

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Ministry of Higher Education  
Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University  
Faculty of Social Sciences- Riyadh**



**Service of Provision of Documents to  
Female Researchers in the Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia**

***A Study of the Status Quo and a Future Plan***

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

Scientific research depends on information and ideas produced by human minds, and accumulated in the production of scientific thought over the years. Accordingly, institutions of scientific information should provide male and female researchers with the necessary information. However, the majority of information institutions in Saudi Arabia, as is known, do not allow female researchers to enter their premises to search by themselves into the intellectual output for the information they need. Out of the research she conducted for the master's degree, which is entitled "Reference Services in Academic Libraries for Female Students Mecca and Jeddah Cities" as well as out of some researches conducted by some Saudi researchers, the researcher found out that the institutions of information allocated for Saudi female researchers do not meet the female researchers need of information. Therefore, the researcher considers that the service of provision of documents to the Saudi female researchers will contribute significantly and directly in solving and avoiding the foregoing problem and will serve the scientific community as a whole.

The service of provision of documents means: "to provide the published and unpublished documents, regardless of the format of their carriers, to either libraries or individuals, upon request, through programs of sharing resources between libraries or by purchase from commercial vendors. The service of provision of documents includes identification of information, identification sources of supply, request of documents, processing of orders, delivery of documents, transmitting of the value of the cost. This service could be traditional or electronic, and its procedures can be controlled by standards and measures to ensure good performance.

The study deals with the following issues:

First: discussion of the service of provision of documents, the global information institutions that provided it, the information systems and machine programs adopted by these institutions in providing this service, through a survey of local and global intellectual production.

Second: discussion of the rules and laws that govern the services provision of documents through the survey of local and global intellectual production as well

Third: discussion of the service of provision of documents provided to female researchers in the Saudi information institutions through conducting a field survey of these institutions and services

Fourth: discussion of the scientific needs of the Saudi female researchers via a field survey of such needs of these researchers

Fifth: Proposal of a plan to provide e-service of documents provision to Saudi female researchers, based on their actual need of information, through formulating a general vision of a service of electronic provision of documents that can be applied in the Saudi institutions to serve all categories of researchers, not only the female researchers.

The field survey was conducted on female researchers at the Umm Al-Qura University, King Abdul-Aziz University, and the faculties of Education in Mecca and Jeddah.

Through the field research, the researcher reached a number of findings, the most important of which are: that Saudi female researchers are desirous of receiving the provision of documents service; that most of them prefer to use the e-mail and the Internet in the process of requesting and receiving documents; that they are not reluctant to pay a fee for this service; that they are interested selective dissemination of information and current issues.

In the light of these findings, the necessity of providing the service of electronic documents provision can be emphasized as an effective solution to the problem of Saudi female researchers with the information and their need of the same.