QURANICUS-PDR

PAKISTAN'S 1st DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF QURANIC MANUSCRIPTS

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

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Respected Scholars, Partners, and Contributors,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

It gives me immense honor to invite you to become a part of QURANICUS–PDR, Pakistan's first national initiative to digitally preserve, authenticate, and share our country's rich Qur'anic manuscript heritage with the world.

As Muslims, we are entrusted with the divine responsibility of preserving the Word of Allah — not just in recitation and memory, but in its historical, written form. Countless rare and ancient Qur'anic manuscripts lie scattered across libraries, madrasas, shrines, and private collections in Pakistan, many of them undocumented, uncared for, and at risk of disappearing.

QURANICUS–PDR is more than a research project — it is a spiritual service. Through cutting-edge tools like high-resolution imaging, TEI/XML metadata, and IIIF-compliant platforms, we aim to bridge traditional Islamic scholarship with modern digital preservation.

I humbly invite you — as a researcher, intern, donor, institutional partner, or academic ally — to join hands in this historic effort.

Sincerely,

QURANICUS-PDR
PAKISTAN'S 1ST DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF QURANIC MANUSCRIPTS

Invitation to Contribute: Preserve the Eternal Word

Dear Respected Supporter,

We warmly invite you to become a part of QURANICUS–PDR, Pakistan's first national initiative to digitally preserve and globally share its priceless Qur'anic manuscript heritage.

At the heart of this project lies a sacred mission — to honor the divine legacy of the Qur'an by safeguarding its written forms with the highest standards of scholarship, ethics, and technology. Your involvement, whether as a donor, researcher, stakeholder, or internee, will directly support the preservation of rare manuscripts, the digitization of sacred texts, and the academic access for generations to come.

We need your expertise, your resources, and your commitment. How You Can Contribute:

🎓 Researchers & Interns: Help document, analyze, and interpret ancient texts using tools like TEI/XML, Unicode, and digital paleography.

💰 Donors & Institutions: Sponsor equipment, stipends, or digitization services; or help fund long-term sustainability.

Provide access to collections, endorse the project, or facilitate academic linkages nationally and internationally.

Every contribution is not just a gesture of support — it is a *sadaqah jariyah*, a lasting service to the Book of Allah. Let us work together to preserve the verses before they fade, and ensure that the light of divine knowledge reaches hearts across time and borders.

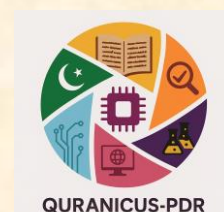**With sincere gratitude**,
Director Resource Management

Rana Tariq Shaukat
Assistant Prof. (R)
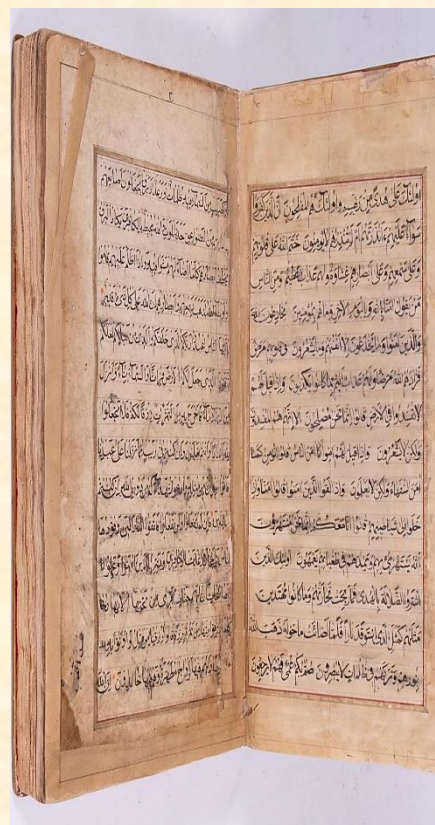**Ex-Deputy Director (Colleges)**

OVERVIEW

Pakistan bears a sacred responsibility to preserve the Qur'an's manuscript heritage. Despite centuries of rich tradition, no national digital archive exists. Countless rare Qur'anic folios remain undocumented, scattered, or deteriorating. QURANICUS–PDR seeks to protect, study, and share these treasures with the world. It is both a scholarly mission and a spiritual obligation.

