



Helwan University

Faculty of Arts

Department of Libraries and Information

Research Plan for Libraries and Information Department (2019-2023)



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First: Objectives and Methodology

Preamble

Libraries and Information Section was established subordinate to the Faculty of Arts in Helwan University in 12th Jan 1995. The study started in the academic year 1995/1996. Since its establishment, the Section was committed to participate in achieving the vision, mission, and objectives of the Faculty.

The Section Research Plan was prepared for the years 2018/2019 – 2022/2023 with the purpose of directing the research efforts of professors, researchers, and students toward diversity and innovation in the research fields that keep up with the world trends, and also to solve the society issues in order to achieve the comprehensive development.

Research Plan Objectives

Research Plan shall achieve the following objectives:

1. Enhancing the research and scientific capabilities of Faculty members through research plans that contribute to field development.
2. Improving the efficiency of research process and linking it to society development.
3. Encouraging the interdisciplinary studies among the schemes of libraries, information, and other disciplines to contribute to achieving the sustainable development for the society.
4. Reinforcing the knowledge and scientific partnerships with information institutions locally, regionally, and internationally in order to support the scientific research process.

Methodology of Research Plan Preparation

In line with the faculty vision, the methodology of the targeted plan, and ensuring the implementation procedures, the plan passed through the following phases:

1. Formation of a committee to prepare the research plan.
2. Collecting, reviewing, and analyzing the research plan of equivalent sections.
3. Objective analysis for the university theses approved and enrolled in the section within the period of 2010 to 2018. The terms were adopted and unified using one of the specialized tools “List of Major Subject Headings” prepared by professor Sha’ban Abdul Aziz Khalifa.
4. Designing tools to collect the scientific material through two questionnaires from the faculty members, the academic support staff, and stakeholders to know their opinion about the research needs.
5. Determining the modern research trends in the discipline of libraries and information through taking cognizance of the most recent conferences on the local, regional, and international levels.
6. Using SWOT Analysis to analyze the internal and external environment of the section, and determining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and possible threats.



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7. Determining the research fields and the suspended topics to achieve the research plan of the scientific section.
 8. Convening two brainstorming sessions among the faculty team and the academic support staff to discuss the initial draft of the research plan. (First session dated 18-02-20219, second session dated 25-02-2019).
 9. Drafting the research plan in its final form.
 10. Submitting the plan to the section board for approval.
 11. Submitting the plan to the faculty board for approval.

Publishing the Research Plan

In order to achieve the objectives of the research plan, it shall be available and published to the faculty team and postgraduate students, in addition to making it available on the section website, faculty website, and in the future, on the section guide.



Second: Current Situation

This part address the vision, mission, and objectives of Libraries and Information Section, research staff, Master's and Doctoral Theses enrolled and approved, research needs for labor market, modern research trends in the discipline of libraries and information, and SWOT analysis to analyzes the internal and external environment of the Section.

