

## Digital Information Services at sites of Saudi Medical Journals on the Internet



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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to identify the addresses of Saudi medical journals, whether published as hardcopy or accessed online, and the types of digital information services provided by Saudi medical journals accessed online to reach the solutions and suggestions that contribute in development of information services introduced on Saudi medical journals web sites.

The study used survey approach as one style of the descriptive approaches to identify the numbers and addresses of Saudi medical journals through using a set of tools. Also, the study used the analytical approach to identify the extent of accessibility of digital information services in Saudi medical journals sites over the Internet.

This study arrived at a range of results, including: the total number of medical journals published in Saudi Arabia is 29 medical journals takes the principle of scientific arbitration, and that the number of Saudi medical journals accessible online is 25 journals of 86.2% percent, that is 40% percent, which depend on social networking sites to provide their services.

The study has come out with the following significant recommendations including: work on preparation of a comprehensive directory of Saudi medical journals which should be updated regularly; the regular issuance of Saudi medical journals and follow-up their updating. Also, allocation of sites for Saudi medical journals on social networking sites in order to facilitate communication with the beneficiaries.

**Key words:** Scientific Journals , Online Periodicals , Digital Information Services , Saudi Medical Journals , Web.2.

### INTRODUCTION

The Saudi Medical Journals have become in race aiming at owning websites on the internet where they can provide all new professional studies. Due to the magnificent development in both of communication systems and information networks all over Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, There is a kind of inequality among those sites. Such development resulted in emerging of advanced information services with high speed and quality.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Muhammad Amin Mirghlani study in 2010 This study surveyed and analyzed Saudi medical journals issued electronically or in hardcopies aiming to know about their addresses, agencies that supervising publishing, and provided kinds of electronic information services by their websites on the internet. The study resulted various conclusions such as: that the total number of Saudi medical journals applying the arbitrary principle was 22 medical journals issued electronically and in hardcopies, 18 of them were electronic allowed on the internet with 82 % percentage.

The study suggested that it is necessary to work on allowing all current and edited current journal issues in a complete texts form through available website on the internet, and to pay attention to the scientific designing and management of the medical journals websites.

- Tadmouri Study in 2004 A.D.: about medical journals in Arab countries. The researcher analyzed, described, surveyed, and reviewed what Arab and Muslim scholars did to contribute in developing and sharing medical sciences by translating from Greek and Persian languages into Arabic. The second country on the list was Lebanon with 14 medical journals. The third rank was Saudi Arabia with 11 medical journals. The study also concluded that the number of available medical journals –in question- is very limited. Moreover, it suggested to the necessity of cooperation between Arab countries by establishing a union or some sort of organizations that used to be called medical journal publishers groups, and seeking the way of increasing indexing medical journals issues' titles in the international database.
- Song & Fosmire study in 2000 A study aimed to recognize the for free allowed scientific journals on the internet in medical and technical sciences fields. The researchers collected the material depending on Directory of Electronic Journals Newsletters and Academic Discussion Lists 7<sup>th</sup> Edition that issued by the American Association of Research Libraries. The directory includes 1002 accurate scientific journals in various sciences. Moreover, they study concluded that there is 14 digital journals have a hardcopy published basis in agriculture, biology, computer, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. The survey provided a list of those websites and analytical studies for their directions. Additionally, the researchers suggested more efforts with regard to the free access to information needed for the scientific centers.
- Hani Bustagi study for Master's Degree in 1997 A.D.: It was about Scientific Saudi journals in the medical field as a plyometric study of their intellectual outcomes. One of the most important conclusions accomplished by the researcher is that dentistry was on the top of the specialties' list studied in the in the articles in question which were 65 articles.. was the first scientific journal

issued in Saudi Arabia, and that English is the common language used in issuing scientific articles on the Saudi medical journals.

## **STUDY ISSUE**

Medical Journals is one of the substantial primary sources of the information that physicians, researchers, students in specialized schools at medical and healthy fields depend on. Such journals represent a very vital source as they are proactive in publishing researches and scientific studies. Besides, such journals contain medical cases presentation, description and specialized intellectual production reviews.

