

# The Commitment of Arabic Sites in the Field of Libraries and Information That is Available on the Web Measured by Dublin Core Schema

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## Abstract

The study aims to try to explore Internet sites in the field of libraries and information and to analyze it objectively and semantically as well to identify its compliance with Dublin Core schema through the analysis of the researched websites by some of elements of the sites identified as a title, date, and language. Moreover to analyze the sites under study by geographical division and the possibility of study, there were identified (181) sites, (106) sites has been subdued to study and it was found out that the University Library Web sites are the most number (38) with a percentage of (35.8%), and most sites have been neglected or delayed update issue. The study recommended that the cooperation between the founders of the websites of libraries is necessary in order to be designed according to Dublin Core Schema and metadata to utilize the maximum benefit of it and make all Arabic websites appeared in Arabic display not only English display and the need to develop specialized sites in the core of the field such as library networks and directories and electronic catalogues, manuscripts since these categories have showed very low proportions in the identification process.

**Keywords:** commitment, Arabic, sites, libraries, information, Web measured.

## Introduction

Websites specialized in libraries and information, are in need to be pushed forward, the information specialists are working to explore the gaps and the issues related to it.

In the mean time the increased growth of information has an impact in increasing the numbers of electronic information resources, the matter that pushed the information specialist to rethink of a suitable process to describe the electronic resources available on the web.(1)

Based on this many cooperative trails have come from different scientific and vocational institutions and specialists in the field and the founders and the beneficiaries of these resources to find a unified and dependable formula to index and organize these electronic resources, so the descriptive data of the websites have appeared that are known as metadata or the describers of the data to contribute in restoring the accurate information without dispersion in the plenty of the restored research results. Of these measures comes Dublin Core comes to index and regulate the describers of the data. (2)

This has come to meet the needs of users of Internet websites by being a tool that is used to identify the sites according to the objective framework, the researcher hopes that the results of this study will be a support to decision makers who are responsible for developing, designing and managing these sites to correct the pat and the approach of the work within these sites and to achieve the desired aims to contribute in identifying and facing the faces of the lack in these sites and identifying the its range of commitment of Dublin-Core Schema.

## Problem of the study

With the increasing number of websites in all specialties, and of them as well the subject of libraries and information and the related topics, taking into consideration the absence of a specified mechanism to regulate and index these websites. It becomes very difficult to determine its number and its content as well, the matter which makes the mission of its users difficult in browsing the important and the specialized websites; so this study has come to highlight the following problems:

- Are all Arabic websites on the internet in the field of libraries and information conformed to their titles?
- Are all these websites containing conformed information to objective framework of the website?
- Are all these websites committed Dublin-Core Schema?
- Is it published in more than one language or just in Arabic?

The objectives of the study

This study aims to identify the websites of Arabic libraries and checking its commitment to Dublin-Core Schema, and achieve the following objectives:

- Identify the internet websites in the field of libraries and information within their objective framework.
- Explore the range of the accuracy of Arabic websites indexing and especially its conformance to Dublin-Core Schema.
- Present the importance of the indexing of websites specialized in libraries available especially in Arabic.

- Set a specified mechanism to use Dublin-Core Schema in Arabic websites indexing framework due to the simplicity of its usage.

### **The importance of the study**

The importance of this study lies in directing the attention of those who are responsible for designing websites specialized in libraries to the necessity of adapting one unified schema for its indexing through:

- Identify the websites and analyze it according to the variables and the age requirements and uplift the level of these websites.
- Help the researchers, employees and users of these websites in specifying the website that meet the objective framework of their needs.
- Evaluate the indexing of the Arabic websites specialized in libraries and identify the pros and cons of these websites.

### **The limits of the study**

- The objective limits: the study focuses on the sites specialized in libraries, information and documentation etc. of other information services and scrolls and Arabic universities and library organizations and societies, publishing houses were excluded due to the difficulty of limiting it and due to the fact that the majority of it needs paid subscription also the school libraries were excluded due to its scarcity.
- The linguistic limits: the study focuses on the Arabic available websites.

