

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

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Research – Results

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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

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.