PAKISTAN'S UNTAPPED QUR'ANIC MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE

Pakistan, home to over 240 million Muslims—the second-largest Muslim population globally—has a deeply rooted Islamic culture. With more than 35,000 madrasas and thousands of students memorizing and studying the Qur'an, the country has an unbroken tradition of Qur'anic devotion. It also houses over 500 Islamic libraries and more than 70 public and private museums, reflecting a rich manuscript legacy shaped by Mughal, Deccan, and Central Asian influences. Yet, despite this abundance, Pakistan lacks a centralized, national-level digital repository for Qur'anic manuscripts.

Currently, valuable manuscripts are dispersed across institutions such as the National Museum Karachi (which holds 275+ Qur'anic volumes), the Punjab University Library (50–70 Qur'anic manuscripts), and unique items like the 5 rare Kufic folios at the Lahore Museum. Institutions like Bait al-Hikmat, Sindh Archives, and Masood Jhander Library also house fragments and rare forms of Qur'anic heritage, including heptagonal Qur'ans and scroll manuscripts. Despite an estimated 850–1,000+ Qur'anic manuscripts preserved nationally, these treasures remain undocumented, at risk, and inaccessible to scholars—highlighting the urgent need for a national preservation and digital access initiative: QURANICUS–PDR

WORK MAP– PROJECT MODULES

Year	Module	Focus Area	Key Activities
2025	Database	Initiation	Team setup, national survey, metadata framework, MOUs
2026		Collection & Entry	Metadata entry, institutional fieldwork, database prototype
2027	Analysis / Digitization	Script Study & Setup	Script classification, rasm comparison, digitization begins
2028		Scientific Study & Platform	C14 testing, Unicode, platform development, staff training
2029	All Modules	Public Access & Expansion	Online launch, private collections, publications, outreach
2030		Collaboration & Training	Academic linkages, national workshops, full database integration
2031–32	Digitization / Admin	Sustainability & Handover	Institutional hosting, toolkit, long-term preservation

QURANICUS–PDR: 7-YEAR PLAN (2025–2032)

Module	Title	Core Activities	Expected Outcomes
1	**Database Development**	- Manuscript survey & listing- Metadata entry (TEI/XML)- Database structure design (searchable fields)	Centralized digital catalogue of Qur'anic manuscripts in Pakistan
2	**Analysis & Research**	- Paleographical examination (Kufic, Rasm)- Comparative orthographic study- Carbon dating (C14)- Unicode alignment	Scholarly authentication, script classification, variant analysis, orthographic maps
3	**Digitization & Global Access**	- High-res imaging & preservation- Digital platform (IIIF compliant)- Global academic integration- Publications, guides, and outreach	Open-access online repository; integration with global Qur'anic research (e.g. Corpus Coranicum)

POLICIES

♻️ Sustainability Strategy

- The digital repository will be transferred to a national institution (e.g., HEC or a university) for long-term hosting.

- Open standards (TEI/XML, IIIF) will ensure data compatibility and longevity.

- Ongoing training of scholars and metadata specialists will build national capacity.

- Continued funding will be sought through academic grants and international partnerships.

© Copyright & Access Policy

- Manuscripts remain the property of their original owners.

- Digitized materials will be shared under CC BY-NC 4.0 (non-commercial, attribution required).

- Proper citation of QURANICUS–PDR and source institutions is mandatory.

- Private collections will be digitized with consent and ethical care.

