**INTEGRATED INDEXING OF ARABIC PERIODICAL HERITAGE**

In recent decades, we have seen an unprecedented growth in the publication of journals and magazines in Arabic covering all disciplines. In today’s globalized world, there is a need to preserve the information as there is very minimal attention given to compile and digitize the periodicals in Arabic, as much as it is noticed in English and other western languages. During this information age of proliferation of literature, it is not possible for any researcher to consult the individual sources, instead indexing and abstracting services play a vital role in assimilating and disseminating the information.

There are several databases exclusively for providing access to non-Arabic periodicals. However, when we look at the Arab world it appears beside a few local efforts of a compilation of indexes of locally available material, there have not been any serious efforts of compiling a comprehensive periodical index providing access to thousands of Arabic journals worldwide to researchers. As such, it is feared that a large amount of documentary heritage of the Arab world will ultimately disappear or become endangered.

The lack of such an indexing system for Arabic periodicals poses some challenges not only to those who wish to undertake research, but also to those who want to publish in Arabic. It limits researchers’ ability to identify relevant material and the others’ awareness of their output. Developing an Arabic periodical index and digitizing it will serve the goal of providing an online access for the users. It will help avoid duplication of research ideas and findings, whilst these indexes and repositories will support and facilitate advanced researches. There is certainly an immediate need to initiate a project at the global level of indexing and abstracting papers of Arabic periodicals to make it an indispensable tool for Arabic speaking audience.

The aim of the project should be to provide full bibliographic data, abstracts, and list of references to the article/paper (if available). The citation indexing will enhance the scholarly communication and provide ways of measuring the impact of research and its authorship.

Challenges to access Arabic periodicals will remain, until it is tackled with an integrated indexing project of Arabic periodicals. Qatar has taken a lead to be a soft power and has championed in different walks of life. It can further play a vital leadership role and fill this huge gap by utilizing the available technology for the service of Arabic information and create a platform that will cover the region and will exhibit its influence and impact in the scholarly communications.

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