Under Pressure: Representation, Information, and The Archive in Palestine

This guide aims to be an entry point to scholarship that deals specifically with the problems faced by information institutions such as libraries and archives in Palestine. Information institutions in Palestine face a unique set of pressures that stem from a settler-colonial history and the ongoing occupation of its land. The contributions in this guide offer historical, material, and theoretical analysis of how such conditions came to be and what strategies and tools have been adapted to confront these restrictions while nevertheless trying to preserve and make accessible information about Palestine.

While this guide is written in the form of a syllabus, its form by no means suggests any type of linear progression, nor that the categorizes used to lump readings are necessarily the most appropriate. Instead, we recognize that any attempt at offering any taxonomy to the subject of information in Palestine would be impossible given the paucity of sources and research, fractured by the very conditions of oppression that make it unique. As such, this syllabus offers an ad-hoc ten-week syllabus using potential themes that are designed to facilitate research into the field, raise discussions about the state of information in Palestine and promote further inquiry into the historical conditions of LIS in Palestine.

Created by the Librarians and Archivists with Palestine, Archives Working Group

1. Identity and the Politics of Representation


2. Memory, heritage and national identity


3. **Looting, stealing, and the fracturing of the Palestinian archive**


4. **The Question of (the archives of) Palestine**


5. Libraries and Palestine


6. Methods: Fieldwork, archives, oral history and the problems of historiography


7. In the Zionist Archives

Azoulay, Ariella. 2015. “Photographic Conditions: Looting, Archives, and the Figure of the ‘Infiltrator.’” Institute for Palestine Studies, no. 61 (Winter): 6–22.


8. **Cultural Institutions under Occupation**


9. **Speaking back—the potential history of non-violence and becoming Palestine**


10. Decolonize