PROJECT INFO:

PROJECT GOALS

- ➤ **Preservation**
- ➤ **Documentation**
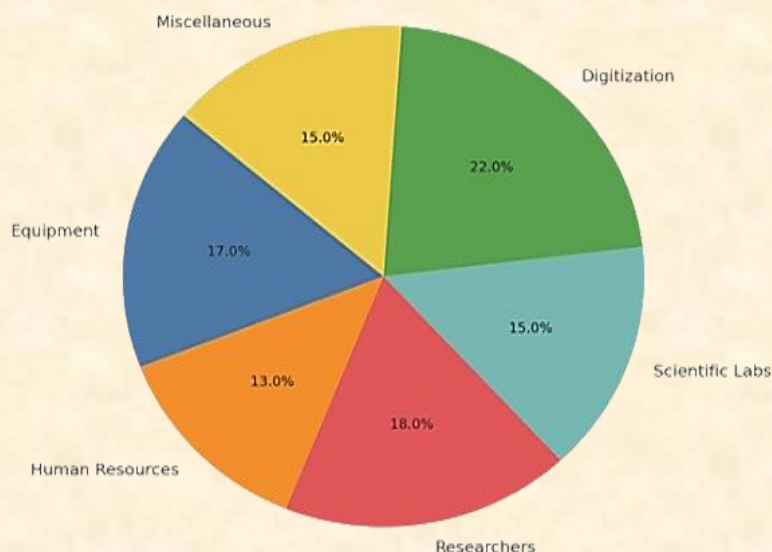- ➤ **Research & Analysis**
- ➤ **Access & Engagement**

PARTNERS

1. **Institute of Religious Research & Perspectives (IRRP), Lahore**
2. **Maktaba Murtazviyah, Karachi**
3. **Corpus Coranicum, Frankfurt University, Germany**
4. **Tanazur Center, Germany**

PROJECT BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Revised QURANICUS-PDR Project Budget Breakdown (PKR 80 Million)

*This project budget is **scalable and modular**, allowing components to be expanded or reduced based on the availability of grants and partner contributions. The allocated funds are projected to support **3 to 5 years** of operations, covering all essential activities including **research, digitization, analysis, training, and global academic outreach**.*

*This financial structure and all budgetary adjustments will be **audited annually** and transparently **shared with all donors and funding institutions** as part of the project's commitment to accountability and long-term sustainability.*

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

📑 1. Ownership of Services

You can sponsor specific services or items directly:

- **Stipends** for researchers, interns, and editors
- **Equipment donations** (scanners, cameras, labs)
- **Direct payment to vendors/service providers** for digitization, hosting, or analysis

📑 2. Research & Resource Support

- **Granting /helping access** to manuscripts in private or institutional collections
- **Scholarly collaboration**: Paleography, codicology, orthography, TEI/XML experts
- **Endorsements & partnerships** with your institution or academic network

_____*For directly through secure bank transfers:*_____

Account Title: Institute of Religious Research and Perspectives, Pakistan
Account No.:   034320009837702
IBAN: PK09SONE0034320009837702
Bank & Branch: Soneri Bank, Valencia Town, Lahore, Pakistan

PROJECT TEAM:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Samiullah

Associate Professor, UMT Lahore, International expert with **25+ years** of research in Qur'anic Orthography and Manuscript Studies. Has visited **22 countries**, collaborated with **50+ international universities**, and currently serves as visiting researcher at **Corpus Coranicum**, Germany.

Project Head

Prof. Rana Tariq Shoukat

Seasoned academic leader with **over four decades** of experience in educational management and faculty development.

Director Management

Prof. Dr. Michael Joseph Marx

Head, Corpus Coranicum Project, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy
Professor, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
Internationally renowned manuscriptologist with **30+ years** of experience.

Director Trainings & Internationalization

Syed Muhammad Naqvi

Scholar at Qum University, Iran
Senior editor, Maktaba Murtazviyah, Karachi
Specialist in Shiʿi manuscript tradition and textual editing.

Director Research

Prof. Dr. Feroz ud Din Shah Khagga

Professor of Qur'anic Sciences, University of Sargodha
Expert in Qira'āt and Ulum al-Qur'an
with three decades of scholarly service.

Director Outreach

Rana Muhammad Adnan

IT Engineer, Bochum, Germany
Specialist in digital systems, database design, and secure cloud platforms for manuscript digitization.