### **The questions of the study**

This study tries to the following questions:

1. What is the reality of the commitment of the Arabic libraries websites to data describers and Dublin-Core Schema?
2. What is the degree of utilization of Dublin-Core Schema in minimizing the process of restoration and electronic search in Arabic websites of libraries and the increase in browsing its pages?
3. Did Arabic libraries websites take care of the matching between its content and its objective framework?
4. Did websites contain Arabic interfaces or it contain other languages moreover to Arabic

### **Procedural definitions**

First: terminology

- 1) Metadata (data describers):

It is data about data, which means that it is data about a certain electronic material whether it is text files, video, flash or other. It could be described as identification card of the book in the library that holds information and data about the nature of the information and data in the book and where it is on the shelves in the library. It is data that helps to specify and describe the place or the subject of the web electronic resources or structured data describe the characteristics of the objects that hold the information to help in specifying and exploring and evaluating the connected objects. (3)

- 2) Book Mark:

It is an URL (the address of the site) that is kept in a way where you can return easily and quickly to a specified web document and it is similar to favorite list. (4) The book mark here is related to internet pages and is irrelevant to book mark in the science of libraries and information.

- 3) Home page:

It is the web document that the display program presents when the program is started or the command Home is used or the main page in the display program. (5)

- 4) Web site:

A collection of web documents and electronic files on the web network (www) about a certain subject in the host device and contain a file that starts in the beginning called the main page. (6)

- 5) IP Address:

It is an address that specifies the host site on the internet and this address is presented in 4 parts separated by dots, example (1.196.156.122). (7)

- 6) World Wide Web (www):

It is a hypertext system that allows the user to navigate through documents related with the chosen path, www documents contain subjects that refer to other documents when specified. (8)

Second: the elements of Dublin-Core Schema: (9)

- 1) Address: it is the name given to the resource, often this name is given by the author or the publisher and the rule of Anglo-American indexing rules are applied on it.
- 2) Author: the person or the organization responsible for the intellectual authoring of the content or the resource, for example: the artist, author, photographer ... etc.

- 3) Subject-key words: a collection of words that represent the contents of the resources that should be converted to concentrated descriptors using one of the technical bases.
- 4) Description: a textual description of the resource content, in the case of documents a summary is prepared representing the content of the resource.
- 5) Publisher: the responsible organization of making the resource and transmitting it on the Internet, such as an educational or cultural organization.
- 6) Participants: a person or committee who has a secondary role other than the main author and at the same time has an intellectual role in preparing the content of the resource.
- 7) Date: date of initiating the resource.
- 8) Type of the resource: text, image, poem, work sheet, dictionary, bulletin, encyclopedia ... etc.
- 9) Form: the structure of the data existing in the resource, used to identify by the programming language that presented and operated the resource, such as XML and HTML.
- 10) Language: language of the content of the resource, it is preferable to use language summary using Iso 639.
- 11) Relationship: the identifier of the second resource and its relationship to the current resource.
- 12) Identifier: numbers or symbols special for resource and it known by the normal term of the internet address that comes after HTTP.
- 13) Rights management: the first responsible on operating the resource that has the right to update and modify data.

#### Methodology of the study

1. Reviewing the relevant references and resources with the subject of the study represented by a collection of various books and periodicals then analyzing and extracting relevant information and using it.
  2. Visiting the electronic site [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) in a trail to get some articles and studies related to data descriptors and indexing of electronic sites particularly and study it and extracting information to be used in the field of the research.
  3. In order to identify internet sites Cybrarians Journal was used that has found about 151 relevant sites of libraries and is considered the starting point in identification process.
  4. Entering each site individually and identifying the related sites through the link (relevant site) and specialized sites and these sites are considered relevant to the research so it has been entered and included.
  5. Trying to identify other sites through free search by key words such (specialized libraries, university libraries, or sites of number of libraries that entered within the search framework).
  6. Designing a worksheet to identify sites specialized in libraries and information and the researcher found about 181 specialized sites in libraries, 106 sites of it are available in Arabic language in addition to other languages, the rest of it is available in English and French, some of these sites were not accessible due to certain problems in the web, some sites their Arabic interface were under construction.
- All guiding data of sites was drawn based on the information on interfaces and screen these sites, where the number of sites that have information index of the site according to Dublin Core schema was very low and was debriefed for the rest of the site as previously mentioned on the home page.
- The researcher adopted (worksheet) globally accredited to index websites and recognized by WWW ((World Wide Web) by Dublin Core schema, this used sample worksheet includes: address, author, subject, description, contributors, date, type, format, identifier, language, relation, rights, Publisher.
7. Analysis of the previous elements and the addition of other elements to analyze the sites and get to know their characteristics, and analyze this data within tables and extraction percentages for this information. These elements have been added to the working paper for the purposes of statistical analysis: the possibility of research, the need for a password or subscription, type a period of updating of the site.
  8. Using a list of Arabic subject headings for the purposes of objective division, and prepare an objective assigning list belonging to the greater Arabic subject headings list of subjects that did not fit in them.

