Iraqi university libraries

Facts and IT challenges

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introduction

Although more than half a century passed on their establishment (since 1958), The Iraqi university libraries facing challenges of :

- The new reality imposed by the digital environment

- The digitization of Information resources .

- Still using traditional methods and procedures.

- Most of their contents became obsolete and does not meet the needs of the university community.

These facts have led these libraries loosing their users and beneficiaries.

Cont.

Why ?

The direct and the essential cause still :

The bad and critical political circumstances facing Iraq for more than three decades (since 1980) and the U.S. invasion into Iraq in 2003 .

Cont .

It is very important to mention that the Iraqi universities tried hard to keep their continuity and sustainability and stayed playing their role in society after the non security and bad circumstances experienced by Iraqis.

The Role of Mohesr

The research and development department in MOHSRE, trying to contribute as much as possible in the rehabilitation of university libraries in the light of the developments in the field of information technology and the growing role of the Internet.

University education in Iraq

In the seventies and eighties new universities have been opened and have introduced new scientific departments to meet the state growing needs for the scientific and professional cadres.

Some Statistics

Public universities:

- **Iraq consists of (18) provinces,**

- **(24) public university, one university in each province .**

- **(4) universities in <u>Baghdad.</u>**
        Baghdad University is the largest and oldest one.

- **(4) universities in the province <u>Erbil</u> (capital of Kurdistan Region).**

- **(252) Colleges in Public and Private univ. combined.**

institutions of the Ministry of Higher Education and)Scientific Research (Public universities

الجامعة	تاريخ التأسيس	عدد الكليات	المحافظة
بغداد	1957	23	بغداد
المستنصرية	1963	12	بغداد
البصرة	1964	14	البصرة
الموصل	1967	20	نينوى
السليمانية	1967	18	السليمانية
التكنولوجية	1975	14	بغداد
صلاح الدين	1981	13	أربيل
الانبار	1987	11	الانبار
النهرين	1987	6	بغداد
ال قادسية	1987	7	ال قادسية
الكوفة	1987	15	النجف
تكريت	1988	13	صلاح الدين
الجامعة الإسلامية	1989	4	بغداد
بابل	1991	14	بابل
دهوك	1992	12	دهوك
ديالى	1999	10	ديالى
ذي قار	2002	7	ذي قار
كربلاء	2002	8	كربلاء
واسط	2003	7	واسط
كركوك	2003	4	كركوك
كوية	2003	6	أربيل
كوردستان	2005	6	أربيل

- **(17) University Colleges.**
- **more than half of which are located in the capital Baghdad (population density).**

- **(93) scientific departments, most specialized in the field of computer systems, software and information technology.**

- **The Law of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research No. 92 of 1995 stipulated to establish a Central library in each university .**
- **A college library in each college.**
- **those two requirements are binding on public and private universities alike.**

Cont.

 According to the previous mentioned law of the Iraqi universities should be supposed the availability of :

(25) central library in the public universities .

 (252) college library

 (1024) research centers and departmental library .

 (93) libraries in the private colleges.

 (1394) should be the total number of academic libraries.

Cont.

The reality of the availability of university libraries in Iraq indicates that there are:

- (20) central university library.
- (144) College Library.
- (62) Library at private colleges.
- (226) the total

All located at the universities of :

- Baghdad, Mosul, Basra ,Erbil ,Mustansiriya ,Diyala ,AlNahrain (Formerly: Saddam Univ.) and University of Technology.

Table (2) the total of Iraqi university and college libraries

Numbers of Central libraries	Nos. of the Public university library	Nos. of the private univ. libraries
20	144	62
(Total) 226		

History :

 + library and information Science education in Iraq started in 1954 when UNESCO sent a   library experts to Iraq to organize training   courses to Baghdad university Central library   staff .

 In 1970 a branch (libraries) had been opened   in Faculty of Arts / Al- Mustansiriya university   (awarded (2) years Diploma).

 In 1979 – 1980 the branch converted to a scientific department awarded (B.A.) degree in library and information science.