Director IT

QURANICUS–PDR
Official Logo Statement

Preamble

The QURANICUS–PDR (Pakistan Digital Repository of Qur'anic Manuscripts) logo has been designed with thoughtful symbolism, bringing together the sacred mission of Qur'anic preservation and the modern tools of digital scholarship. It reflects the spirit of national responsibility, scholarly rigor, and digital excellence. The logo takes the form of a six-segment circular wheel, with each segment representing a fundamental pillar of the project.

Motto

"Where Faith Meets Framework"

The motto **"*Where Faith Meets Framework*"** beautifully encapsulates the essence of the QURANICUS–PDR project by uniting two powerful forces: the sacred responsibility of preserving the Qur'an and the structured discipline of modern digital scholarship. "Faith" reflects the spiritual reverence, religious devotion, and centuries-old tradition of Qur'anic preservation, while "Framework" symbolizes the scientific, academic, and technological systems—such as metadata, digitization, and global access platforms—that ensure these manuscripts are preserved with precision and made accessible for generations to come. This motto conveys that QURANICUS–PDR is not just about archiving scripture, but about honoring it with both soul and structure—where the divine trust of revelation is safeguarded through the best tools of our time.

Logo Philosophy & Symbolic Breakdown

The official logo of QURANICUS–PDR is a visual representation of its mission — to preserve, digitize, and disseminate the sacred Qur'anic manuscript heritage of Pakistan using modern research and technology. Designed as a segmented circular emblem, the logo brings together six distinct elements, each symbolizing a foundational aspect of the project: national responsibility, scriptural preservation, scholarly analysis, laboratory science, digital infrastructure, and global accessibility. This logo reflects the harmony between tradition and technology — a true manifestation of the project's motto: "Where Faith Meets Framework."
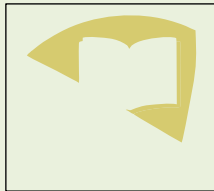
1. Pakistan Segment

This green segment features the crescent and star of the Pakistani flag. It represents national identity and the country's spiritual and scholarly responsibility in safeguarding Qur'anic heritage. As Pakistan houses one of the largest Muslim populations in the world, the flag symbolizes this initiative as a proud national commitment.

2. Qur'anic Manuscript Segment

This segment displays an open manuscript in a classic brown tone, reflecting the sacred script of the Qur'an. It emphasizes the historical richness of handwritten Qur'anic texts preserved across centuries in Pakistan. The absence of moon/star maintains inter-sect inclusivity, while the script style honors Islamic calligraphic traditions.
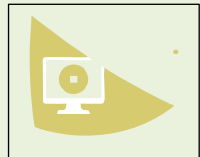
3. Research & Analysis Segment

A magnifying glass with a checkmark symbolizes the scholarly efforts in orthographic verification, paleographical study, and variant analysis. This segment signifies the academic depth of QURANICUS–PDR, bridging religious devotion with scientific inquiry.

4. Laboratory Science Segment

Rendered with golden lab tools on a dark background, this segment stands for the carbon dating (C14), ink analysis, and preservation science used to authenticate and protect ancient manuscripts. It embodies the role of modern scientific labs and tools in supporting sacred preservation work.

5. Web & Global Access Segment

A globe on a computer monitor represents the project's commitment to IIIF-compliant, open-access dissemination of manuscripts. This segment highlights global academic integration, allowing anyone worldwide to view and study Pakistan's Qur'anic treasures.

6. Digitization Infrastructure Segment

The digital circuit pattern illustrates the digitization and cloud-based storage infrastructure that powers the project. It reflects metadata processing, secure digital repositories, and the technical framework required to sustain the archive long-term.

Conclusion

The logo of QURANICUS–PDR is more than a symbol — it is a narrative. Each segment visually conveys the interwoven aspects of faith, research, technology, and national heritage. Together, they represent a timeless cycle of preservation, analysis, digitization, and global engagement. The logo captures the essence of the project's motto: '*Where Faith Meets Framework*.'