#### Previous studies:

Mahmood Abdel Sattar Khalifa (2005) "Arabic Websites in the field of libraries and information: an analytical study. Cybrarians journal. \_ p 4 (March 2005). (10)."

The study provided a comprehensive analysis of Arabic sites specialized in the field of library and information on the Internet, the study has emerged with the following results:

- Specialization of libraries and information in the Arab world owns 151 specialized sites, sites of information facilities, represent the proportion of 74.1%.
- Arabic libraries sites lack to provide book-mark service on the Internet, where only 11.6% offer this service.
- Arabic sites suffer from the lack in the use of metadata, where 18.3% of the sites put metadata, and it seems that this lack is more pronounced in reliance on Dublin Core schema where only 2.6% of sites are using this criterion in the formulation of metadata.

Mahmood Abdel Sattar Khalifa. Arab Web sites in the field of library and information in evidence and

international gateways. Cybrarians journal, P. 4 (March 2005). (11)

This study aimed to explore the presence Arabic websites specialized in the global and international evidence and specialized portals, where it searched for locations of Arabic libraries sites and its indexes, electronic journals, and sections of libraries and information, and the study generally showed the non-existence of Arabic websites locations specialized in its diversified categories of evidence and international gateways and they suffer from total disregard due to the negligence of officials for the administration of Arabic websites specialized in the field and not keen on the presence of their positions within that evidence, in addition to the lack of interface in English in a number of Arabic websites specialized, as is the presence of experienced English prerequisite to add any site to some of this evidence.

Zein Abdel-Hadi (2005) Metadata in Arab libraries sites in both Egypt and Saudi Arabia: An applied Study. Cybrarians journal. P. 4 (March 2005). (12)

An experimental study published in 2005 in which one of the famous software on the Internet was used which enables the analysis of metadata of the sites, the program is named Meta Tag Analyzer, the study analyzes metadata in 6 Arabic libraries sites located in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, namely: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Public Mubarak Library, Egyptian Libraries Network, the Egyptian National Library, King Abdul Aziz Public Library, King Fahd National Library, the study concluded the following result: "although the existence of Arabic libraries on the Internet is increased in number but it is not of good quality that enables the beneficiaries to access it easily because of the way in which Metadata was built is not good as a whole and did not follow the international standards in this issue."

Arab Web sites specializing in libraries and information, 2005: Bibliographical list - Cybrarians journal. P. 4 (March 2005). (13)

A Bibliographical list that confine Arabic Internet sites specializing in the field of libraries of information, the list includes 151 specialized sites that were divided into eight categories: information facilities, colleges, schools, associations and organizations, electronic journals, directories and portals, private companies, forums, automated systems.

Ahmad Said Tim 2005, "indexing Web sites using a scale of Dublin Core." Message \_ magazine library. \_ Vol 4, p 3 (September 2005). (14)

A study on the indexing of Websites using Dublin Core scale in comparison with MARC 21 the study tackles the importance and benefits of this type of indexing and the important role of this measure in the performance of the virtual library.

Sherif Kamel Shaheen (2002) "Metadata as a source of standard index records for Arabic electronic online information resources: an exploratory experimental study. Recent trends in library and information. \_ Vol. 9, P. 18 (July 2002). P. 79 - 146.