- **Cont.**

- **In 1972 Baghdad university established the "Higher Institute of Library Science and Documentation" for :**
- **full year study.**
- **awarded Higher diploma .**
- **applicants were of bachelor degrees of multiple scientific disciplines .**
- **in 1977 the study in this Institute transferred to the department of libraries /Al-Mustansiriya University.**
- **in 1982 it canceled and moved to the Department of Al-Mustansyria Univ..**

Cont.

 In 1980 the Technical Institute in Mosul (Nineveh) a province in the northern part of Iraq was established a department of libraries.

 In 1987 the (Technical Management Institute/ Baghdad) at the eastern side of the Tigris River
   established also a department of library   administration

Cont.

- **In 1983 the Faculty of Arts at Al-Basrah University in the southern part of Iraq was established a department of Library and Information Science .**

   - In 1995 the Faculty of Arts at Al-Musel University did the same.

Cont.

☐ **- In 1986 a master's program in library and information science founded in the faculty of Arts at Al-Mustansiriya university .**

☐ **- in 1992 -1993 the Ph.D. program founded at the same university.**

- In 2008 a Masters degree was developed in Library and Information Department Al- Basra university.

Facts

- **All library and information science departments in Iraq are linked to the faculties of Arts, this fact has affected the development of those departments towards teaching information technology ,therefore many libraries moved to depends on computers and IT specialist to assist in technical and electronic duties .**

- **The percentage of librarians in the central libraries shows that it do not exceed 20% of the total staff of the university libraries at best .**

The Role of (MOHESR)

 MOHESR is trying to increase the number of librarians in the university central libraries through its program to rehabilitate and developing them, starting as a first stage with the central libraries , then the college libraries to be followed .

Table (3) the number of librarians in the central Univ. libraries

%	Nos.of librarians	Total Staff	Library Name
16%	20	120	Baghdad.Univ.Cent lib.
18%	11	60	AlMustansyria Univ. Cent.Lib.
33%	15	45	Technological Univ.Cent.lib.
19%	12	64	Musel Univ.Cent. lib.
21%	9	43	Basrah Univ.Cent. Lib.
20%	67	329	total

Recently, a proposal to establish a (High Institute of Information, Documentation and Knowledge Management) at Baghdad university awarding master's and doctoral degrees has got the approval of the MOHESR Minister.

- Another proposal got his the approval to establish a department for (Libraries and Information Science) in the Faculty of Administration and Economics at Karbala University (southwestern of Iraq) .

- **Just two central libraries fully completed public catalogs , Baghdad Central Library and University of technological Central Library.**

 ☐

 ☐ **- Winisis cataloging system is the most application**
 ☐ **used for electronic cataloging in university libraries.**

 ☐ **- The newly created committee for rehabilitating and developing university libraries at R&D dept. intends to replace this system by more efficient, modernized and integrated one**

 ☐

 ☐ **- There are units of the Internet in every library for searching the Internet..**

Cont.

- Most academic libraries have digitized copies of thesis and dissertations (on CDs), but have not yet got benefit from these copies to build digital libraries.

- There is a website for thesis and dissertations via MOHESR website , this website needs to be modernize and develop,
a link to this site will be linked with ILN portal .

 established - number of central libraries recently websites all recently linked with ILN portal.

Cont.

- Many university libraries have received international donations ,often were not compatible with the actual needs of university community .

- R & D department in the ministry trying to encourage university publishing houses to participate in universities book fairs also trying to invite international publishers to participate in the ministry annual scientific book fair .

CONT.

- Iraqi Virtual Science Library (ivsl) run by a committee of librarians and IT specialist in R&D, this library provides full texts global databases of books ,journals and conference proceedings , all in English and some are in Arabic in various disciplines .

- IVSL service offers through the university central libraries, the subscription is free to the whole Iraqi university communities.

- At the present time IVSL regarded a suitable alternative instead of library collections till those libraries could retrieve their role to serve the university community.

- - A link to this library linked in ILN

Thank you