

Afghanistan

DATABASE PROJECT WITH BROWN UNIVERSITY

2024



DATABASE PROJECT

An online platform to collect and publish research from various sectors on topics related to Afghanistan post-2021.

The project builds on new text and data mining (TDM) and AI tools to curate research from scholarly publications, NGO and UN reports and media. This database-backed web-interface provides a one-stop space for finding emerging, global research and promotes further documentation of Afghanistan post-2021.



COLLABORATING ENTITIES AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

Computer Science

In order to successfully implement a curated platform, CS students created a back-end database to host and store data, coded inputs to pull data from a sample corpus and deployed library tools like *TDM Studio* to search thousands of sources to produce a long list of relevant material to be vetted and incorporated in the database.

Web Integration

CS students built a front end to allow academics, students and media to search using various labels to collect short lists for use in their own research projects and to submit novel publications.

Subject Matter Experts

Afghan students and alums at Brown invite submissions from their networks in the diaspora and in Afghanistan. This Afghan content team reviews long lists as due diligence on items for inclusion. This may involve informing code to accelerate the start-to-end selection process or the review of items in local Afghan languages or assessing validity of items from non-peer-reviewed articles. Academic experts and faculty in substantive areas may be required to support Afghan content team members as they engage in new substantive and academic areas.

Library Subscriptions

Using different tools for text and data mining, the Brown libraries support research and curation of the corpus. Consider hosting possibilities for long-term sustainability of project.

Teaching and Learning

Students self-identify for participation in the project through networks and posting in Program for Socially Responsible Computing. Generously supported by Professor Ugur Çetintemel and guided by Andrew Creamer and Cass Wilkinson Saldaña, students identify problems and solutions in developing and executing the project.

T I M E L I N E

Feb-April
project pitch

May
backend defining, CS team identification

June
development, hosting

July
integration, v.1 pilot, invite contributions, cooperate with library

August
pilot demo to mark 3rd anniversary

September
launch alongside UN Summit of the Future

Oct-Dec
implement library tools, discuss sustainability



UN SUMMIT of the FUTURE outcome documents and the database project

Pact for the Future

The Pact under negotiation has the potential to promote a multilateral system that reflects the realities of today and that delivers for everyone everywhere. The Pact includes a chapeau reinforcing **gender and human rights as cross cutting issues in all chapters** and specifically in chapters i and iii: i) sustainable development and financing; ii) international peace and security; iii) **science, technology and innovation (ISTI) and digital cooperation**; iv) **youth and future generations**; and v) transforming global governance.

Declaration on Future Generations

Expanded and strengthened youth participation in global decision-making through commitments to youth engagement in all UN intergovernmental mechanisms and processes and a global standard for meaningful youth engagement. Decision-making at the global level that systematically takes future impact into account, consciously avoiding foreseeable harms to and safeguarding the **interests of future generations** through commitments and means of implementation enshrined in a Declaration on Future Generations (to be negotiated separately and annexed to the Pact)

Global Digital Compact

A Global Digital Compact (to be negotiated separately and annexed to the Pact) to harness the opportunities and manage the risks of **digital technologies in a way that protects human rights** and leaves no one behind, focusing on: (i) closing digital divides and accelerating the SDGs; (ii) expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all; (iii) **fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space**; (iv) advancing data governance; and (v) strengthening governance of **emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, for the benefit of humanity**.

Afghanistan post-2021 and the database project

The Taliban took power in Afghanistan in August 2021, following twenty years as a democratic republic. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reminded the de facto authorities that Afghanistan, as a State, has obligations under international law “to respect, uphold and promote the rights of all people without discrimination”.

The international community has not recognized the Taliban government as it imposes numerous edicts. Since 2021, girls are banned from school after 6th grade and women from university; media organizations are shut down or restricted in reporting critically on lack of services.

Brown University generously welcomed a cohort of students who had evacuated Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, enabling them to continue their education. With peers from around the world, many of these Afghan women contribute to this project.



TEAM



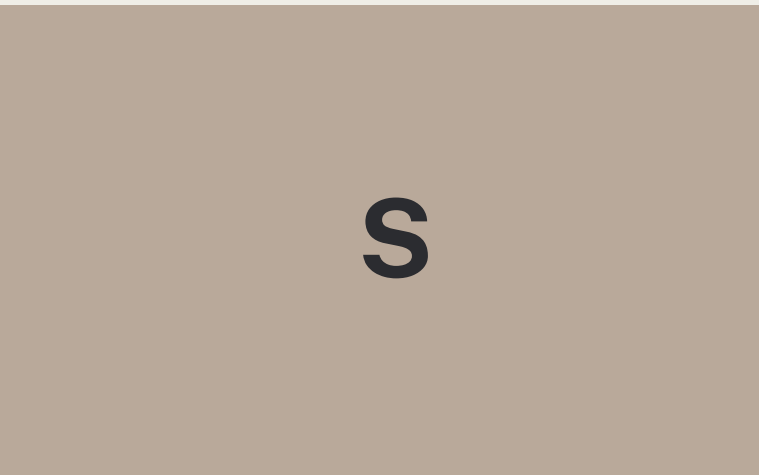
Technology
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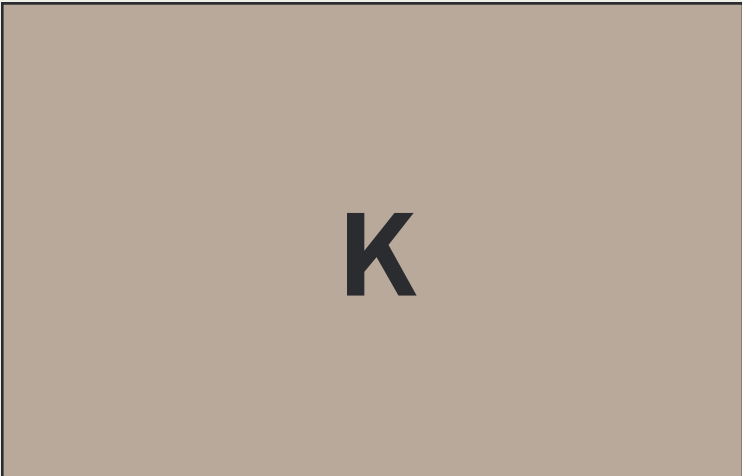
Lead, Content
Nilab



Technology
Yifan



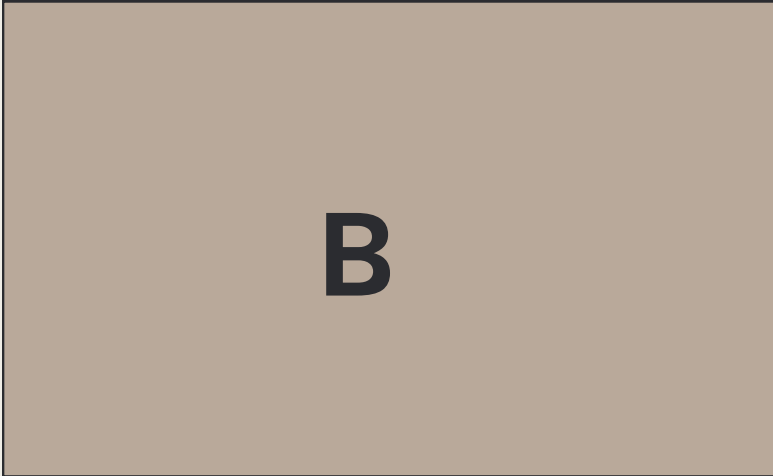
Content
Suhaila



Technology
Kathy



Content
Fatima



Content
Batool



Design
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