The study examined Arabic information resources in all fields of knowledge represented by the ten key to sections and sub-sections according to Dewey classification and is limited to the resources available in the Arabic language and the applications of standards and metadata on these sites within the scale of the Dublin Core and researcher concluded the following results:

- Lack of Arabic information resources to comply with the standards of metadata.
- The apparent decrease in the interest of designers and producers of websites and Arabic electronic resources in the proper, accurate and integrated coding.

Statistical Analysis

Part one: objective analysis

Table (1) objective analysis

Subject	No. of site	Percentage
University libraries	38	35.8%
Specialized libraries*	14	13.3%
National libraries**	13	12.3%
Public libraries	7	6.6%
Library divisions	7	6.6%
Portals and electronic journals***	5	4.7%
Information centers	5	4.7%
Library associations	4	3.8%
Scribes	3	2.8%
Private companies	3	2.8%
Forums and alliances	3	2.8%
Index and electronic directories	2	1.9%
Libraries and information networks	2	1.9%
Sum and percentage	106	100%

From the above table the sum of Arabic websites specialized in libraries equals 106 websites. University libraries occupied the greatest percentage where its sum equals 38 sites with 35.8%, while the sum of the websites of the specialized libraries equals 14 sites with 13.3%.

The sum of the national libraries equals 13 sites with 12.3% while the sum of the public libraries website equals 7 websites with 6.6% the divisions of the library has the same sum and percentage 7 websites with 6.6%, which could be attributed to the scarcity in teaching the subject in Arabic universities.

The sum of websites of portals and electronic journals equals 5 sites with 4.7% with the same sum and percentage for centers of information and documentation.

But websites of library and information associations come with a sum of 4 sites with a percentage of 3.8%. While scribes sites and sites of forums and alliances also sites private companies have harvested 3 sites for each with an equal percentage of 2.8%.

Specialized libraries: include the libraries of commissions, institutions banks and ministries.

\*National libraries: include the national libraries, national archives, \*\*houses of national books.

\*\*\*electronic portals: sites that include general information in several fields that are electronically available.

The sites of index and electronic directories and sites of libraries and information network have equal percentages of 1.95% for each with 2 sites.

Second part: websites analysis according to some elements of Dublin –Core schema:

First: websites analysis according to design date and availability

Table (2) analysis of site according to designated and availability

Date description	No of sites	Percentage
Approximate date*	52	49%
Without date	40	37.7%
Clear date	14	13.2%
Sum	106	100%

From the above table it is indicated that that in most of the websites date of design was not mentioned clearly with a sum of 52 sites with an approximate date and a percentage of 49.1% this could because persons in charge of indexing these sites has no commitment since design date is considered very important in restoring and identifying websites.

While one find that the sum of websites that did not mention the date absolutely equals 40 sites with a percentage of 37.7% which indicates the absence of this element totally from the index of the site which affects negatively on the accuracy of restoring the site according to design date.

The sites that mention the real design date clearly equal 14 sites and a percentage of 13.2% which indicates that people in charge of indexing Arabic website specialized in libraries and information are not committed to the unified standards of indexing sites according to Dublin-Core Schema and the international indexing standards.

\*approximate date: the date of publishing rights is considered an alternative (approximate) date for the design date.

Second: analysis of sites according to language

Table (3): Analysis of sites according to language

Language	No. of sites	Percentage
Site has two languages	71	67%
The site is only in Arabic language	36	24.5%
Site has three languages	7	6.6%
Site has more than three languages	2	1.9%
Sum	106	100%

It is indicated from the above table that all sites are committed to show the language of the site. The sites that have two interfaces with two different languages (Arabic and another language) come in the first place with a sum of 71 and a percentage of 67% which indicate the big concern of the management of the site to present the site in another language interface in addition Arabic interface in accordance of the age requirements so the site will be more beneficial and are accessible to whom do not know Arabic very well.

The site available only in Arabic interface come in the second place with a sum of 26 sites and a percentage of 24.5% so it is difficult to include these sites in the international web directories since many of them require an English interface to be added in the directory. The number of the available sites in 3 different languages was 7 sites with a percentage of 6.6% followed by the site that are available in more than 3 languages with a sum of 2 sites and a percentage of 1.9%.

