتُ، أَزْمِنُ، مَص. زَمَنْ
المعجم الثاني ©

زَمِينٌ
زَمِينٌ يَزْمِنُ، زَمْنًا وَزَمْنَةً وَزَمَانَةً، فَهُوَ زَمِينٌ وَزَمِينٌ
المعجم الأول ©

زَمَنْ
زَمَنْ [مفرد]: ج أَزْمُن (لغير المصدر) وَأَزْمَان (لغير المصدر)
المعجم الأول ©

زَمِينٌ

Search Engine Architecture



Conformance with W3C Standards

✓ W3C's RDF Lemon Model

Represent (lexical entries, concepts, synsets, ...) using the Lemon RDF model

To interlink it with the [Linguistic Linked Open Data Cloud](#)

التسوية levelling | grading

تحريك التربة أثناء إعداد الأرض للري للوصول إلى سطح مستو أو سطح ذي انحدار منتظم.

 Hydrology Lexicon ©

```
...
@prefix aot: <http://ontology.birzeit.edu/term/>.
@prefix aoc: <http://ontology.birzeit.edu/lexicalconcept/>.
@prefix aor: <http://ontology.birzeit.edu/lexicon/>.

<aoc:1623> a ontolex:LexicalConcept;
ontolex:isEvokedBy <aot:Lex-grading>;
ontolex:isEvokedBy <aot:Lex-levelling>;
ontolex:isEvokedBy <aot:Lex-تسوية>;
skos:definition "@ar;تحريك التربة أثناء إعداد الأرض للري للوصول إلى سطح مستو أو سطح...";
skos:inScheme <aor:Hydrology_Lexicon_1>.

<aot:lex-grading> a ontolex:LexicalEntry, ontolex:Word;
ontolex:canonicalForm [ontolex:writtenRep "grading"@en];
skos:inScheme <aor:Hydrology_Lexicon_1>.

<aot:lex-levelling> a ontolex:LexicalEntry, ontolex:Word;
ontolex:canonicalForm [ontolex:writtenRep "levelling"@en];
skos:inScheme <aor:Hydrology_Lexicon_1>.

<aot:lex-تسوية> a ontolex:LexicalEntry, ontolex:Word;
ontolex:canonicalForm [ontolex:writtenRep "تسوية"@ar];
skos:inScheme <aor:Hydrology_Lexicon_1>.
```

Based On:

Mustafa Jarrar, Hamzeh Amayreh, John McCarae: **Progress on Representing Arabic Lexicons in Lemon**. The 2nd Conference on Language, Data and Knowledge (LDK 2019), Germany. 2019.

Conformance with W3C Standards

- ✓ **W3C's Best Practices for Publishing Linked Data**
including the Cool URIs, simplicity, stability, and linking

URLs Schema:

- Each **term** is given a URL: `http://{domain}/term/{term}`
<http://ontology.birzeit.edu/term/virus>
- Each **lexical concept** is given a URL:
`http://{domain}/lexicalconcept/{lexicalConceptID}`
<https://ontology.birzeit.edu/lexicalconcept/304000682>
- Each **concept** in the Arabic Ontology has a URL:
`http://{domain}/concept/{ConceptID | Term}`
<https://ontology.birzeit.edu/concept/293262>
- Each **Semantic relation** is given a URL:
`http://{domain}/concept/{RelationName}/{ConceptID}`
<https://ontology.birzeit.edu/concept/instances/293121>
- The **W3C Lemon representation of each lexical concept** is given a URL: `http://{domain}/lemon/lexicalconcept/{lexicalConceptID}`
<https://ontology.birzeit.edu/lemon/lexicalconcept/304000682>

API Access

RESTful web services

Ask us for an API Key!

LexAPI v1.0

LexAPI 1.0 is a set of RESTful webservice that all together form an API for other third-party software developers to retrieve linguistic data from the [lexicographic search engine](#).

This page explains APIs with example links on each. A click on one of the links will send the request to the corresponding API and the returned JSON object will appear inside the Output box on the right.

