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Ministry of Higher Education
Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Library & Information**



The Impact of the Internet Filtering on Researchers' Accession to Information for Scientific Research Purposes

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

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This study addresses the issue of the impact of filtering the Internet on researchers' accession to information for scientific research purposes and the extent of such impact as well as the scientific disciplines most susceptible to blocking, and the disciplines most affected by such blocking. The study further sought to identify the ways that researchers use to access blocked information, the extent to which they are convinced of the need for filtering in the Kingdom, the importance of Internet as a source of research information for them, and their proposals as to overcoming the problems related to internet filtration. The study also aimed to identify the most vulnerable and the most affected scientific disciplines by blocking and the researcher's attitudes towards the filtration, whether or not they have been subject to such blocking. Finally, the study aimed to identify the impressions of participants about the Internet, its advantages and its relevance to scientific research.

Several research questions have been formulated and the findings were analyzed to achieve the objectives and to answer the questions of the study. Questionnaires were distributed on a sample of (1075) graduate male and female students in the major universities in Riyadh (Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University, King Saud University, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences) representing 15% of the total members of the study population. 504 questionnaires, which are valid for analysis representing 46% of the total population, have been returned. Collected data has been processed and analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques such as frequency Distribution and percentages.

The study reveals several findings, most notably is that about two-thirds of the participants in the study of those who use the Internet have experienced blocking at a rate of 65%; and that 66.1% of whom their researches were affected by the impact of blocking. In addition, 70% of them were forced to consult other literature and sources of information. The study showed that the legal field is the most scientific disciplines prone to blocking by 76%, followed by the medical and health field by 74.6%. The most scientific field that is

affected by blocking was the medical and health field by 74.5% followed by the legal field by 73.7%.

The study concluded, based on the findings reached, in a number of recommendations and proposals for overcoming the problem of the internet filtering impact on researchers in order to realize complete and effective benefit from the Internet to researchers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.