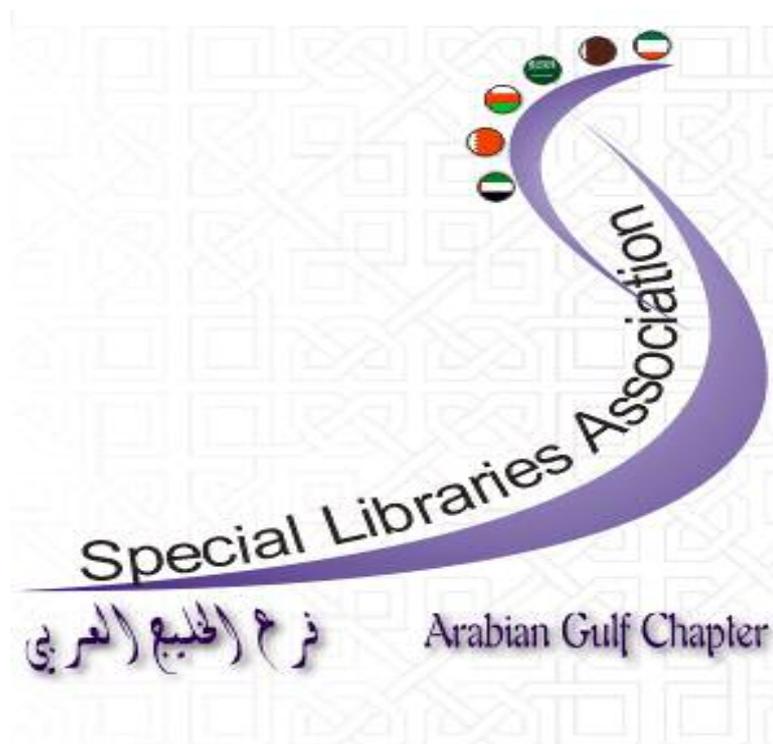




Special Libraries Association / Arabian Gulf Chapter

10th Annual Conference: Electronic Resources and Services for a Knowledge Based Society

Conference Papers' Summaries



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Does Arabic Electronic Resources lives up to users expectation? A comparative study: Arabic e-Resources vs. English e-Resources.

Abdullah Al-Faraj

Teacher at PAAET (Public Authority for Applied Education Training)

Email: alfaraj@paaetms.paaet.edu.kw

Phone/Mobile: 5348831 / 6000191

FAX: 2615857

Address: P.O. Box 27831 SAFAT, Kuwait 13138

Abstract:

The significant increase in English e-resources affected users' behavior in allocating information. However, Arabic e-resources are still a handicap to serve the Arabic scholar community. Does Arabic Electronic Resources today lives up to users' expectation? This study investigates the lack of Arabic e-resources in comparison with English e-Resources and their use in libraries. The study examines different aspect of electronic resources in libraries. A list of recommendation is finally presented as a summery of the study to flourish the use of Arabic e-resources in the information society.



E-government and Information Society: a symbiotic relationship

Ahmed Taha

Serials/E-Service Specialist

Libraries Deanship, UAE University

P.O. Box 1441, Al-Ain

United Arab Emirates

Fax: (+9713)-7666975

E-mail: Jazraby@uaeu.ac.ae

Abstract

It is beyond dispute that information and communication technologies (ICTs), along with the explosive growth of web-based Internet applications are powerful tools in the distribution of digitised information among the citizens, businesses, and public officials to pave the way for the growth-oriented information society whose hallmark is its consciousness of the importance of information. The rapid developments in ICTs are catalysts to trigger a series of such digital-based activities as e-commerce, etc to give rise to network society and ultimately step into a new digital era of public administration. What is e-government? The paper adopted the broad definition proposed by the World Bank. The emergence of e-government portals is considered as a significant step for providing online public services. This paper dedicates to gain some insights into the quality and quantity of the information posted on the e-government web portals. The quality web-based portal information reveals that to what extent the e-government is keen to support the total activities of the information society. Special attention is paid to the symbiotic relationship between Government and partners- citizens, business, and NGOs. The core theme of this paper is that the E-government is no longer just an option but a necessity for countries aiming for better governance and transforming the government machinery to be more business-centered and citizen-centered. ICTs are tools in this effort.



Information Literacy and Knowledge-Based Societies

Dr. Teresa Lesher, Assistant Professor

College of Basic Education, Kuwait

Fax: 532-8064 Mobile: 954-1042

Box 274, 45703 Surra, Kuwait

lesher@qualitynet.net

Abstract:

Knowledge is supplanting raw material as the primary economic source, and employee intelligence is a strong factor in productivity, prosperity and sustainability. While improving the availability of and access to modern digital communications is invaluable, we must focus on information and knowledge management, or information literacy, as an essential survival skill in the 21st century. This paper briefly traces the development of information literacy instruction and the concept of process-based instruction. Information literacy models provide a general framework for teaching transferable information skills, and information literacy standards provide broad guidelines for describing and assessing the information literate student. A survey of schools in Kuwait indicates that most have minimal instruction for information literacy, while some have none. Instruction is also weak in tertiary education. Factors that contribute to a successful information literacy movement in the Gulf region are discussed as well as the potential groups that could be reached.