Vision and Mission

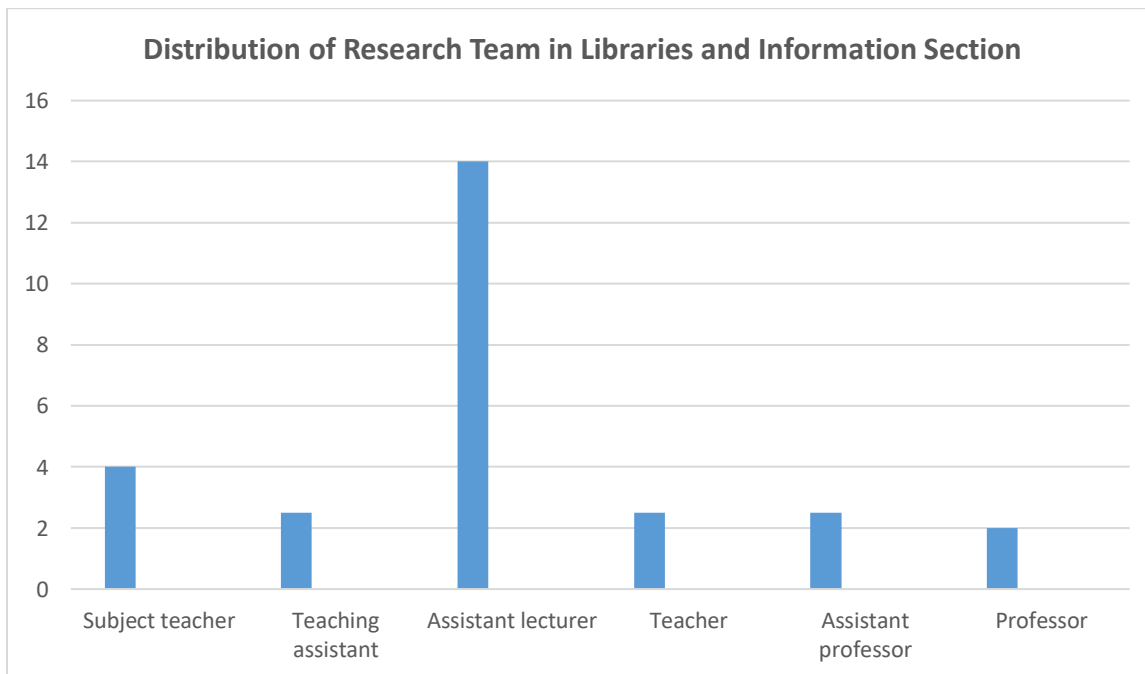
Vision

The section shall be a scientific and research institution in the field of libraries and information and applications thereof to achieve excellence, leadership, and innovation; and take part in building the knowledge community locally and regionally.

Mission

Scientific, research, and professional contribution to libraries and information field through preparing professional staff that meets the labor market needs locally, across the Arab world, and internationally in order to be capable of continuous education, innovation, and creativity in such field.

Section Research Team





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Subject Matter of Scientific Theses and Dissertations

The dissertations approved in Libraries and Information Section had been counted from 2010 till 2018, and it is total is 73 scientific theses. The total number of theses enrolled till 2018 is approximately 43 scientific theses (19 Master's, and 24 Doctoral Dissertations), all of which has been distributed to broad range of subject as shown in table No. 1

Table No. 1: Topical Distribution of Theses and Dissertations (enrolled and approved)

Serial No.	Topics	Number
1	Libraries & Society	44
2	Information techniques and applications	23
3	Libraries – sources and evidence	17
4	Information Services	15
5	Automated Systems	11
6	Programs of Libraries and Information Sections	8
7	Search Engines	7
8	Libraries Associations	6
9	Libraries Management	5
10	Intellectual Property	5
11	Management and Regulation of Libraries	14
12	Beneficiary Orientations	3
13	Libraries and Publishing	3
14	Information Specialist	3
15	Information Culture	2
16	Innovation and Creativity in Libraries	1

Through the above table, it is shown that the research topics in Libraries and Information Section vary, but there are many topics that have been focused in the previous period such as specialized



libraries, information technology, internet web, classic and electronic information sources, and information services.

Research Requirements for Labor Market

The research requirements for information institutions had been examined through distributing a questionnaire to 15 information institutions, and the following responded to the questionnaire (Egypt Public Library, Arab Organization for Administrative Development Library, Egypt Public Library - Zaytoun Branch, Egypt Association for Culture and Society Development, and British University Library). The needs that have been examined are as the following:

- Modern pedagogical trends in libraries and information field.
- Open source software.
- Work strategies (work evidence and training plans)
- Libraries services marketing
- Information technology in beneficiaries services
- Staff professional development
- Information services for those with special needs
- Databases
- Performance metrics in libraries and information centers
- Modern technical processing
- Unified measurements
- Automated systems

Modern Research Trends in the Specialization

The scientific conferences on the local, regional, and international levels for International Federation of Libraries Associations (IFLA), Canadian Library Association, Arab Federation for Libraries and Information, IFLA in Arab region, SLAAGC, and Egyptian Association for Libraries, Information, and Archive had been counted. Table No. 2 shows the topical fields of the conferences.

