



Professor W. F. Smyth
Director, Algorithms Research Group
Department of Computing & Software
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8S 4K1

Telephone: 1-905-525-9140 ext. 23436
FAX: 1-905-524-0340
email: smyth@mcmaster.ca
web: www.cas.mcmaster.ca/~bill/cv.shtml

October 8, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Anisa AL-HAFIDH, Lecturer
Sultan Qaboos University, Oman**

I have known Ms. Al-Hafidh since September 2007 when she enrolled as an M.Sc. student under my supervision in the Department of Computing & Software at McMaster University.

As noted in Ms. Al-Hafidh's CV, she is co-author of a lengthy survey paper entitled

A comparison of Lempel-Ziv LZ77 factorization algorithms,

submitted for publication last year to the ACM Computing Surveys, the most-cited Computer Science journal. She made a major contribution to this paper, both in terms of theoretical analysis and experimental validation. It is scheduled to be published sometime in 2012.

It was a pleasure to supervise Ms. Al-Hafidh because she was always willing to learn, and therefore I believe able to profit significantly both from her courses and from her research. She was always industrious and thorough in her work, and contributed many fresh ideas to her research topic. She takes a great interest in her academic work, a quality that shines out of her Personal Statement, and indeed has adapted to study and research in several different areas. Her adaptability is one of her great strengths.

Ms. Al-Hafidh speaks, understands, reads and writes English fluently, really as if it were her native language.

I believe that she will be an outstanding Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science or related fields, and I enthusiastically recommend her acceptance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. F. Smyth", written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. F. Smyth
Professor Emeritus