

## **Users' characteristics of General Authority for Governmental Printing Affairs Library: an analytical study**

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Research - Summary

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### **Abstract**

The study aims to describe the characteristics of the users of the library of the General Authority for Princely Printing Affairs, as it is the official printing press library of the Arab Republic of Egypt. To achieve this goal, the researcher prepared a questionnaire to reveal the characteristics of the users. The study used the descriptive analytical method to achieve its objectives. It concluded with several results, the most notable of which are: that the location of the library is inappropriate and far from the elderly, and that users find it difficult to access the titles due to the lack of indexes, classification, or indexing of periodicals, and the absence of an automated system. The study concluded with a set of recommendations, including: That the library be affiliated with a central body that works to develop the library, provide full support to it, set specific standards, and link the library's website to the Authority's website in a manner commensurate with its status, importance, and the importance of its collections, and place it in the appropriate position, and that the library should have a system, a written policy, and instructions to facilitate its work in accordance with the standards. And approved international specifications and following international systems in classifying and organizing its collections through an electronic system compatible with international specifications in the field of library and information systems.

## Keywords

Library service, users, special libraries, Egypt

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## 1. Methodological Framework of the Study

### 1.1 Study Problem and Questions

Despite the critical role of the General Authority for Princely Printing Affairs Library in preserving and providing access to the state's official publications, there is a lack of comprehensive information about its operations and potential impact on its users. This gap necessitates further research and exploration. Studies such as Mona Farouk's have highlighted the significance of the Authority's library, suggesting it could serve as a depository for Egyptian government publications. Farouk's study also emphasized the need to understand the library staff's specializations and improve the technical preparation of the library's collections.

From this context, this study aims to address the following questions:

What are the characteristics of the beneficiaries of the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Library?

What difficulties do beneficiaries face when using the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Library?

### 1.2 Importance of the Study

The practical importance of this study lies in unveiling the workings of the state's official printing press library, the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Library. By examining the characteristics of its users and the factors influencing their experience, this study aims to identify the challenges they encounter and the opportunities available to enhance the library's services.

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

Analyze the characteristics of the beneficiaries of the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Library.

Explore the difficulties faced by the beneficiaries of the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Library.

#### **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

The study adheres to specific parameters that define its scope:

##### **1.4.1 Objective Limits**

The focus is on understanding the characteristics of the beneficiaries and the unique challenges they face when using the General Authority for Princely Printing Affairs Library.

##### **1.4.2 Time Limits**

The study was conducted from July 2020 to the end of December 2020.

##### **1.4.3 Spatial Boundaries**

The spatial boundaries are confined to the official printing press library of the Arab Republic of Egypt, located in Imbaba, Giza Governorate.

#### **1.5 Study Methodology**

This study is an analytical descriptive study that employs the survey method as a model for collecting data from human subjects. This approach is suitable as it focuses on analyzing and interpreting the current state of information institutions and their users through a structured scientific method.

The researcher utilized the following tools for data and information collection:

**Personal Interviews:** Several interviews were conducted with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Affairs and the director of the library. These interviews aimed to gather comprehensive insights on the study's subject matter.

##### **Questionnaire:**

**Questionnaire Development:** The questionnaire was developed in line with the research objectives, hypotheses, and theoretical framework, drawing on numerous references and previous studies.

**Review by Experts:** The initial questionnaire was reviewed by library and information science professors:

Professor Dr. Hasnaa Mahjoub, Faculty of Arts, Menoufia University.

Professor Dr. Mostafa Hossam El-Din, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

Professor Dr. Rabah Fawzi Muhammad, Faculty of Human Studies, Al-Azhar University.

The experts suggested modifications to some questions and added variables to enhance the measurement of benefits.

Testing the Questionnaire: The revised questionnaire was tested on an initial sample of library visitors to identify unclear questions and shortcomings. The feedback was used to make further adjustments.

Finalizing the Questionnaire: After incorporating the experts' and beneficiaries' feedback, the final version of the questionnaire was prepared. It included:

Closed Questions: Specific answers with various alternatives for beneficiaries to choose from.

Open Questions: Questions allowing beneficiaries to express their opinions and suggestions freely.

Application and Distribution: The finalized questionnaire was piloted, reformulated, and prepared for analysis. A specialist in statistics was consulted to process the data using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The statistical treatments included:

Frequency distributions and percentages

Arithmetic averages

Standard deviations

The data were transcribed into Excel and SPSS for generating statistical indicators of the beneficiaries' responses.

