

# EGYPT

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF EGYPT

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## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

The Egyptian National Library & Archives is the first National Library in the Arab World, it was established in 1870, and located in the basement of Mustafa Fadel Pasha's who was the brother of Ismail Pasha, the ruler of Egypt at the time.

Since then, so many changes have taken place in the administration, functions, aims, and services of the library.

In that respect, there are some dates, which are considered to be turning points in the history of that great library:

- In 1904, it was removed to a new building in Bab El Khalek (Cairo) and known as "Dar El Kotob El Masrya".
- In 1966, the name changed to "The National Library & Archives of Egypt". According to the Presidential Decree n° 540, for 1966.
- In 1971, it has been integrated with the National Editing and Publishing Services to compose together "The National Corporation of Book"
- In 1993, it was re established as an independent Institution, by the Presidential Decree n°540, for 1966 )
- In 1977, it was re established as an independent Institution, by the Presidential Decree n° 176, for 1993, and regained once more its previous name "The Egyptian National Library & Archives".

Within its role as a government research and cultural non-profit Institution, the Egyptian National Library renders information services throughout Egypt, Arab and Islamic World. In order to fulfil this task, the activities undertaken by the NL are designed to achieve the following objects:

- Collects all printed materials (books, periodicals, ...etc) pertaining to National history published locally and abroad.
- Collects, maintains and edit all possible manuscripts of different forms, audiovisual materials, and alike, making these available for users.
- Render all facilities and modern information services to users.
- In purchasing of the Egyptian National Library's aims and policies for modernization, the Egyptian National Library is following a scientific plan to develop its facilities and services, the first phase of this plan is already accomplished, by the inauguration of halls occupying a total area of 1.000 sq m Out of 6.000 sq m needed to be developed. Within the frame of such developing plan, we can softly claim that the Egyptian National Library will soon be brought in line with international levels of a high standard electronic and digital library, and meet user's expectation and needs.

- The inauguration of the multi-media and Internet services, side by side with the inauguration of the new site (<http://www.darelkotob.org>) is representing a civilized shifting in the path of the Egyptian National Library, and starts a new era of its history.

#### **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:**

The five cornerstones of the current development strategy of the Egyptian National Library for the new century and the third millennium are as follows:

##### **FIRST:**

Rescuing, protecting and preserving Egypt's heritage for the coming millenniums through:

- Focusing on restoring and maintaining millions of paper acquisitions represented in documents, manuscripts, periodicals, books, and papyrus.
- Adopting the policy of utilizing modern technological alternatives in order to preserve and protect all originals and avoid to be susceptible to any microfilms, microfiches, computers, and other multi-media.

##### **SECOND:**

To radically develop to overall premises in general and particular the storehouses of manuscripts and books, especially as those storehouses contain the most important items of the Egyptian National Library. This development includes as well modern installations, fixture and fixings, central air-conditioning, and the latest security and fire alarm systems.

Within this scope, The Egyptian National Library adopts the following four major projects:

- The development of the Egyptian National Library building at-Bab-El Khalq district.
- The development of the Egyptian National Library building on Corniche El-Nil.
- The development of the sub-libraries.

##### **THIRD:**

##### ***HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT:***

Being convinced that the human factor is the basis of any progress, accordingly the following several measures in the field of human development have been adopted:

- Providing and recruiting the most efficient work–power in the various fields of specialization and activities practiced and covered by the Egyptian National Library.
- Setting-up continuous courses and programs in various fields, including:
  - Computer and Internet courses
  - Computer data –input courses for new entries, acquisitions and references
  - Overseas training courses
  - Hosting international seminars and symposia at the Egyptian National Library and participating in the ones held outside The Egyptian National Library.
- Improving the standards of employees through:

Increasing the rate of extra-ordinary efforts exerted by the employees within the scope of increasing production rates

Supporting the employees through subsidies represented in cash amounts to be given in the event of medical treatment and care, study courses, or any other social circumstances

Focusing on services provided to employees, as well as health and social care

Providing appropriate and presentable administrative offices that would contribute in encouraging working and achievement

Providing adequate and convenient work climate and environment that would participate in lifting up employee moral spirit.

Developing the laws and regulations governing the work at The Egyptian National Library in such manner to facilitate works for the employees and serve them.