The progress of electronic publishing ways has cooperated in speeding the publishing of scientific journals and developing information services provided to audition by scientific journals.

Furthermore, the development of the internet and the emergence of Web 2.0 have created interaction between service provider and user through providing suitable information services.

The researcher noticed that some of those medical journals have websites that deserve to be referred to, published and recognized.

This is what we will discuss in this study, where we are going to try to shed light on the information services provided by Saudi medical journals in the digital environment throughout their websites on the internet, and the extent to which they keep abreast with the recent developments in the fields of information technology and the digital services.

We can ask the following question:

**What are the digital information services provided by Saudi medical journals available on the internet?**

## **METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY**

### **The Curriculum and the Study Procedures**

The study used survey approach as one style of the descriptive approaches to identify the numbers and addresses of Saudi medical journals through using a set of tools. Also, the study used the analytical approach to identify the extent of accessibility of digital information services in Saudi medical journals sites over the internet.

### **The importance of the study**

The scientific journals are considered one of the most important sources of information on which the researchers in the scientific fields depend on, for example: healthy and medical field. This field is one of the fields that activates the scientific research and increasing of the accurate specializations that led to the emergence of specialized scientific associations in many medical fields which in turn, sought to issue a scientific magazine concerned with publishing of the specialized intellectual production.

Owing to the fewness of Arabic Studies which discussed this subject of studies, In particular, Saudi medical journals, and because of the absence of the guide that limits Saudi medical journals and concerned with what published as hardcopy or online.

### **The Importance of the Study appears in tackling the following aspects**

- 1- The significance of medical journals among the researchers represents one of the primary sources in applied and medical science field.
- 2- Working toward preparation of exclusive list of Saudi medical journals that published as hardcopy or online aims to be a reference for the medical intellectual production issued in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to benefit the medical information institutions, in the national, regional and international level.
- 3- Enrich Arabic library by the issue of medical journals, particularly Saudi ones.
- 4- The fewness of Arabic studies in the subject of Saudi medical journals.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study aimed to identify the:

- 1- Types of digital information services provided by Saudi medical journals that is available on the internet.
- 2- Reach the solutions and suggestions that contribute in development of information services introduced on Saudi medical journals websites.

### **Study Questions**

The study seeks to answer the following questions:

- 1- What's the number of the titles of Saudi medical journals published as hardcopy and online?
- 2- What are the types of digital information services provided by Saudi medical journals websites?

### **ANALYZING DATA**

The study depends analyzing data process on a set of procedures:

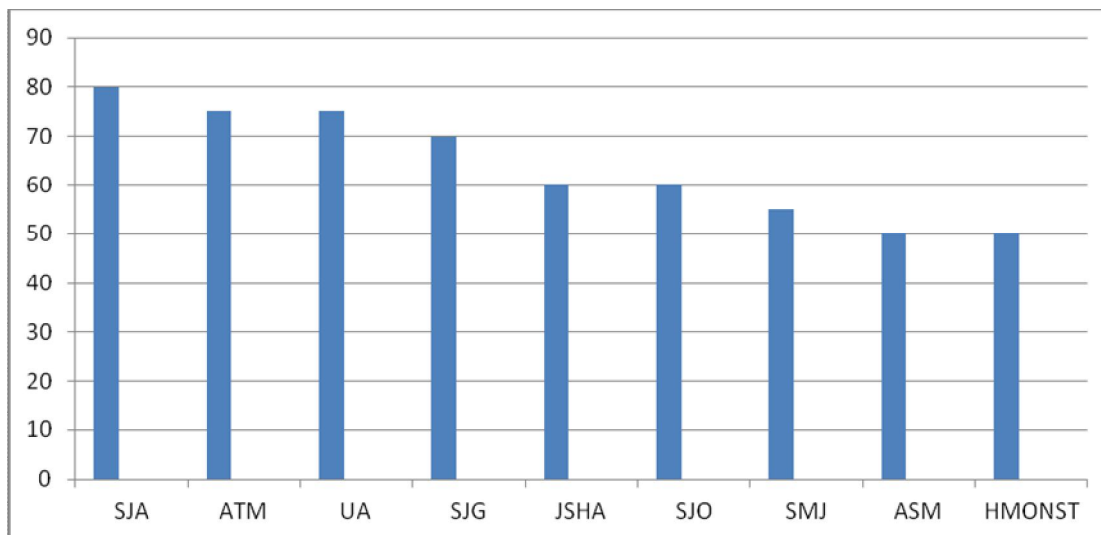
- 1- accounting Saudi medical journals through the following accounting tools:
  - Eastern Mediterranean Region Journal Information Directory.
  - Index of Saudi journal (2008).
  - The study of doctor/ Muhammad Amin Merghlany (2010) about the available Saudi medical on the internet.
  - Library of King Fahd Center for Medical Research at king abdulaziz university.
  - Eastern Mediterranean Region online Journals.
  - Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ)
- 2- Determining the descriptive data for Saudi medical journals.
  - Accounting all available and paper hardcopy Saudi medical journals on the internet.

