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STUDENT TRENDS IN USING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SOURCES IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN JORDAN: AL HUSSEIN BIN TALAL UNIVERSITY MODEL

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ABSTRACT

The electronic resources in AHU library is formulating more than 60% of the library collections. This study aims at Identify electronic resources and services in AHU library presented to students and Specifying problems and obstacles which imitating the use of these resources. The study used the descriptive research method through describing the reality of electronic services and electronic information sources presented by AHU library. The study concluded that there are no statistical differences attributed to sex variable and also, there are significant statistical differences attributed to college variable.

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INTRODUCTION

At the present time, digital resources is consider as one of the important information resources due the high capabilities in storing information, high speed information retried and economy in expenditures. (Borgman, 1999) mentioned that digital libraries is an electronic resources and technical facilities associated with information production, scorching and using. Students constitute the largest category in university communities, so they are largest category in information searching operations. According to this, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University library is working to provide deferent types of information resources especially digital ones. The total number of students in AHU is 8285, divided as 3775 male and 4510 female in 2013 academic year. The university is consist of 7 faculties which are : education faculty, faculty of arts, faculty of science, faculty of engineering, faculty of nursing, faculty of archaeology and faculty of administration. The university has more than 60 scientific departments. Therefore, this study aimed to find out the level of digital resources using by AHU students in university library.

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Study importance

The electronic resources in AHU library is formulating more than 60% of the library collections, so this study will explore the use of electronic resources by the students and then determining student's trends in using these resources. The result of this study will give the library of the university an opportunity the raise the efficiency of using these resources through knowing student trends towards these resources.

Study goals

This study aims at:

- Identify electronic resources in AHU library
- Identify electronic services provided by AHU library
- Determining electronic resources using by the university students
- Specifying problems and obstacles which imitating the use of these resources

Study questions

The study is trying to answer several questions as below:

- what is the reality of electronic information resources in AHU library
- To what extent do students have knowledge about electronic information service in AHU library
- To what extent do students use databases available in AHU library
- what are the student's skills in dealing with electronic information resources
- what are the problems encountered by the students when they use the electronic resources
- To what extent electronic resources are sufficient in AHU library

Study Hypotheses

- There is a differences at the level of significance 0.05 a in students attitudes toward using electronic information resources depending on sex variable
- There is a differences at the level of significance 0.05 a in students attitudes toward using electronic information resources depending on faculty variable.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study used the descriptive research method through describing the reality of electronic services and electronic information sources presented by AHU library. Also, describing the reality of using these services and resources by AHU students.

Data collecting tools

The study used questionnaire as a main tool for data collecting. The questionnaire is consisted of five areas as shown below:

Area	Number of questions in each filed
The extent of knowledge of the data bases	2
The extent of using data bases	4
Data bases using skills	4
Problems encountered data bases using	4
The adequacy of electronic information sources	3

Study sample

The study sample consisted of one hundred students. 25 students have been selected from the following faculties: faculty of arts, engineering faculty, faculty of education and science faculty.

The table 2 shown sample distribution by sex.

Table 2. Study sample distributed by sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	45	%45
Female	55	%55

The sample of the study was distributed randomly intended by four faculties as shown in table (3) below:

Table 3. Study sample distributed by faculty

Faculty	Frequency	Percentage
faculty of arts	25	%25
engineering faculty	25	%25
faculty of education	25	%25
science faculty	25	%25

The percentage of the first year students was (%4), second year was (%15), third year was (%31) and fourth year was (%50). as shown in table number (4).

Table 4. Study sample distributed by study level

Study level	Frequency	Percentage
first year	4	%4
second year	15	%15
Third year	31	%31
Forth year	50	%50

