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Faculty of Social Sciences – Riyadh
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Audio-visual Materials in Libraries and Research Centers in Riyadh – A Study of Their Reality & Future Vision□

**A Thesis submitted to the Department of Library and
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Thesis Abstract

Audio-visual Materials in Libraries and Research Centers in Riyadh – A Study of Their Reality & Future Vision

Praise be to God, prayer and peace be upon the noblest of God's creation our Master Mohammed peace be upon him, and:

The Saudi research libraries collections include audio-visual materials.

Although this part has not received a dedicated scientific study that could shed light on it, and reveals its current reality in terms of acquisition, organization, and services provided to beneficiaries. This invokes the idea of this research to explore the reality of audio-visual materials in research libraries in the city of Riyadh.

The objectives of the study are to identify the reality of audio-visual materials in research libraries in the city of Riyadh in terms of: acquisition, organization, availability and types of services provided, and administrative and financing aspects. In addition to identifying the impact of digital media on the development of this category of materials; identifying the information that challenge libraries; disclosure of future plans for study libraries with regard to the development of audio-visual materials collections and their management; as well as making recommendations that could contribute to the improvement of the current situation of these collections.

The researcher adopted the survey method to study the phenomenon, subject of the research, and to answer the questions of the study. Therefore, a questionnaire was designed and distributed to the participating libraries as a major tool for collecting necessary data.

The researcher has also conducted interviews through the telephone and through intermediaries in order to clarify or verify the validity of some data or to complete some missing data. The study covered the following research libraries in Riyadh:

1. The Central Library of Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University Islamic University
2. The Central Library of King Saud University
3. King Fahd National Library
4. Institute of Public Administration Library
5. King Abdulaziz Public Library
6. King Faisal Center for Islamic Research & Studies.

The study has reached a number of findings, the most important of which are:

1. Written policies for the development of audio-visual collections are available in half of the study's libraries. Whereas the acquisition of audio-visual materials in other libraries is made on general and variable basis
2. All libraries are interested in the acquisition of audio-visual materials. This interest is ranged between high interest in half of the participating libraries, and medium interest in the other half
3. The audio-visual section tops the bodies in charge of the selection process in the libraries of the study; followed by the department of supplies, faculty members, and beneficiaries
4. Purchase tops the sources of libraries in access to audio-visual materials, followed by gifts, exchange, production, and then placement
5. At the forefront of selection tools used by libraries of the study, are the indexes of publishers, producers and distributors which are used by all libraries; then come the reviews and presentations that are used in half of the libraries.
6. Libraries of the study have unanimously confirmed that they remove and refine their audio-visual collections for several reasons, including: aging of materials and devices, material damage, and the presence of duplicates
7. All the libraries except one see that the digital media have affected the development of the audio-visual collections, and that such effect is positive in most of them.
8. At the forefront come the sound recordings and video cassettes among the audio-visual materials in terms of proliferation in the libraries of the study; followed by microfilms, slides, chips, and multimedia
9. Video, television and computer sets occupied the first place among audio-visual materials' devices, followed by audio recording devices, overhead projectors, displays, microfilm readers, microfilm cameras, and chip readers.
10. According to all libraries, except one of them, that there is a demand on the use of audio-visual materials. This demand ranges between high in half of the libraries and medium in two of them
11. At the forefront of the categories of beneficiaries of the audio-visual materials, is the category of faculty followed by graduate students, university students and other researchers.
12. Material copying and guidance and orientation services occupies the forefront rank among the services related to audio-visual

materials. The comes the service of issuance of catalogues of new materials and the training of employees on how to use this material

13. Most of the study libraries conduct indexing and classification of audio-visual collections, while two libraries suffice with indexing their collections.
14. Half of the study libraries use Dewey system in the classification of this category of their collections, while the other half uses local classification systems. Most libraries of the study apply the Anglo-American indexing in indexing such materials, while the remaining libraries apply other systems of the indexing developed locally
15. The findings of the study revealed that most libraries have staff members who are experienced in Library and Information Science and staff members specialized in other disciplines working in the audio-visual sections.
16. In half the libraries, subject of the study, there are independent budgets available to the audio-visual materials, while in the remaining libraries, such budget is part of the overall budget for acquisitions
17. Libraries face difficulties with respect to audio-visual materials. Some of these difficulties relate to matters of acquisition and development of these materials, some relate to hardware, and some relate to staff services of.