### **Analyzing and describing data:**

According to features and characteristics of Saudi medical journals, clarifies that 25 of 29 Saudi medical scientific journal issued as electronic form of 86.2%, and it is available on the internet.

Notify from table number 1, The Saudi Medical Journals on the Internet are collected and its number 25, the table show also the study depended on 20 digital information services to analyze the sites of Saudi Medical Journals, according to the study there are

distinguish between those sites in how complete this service or the minimums digital information service in the study, below the results of analyzing process:



**Fig. (1) Most Saudi medical Journals websites include digital information services**

Fig. (1) Shows 9 Saudi medical Journals include digital information services exceeds 55%, recommended by the study

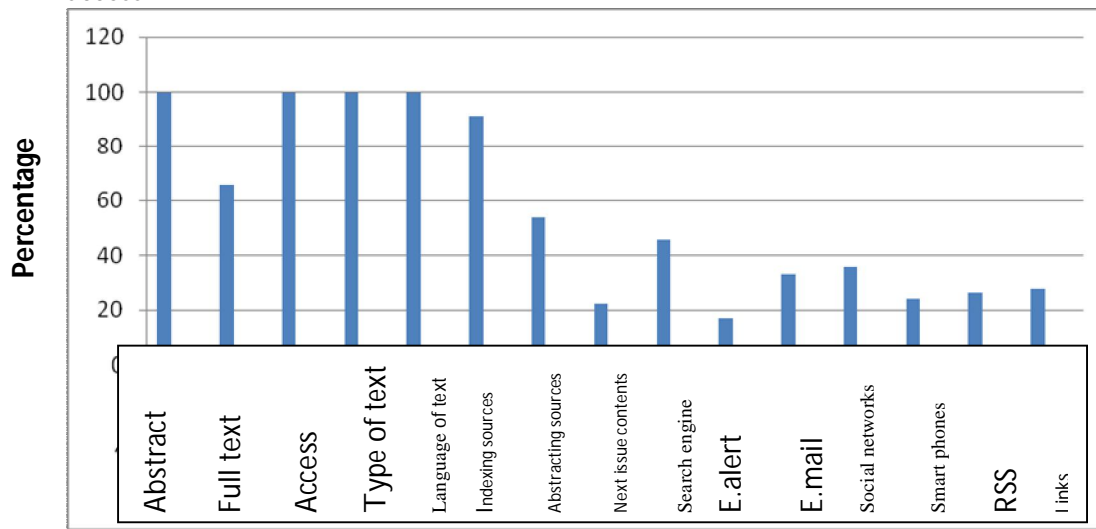
1. Saudi Journal of Anesthesia
2. Annals of Thoracic Medicine
3. Urology Annals
4. The Saudi Journal of Gastroenterology
5. Journal of Saudi Heart Association
6. Saudi Journal of Ophthalmology
7. Saudi Medical Journal
8. Annals of Saudi Medicine
9. Hematology, Oncology and Stem Cell Therapy

Fig. (1) Explains digital information services that contribute in presenting all 25 available Saudi medical Journals in internet

1. Abstract in English
2. full text
3. Free access
5. Language of text HTML , XML
6. Type of text

Other sort of digital information services presented by Saudi medical Journals websites is aroused due to web applications benefit that enables interaction and reaches to the websites users. The services-My space, Twitter, Face book, and RSS are available in most Saudi medical Journals.