QURANICUS–PDR:
Execution Plan & HR Structure

The QURANICUS–PDR (Pakistan Digital Repository of Qur'anic Manuscripts) project aims to preserve, authenticate, digitize, and globally share the priceless Qur'anic manuscript heritage of Pakistan. The following document outlines the detailed execution plan, module-wise activities, staff structure, and an optimized budget framework tailored for a sustainable launch.

📙 PRE-PHASE: Technical Setup & Scholarly Trainings

Duration: 6 Months (Mid 2025 – Early 2026)

Purpose:
To ensure the success and scholarly integrity of the QURANICUS–PDR project, a comprehensive pre-execution phase will be conducted to build technical capacity, research expertise, and digital literacy among the project team. This phase is critical in aligning Pakistan's manuscript preservation efforts with international academic standards.

Workshop & Training Components

1. Introduction to Manuscriptology & Paleography

- Study of manuscript structures, binding styles, and material composition
- Recognition and classification of scripts & Principles of paleographic comparison and historical context

2. Metadata Standards & TEI/XML Encoding

- Training on metadata structure design using **Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)** standards & Manual and automated tagging of Qur'anic text features
- Consistency in metadata across different manuscript types

3. Unicode & Orthographic Alignment

- Mapping variant orthographies to **Unicode-compliant** character sets
- Special handling of orthographic anomalies in ancient folios

4. Digitization & Preservation Technologies

- Technical handling of scanners, DSLR cameras, and lighting kits
- Workflow of digitization from imaging to post-processing
- Basics of digital preservation ethics and document integrity

5. Oxygen XML & IIIF Tools Training

- Hands-on use of **Oxygen XML Editor** for metadata entry
- Practical training in **IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework)** for creating sharable digital manuscripts
- Integration with tools such as Mirador and Omeka-S

6. Ethical Handling & Conservation of Qur'anic Manuscripts

- Training in respectful handling of sacred texts and Guidance on climate control, storage, and transportation
- Preventive conservation practices and digitization without damage

International & Institutional Coordination

Lead Partners: Corpus Coranicum & irankoran projects, based in Germany

- Providing methodological guidance, paleographic references, and Unicode support
- Facilitating joint workshops (onsite/virtual) on script classification and comparative orthography

MODULE 1: DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

Timeline: Year 1–2 (2026-2027)

Focus: Create a centralized, searchable digital archive

Activities:
- Survey of national manuscripts
- Metadata entry (TEI/XML)
- Design of database structure (with search & filter)
- Hosting of data on secure server with backup

Expected Outcome:

Pakistan's first Qur'anic Manuscript Metadata Archive

MODULE 2: ANALYSIS & RESEARCH

Timeline: Year 2–4 (2026-2029)

Focus: Scholarly validation of manuscripts

Activities:
- Paleographic examination (Kufic, Naskh, etc.)
- Orthographic comparison and mapping
- **Carbon Dating (C14)** of selected manuscripts
- Unicode standard alignment

Expected Outcome:

Script classification, authentication, variant documentation

MODULE 3: DIGITIZATION & GLOBAL ACCESS

Timeline: Year 3–7 (2026-2032)

Focus: Digitally preserve and share manuscripts globally

Activities:
- High-resolution scanning & imaging
- Post-processing, editing, formatting
- Development of IIIF-compliant digital platform
- Integration with Corpus Coranicum and academic portals
- Publications, online exhibitions, user guides

Expected Outcome:

Pakistan's Qur'anic Manuscripts available globally in scholarly standard formats

Optimized HR Structure & Salaries

The staffing plan below reflects a lean operational model, suitable for early-phase sustainability. It balances expertise with a reduced budget and excludes two non-essential administrative positions (Technical Director and Admin Officer).