#### **FOURTH:**

Utilizing modern technology in the field of library work:

The fast access to the technology and information age is a crucial factor for developing the work at The Egyptian National Library. Thus, for reaching that the end, the work was oriented in two directions:

**The First Direction:** is a specialized technical one, which includes the different processes of indexes, classifications, categorizations, and inputting the acquisitions into the computer. Those works were achieved through two phases:

**Phase One:** Inputting data into the electronic database.

**Phase Two:** Making information accessible for research and Study purposes.

**The second Direction:** is an administrative and archival one. Which is represented the following:

- Automating work in financial and administrative affairs
- Setting-up a database for The Egyptian National Library to serve the work system in the different departments
- Establishing and equipping a technology multi-media hall to serve researchers and users in need of such facility.

#### **FIFTH:**

Opening up to the world with the purpose of delivering and communicating the Egyptian culture everywhere: through the creation of the most vast communication network possible, connecting The Egyptian National Library with other Arab book houses and libraries, as well as worldwide scientific and specialized centres. The achievement of this task required the establishment of an Egyptian National Library site on the Internet in three languages: Arabic, English and French. Accordingly, this will allow that the Egyptian and Arab intellectual productions to be universally spread through the placement of the masterpieces of books references, manuscripts, and musical records on the World Wide Web, as well as providing The Egyptian National Library's latest news and activities to users all around the world.

Recently, The National Library of Egypt has published an electronic periodical cited "Al - Dar" within it's Internet site as a first EP for National Library in the region.

These five pillars for The Egyptian National Library development strategy did indeed achieve remarkable progress in the past couple of years ...Thus. These five cornerstones can be considered as starting points for all Arab libraries on their road towards the third millennium, on the one hand ... And on the other hand, the Egyptian National Library can effectively contribute through its scientific know-how and expertise as well as its practical experiences in transferring this experiment to any other Arab library willing to benefit from it, particularly after having crystallized its methodology and system and having overcome all obstacles and difficulties , being thus able to achieve its influence in a suitable timeframe.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Undoubtedly, it is due to the factors of history geographic proximity implications , and the resemblance of conditions and climates ...that there exist many other factors for agreement and cross-linking between Arab libraries and book-houses all around the Arab World.

Consequently, after the successful application of the five cornerstones of the Egyptian National Library development strategy throughout the past couple of years, it became possible that such an experiment would stand as an ideal model before other Arab libraries along their journey towards the third millennium.

This experience did prove that development plan at the Egyptian National Library has achieved remarkable success throughout the past two years, and realized for the Egyptian National Library a tremendous civilized leap; thus, emphasizing the ingenuity of unity and the clearness of vision. Notwithstanding, the existing impediments, obstacles and problems a success was achieved utilizing the available potentialities and human capabilities to realize the optimum benefit for reaching the aspired goals. Thus, one can comfortably declare that we have actually achieved a considerable success in keeping pace with the modern developments in the field of libraries and information. Though we still look forward for more achievements.

The main purpose of this paper might be to conduct a case –study for the profit of other Arab libraries, particularly after it became crystallized and highlighted. We are also looking forward to co-operate with any other National Library world wide, given the good fortune that The Egyptian National Library acquires and possesses at present time the following:

- Administrative experiences capable of cooperating and coordinating with all international bodies or institutions.
- Scientific experiences aware of all the needs for civil advancement and how to apply and utilize such experiences to achieve any required tasks and targets.
- Scientific experiences moulded by practical experiment, and whose talents have been enhanced so that they become ready for creativity and innovation.
- Modern equipment and machinery for keeping pace with this era spirit and advancements, saving time and effort, and achieving the optimum utilization of the available resources.

This brief review is considered to be a humble effort towards evolution and progress of the Egyptian National library, it briefly spans the history from the very beginning of its roots in 1870 in the era of khalifa Ismail till the time being, and demonstrates its role as an oldest National Institute in preserving the heritage of Egypt and the Middle East, beside being one of the biggest National Research Center on the national and regional level (24).

**STATISTICAL REPORT**

Budget: 3500000 E.P.

**ACQUISITIONS:**

Books : 2000000

Periodicals : 10000 Titles

Rare and Early Publicats : 1200

Manuscripts 120000

Papyrus 4000

Ancient coins 11000 Pieces

**MANPOWER**

Permanent Jobs : 1709

Contracts : 247

**EQUIPMENT**

Computers 85 PC

Servers 4

Photocopiers 30

Microfilm Reader / Printer 35

Microfich Reader / Printer 14

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