Intellectual Content in the Information Infrastructure of the Middle East

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1. Role and status of information centers

2. Collaboration among information centers

3. Cultural values and collaboration
Functions of information centers
(archives, libraries, museums, databases, etc.)

• Collect information in all formats
• Describe content and object
• Organize – assign metadata
• Store content
• Preserve content
• Disseminate content
Information centers evolve to

• Preserve the records of society and the knowledge it generates
• Create centers for learning and research
Information centers are two-way distribution points

- Bring latest research to local researchers and practitioners
- Provide unique, primary sources to researchers and practitioners outside the region
Collaboration among information centers

Why?
Collaboration among information centers

- Agree to share resources
- Provide information service equitably to readers
- Collect in specific disciplines
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of readers
- Teach skills for searching and using information effectively; i.e. information literacy
Cultural values and collaboration
Cultural ideals affecting collaboration

• Every person contributes either as a worker or as a consumer, or both
• Every person has rights to education and to pursue intellectual interests
• Every reader’s intellectual pursuits will be kept confidential
• Every reader respects community-held property
Information centers are two-way distribution points
Information *TECHNOLOGY* infrastructure and Information *CONTENT* infrastructure are *LINKED*
“Intellectual content” of the information infrastructure must be addressed to realize the full benefits of global NREN.

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