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Title: Foreign Periodicals in Pure and Applied Sciences of the Cairo University

Libraries; a survey to derive principles for its accessibility to users.

The Dissertation Abstract

The purpose of this study is to provide an in-depth analysis of the current status of the periodicals in the fields of pure sciences and technology in terms of acquisition, handling and availability in Cairo university libraries so as to come up with a model capable of correcting the shortcomings of the current system.

The final objective is to establish an over-all mechanism of acquisition, processing and ranking of periodicals in the standard international order, as well as the possibility of using the electronic periodicals available through the (ICTP).

Methodologically speaking, the study used the descriptive field study techniques to collect the necessary data on the journals collection and processing.

The study used as well the bibliometric analysis on a sample of Master and PH.D dissertations approved by the faculties of Medicine, Science, Agriculture and Engineering, the sample covered 2156 dissertations.

The study applied as well the obsolescence measures on the four above mentioned areas by applying the Bradford-Zipf law, it was possible to come up with ranked lists of the cited journals and the core lists.

The main results of research revealed that there is an absence of a consistent collection development strategy, in general and that of periodicals in particular.

There is also an absence of scientific and standard procedures in selecting the foreign periodicals in pure science and technology.

There is also a need to apply systematic measure for weeding the unused periodicals.

The total number of foreign periodicals available in the university libraries amounts to 2165, only 1275 of them covered the period until 2005, which might be called current periodicals.

In addition to what was mentioned above, we noticed that there is not enough fiscal allocation designated for the purchase of newly issued periodicals.

The researcher found out that there have not been standard cataloging procedures applied on periodicals.

One final finding is that the researchers propose ranked lists of the cited periodicals in the fields of medicine, science, agriculture and engineering.

The study recommends the necessity of prescribing in the proposed core periodicals, The urgent need to strengthen the infrastructure of the studied libraries in terms of the necessary equipment as well as the software needed for the efficient use of the digital library, and the digital library must regularly in the core periodicals that the researcher referred to as they reflex the user's actual needs.