Open Access Week - Egypt

Saturday, October 29, 2016, 12:00 PM
Misr Public Library in Dokki

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Assistant professor, Information Science Dept., Bani Suef University, Egypt
Open access in Egypt and Arab countries

Dr. Eman Ramadan
Head of Digital Library, Cairo University Central Library, Egypt
The role of Egyptian and Arab libraries in supporting open access movement

Dr. Eman Fawzy
College teacher, Libraires Dept., Helwan University, Egypt
Arabic subject repositories in library and information science

Dr. Ghadeer Magdy
Founder and director of DFAJ (DIrectory of Free Arabic Journals)
Open access journals in Egypt and Arab countries

Ehdaa Salah
Assistant teacher, Library & Information Dept., Cairo University, Egypt
Institutional repositories in Egypt and Arab countries

Dr. Mahmoud Khalifa
DOAJ ambassador for Middle East and Persian Gulf, Egypt
The role of DOAJ in supporting open access movement
Open Access in Egypt & the Arab world

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Open Access Week; Cybrarians: the Arabic Portal for Librarianship and Information & Egypt Public Library; Cairo, 29/10/2016.
C.V.

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
Introductory remarks

- No doubt that the OA can make a lot of benefits to the Arab World as a developing nation, both in publishing and archiving information resources, and accessing these resources.

- Many of Arab countries are poor. They have limited information resources, poor libraries, and weak infrastructure in ICTs. So OA can make some solutions for theses crises in the information availability and scholarly communication.
Open Access Journals (1)

- This is the Gold Road of OA.

- Arab journals in DOAJ (in July 2016):
  - DOAJ has 651 journals from Arab countries out of 9076.
  - Arab journals form 7.1% of all DOAJ journals.
Open Access Journals (2)

- **Country No. in Jun. 2016**

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<td>Iran</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
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There is an Arab Directory for OAJs, titled **DFAJ = Directory of Free Access Journals**. But the responsible for it is a single researcher, called Dr. Ghadeer Magdy (from Alexandria Univ.).

The directory include:
Open Access Journals (4)

- More than **250** Journals (in Arabic & other languages)
- **17** Arab countries.
- **172** publishers (Governmental and private)

http://www.dfaj.net/index.php?r=home/index
Open Access Journals (5)

- Most Arab OA Journals don’t use metadata standards, or even adopt one of the open systems, so they don’t support OAI-PMH; and that’s why Google don’t index their content.
Digital repositories

- This is the **Green Road** of OA.
- Archiving NOT Publishing (but can archive post-print of refereed articles, pre-print articles, technical reports, thesis & dissertations, … etc.).
- **OpenDOAR** has about **41** repositories in Arab countries out of **3239** OA digital repositories all over the world (1.3 %).
Policies

- In study of sample of 23 Arab repositories, it has been revealed that theses repositories notably lacking in explicit policies on file formats (55 percent), metadata (33 percent) and preservation (22 percent). So obviously, these repositories have areas in need of development.

Research Funding (1)

- Arab countries suffer from the pressing economic conditions, especially after the Arab Spring revolutions.

- There is no specific Arab funders for Open Access. there are research funders in general, especially research centers and universities.

- Up to my knowledge, Only one institution that fund Open Access: Qatar National Library.
Open Access Author Fund (The Qatar National Library - QNL).

- QNL is committed to supporting open access publishing and ensuring opportunities for scholars and disciplines across Qatar to publish in open access journals.
- The Open Access Authors Fund pays article processing fees for articles in open access (OA) journals that use this funding method.
- This fund will be available as a pilot project for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

http://qnl.qa/programs-and-services/oaaf/oaaf
Submission Form for Open Access Author Fund

- Lead Principal Investigator (LPI):
- Institution:
- Department(s)/Faculty:
- Status:  □ Faculty  □ Staff  □ Graduate Student  □ Researcher  □ Other (please specify):
- Mailing Address of LPI:
- E-mail Address of LPI:
- Phone Number of LPI:
- Other Author(s) and Contributors:
- Title of Article:
Statements

■ There is only one statement that supports Open Access:

نداء الرياض للوصول الحر إلى المعلومات العلمية والتقنية
Riyadh Statement on Open Access for Scientific & Technical Information
King Abdulaziz Foundation For Research And Archives
2006
Promotion & Literacy (1)

Open Access Day And Week:

- **Egypt**:
  - American University in Cairo (AUC);
    - [http://schools.aucegypt.edu/llt/clt/Pages/Program.aspx](http://schools.aucegypt.edu/llt/clt/Pages/Program.aspx)
  - Alexandria University.
    - [http://www.openaccessweek.org/profile/MandyTaha](http://www.openaccessweek.org/profile/MandyTaha)

- **Qatar**:
  - Qatar National Library; QScience.com; The University of Calgary; … etc.
Promotion & Literacy (2)

- **Web sites:**
  - UNESCO's Global Open Access Portal for Arab States currently provides detailed OA profiles for 18 Arab countries:

- **Blog:**
  - Arab Initiatives of Open Access (Founder: Dr. Sulieman AlShuhri; from Saudi Arabia).
Promotion & Literacy (3)

- **Facebook:**
  - Open Access in Arab Countries (Founder: Jamila Jaber; from Lebanon).

- **Conferences**
  - Until now, there is no specific conference for OA in the Arab World.

- **Bibliographies**

There is a bibliography on OA (in Arabic language).

IT for Open Access

- There are some Arab companies & persons are working on developing **Open Source Software (OSS)** related to Open Access.

- They have already developed and Arabaized one of the famous Journal software titled **Open Journal Systems (OJS)**; and one of the famous Repository software titled **Dspace**.
Conclusion (1)

- Despite Arab World has many countries, it has a few number of OA Journals and OA repositories.
- Most Arab OA Journals don’t adopt one of the open systems, so Google don’t index their content.
- There is a clear defect in policies and declarations related to OA.
- OA in the Arab World has some good presence on the Web, through some Websites, blogs, and Facebook groups. And that’s mostly done by individuals rather than institutions.
Conclusion (2)

- There are some institutions that have promoted OA, through OA days and weeks. It’s noticed that most of these institutions are foreign ones.

- The difference between OA in the Arab World and the Western World, is caused by the difference between the economic, political, social, and scholarly communication systems.
Thank you!
Questions?

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