Kuwaiti Legal Information System (KLIS): Prototype design, implementation and evaluation

Sultan AL-Daihani and Charles Oppenheim

Department of Information Science
Loughborough University
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 3TU
UK

Tel. 0044 1509-223065

Fax.0044 1509-223053

E mail:

S.AL-Daihani@lboro.ac.uk

C.Oppenheim@lboro.ac.uk

Abstract

This paper describes the development and a discussion of the different stages of the design, implementation and an evaluation of a Kuwaiti legal information system with a focus on the 'interface'. The primary purpose of the prototype is to develop a system to provide legal information sources and services which will satisfy the information needs of Kuwaiti legal professionals. In particular, it is intended to provide easy access to legal information that will assist them in carrying out their work tasks. It will be the first law portal in Kuwait.

A description of the contents of the prototype and the conceptual model of the information needs of Kuwaiti legal professionals is provided.



Use and User perception of Electronic Resources in the United Arab Emirates University UAEU

Ahmed Elhafiz Ibrahim (MLIS)

Cataloger

United Arab Emirates University, Libraries Deanship

P.O. Box 1441

Al-Ain, UAE.

Tel:971-3-7043211. Fax: 971-3-7666975

ahmedi@uaeu.ac.ae / harith@hotmail.com

Abstract:

This research reports findings from a survey study conducted to measure use and perception of electronic (e) resources by the UAEU faculty members. Questionnaires were sent to the target population and a total response rate of 89 % was received. Analysis confirmed that faculty frequency of use of e-resources was low. Lack of time with much focus on teaching; lack of awareness to e-resources provided by the library; ineffective communication channels; and languages barrier were factors influenced the low use of web-based e-resources in the UAEU.



User Education: Teaching Information and Computer Skills to Biological Sciences Freshman Students at the College of Sciences, Kuwait University

Samir N. Hamade

Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science,
College of Social Sciences, Kuwait University
P.O. Box 5969, Safat 13060, Kuwait
samirn@kuc01.kuniv.edu.kw

Abstract:

User education has become one of the most fundamental issues facing academic libraries anywhere in the world today. The increasing number of freshman students admitted to colleges and universities every year puts a burden on academic libraries and their staff and makes orientation tours insufficient and time consuming. Many librarians and researchers see the provision of academic courses for freshman students aiming at improving their information and computer skills as a necessity. Kuwait University took a leading role among other universities in the Arabian Gulf and introduced a service course in Information and Computer Skills tailored to the needs of freshman students at the department of Biological Sciences in the College of Sciences.

This paper attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching information and computer skills to biological sciences freshman students at the College of Science in Kuwait University by distributing the same questionnaire at the beginning and the end of the semester. The questionnaire includes the terminology needed by the students in order to acquire basic information and computer skills. The paper studies the progress of acquiring new terminology among male and female students, and the effect of owning a computer and having access to the internet on this progress.

The gathered data will be subject to analyses using some descriptive statistical techniques such as frequencies, percentages, and mean scores, in addition to some statistical tests such as the Chi-Square and Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) to determine the existence of significant associations among the variables.

It is hoped the paper will provide an accurate assessment of the success and effectiveness of providing academic courses on information and computer skills to freshman students as prospective users of information technology.



Web Resources for Catalogers : An Examination of Cataloging Department Home Pages

Syed Sajjad Ahmed

Senior Cataloger & Library Webmaster
Box 1910, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
Dhahran – 31261, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
e-mail : sjahmed@kfupm.edu.sa

Abstract:

This paper describes the need and benefits of Cataloging Department Home Pages. It also examines library Home Pages of three U.S. and six Arabian Gulf universities. The U.S. University library Home Pages generally provide information about their technical service departments, and cataloging department Home Pages are essentially embedded in these technical service Web sites. But in case of the Arabian Gulf university Home Pages, it was observed that all of them focus on the general collections and services available to their patrons and lack information in respect of cataloging departments. Only the KFUPM library Web site provides an exclusive Home Page for its Cataloging Operations Division. The study also found that the exploitation of Web-based cataloging resources by catalogers of the KFUPM library has resulted in enhancing the quality and efficiency of cataloging work. Finally, the author expects that the libraries of the Arabian Gulf region will now follow suit and create Cataloging Department Home Pages endowed with links to useful Web-based cataloging resources for bringing in better quality and efficiency in cataloging work of their respective libraries.