Realty of electronic information resources and services in AHU library

In fact, in this review for the electronic sources in AHU university library, is in itself an answer to the first question of the study questions. AHU library make electronic information resources available to researchers through on-line search, CDs and Internet. The library also provide hybrid information resources, like Arabic Journals Database, which is a printed journals issued by Arabic Universities. Those journals are scanned as full text electronically and indexed. This database is produced by Al-Yarmouk University as it is a deposit center for Arabic journals issued by Arabic universities. The library also provides Arabic Theses and Dissertation Database which produced by University of Jordan's library as it is a deposit center for theses and dissertation produced in Arabic universities. AHU library cooperate with the other nine (q) public university libraries in Jordan and this cooperation is implemented through the center of Excellence (COF), which is a consortium of the public university libraries in Jordan. The center is organize information resources sharing among the ten libraries, cooperation cataloging and coordinating international databases subscription. AHU library provided electronic resources since its establishing in 2000 and the first completion was the subscription in (EBSCOHOST) database, and then the subscription expanded to other databases, especially when the library equipped by an integrated library system to manage its information resources. In table number (5) we can see electronic information resources provided by AHU library.

Literature review

The researchers reviewed the literature related to using electronic information sources. In (Ibrahim, 2004) study which focused on the use electronic resources by faculty members in United Arab Emirates University, he specified several points he considered them as problems encountered faculty members. The first problem is lack of time needed to conduct research, as most of faculty member time's is dedicated for teaching. Second problem is lack of awareness to electronic resources available in university library. Third problem is language, as most of electronic resources are available in English language in a community using Arabic

Table 5. Electronic information resources provided by AHU library

Database Title	Type of database	Information resources	Access type
Ebrary	full-text	Books	online
EBSCO	full-text	Research Databases, Books and Journals articles	online
Science Direct	full-text	Journal articles and Book chapters	online
Ulrich	Bibliographic	Journals	online
Almanhal	full-text	Books, Journals, Reports, Dissertations	online
Oxford Journals	full-text	Journals	online
Royal Society of Chemistry	full-text	Books, Journals articles	online
Sage Journals	full-text	Journal articles	online
Springer	full-text	Journals, Books, Series, Protocols and Reference works	online

Language as a native. The last problem is ineffective communication channels between library and users. The most important element of Ibrahim's study related to our study is problem of language barrier. As both studies conducted in communities using another language different from most electronic information resources language which is English. In a study related to electronic resources usage by postgraduate students, (Millawithanachchi, 2012) specified nine factors might in flouncing in using electronic resources at the University of Colombo. These factors are: technology, computer competency, usefulness, information literacy, user attitude, library support, lecturers' characteristics, ease of use and accessibility. The study concluded that the last three factors are not significant in using electronic resources. The study point out that IT infrastructure should be developing in addition to developing students computers skills. Computer competency factor in Millawithanachchi's study is considered as one of the important elements affecting in electronic resources using which is contradicts Ibrahim's study.

A study carried by (mittal, 2013) to fined the using of electronic resources in universities, he concluded that a lack of awareness of electronic resources was observed among researcher and they didn't get any training in universities so they can use these resources effectively. In (Peterson, 2004) study which he studied the use of electronic information resources by medicine students of the University of Iowa, he concluded that medical students used and rapidly electronic resources as a textbook. The study reported that more than 85% of respondent students in the study sample were used electronic resources as a main one. Student searching behavior and the web as a electronic information resources was studied by (Griffiths, 2005). They carried and two user studies focused on student digital information searching behavior. The study showed that search engines are controlled students strategy for gathering information. The study also showed that students prefer use Google rather than use library catalog as 45% of students use Google which 10% use library catalog.

Analysis and results

To answer questions of the study, a group of statistical tests has been used. Standard divination and mean were used. To answer the second question of the study questions which regarding to what extent do students have knowledge about electronic information service in AHU library, table (6) shows what students have high level of information about information resources provided by AHU library due the mean was (3.67) and the standard deviation equal to (0.930).

Table 6. Student information about database provided by AHU library

Students knowledge about electronic information service	Mean	Standard deviation	Estimation
I have complete information about AHU library databases.	2.35	1.140	Middle
I have a complete information about AHU library databases in my specialization	3.67	0.930	Big
The mean for the students information about databases provided by AHU library	3.48	0.92	Middle

To answer the third question regarding to what extent students use databases available in AHU library, analysis show that the study sample used databases in educational process highly with a mean equal to (3.92) as showed in table (7).