## **1.6 Population and Study Sample**

The study population comprised all visitors to the General Authority for Princely Printing Press Affairs Library. The library administration maintains a monthly record of visitors entering for library purposes, but no specific record of frequent users exists. To determine the sample size, the researcher used statistical sampling tables and an online sample size calculator. The monthly visitor range is from 784 to 936 beneficiaries, and the appropriate sample size was determined to be 273 beneficiaries. After distributing the questionnaires, 221 responses were

collected, representing an 81% response rate. Of these, 52 were unsuitable for use, leaving 221 questionnaires for analysis, which is a statistically acceptable response rate

### **3. Summary of the Study**

#### **3.1 Study Results**

Analysis of the Characteristics of Users of the Library of the General Authority for Princely Printing Press

##### **1. Demographic Analysis:**

- Gender: The users were predominantly male (69.6%) compared to females (30.3%).
- Age Groups:
  - Ages 31-40: 43.4%
  - Under 30: 29.8%
  - Ages 41-50: 16.2%
  - Ages 51-60 and 61-70 followed in lower percentages.
- Educational Qualifications:
  - Higher qualifications: 42.5%
  - Intermediate qualifications: 16.28%
  - Master's degree: 14.9%
  - No qualifications: 13.5%
  - Doctorate degree: 12.6%

##### **2. Professional Fields:**

- Law: 42.5%, due to the availability of the "Egyptian Gazette" and the "Official Gazette".
- Commerce: 29.8%, accessing resources like "trade names", "company newspaper", and "investment newspaper".
- Other Specializations: 27.6%, including literature, philosophy, psychology, social sciences, pure sciences, history, and geography.

##### **3. Library Usage Patterns:**

- Regular Visitors: 67.4%, mostly from the legal field.
- Occasional Visitors: 20.8%, primarily from the commercial field.
- First-time Visitors: 11.7%

- Visit Frequency:
  - More than once a week: 45.12%
  - Once a month: 24.61%
  - Once a week: 20%
  - More than once a month: 5.6%
  - Variable periods: 4.6%

#### **4. Motivations for Library Visits:**

- Specific Laws: 37.5%
- Specific Issues of Official Publications: 25.3%
- Periodicals: 17.6%
- Books: 14.9%

#### **5. Information Sources:**

- Official Gazette: 40.2%
- Egyptian Gazette: 34.8%
- Reports: 8.5%
- Periodicals: 6.33%
- Books: 4.07%
- References: 3.6%
- Conference Proceedings: 2.2%

#### **6. Requested Services:**

- Photocopying: 40.27%
- Internal Inspection: 39.81%
- Inquiries: 8.1%
- Current Awareness Services: 6.7%
- External Loan: 4.9%

### **Exploring the Difficulties Facing Users**

#### **1. Library Location:**

- Inappropriate and far from elderly users: 84.6%
- Somewhat appropriate: 9.5%
- Appropriate: 8.2%

#### **2. Library Equipment:**

- Insufficient: 69.68%, due to limited space, old furniture, and wear and tear.
- Somewhat sufficient: 16.2%

- Sufficient: 12.6%

### **3. Library Hours:**

- Inappropriate: 52.03%, with suggestions to extend hours until 4 or 5 PM.
- Appropriate: 47.9%

### **4. Awareness of Library Policies:**

- Unaware: 94.5%
- Aware: 5.4%, due to a lack of clear written policies.

### **5. Access to Titles:**

- Difficult: 65.15%, attributed to a lack of indexes and classification.
- Easy: 34.8%

### **6. Sufficiency of Library Collections:**

- Somewhat sufficient: 53.3%
- Sufficient: 24.8%
- Insufficient: 21.7%

### **7. Major Difficulties:**

- Organization, Lack of Catalogs, and Computer System: 40.27%
- Staff and Specialists: 18.5%
- Equipment (furniture, ventilation, lighting): 15.3%
- Building Space Constraints: 15.3%
- Library Collections: 8.5%

## **3.2 Study Recommendations**

Based on the study results, the following recommendations are made:

- Affiliation: The library should be affiliated with a central body to facilitate development and support, and to set specific standards.
- Awareness: Increase awareness about the importance of the library as the official printing press library among all relevant bodies.
- Online Integration: Link the library's website to the Authority's website in a manner that reflects its significance.