It is known that the library specialized sites and belong to Arabic directions but are available in English interfaces have been 75 sites. For more information refer to appendix (2).

\*\* Two languages: the site would have an Arabic interface in addition to an interface either in English or French.

\*\*\* Three languages the site would have an Arabic interface in addition to English and French interfaces.

\*\*\*\* More than three languages: several sites are in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) interfaces.

Third part: analysis of sites according to other elements

First: analysis of the site according to identifier extension

Table (4): analysis of sites according to identifier extension

Extension	No. of sites	Percentage
Edu	41	38.6%
Org	25	23.5%
Gov	12	12%
Com	8	7.5%
Net	9	8.4%
Not clear	11	10%
Sum	106	100%

It is indicated from the above table that sites with (edu) extension was the largest in number with a sum of 41 site and a percentage of 38.6% which indicates that these library sites is related to educational institutions such as universities and colleges which are the most available online.

While the sum of sites with (.org) extension has equal to 25 sites with a percentage of 23.5% i.e., the sites related to certain organizations occupied the second rank after the educational websites.

The sum of the site tat are related to governmental establishments with (.gov) extension came in the third rank with sum of 12 sites and a percentage of 12% which refer to the scarcity of library sites that are related to governmental establishments online.

Sites with unclear extension equal 11 with a percentage of 10% and the sites with (.net) extension equal 9 sites with 8.4% and in the last place sites with (.com) extension with 8 sites and 7.5%.

Second: analysis of sites according to its need to password and subscription

Table (5): analysis of sites according to its need to password or subscription

Subscription need	Number	Percentage
The site needs password and subscription	85	80.2%
The site does not need password and subscription	21	19.8%
	106	100%

According to the above table it is clear that sites that do not need subscription or password to navigate the site and utilize its services has occupied the largest part of the sum of the sites that have been identified which reached 85 sites with a percentage of 80.2% which indicates that most of the sites make its service available to people totally without subduing to certain Categorizes with conditions of subscription and password, the matter that encourage people to navigate the site and rushing to it without obstacles.

Sites that need subscription and password was found to be 21 site with a percentage of 19.8% were the user faces difficulty to access information and site links unless he has password and subscription.

Table (6): analysis of sites according to update period

Update period	No of sites	Percentage
No update	94	88.7%
During 6 months	5	4.7%
Daily	4	3.8%
Latest updated during two years	3	2.8%
sum	106	100%

It is indicated from the table above that the sites that have not been updated for a long period occupied the first rank with a sum of 94 sites with a percentage of 88.7% which means that the information available is old and did not meet with the latest developments in the field due to the weakness of the responsible director s of the management of the site and their inability to cope with the newly updates in the field which cause audiences to forbid navigating the site and utilize its available information.

While half yearly updated sites occupied the second rank with a sum of 5 sites and a percentage of 4.7% which is a weak indication on the concern of the responsible directions of the management of the site with latest updates.

The daily updated site have come with a sum of 4 sites and a percentage of 3.8% which indicates the concern of a little percentage of the sites with the updating of its data daily so the navigation rate of these site will be great due to the newness of the information and its meeting to the latest developments. While the site that did not updated during the past two years their sum equals 3 with 2.8%.

Fourth: analysis according to geographical division

Table (7): analysis of sites according to geographical division

Geographical area	No of sites	Percentage
Egypt	18	17%
Jordan	16	15%
Saudi Arabia	15	14%
Palestine	9	8.5%
Kuwait	7	6.6%
U.A.E	6	5.7%
Bahrain	4	3.8%
Iraq	3	2.8%
Algeria	3	2.8%
Oman	3	2.8%
Tunisia	2	1.8%
Morocco	2	1.8%
Lebanon	2	1.8%
Syria	2	1.8%
Yemen	1	0.9%
Libya	1	0.9%
Unknown	12	12%
Sum	106	100%

It is evident from table above that number of site in Egypt was the largest with a sum of 18 sites and a percentage 17% followed by Jordan with 16 sites and percentage of 15% followed by Saudi Arabia with 15 sites and a percentage of 14%.