Table No. 2: Topical Fields for Scientific Conferences convened from 2015 to 2018

Subject	Institution	Date
Electronic Governance	IFLA	2015
Arab Libraries and Renewal Information Infrastructure	Arab Federation for Libraries and Information in the Arab Region	2015



Knowledge Community	Egyptian Association for Libraries, Information, and Archive	2015
Digital Gap	IFLA	2016
Libraries and Information Centers role in the National Development	Egyptian Association for Libraries, Information, and Archive	2016
Information Culture in Arab Knowledge Community	Arab Federation for Libraries and Information	2016
Library, Solidarity, and Society	IFLA	2017
Social Networks and its impact on Information Institutions in the Arab World	Arab Federation for Libraries and Information	2017
Administrative Reengineering in the Libraries, Information Centers, and Archive	Egyptian Association for Libraries, Information, and Archive	2017
Libraries and Societies Transformation	IFLA	2018
Big data and investment horizons	SLAAGC	2018
Future Library: New and Future roles in the New Society	Arab Federation for Libraries and Information	2018
Future Vision for the Role of Associations, Federations Specialized in Libraries, Information, and Archive in the Arab Word	Egyptian Association for Libraries, Information, and Archive	2018
Information Facilities in the Digital Era	IFLA	2018
Cloud-based Professional Systems and Information Quality	SLAAGC	2019



SWOT Analysis

Internal Environment Assessment		External Environment Assessment	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Strengths	Weaknesses
- Convening a bunch of forums and workshops for the latest research trends in the discipline.	- Weak interdisciplinary studies among the Faculty sections.	- Research problems for the stakeholders in the environment surrounding the University that motivate them to make applied field researches.	- Difficulty of international publishing in scientific journals with impact factor.
- Preparing two of faculty team members in the section to the guide of preparing research plans and drafting the reference citations to be approved on the Faculty level.	- Difficulty of adopting new administrative regulations.	- The possibility of issuing a scientific journal for the Section in collaboration with one of the publishing houses.	- The difficulty of continuous amendment in the regulations of post-studies to keep up with the scientific orientations of the University.
- There are some databases prepared by the Section: - Database of scientific production of Faculty members. - Database for theses of the Section (Master's – Doctoral Dissertations). Database of graduates since 1998 till now.	- Lack of scientific conferences in the Section.		
- The project of digital warehouse for	- The limited number of studies published		



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the whole texts of Master's and Doctoral Dissertations in the Section.	annually by Section staff.		
	- The limited number of academic support staff members.		

Third: The Section Research Plan

Upon developing a statement of approved and enrolled theses, topics of recent scientific conferences, the research needs of labor market, opinions of Faculty members about the research topics to be suspended, and the research priorities:

Table No. 3: The research plan for Libraries and Information Section

Objectives	Activities	Mechanism	Outputs	Success Indicators	Implementation periods	Finance source	Section responsible for implementation
1. Excellence in scientific researches in terms of novelty and variety of research topics	Linking the scientific researches to the needs of stakeholders	Knowing the research needs of stakeholders	Scientific researches meet the needs of the stakeholders	Respond of the stakeholders to the survey of assessing the Section research outputs (60 %)	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
	Motivating the Faculty team and academic support staff to address the society problems	- Knowing the society needs. - Preparing a priorities list for the research difficulties related to the society and development plans	- Scientific researches that provide solutions for the society-related problems and meet the requirements of sustainable development plans.	20% of the researches are directed to serve the society and support the development plans	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
	Exploring the modern research paths and trends	- Convening scientific seminars to present the latest research trends. - Following up the latest publication of scientific journals with effect factor - Annual inventory of scientific themes and topics related to regional and international forums and conferences	Scientific researches that keep up with the international research trends	Increase the participation with researches in the international or regional scientific conferences	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
2. Promoting enrollment in postgraduate studies among Section graduates and newcomers to continue their academic study after graduation	Developing the regulations of post studies based on credited hours		An outstanding postgraduate who competes his counterparts in other universities on the local and regional levels	Increase the number of students joining the program every years by 20% for every previous year	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
	Focusing on the technological application and modern trends in the curriculums	Comparing the curriculum with technical updates and trends of software and systems market	Professional calibers who are capable of navigating the modern technology and its application in the field of information and				

