ROMANIZATION OF NUMBERS IN THE ARABIC LANGUAGE

Numbers in the Arabic language are always a problem when it comes to romanization. The Arabic language cataloger has to worry about whether the number is single or compound, and what gender it should take. The following guidelines are a summary of the Arabic grammatical rules as they apply to the spelled-out form of the numbers in the Arabic language:

**RULE 1:**

The gender of the numbers 1 & 2 whether single or compound should agree with the gender of the counted noun. Example:

**Single Number**

1. Kitāb wāḥid
2. Ithnān min al-kutub
3. Šūrah wāḥidah
4. Ithnātān min al-ṣuwar

**Compound Number**

1. Aḥad ʿasḥar kitāb
2. Ithnā ʿasḥar kitāb
3. Ḥidā ʿasḥrat šūrah
4. Ithnātā ʿasḥrat šūrah

**RULE 2:**

The gender of the numbers 3-9 whether single or compound should contrast with the gender of the counted noun. Example:

**Single Number**

1. Thalāthat kutub
2. Khams šuwar

**Compound Number**

1. Arbaʿat ʿasḥar kitāb
2. Sebʿ ʿasḥrat šūrah

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¹All numbers used in these examples are romanized in the nominative case.