Table 7. Shows databases using in educational process

students use databases	Mean	Standard deviation	estimation
I take the advantage of using electronic information sources	4.03	0.948	Big
I use electronic information sources more than traditional sources	3.90	1.040	Big
Faculty members assigned students to find information sources through using databases	3.88	1.140	Big
I am using electronic databases constantly to accomplish my academic research	3.87	0.960	Big
The total mean of using databases in educational process	3.92	0.73	Big

To answer question number (4) regarding skill possessed by students in dealing with electronic information sources, analysis showed that students skill were in average level as shown in table (9)

Table 8. Using databases skills

Student skills	Mean	Standard deviation	estimation
I it easy to use electronic information resource in the library	3.51	1.040	Big
I have the ability to use databases available in the library	3.52	0.937	Big
Foreign languages doesn't represent an obstacle in using databases	3.10	1.202	Middle
The library provide databases which can be used easy	3.41	1.065	Middle
The mean for using databases skills	3.38	0.718	Middle

For answering question (5) regarding problems encountered by the students when they use the electronic resources, Study showed that one of the most important problem encountered students in using electronic information resources is the lack of availability of computers as shown in table (9)

Table 9. Problems and obstacles encountered students

problems encountered students when they use the electronic resources	Mean	Standard deviation	estimation
the lack of availability of computers in AHU library represent an obstacle in the using databases	3.74	1.203	Big
Most of databases provided by the library is in English languages which make them difficult to use	3.07	1.217	Middle
I find it difficult to deal with computers	3.06	1.135	Middle
I find it difficult to use databases for lack in my computer skill	2.94	1.293	Middle
The mean of problems and obstacles regarding databases using	3.20	0.797	Middle

To answer question number (6) regarding the extent of the electronic information resources sufficiency, the study showed that the mean of the extent of these resources is middle as show in table (10)

Table 10. Sufficiency of electronic information resources

To what extent electronic resources are sufficient in AHU library	Mean	Standard deviation	estimation
Databases provided by the library are sufficient	3.43	1.130	Middle
electronic information resources in English language in my specialization are sufficient	3.35	1.038	Middle
electronic information resources in Arabic language in my specialization are sufficient	3.21	1.140	Middle
The total mean of the sufficiency of information resources	3.33	0.793	Middle

To answer study’s hypothesis, (ANOVA) test has been used to demonstrate the differences in study dimensions. So, regarding the first hypothesis which is:, the study concluded that there are no statistical differences attributed to sex variable at the level of significance 0.05 as shown in table (11).

Table 11. Students trends towards using electronic information resources attributed to sex variable

Students’ trends towards using electronic information resources	F	level of significance 0.05
the extent of students aware of databases provided by AHU library	0.516	0.474
the extent of using databases in educational process	0.188	0.666
Databases using skills	0.458	0.500
Problems and obstacles encountered databases using	0.360	0.550
The adequacy of electronic information sources in AHU library	1.313	0.255

To answer the second hypothesis which was: There is a differences at the level of significance 0.05 in students attitudes toward using electronic information resources depending on faculty variable, the study showed that there are significant statistical differences attributed to college variable 0.05 due the level of significance for F value are less than (0.05)as shown in table (12).

Table 12. Student trends toward using electronic information resources attributed to college variable

students attitudes toward using electronic information resources depending on faculty variable	F	level of significance 0.05
The extent of students aware of databases provided by the library	8.285	0.000
The extent of using databases in educational process	8.818	0.000
Databases using skills	3.834	0.012
Problems and obstacles encountered databases using	3.027	0.033
The adequacy of electronic information resources in AHU library	4.369	0.006

After applying (post hoc test) to know the differences among colleges, the following has been observed:

- Students in faculties: Arts, Science and Education have had positive trends towards the extent of students aware of databases provided by the library more than engineering students.
- Students in faculties: Arts, Science and Education have had positive trends towards the extent of using databases in educational process more than engineering students.
- Students in Science faculty had the highest positive trends towards the databases using skills, and problems and obstacles encountered databases using.

Recommendations

AHU library should work to increase electronic information resources in different scientific fields; also faculty member should motivate students to use databases and electronic information resources especially in scientific faculties and AHU library also should provide more computers and work to increase internet service speed.

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