APIs:

- + Search Dictionaries for a term:
- + Search Arabic Ontology for a term:
- + Retrieve a lexical concept:
- + Retrieve an Arabic Ontology concept:
- + Retrieve Morphology information:
- + Autocomplete Service:
- + Retrieve subtypes of an Onotlogy concept:
- + Retrieve concepts part of another concept:

Output (JSON):

```
{ "conceptID":1520039900, "arabicGloss":null, "englishGloss": "the fourth coordinate that is required (along with three spatial dimensions) to specify a physical event", "tags":null, "example":null, "lang":null, "dataSourceId":152, "synsetFrequency":null, "dataSourceCacheAr": "شبكة المفردات العربية", "dataSourceCacheEn": "Arabic WordNet", "englishWordsCache": "رُبْعُ زَاوِيَةٍ | وَتْدٌ | زَمَنٌ", "superId":1520039870, "superOrder":0, "superTypeCacheAr": "رُبْعٌ", "superTypeCacheEn": "dimension", "categoryId":null, "area":null, "era":null, "rank":null, "status":null, "subTypesCount":0, "partOfCount":0, "instancesCount":0, "instanceOfID":null, "undiacritizedArabicWordsCache": "رُبْعٌ | زَمَنٌ", "normalizedEnglishWordsCache": "fourth dimension | time", "exactWord":null }
```


The Arabic Ontology

Arabic Ontology

- Classification of the meanings of the Arabic terms, specified in D. Logic
- Can be used as a formal Arabic Wordnet -with ontologically-clean content.
- Linked with WordNet, WikiData, BFO, DOLCE
- Benchmarked to scientific advances rather than to speakers' naïve beliefs as wordnets do.

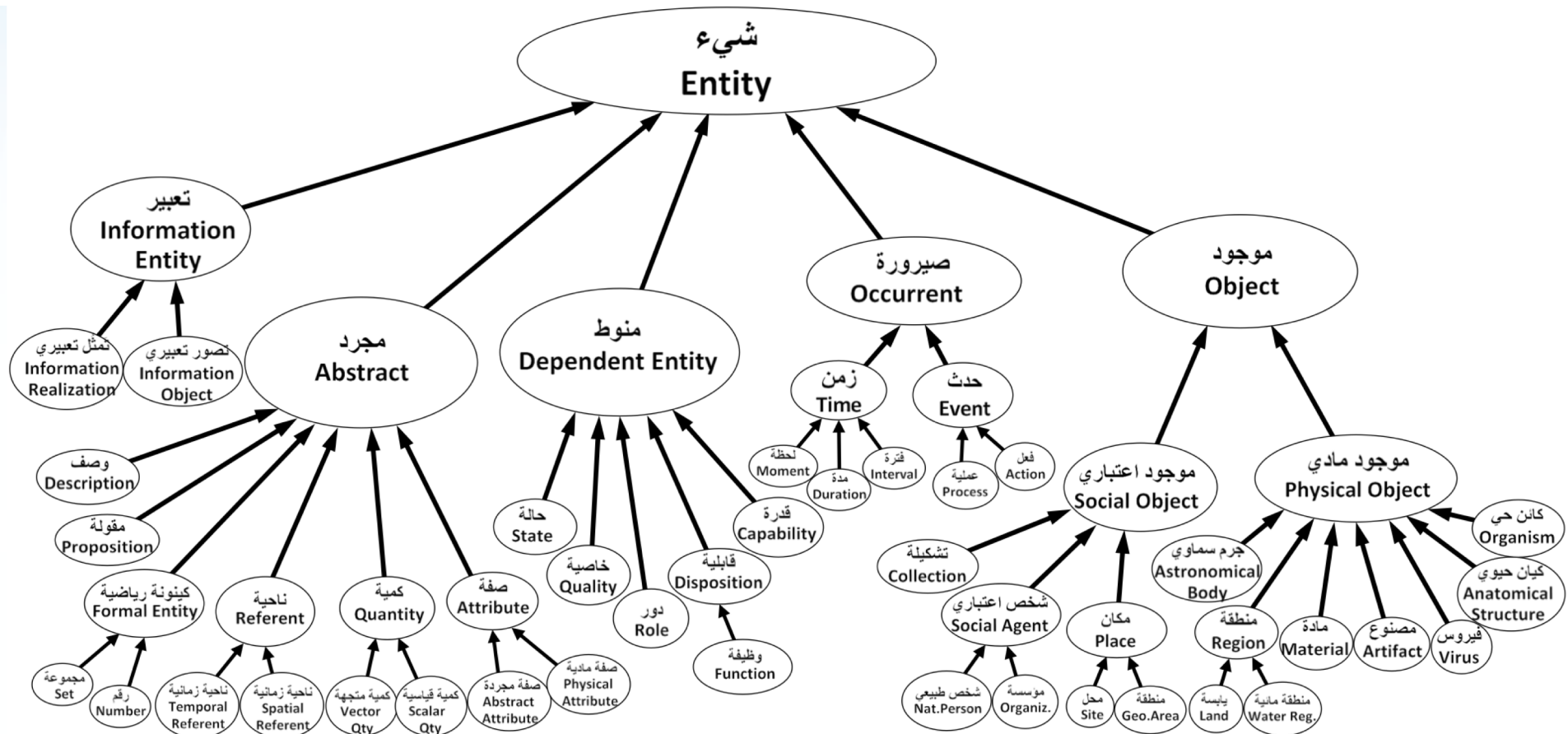
The screenshot shows the Arabic Ontology website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Translations', 'Synonyms', and 'Definitions'. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Ontology', 'Dictionaries', and 'Morphology'. The main content area displays the definition of 'Entity' (شيء) and its subtypes:

