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Indexing of Printed Books of Arab Islamic Heritage

Evaluation Study

**A Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the
PhD. Degree n Library and Information**

By

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Abstract message

The study aims to examine the issue of indexing books of printed Arab Islamic heritage, and to identify and evaluate what have been indexed of them. It endeavors to first identify the heritage books, identify their characteristics, and demonstrate the importance of their indexing; to identify, accordingly, the most indexed thematic areas, the most widespread book types, and the efforts of the individuals and entities in charge of the indexing process; to emphasize the need to adhere to the standards of accuracy in indexing books; to emphasize the importance of uniting efforts to towards fulfilling the production of indexes; and to identify appropriate methods for their preparation.

This study has made use of the descriptive approach, which is based on description and analysis of the phenomenon using the statistical program known as the "Statistical Social Sciences (SPSS)" for data processing in order to identify figures and percentages, delimit areas, and to identify relationships and the extent of correlation between variables.

The analytical evolutionary study has been conducted on the research community in three stages; the first stage involved: collecting as much as possible of books of heritage and classifying indexed and non-indexed of them; classifying heritage books in terms of their topics; identifying the categories according to their topics and times; identifying governmental and non-governmental agencies, organizations and bodies which are known for their involvement serving of heritage books, with an estimate of what each of them has indexed with showing respective percentages.

the second phase has dealt with the study and analysis of the indexed books in terms of their topics, their types, their times, those who made their indexing of publication, and their numbers and percentages.

The third phase has delimited the study to a random sample of indexed books for the purpose of their analysis and evaluation in terms of: extent of coverage in indexing books topic-wise, the accuracy of the indexes terms, the method of their organization and publishing, including introductions, instructions to use, locators, printing font types, and spaces all in accordance with the methodology used by researchers and investigators and in accordance with the international standards that commensurate with the properties of heritage books.

The study has come up with a number of findings upon which it proposed some recommendations, including: the importance of uniting efforts of the different key influential bodies in the field of indexing

heritage books such as publishing houses, investigators and researchers, government and non-governmental agencies, organizations, associations, and scientific synagogues in order to come out criteria that are valid for the characteristics of heritage books, and to avoid duplication of efforts being made in that field.

The study consists of six chapters, which are:

Chapter I: deals with the study problem, methods and tools;

Chapter II: deals with the characteristics and of heritage books, their importance and methods of indexing them.

Chapters III and IV: They address the issues of index books, standards in place, and efforts exerted in indexing books of heritage in particular.

Chapter V: is singled out for analysis of statistical data and evaluation of indexes.

Chapter VI: studies the bodies in charge of indexing and publishing, whether they are individuals or governmental, non-governmental, commercial, or charitable agencies.

In its conclusion, the study presented the realized findings and recommendations. In addition, the study appended a special folder of appendixes including a bibliography of printed heritage books that has been collected (3638 books), an alphabetical authors index, an appendix showing the sample of the study, an appendix of non-indexed book that appeared at the first stage of printing, and an appendix of the books which have been indexed more than once.