

Glossary

abrogation (ar. *naskh*) the idea that some verses or rulings revealed in earlier times were later replaced or annulled by verses or rulings revealed at a later time

al-ḥurūf al-muqatta'a lit. “disconnected letters”; these are one or more letters preceding twenty-nine suras in the Qur’ān, also known as “the mysterious letters” and “*awā'il al-suwar*”

al-idghām al-kabīr major assimilation

al-‘āmma the majority of readers

al-‘arḍa al-akhīra lit. “the final review”; an Islamic tradition that Jibrīl reviewed with the Prophet all the Qur’ān, with all its permitted variants, twice before his death

al-amṣār regions within the Islamic empire

archetype a manuscript from which all extant copies are derived

asıl lit. “principle”; a principle or foundation upon which other issues are based

autograph a manuscript written by the original author

āya verse or sign

basmala the Islamic invocation *bi-smi llāhi l-rahmāni l-rahīm*, which is found at the beginning of all the qur’ānic suras except *sūrat al-Tawba* (Q.9)

bifolium a folio that is folded in half (pl. bifolia)

codex a bound volume (pl. codices)

codicology the study of codices

colophon inscription at the beginning or the end of a manuscript to provide additional information about the work

dagger alif a superscript *alif* that represents a pronunciation of an *alif* that is not reflected in the *rasm*

diacritical marks symbols added to letters to indicate various phonetic or grammatical features

early Abbasid period the period from the Abbasid revolution in 132/749 to the death of al-Ma’mūn in 218/833

exemplar a manuscript from which another is copied

facsimile a photographic reproduction of a manuscript

farsh al-ḥurūf individual variants that are applicable to specific words

fāṣila comma or a sign between verses (pl. *fawāṣil*)

folio a single leaf, front and back

hadhf deletion

hadīth prophetic tradition

hamza glottal stop

ḥarf lit. “letter” (pl. *ḥurūf*)

hijrā lit. “emigration”; the term refers to the emigration of the Prophet from Mecca to Medina in AD 622, which was later adopted by the second caliph ‘Umar as the starting year of the Muslim lunar calendar known as the *Hijrī* calendar

homoioteleuton a copying error occurs when a scribe skips over a portion of text that has a similar ending to another portion they are copying, resulting in a loss of text.

idghām assimilation

ijmā' consensus

ijtihād personal interpretation

iltifāt pronominal shift

imāla The shift of the a → e

isnād chain of narrators

i'rāb inflexion

jāhiliyya age of ignorance; this term is used to refer to the historical period in western central Arabia immediately prior to the beginning of Islam

kitāb book

laḥn solecism

lughā linguistic practices or dialect (pl. *lughāt*)

madd elongation

madhhāb school of thought (pl. *madhāhib*)

mahdār a legal proceeding, a decree

matn al-hadīth the main text of the hadīth

miqlāb envelope flap

mukhaffaf consonants pronounced without *tashdīd*

muṣḥaf codex (pl. *maṣāḥif*)

nuqqāṭ vocalizers

original reading reading presumably contained in the “original” text before any alteration

original text the text that was initially written by the first scribe before any change

orthography the set of spelling and other writing conventions governing a writing system

paleography the study of ancient writing

palimpsest a manuscript or piece of writing material on which the original writing has been effaced to make room for later writing but of which traces remain

parchment skin of an animal which has been cured, scraped to remove remaining fat and hair, and dried. It was a common medium for writing

qirā'a variant reading of the Qur'ān (pl. *qirā'āt*)

quinion quire of five bifolia

quire originally referred to “four sheets of folded parchment or paper,” but today used as a synonym to mean a number of bifolia stacked and sewn together

Quraysh the tribe of the Prophet

qurrā' readers (sg. *qāri'*)

rasm lit. “tracing”; Consonantal skeletal text

rāwī a transmitter of an eponymous reader

reading tradition a system and a collection of readings of the Qur'ān attributed to an eponymous reader

recension an editorial revision of a literary work

recto the front side of a folio

ṣahāba the Prophet's companions

sartāb fore-edge flap

scriptio continua continuous writing without breaks between words even when one word is divided between two lines

scriptio defectiva system of writing in which the *matres lectionis* are not written

scriptio inferior text that has faded or been erased and has been overwritten

scriptio plena system of writing in which the *matres lectionis* are written

scriptio superior the top layer of text on a page that has been written on more than once

shamsa circular or almond-shape decorative medallion that is often found on the front cover of a manuscript or in the middle of a page

sīra the Prophet's biography

sura chapter of the Qur'ān

takhmīs sign a sign between groups of five verses

tanwīn nunciation

ṭariq a transmitter of a *rāwī*

tashdīd gemination

taṣḥīf misspelling or misreading a word

taṭwīl elongation

tawqīfī fixed; cannot be changed

ta'shīr sign a sign between groups of ten verses

textus receptus Latin term that means “received text”; the term refers to an accepted form of a textual tradition

transliteration the phonetic representation of a word using the corresponding characters of a different language

urtext original text

uṣūl al-qirā'a the general linguistic principles of recitation which the reader would utilize uniformly throughout the Qur'ān

vellum very fine parchment made of the skin of very young or stillborn calves

verso the back side of a folio

vocalization diacritical signs indicating the reading of the consonantal text

wahy inspiration

The glossary is a composite of definitions some of them are from the following sources: Maḥmūd Ismā'īl Ṣāliḥ, *Dictionary of Islamic Words & Expressions: Romanized Arabic-English*, 3rd ed (Riyadh: Darussalam, 2011); Paul D. Wegner, *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Methods & Results* (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2006); Jane Dammen McAuliffe, ed., *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'ān* (Leiden: Brill, 2001). For simplicity and ease of reference, I have omitted quotation marks in this glossary even though some wording might be directly quoted from the sources cited.