- Entity** (شيء | كَيْنُونَةٌ | كَائِن) : Whatever existed or will exist, and can be realized or imagined. *أيما وُجد أو سيوجد ونستطيع إدراكه أو تخيله*
example: كل شيء على ما يرام. [293198](#)
- Object** (مَوْجُود | كَائِن | قائم | حَقِيقِي | واقعي | شيء | ذات | قِيَوْم) : An entity that is wholly and independently present in time, and is realized either for its concrete or social existence. *شيء له ذات مستقلة بنفسه، وحاضر كلياً في الزمن، ويُدرك بذاته قياساً أو لذاته اعتباراً*
example: يختلف إدراكنا لأيّ موجود لاختلاف ما يميّز أنواعه من الصفات الجوهرية. [293200](#) TypeOf: {Entity}
- Occurrent** (صَنْبُورَةٌ | حَدَث | حادث | وَقَع | أمر) : An entity realized by the time of its happening. *شيء يدرك ذاته بزمان حدوثه*
example: لا يمكن فهم أي حدث بشكل منفصل عن الإطار الزمني له. [293202](#) TypeOf: {Entity}
- Dependent Entity** (مُنَوِّط | مُعْتَمِد | مُتَعَلِّق | مَشْرُوط) : An entity realized by the time of its happening. *شيء يعتمد وجوده على وجود أشياء أخرى*
example: طول المبنى منوط بوجود المبنى وإلا فلا طول له. [293201](#) TypeOf: {Entity}
- Abstract** (مُجَرَّد | تَجْرِيدِي | غير مَادِي | نظري) : An entity exists only in mind, cannot be measured or socially realized, and does not have a location.

The footer of the page includes the Birzeit University logo and the text 'Copyright © 2018'.

<https://ontology.birzeit.edu/concept/293198>

Top Levels of the Arabic Ontology



Based on:

Mustafa Jarrar: **The Arabic Ontology - An Arabic Wordnet with Ontologically Clean Content.** Applied Ontology Journal, IOS Press. (Forthcoming).

Linking Lexicons with the Arabic Ontology

- ❖ Lexical concepts (in lexicons) are interlinked with the entities in the ontology.
- ❖ Given two entities e_1 and e_2 , a *mapping correspondence* between them is defined as the following:

$$\langle e_1, e_2, R, P, C \rangle$$

- ❖ Progress so far:

Relation	Number of Mappings
SameAs	10500
SubClassOf/SuperClassOf	950
PartOf/HasPart	100
InstanceOf/Type	770
Similar	80
Total	12400

- In this way, lexical concepts across all lexicons would be semantically linked

Work in Progress

- Lemmatize each lexical entry in every lexicon
- Lemon-izing and Interlinking Arabic resources with the Linguistic Linked Open Data Cloud
- Building an Arabic Knowledge Graph
- Collect and interlink dialect corpora

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