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Department of Library and Information



**The Development of Electronic Resources in
the Saudi University Libraries**
A study of Reality and a Vision for the Future

**A Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the
Masters Degree in Library and Information**

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Abstract message

The Development of Electronic Resources in the Saudi University Libraries – A study of Reality and a Vision for the Future

Praise be to God, prayer and peace be upon the noblest of God's creation Muhammad bin Abdullah, and:

This study deals with the development of electronic information resources in four Saudi university libraries, which are: the Library of King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, Library of King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, Library of King Saud University, and Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh. The study aims at identifying the size of electronic resources acquired by these university libraries, with an attempt to identify the weaknesses and address them, and to highlight the strengths and enhance them. This is in addition to making a policy, to be pursued in the future, for the development of electronic information sources in those libraries are walking in the future.

the researcher has adopted the descriptive method to study the phenomenon in question. She prepared a standard list of the collections of the four university libraries in question, taking reference to some companies in this area with some modifications, and then matching the list with the existing collections of these four libraries o electronic resources to determine the availability of these sources. Then the researcher has applied certain selection standards and guiding rules on these collections.

Upon analyzing the standard list, the researcher noted that there is interest by the four university libraries in the acquisition of foreign resources available through the Internet as well as subscription in a host of other foreign sources on optical disk. The electronic resources in Arabic, they receive less attention and their collections are limited. The Arabic electronic resources focus on religious, literary, and historical topics as well as educational programs, but are of little presence in the scientific fields.

The researcher concluded the study with some recommendations, including the necessity to increase the volume electronic resources collections in university library. In addition, the necessity to develop a written policy for university libraries for the acquisition of electronic resources according to specific criteria set forth by these libraries with allowing flexibility in such policy to comply with the future development of these sources forms.