TYPING IN ARABIC (MAC OS X)

These instructions will help you set up your Mac for Arabic input. First, you must enable an Arabic keyboard; once you have selected an Arabic keyboard, the Mac will automatically shift text direction to right-to-left format.

To Enable Arabic Input

1. Click the Apple Icon in the menu bar and go to System Preferences > International.

2. Click the Input Menu tab.

3. At the top of the menu, select the options that you would like to use.
   - The Keyboard Viewer allows you to view the keyboard for the current language you are using on the screen and use it to type.
   - The Character Palette displays unusual characters that you may not know how to type. You can type the desired character by selecting it in the palette and pressing the Insert button.
   - There are several choices for Arabic because there are several different keyboard layouts available. Suggestion: check them all, try them, and decide which one you prefer to use.

4. Check the box next to Show input menu in menu bar.

5. Close International dialogue and the System Preferences.

Note: Leopard (10.5.x) has eliminated a useful option. If you don’t have Leopard, you will see “Input source options.” You will find it useful to choose “Allow a different input source for each document.”
To See/Remember How to Type on Different Keyboards

When multiple input choices are active, you should see a flag (usually a US flag if your default input language is American English) on your menu bar. Click on the flag to open a menu. Choose Show Keyboard Viewer to see the keyboard layout of the language you have selected.

To Type in Arabic

When multiple input choices are active, you should see a flag (usually a US flag if your default input language is American English) on your menu bar. Click on the flag to open a menu. Select the flag/language in which you wish to type.

Word Processing in Arabic

Word 2008 supports word processing in Arabic. When you select an Arabic keyboard, Word 2008 will automatically switch the text to right-to-left format.

Apple's TextEdit does support basic word processing in Arabic.

iWork 08's Pages offers more formatting choices.

Browser Issues

Is your computer set up for Arabic but all you get is gibberish when you surf the WWW? You probably need to change your browser encoding settings.

Safari

1. Go to View > Text Encoding and try settings until you find one that works. (Remember that you may need to refresh the page after you choose a new setting.)

If nothing works, it’s probably not your computer but a problem with the way the page was created. Try a different site.

Firefox

1. Go to View > Character Encoding and try settings until they work for your page. (Remember that you may need to refresh the page after you choose a new setting.) Try "Unicode" first.

If you still see gibberish after refreshing, keep trying to find an encoding choice that works. If nothing does, it’s probably not your computer but a problem with the way the page was created. Try a different site.