That reflects how far the organizations that manage websites seek users' websites access facilitation, in other words the application of medical information sources free access.



**Fig. (2) Digital information services in Saudi medical Journals websites**

Study below shows detailed analysis on digital information services, its availability range in Saudi medical Journals websites

## RESULTS AND RECOMMENDS

### Firstly: results

This study has a set of results as following:

- 1- total of medical journals which published in kingdom of Saudi Arabia is 29 medical journal works in scientific judge principle.
- 2- the study revealed that available Saudi medical journals on internet are 25 journals of 86.2%.
- 3- For study, it is revealed that there are delayed of published journal issues that are subject to the study. Journals issues do not have update. There are irregular issued or stopped 10 journals of 41.6%. The last issue of the journal of Saudi German hospital was in 2006. As well, the last issue of Journal of Family & Community Medicine was in 2009.
- 4- Medical journal websites focus on technical design of medical journal websites through scientific ways. It is appealed specialists in design field, websites administrators, and using graphics expressly about the journal, such as: Saudi medical journal (SMJ), annals of Saudi medicine (ASM), Saudi Journal of Anaesthesia (SJA), *Annals of Thoracic Medicine (ATM)*, International Journal of Diabetes Mellitus (IJDM), *Journal of Infection and Public Health (JIPH)*, Hematology, and Oncology and Stem Cell Therapy (HOSCT).
- 5- the study revealed that there are 9 Saudi medical journals provide from 50% to 100% of digital information service which the study suggest, these 9 Saudi medical journals .

- 6- the study revealed that Saudi medical journals works for digital information services' application in web environment 2.0 and web 3.0 at 10 Saudi medical journals websites of 40%. It depends providing its services on social networking sites. Some of these websites are as following: facebook, twitter, and My Space.
- 7- the study revealed that the following 4 Saudi medical journals are available in global databases, such as: Scencedirect, Pubmed, and Medline:
  - annals of Saudi medicine (ASM)
  - The Saudi Dental Journal
  - Journal of Saudi Heart Association
  - Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal
- 8- the study revealed that the following only 6 Saudi medical journals of 25% use smart phones' applications on their websites: Saudi Journal of Kidney Diseases and Transplantation, The Saudi Journal of Gastroenterology, Annals of Thoracic Medicine, Saudi Journal of Anesthesia, Urology Annals, and Journal of Infection and Public Health.
- 9- The study revealed that there are not blogs' services, the second life and the specific needs in Saudi medical journals websites.
- 10- Saudi medical journals' websites seem to develop and to update, and providing information services, excellence research through print out essays and provide the current and previous issues.

### **Second: Recommendations**

According to the study results there are some of the recommendations and suggestions to

enhance the benefit of the Saudi Medical Journals, help to develop their web sites, to be easy to find them and acting the Digital Information Services at their web sites, this is through:

- 1- Creating available database to the Saudi Medical Journals in the internet, there will be one party to overlook its publishing and follow its issuance for example like the central medical Library of the ministry of medicine.
- 2- Preparing Comprehensive guide for the Saudi Medical Journals and update it Regularly.
- 3- Increasing the concern of the Saudi Medical Journals web sites design under the followed basis technical and techniques of the digital journals design, the assistance of the experts in the web sites' management is a must, With focus on interaction with the users, adding the additional links, the regularly revision, updating the information, searching and downloading the information from the site.
- 5- Using the available social network services on web 2.0 like Facebook, YouTube, My Space and Twitter. Designing site in the web to communicate with the users.
- 6- Designing special site for the Saudi Medical Journals in the second life and simulating the reality for example, designing the journal site to be like the special medical clinic, aim to have its site in the second life, to be training center for beneficiaries of the medical journals field and how to communicate with the modern techniques in medicine.

7- Increasing the consideration to fix the contacts of the Saudi Medical Journals through fixed bibliographic tools which are indexers, abstractors, evidences and united catalogs which work on simplify having the Saudi Medical Journals contacts, the researchers and the specialists make use of the contacts, so specialized agency have the material and human potentials should issue those tools.

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