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Ministry of Higher Education
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Faculty of Social Sciences
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**Effect of Computer Utilization on Public Libraries'
Performance in the Kingdom**

**Master Degree Thesis
submitted to Libraries & Information Division
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Thesis Abstract

Effect of Computer Utilization on Public Libraries' Performance in the Kingdom

This thesis discusses the effect of Computer on the performance of public libraries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The problem of the study is implied in non-clearance of image regarding current status of automation in Saudi Public libraries. Reports and field studies analyzing and studying concurrent computerization of Saudi Public Libraries are minimal. Studies specifically covering public libraries are nil.

The objective of this study is to provide a scientific answer to a question like: To which extent does the computer influence the performance of public libraries in the Kingdom particularly in relation to supply, indexing, lending and direct indexes (OPACs).

Importance of this study is implied in the fact that it reflects a conspicuous picture of libraries' status and help for future planning. It would furnish planners and decision makers with data and statistics pertaining to these libraries and also with achieved results and recommendations. Consequently perfect plans could be made and competence of future strategies for public libraries' computerization would increase.

The researcher has adopted a descriptive approach to identify the influences of computer on the performance of computerized public libraries in the Kingdom. Moreover, she carries out systematic interviews as a tool for data gathering, then she analyzed data and came out with numerous results such as:

- 1- Most of libraries under study (70%) utilize local systems and rarely utilize commercial systems.
- 2- Indexing is the most computerized activity. Regarding services, it was found that index search and reference service, reader guidance were the most services provided, by libraries under study, through computer.
- 3- The study population unanimously agreed that computerization has great effect on time saving by (92%).

- 4- Regarding performance, the population agreed that computerization has "great effect" on performance in the light of all 4 factors at variable rates.
- 5- The population of study agreed to computerization effect on work competence and quality "to large extent" in the light of all 5 parameters affecting competence and quality at variable rate.
- 6- The study proved that computer has largely affected organizational structure of libraries under study along with number of staff, their classes and ratio of specialized to non-specialized personnel.
- 7- Study clarified that the most obstacles facing libraries under study are connected with machines and financing.

Based on aforementioned results of study, the researcher has come out with some recommendations as follows:

- 1- The study has proved a significant effect of computerization on performance of libraries and their operational competence and quality. Computerized libraries are only 10 in number out of 110 total libraries i.e. (9%) only. Therefore, researcher recommends that authorities supervising these libraries are advised to computerize it in order to upgrade their performance. Nevertheless, computerized libraries are advised to complement computerization for activities not yet automated.
- 2- Researcher recommends that public libraries should adopt ready-made commercial systems since they are, in terms of performance, more competent than local systems.
- 3- Researcher recommends that King Abdul-Aziz Public Library, having great capabilities and pre-experience, may play a significant role in coordinating computer activities and cooperating with other public libraries.