Position	Qualification	Monthly Salary (PKR)	Contract Duration
Project Director	PhD (Islamic Studies/Management)	150,000	3 years (renewable)
Project Coordinator	MA/MS + Project Exp	80,000	1 year
Sr. Researcher	PhD or MPhil (Islamic Studies, Archeology, codicology)	100,000	2 years
Jr. Researcher	MA/MPhil Student	50,000	6–12 months
Research Intern	Bachelor's Student (Islamic/Arabic)	20,000	6 months
Cameraman	Diploma or BA + Portfolio	50,000	Project-based
Editor	Adobe/DaVinci Experience	60,000	1 year
Digitization Technician	IT Diploma or Equivalent	70,000	1–2 years
Lab Liaison Officer	Science Graduate	60,000	Phase-based
Web Developer (IIIF)	BS Computer Science	90,000	2 years
Server Admin	BS IT + Hosting Exp	60,000	2 years

Financial Summary

Total salaries for the optimized HR structure are as follows:

Monthly Total: **PKR 1,200,000**
Annual Total: **PKR 14,400,000**
💵 **Approx. Annual in USD (@ PKR 295):** **$48,813**

QURANICUS – PDR EQUIPMENT

The QURANICUS–PDR (Pakistan Digital Repository of Qur'anic Manuscripts) is an unprecedented national initiative dedicated to the preservation, digitization, and dissemination of Pakistan's rich Qur'anic manuscript heritage. Recognizing the historical and spiritual significance of these sacred texts, the project combines modern technology with classical Islamic scholarship to create a sustainable, open-access digital archive.

This report specifically outlines the technical equipment required to operationalize and sustain the three primary modules of the project:

- o - Database Development
- o - Analysis & Research
- o - Digitization & Global Access

Each piece of equipment has been selected based on stringent criteria—preservation standards, scholarly compatibility, and long-term usability. Together, these tools enable QURANICUS–PDR to uphold the dual mission of protecting the Qur'anic textual tradition while making it accessible to researchers and the public worldwide.

Rationale of Equipment Selection

The selected equipment supports the entire manuscript lifecycle from survey and metadata entry to high-resolution imaging, script analysis, secure digital storage, and global access. Each tool is aimed at ensuring accuracy, sustainability, and the ethical handling of sacred manuscripts. Special attention has been given to the preservation quality, standard-compliance, and integration capability with IIIF and TEI/XML frameworks.

Rationale for Each Equipment

Zeutschel OS 16000
Allows glare-free, flat, and safe digitization without damaging old scripts.
Canon EOS 5D Mark IV + Macro Lens (x3 Units)
Portable alternative to scanner; helps in capturing detail in rare manuscripts.
Dell Precision 3000 Workstation
Powerful and reliable machine for continuous database development.
Synology RackStation RS1221+
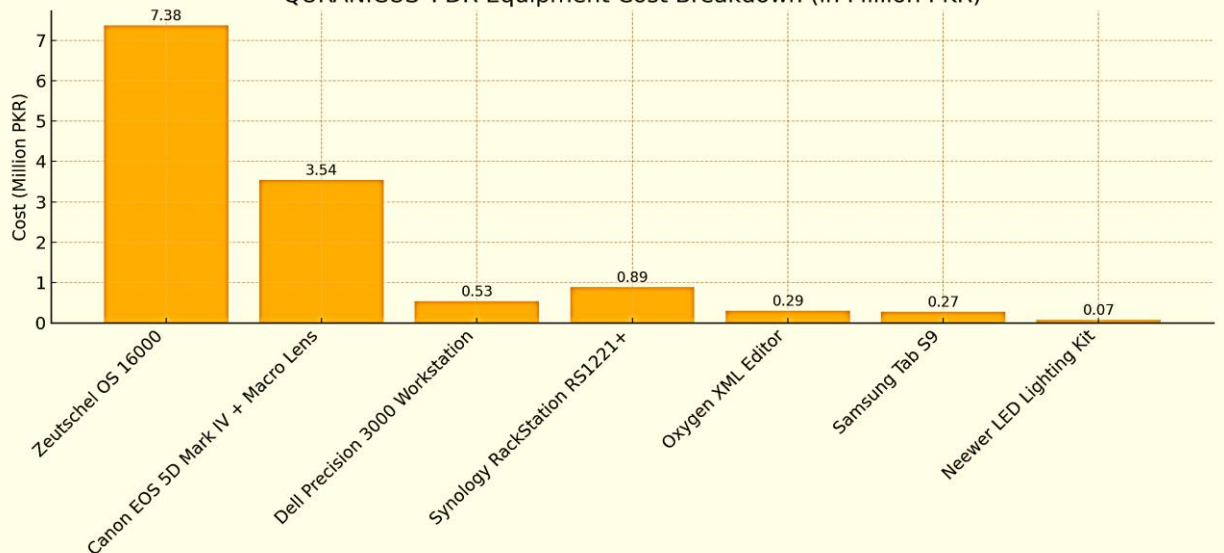Ensures secure, reliable, and expandable storage infrastructure.
Oxygen XML Editor
Provides scholarly standard metadata encoding compliant with international norms.

