

THE MEGA-JORDAN SYSTEM:

- Provides a tool for monitoring, protection, and management of archaeological sites
- Creates a countrywide site inventory
- Records boundaries and buffer zones of sites and their elements
- Is Web-based for wide access
- Is designed for easy use without specialized training
- Has a bilingual, Arabic-English interface
- Allows electronic input from the field
- Exports and imports data in various formats
- Delivers detailed, up-to-date site-condition reports
- Aids in developing national research strategies and priorities
- Establishes national documentation standards
- Assists in planning for development and tourism
- Facilitates data sharing with other institutions, including other Jordanian government agencies
- Offers a resource for international researchers
- Uses open source software with no licensing fees
- Can be easily customized
- Is designed for adaptation and use by other countries
- Is fully compatible with other GIS tools such as ESRI's ArcView , Quantum GIS, and Google Earth™.



The MEGA-Jordan interface showing clustering of sites at the national level. MEGA-Jordan includes over 10,800 sites and also identifies the boundaries of archaeological surveys throughout the Kingdom.



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A STATE-OF-THE-ART GIS TO INVENTORY AND HELP MANAGE JORDAN'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES



Department of Antiquities Jordan



The Getty Conservation Institute

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MEGA-Jordan has been developed through partnerships between the Getty Conservation Institute, World Monuments Fund, and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

MEGA JORDAN MIDDLE EASTERN GEODATABASE for ANTIQUITIES

Map Type: Satellite

Language Search Tasks User HELP

Viewing 1 Site

Search qas Sites GPS Coordinates Advanced

Al Qasr
MEGA-J Number: 988712
 Location: Jordan > AMMAN > Al-Jizeh

TASKS:
 Edit Site | Retire Site | Add Site Element | Add Monitoring Event | Add Comments

VIEW:
 Zoom to Site | Print Site Map | Print Site Element Card | Print Monitoring Card

EXPORT:
 Export to Shapefile | Export to KML

TASKS

Search Results

Activities

- Add a New Site
Enter the location and descriptive information for a new Site
- Add a New Site Element
Enter the location and descriptive information for a new Site Element
- Print Site, Site Element and Monitoring Cards
Print out blank field cards
- Add a Reference
Add a new bibliographic reference
- User Administration
Add, remove, or alter User profiles
- Upload MEGA File
Upload .mega file to MEGA-J database
- Review MEGA Files
Review existing MEGA files from candidate list

Legend

Reports | Jordan > AMMAN > Al-Jizeh > Al Qasr

General Information | Site Significance | Administration | Site Elements | **Monitoring Events** | References | Review Status

Al Qasr Under Review

Site Ratings

Overall Condition Rating: Fair
 Overall Threat Rating: High
 Recommended Monitoring: Every 6 months

Disturbances

Code: 3208 Urbanization
 Description: Ongoing disturbance to outer parts of site by development.

Code: 3505 Tourist/Visitor Activities
 Description: Visitors have trampled mosaics.

Code: 3404 Erosion, Water

Potential Legal Violations

Code: None

Ownership

Status: Department of Antiquities
 Description: Since 2006 the entire site has been under the ownership of the DoA.

Threats

Code: 2505 Tourist/Visitor Activities
 Description: Lack of paths and signage may lead to damage by visitors

Code: 2205 Road Work
 Description: There is a proposal to build a highway crossing the buffer zone of the site

Code: 2404 Erosion, Water
 Description: None

Management Recommendations

Code: 5011 Relocate Development Proposal

Photographs of Site
 View all Photos
 Add Photos
 Edit Photos

"MEGA-Jordan is more than an inventory system. It is also designed to help monitor and manage sites..."



"Implementation of MEGA-Jordan will position Jordan as a regional leader in the use of sophisticated technology to inventory and manage archaeological heritage."

MEGA-Jordan uses open source software, which means that its software code is not exclusively owned. This allows it to be updated, modified, and customized to meet future needs at little or no cost. The core MEGA software has been designed so that it can, independent of the Jordanian system, be freely and readily customized for use by other countries. It is fully compatible with all standard GIS tools, facilitating data sharing among government agencies and researchers.

The system offers various levels of user access based on user roles—i.e., some users will have full access to all data and the ability to add and edit sites and their attributes, approve new sites, run administrative reports, and export data, while others may only have access to search and view the data.

Development of MEGA-Jordan is complete and will be implemented nationwide within the offices of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities (DoA). It currently contains legacy data imported from the DoA's previous system, JADIS, and provides information on over 10,800 locations throughout the Kingdom.

The web-based MEGA-Jordan user interface showing a site boundary, its elements, and buffer zone. The bottom panel displays a monitoring report on the selected site. Users with the required privileges are able to add new sites and site elements, edit site attributes, print reports, and export shape files. The search panel can be expanded to allow comprehensive advanced searching according to numerous criteria, including element types, periods, significance, threats, ownership, etc. (Data shown are fictitious and for illustration only.)

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's archaeological heritage is among the world's richest. In order to efficiently manage these priceless resources while protecting and preserving them for future generations, Jordan needs a comprehensive up-to-date record of the location and characteristics of each archaeological site.

The Middle Eastern Geodatabase for Antiquities (MEGA) – Jordan is a custom-built geographic information system (GIS) specifically designed to inventory, manage, and protect Jordan's archaeological sites at the national level.

This Web-based system, which is bilingual (Arabic and English), standardizes and centralizes archaeological data throughout Jordan, making it readily available to a range of users, including the Jordanian Department of Antiquities leadership and staff, government ministries and authorities, and researchers. MEGA-J has been developed using state-of-the-art technology and is easy to use and requires no specialized training. With basic computer skills, users can enter information about each site, including boundaries and buffer zones; record details such as periods, ownership,

condition and threats; recommend monitoring schedules; and instantly produce detailed, up-to-date reports on Jordan's archaeological resources, ranging from an individual site to a nationwide level.

MEGA-Jordan is more than an inventory system. It is also designed to help monitor and manage sites to protect them against a range of threats, including urban encroachment. Its implementation will position Jordan as a regional leader in the use of sophisticated technology to inventory and manage archaeological heritage.