			knowledge management				
	Marketing and promoting the postgraduate programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing a marketing plan for the postgraduate programs - Developing a strategy for social networks 	Integrated marketing plan for postgraduate programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase the interaction ratios with the section accounts on social networks 			
3. Enhancing the effectiveness of syllabuses and postgraduate programs, and making sure that they are compliant with the professional and scientific metrics required and the expectations of the concerned parties	Linking benchmark criteria of the syllabuses and programs with the credit criteria of libraries and information on the international level.	Develop curriculums that match the curriculum in universities certified by ALA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Match percentage not less than 60% with the internationally-certified curriculums - Reviewing the postgraduate programs by external auditors 	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
4. Local and international publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publishing the scientific researches in all scientific contact channels available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging the publication in scientific journals with effect factor. - Participating with research papers in the local, regional, and international conference. 	<p>Researches published locally and internationally by Faculty members and academic support staff</p> <p>Researches published locally and internationally by postgraduates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase percentage of no less than 5% for the researches published by the research staff of the Section - Increase of numbers of researches published every year locally and internationally. - Increase of H-Index for research staff in the Section. 	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
5. Cooperate with business organization in labor market	Develop the relationships with businesses for labor market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List the businesses concerned with recruiting the postgraduates or beneficiaries from the research outputs of the Section. - Inviting the businesses concerned with labor market to take part in events made by the Section or appear in the Section councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation protocols and memorandum of understanding - Financing researches and research projects - Practical and professional training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase cooperation protocols with organization and institutions concerned with labor market. - Convening annual meeting for entrepreneurship - Number of scientific researches financed by external organizations. 	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
6. Collaboration with academic experts	Engaging the experts in different professional sections in supporting the educational and research process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attracting scientists and experts to participate in teaching the syllabuses - Encouraging to make researches in collaboration with 	Effective investment of experts in the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the number of researches made in collaboration with experts - increase the number of experts participating in teaching Syllabuses 	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section



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		experts from outside the Section - Engaging the experts in the committee of inspection and discussion of theses - Inviting the experts to attend the scientific seminar for the Section		and postgraduates programs			
7- Preparing staff in the field of scientific research	Diversity in the scientific departments of the section	- Encouraging the support staff for overseas scholarships - Activate joint supervision in regional universities - Courses to develop the scientific research skills	Staff capable of achieving the objectives and mission of Section	- The academic support staff shall obtain international scholarships - Increase the numbers of joint supervision in regional universities - Convene two courses each academic year	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
8. Local, regional, and international contributions	Membership of professional associations and board of local, regional, and international information institutions	- Candidacy of membership in board of directors of the professional associations and scientific committee thereof.	Effective contributions in developing the information institutions and professional associations.	All faculty team and academic support staff shall join the Egyptian Association for Libraries, Information, and Archive	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
9. Enriching the cultural movement regionally and internationally	Taking part in the cultural conferences, forums, and events.	Giving awareness lectures and taking part in cultural forms and meetings.	Oral or written scientific product that support the cultural movement and increase the information awareness of the society	The percentage of annual participation in the cultural meetings locally, regionally, and internationally.	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section
10. Developing the interdisciplinary, economical, and social services in the various cognitive and scientific fields	Develop a study to determine the interdisciplinary needs	Conducting a survey for the information institutions to know their problems and needs	Making available data and information about the actual needs of the society	Preparing studies that meet the society needs	2018-2022	Faculty budget	Scientific Section



