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Cooperative Possession of foreign periodical in Saudi universities' libraries

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

This study deals with concurrent status of foreign periodics' development in Saudi universities' libraries and, to which extent a cooperative possession can be established among them. The study discusses several modules such as:

- the fact of foreign periodic development
- current status of cooperation among libraries under study
- Cooperation between libraries and other parties and to which extend constituents of such cooperation are available.
- Attitude of personnel in charge of libraries towards the project of foreign periodic cooperative possession.
- Constraints facing this proposed project.

This study depends on descriptive analytical approach being the most suitable approach to attain objectives. Necessary information was gathered by using a questionnaire directed to personnel of these libraries in addition to reviewing literatures in the field of study. Telephone communications with staff responsible of foreign periodic in libraries was also utilized.

The most important consequences of this study are:

- Lack of written policy for development of foreign periodic in 6 libraries.
- Most libraries are only concerned with maintaining electronic periodic.
- The utmost majority of foreign periodic are obtained through subscription with local suppliers.
- Saudi universities' libraries are facing price escalation of periodic hence, they cancel subscribing some of them with exception to library of King Saud University which resorts to increasing periodic's budget. It was clear that most of these libraries were adding more periodics to their subscription lists which is so little comparable to increasing number of scientific periodic published annually. Ratio of duplication in possessing these periodic reached 256.43% which means; libraries have massively born more than double as much cost in order to obtain (1354) duplicate titles.

Based on remarks of employers in the field of foreign periodic, it seems that there was tendency to benefit of foreign periodic but there are no tools for checking the rate of requirement.

Libraries' authorities agree that cooperative possession of foreign periodic justifiable due to the following facts:

- Rise of possession cost and humble budget of libraries.
- Increase of annually published periodic.
- Corporate desire to develop the project of cooperative possession.
- Four libraries exhibit readiness to support this project and to put forth agreements for execution.

Libraries' authorities agree that the project has some constraints such as:

- Shortage in bibliographic adjustment tools like unified lists.
- Lack of proper postal services.

The study was concluded with a proposed plan for cooperative possession of foreign periodic among Saudi universities' libraries.