Equipment Details

Equipment Name	Purpose	Brand	Used In Module	Import Method	Cost (USD)	Cost (PKR)
Zeutschel OS 16000	Digitization of delicate Qur'anic manuscripts using planetary scanning.	Zeutschel (Germany)	Digitization & Global Access	Through authorized dealer in UAE or Germany. Customs clearance needed.	$25,000	PKR 7,375,000
Canon EOS 5D Mark IV + Macro Lens (x3 Units)	Photographic capture of manuscripts, especially scrolls and rare angled formats.	Canon (Japan)	Digitization & Global Access	Canon resellers or B&H USA with FedEx/DHL customs handling.	$12,000	PKR 3,540,000
Dell Precision 3000 Workstation	For metadata entry, XML editing, and researcher use.	Dell (USA)	Database Development	Available through local Dell partners or import via Telemart.	$1,800	PKR 531,000
Synology RackStation RS1221+	Centralized storage and backup of digitized images and manuscript data.	Synology (Taiwan)	Database & Digitization	Import through PakDukaan or Amazon with Aramex logistics.	$3,000	PKR 885,000
Oxygen XML Editor	For TEI/XML tagging and digital representation of manuscript metadata.	Syncro Soft (Romania)	Database & Research	Online purchase, digital license download.	$1,000	PKR 295,000
Samsung Tab S9 (Field Survey Tablet)	On-site data entry for manuscript metadata during surveys.	Samsung (Korea)	Database Development	Available locally or import via courier services from UAE.	$900	PKR 265,500
Neewer LED Lighting Kit	Uniform lighting during manuscript digitization to avoid glare and shadows.	Neewer (China)	Digitization	Order via AliExpress or Amazon Global; ship via DHL.	$250	PKR 73,750

QURANICUS–PDR Equipment Cost Breakdown (in Million PKR)

Equipment	Cost (Million PKR)
Zeutschel OS 16000	7.38
Canon EOS 5D Mark IV + Macro Lens	3.54
Dell Precision 3000 Workstation	0.53
Synology RackStation RS1221+	0.89
Oxygen XML Editor	0.29
Samsung Tab S9	0.27
Neewer LED Lighting Kit	0.07

The **Qur'an is not just a book** — it is the eternal Word of Allah, a divine guide for all of humanity, and the **greatest trust** bestowed upon this Ummah. Preserving its written form is an act of devotion, a responsibility of the faithful, and a service that transcends time.

Pakistan, the world's second-largest Muslim country, is blessed with thousands of rare and ancient Qur'anic manuscripts spread across its libraries, madaris, shrines, and private collections. Sadly, many of these sacred pages are at risk — **unrecorded, deteriorating, and disappearing** — with no national effort to document or protect them.

QURANICUS–PDR is the first large-scale national project to **digitize, preserve, and globally share** Pakistan's Qur'anic manuscript heritage. Using cutting-edge technologies like high-resolution imaging, TEI/XML encoding, and script analysis, it bridges traditional Islamic scholarship with modern digital research tools.

This is not merely an academic initiative — it is a **religious obligation**, a **national honor**, and a **historic opportunity**.

🌙 *Every manuscript saved is a verse protected. Every contribution is a sadaqah jariyah.*

— **Support QURANICUS–PDR** —
as a believer, as a Pakistani, as a protector of the Qur'an.
Sponsor a page. Save a script. Preserve the Book of Allah.

QURANICUS-PDR

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