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Section Research Priorities

Based on a survey conducted to the Faculty Team, topics approved and enrolled in the Section, research requirements of labor market, and taking cognizance of the topics of conferences convened in between 2015-2018, the research priorities of Libraries and Information Section in Helwan University has been determined within the period from 2018/2019-2022/2023 as follows:

1. Interdisciplinary studies.
2. Latest technological applications in libraries and information.
3. Modern trends in information regulation.
4. Modern trends in information services.
5. Data and big data management (including data excavation)
6. Information metrics (webometrics and scientometrics, etc.)
7. Semantic web
8. Knowledge management
9. Electronic publishing
10. Artificial Intelligence
11. Information marketing
12. Information and knowledge economics
13. Sustainable development and societal role of information facilities
14. Innovation and creativity in the field of libraries and information
15. Modern management for information facilities
16. Standard measurements and specifications

Topics in which Research is suspended

Based on the collective opinion of Faculty Team and Academic Support Staff about the topics in which the research shall be suspended since they have been thoroughly researched on section or discipline level in Egypt and the Arab world in general, the following is the list of these topics:

- Traditional libraries functions
- Bibliometric and bibliographic studies
- Specialized libraries
- Briefing patterns and usage of social networks
- Beneficiaries studies
- Locations assessment
- Professional qualification for information specialist
- Information services for those with special optical needs



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Annex 1

Opinion survey of faculty members of libraries and information to develop the five-year research plan

[2018/2019 – 2022/2023]

Dear colleagues,

Greetings,

The committee of preparing the research plan in libraries and information section is developing the five-year research plan for the academic year 2018/2019 – 2022/2023 in order to keep up with the scientific development and upgrade the researches level in the section, therefore kindly share your opinions with us concerning the following points:

Basic data

1. Name of the member:
2. Professional rank:
3. Discipline:

Data related to the research plan

4. List the intellectual production you prepared during the previous ten years
-
-
5. Specify the topical fields in which the research shall be suspended in the future
-
-
6. What are the research priorities to be focused in the research plan of libraries and information section 2018-2022 (*ordered by priority*)
-
-
7. Suggest the interdisciplinary research fields to be focused in the research plan of libraries and information section 2018-2022 (*ordered by priority*)



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Annex 2

Opinion survey of stakeholders from libraries and information, Helwan University to develop the five-year research plan

[2018/2019 – 2022/2023]

Dear colleagues,

Greetings,

The libraries and information section is preparing a research plan to face the research needs of the society to keep up with the scientific and professional development locally, regionally, and internationally.

Kindly share your opinions with us to develop a mechanism to link the scientific research to the actual needs and solve the field-related problems in the professional work and consolidate the methods of collaboration with you.

Basic data:

1. Name
2. Employer
3. Educational qualification
4. Profession:
5. Experience duration:

Date related to leveraging the section researches

6. Are the results of scientific researched conducted by the section in your workplace being utilized?
- Yes () [go to question No. 8] - No ()
7. If the answer is (no), what are the reasons of lack of benefit from your point of view? (you can choose one than one)



-
- Failure to deliver the results of the scientific research conducted by the section to the relevant work entities. ()
 - The research conducted by the section does not reflect the actual needs and problems faced in the field. ()
 - Lack of support from those in charge of information facilities for benefiting from research in the professional field. ()
 - Lack of mechanisms within the section for marketing the scientific research it produces. ()
 - Other (please specify the reasons):
 - *
 - *
 - *
8. Can the scientific research contribute to work development in the field of your institution?
- Yes () - No () [go to question No. 10]
9. What are the development aspects?
-
-
-
-
10. In your opinion, what is the mechanism that guarantee the contribution of scientific research effectively to solve your work-related problems?
- Develop a research plan in the section that is compatible to the society needs and professional work.
- Continuous communication with professionals to know the real problems they face.
- Other [please specify]
*
*
*
11. What are the priorities of research fields in your work?
-
-
-

Thank you for your cooperation.