While the sum of the sites that have not been recognized its geographical belonging equal 12 sites with a percentage of 12%. The sum of sites in Palestine equal 9 sites with 8.5%, Kuwait has 7 sites sum with 6.6% percentage then Bahrain with 4 sites and 3.8% percentage. Iraq, Algeria and Oman have the same sum 3 sites with a percentage of 2.8% for each. Also Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Syria each have 2 sites in a percentage of 1.8%. Finally Yemen and Libya have only one site for each in a percentage of 0.9%.

Fifth: analysis of site according to the possibility of search

Possibility of search	No of sites	Percentage
Search by key words	71	67%
No possibility for search	23	21.7%
Search with full text (detailed information)	12	11.3%
Sum	106	100%

From the table above, sites that enable search by key words have come in the first rank with a sum of 71 sites and a percentage of 67% while site have the possibility to search with full text its sum was 23 sites with a percentage of 21.7%. Sites that have no possibility to search equal 12 sites with a percentage of 11.3% which could be attributed the fact that most of these sites require subscription and password while the other did not require subscription and password so one could search its resources either by keywords or full text.

Base on the previous tables it is evident that:

1. Sites in the field of university libraries, specialized libraries and national libraries were the most prominent on the web due to its plenty and independence of the organizations that own it, also they are organizations that are concerned in scientific research more than any other organizations. The researchers recommend enabling more specialized sites in the objective divisions in the science of library and information.
2. The majority of the site did not concern to mention the date of the design.
3. The majority of the sites were available in two interfaces: Arabic and another with other language.
4. The majority of the sites were appeared in an extension of either (.org) or (.edu).
5. Most of the most are available without the need to subscription or password which means that it is available to all.
6. Approximately 88.7% of the sites did not concern with updating the interfaces or data of the site since a long period.
7. Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia occupied the highest percentage of Arabic websites.

## Results

1) The specialized websites in libraries and belong to Arabic directions equal 181 sites, 106 sites of them include an Arabic interface, these websites were identified in this study 75 sites were in English or were not accessed due to technical problems in the network.

- 2) There are websites available in languages other than Arabic as well as sites only in Arabic language.
- 3) There is a big shortage in indexing sites and a vivid neglecting of the most important elements in it such as design date were the number of the sites that are concerned with mentioning the actual date of design is only 14 sites.
- 4) Several sites neglect the process of updating process the matter that makes its data old and is not interested in the developments in the field.
- 5) The sites that mention the indexing data (the guiding data of the site) completely and accurately but only one site which is the gateway of Aymen Albostanjifor information were the designer of the site is a specialist in the science of libraries and information. The guided data of the site were extracted from the interfaces of the sites and its main displays.
- 6) Only the site of Aymen Albostaji did mention the form and type element where the researchers assumed that the type in these sites is bulletin, according to form that express the language of programming which is used to design the site it was very difficult to be concluded from the data of the site.
- 7) There are huge number of sites which enable the access of its WebPages with the need to password or subscription.
- 8) There are number of Arab countries that do not have network of any specialized site in these countries, some come in small numbers from one site to three sites.

### Recommendations

- focus to include the website belong to Arab directions with English interface with another interface in Arabic so the users who do not know English can benefit from the services of this site in Arabic.
- Add English interface to the sites that are available in only in Arabic (26 site) the matter that expand the range of utilization of the site by Arabs and non-Arabs, also give the site the possibility to include any international directory of sites by the application of the most important conditions for joining these directories in the existence of an English interface.
- Focus to initiate specialized sites in the core of the field such as sites of libraries networks directories electronic index scribes where this category show little percentage in the identification process.
- Concern about updating the specialized in libraries and information to cope up with the latest developments in the field and increase the number of the users.
- The necessity of coordination between the designers of the sites and the specialist of libraries and information to index the site correctly and accurately without shortage or errors in data and make links inside the site to present the full guiding data according to Dublin-Core Schema.
- The necessity to focus and take care of the formulation of Metadata according to Dublin-core schema and its most synchronized conditions with the needs of the user in restoring the site in a suitable and standard time where the largest percentage of Metadata extracted from the goals and the policy of the site and the design date was substituted by the date of publishing rights.

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