EXPERIMENTING WITH DIGITISATION AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF EGYPT

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SUMMARY

This paper considers in depth the issues surrounding the creation of a digital library. The initial section raises a large number of questions, which have to be addressed before the decision to proceed with the creation of a digital library is taken. The second section contains a discussion of the decisions, the management, the techniques, and the methods that need to be understood and used in the design, creation, implementation, and maintenance of a digital library.

The paper addresses important issues on national libraries and directs the reader to consider them and decide on their unique solution. There are numerous resources and further reading for all these issues that can assist the reader in obtaining a well – rounded view of the issue. They also show what others have done and what the current thinking is.

The selected sample study is, perhaps, the most important in the whole paper. It provides an invaluable reference to the tools and equipment that are available to help in all aspects of dealing with a digital national library. In addition to associations and publications dealing directly and indirectly with the issues, that form the necessary foundation for creating and running a digital library.

This study proves that the concepts of the digital national library are here to stay. However, their form will evolve rapidly as the external world evolves, offering opportunities and making demands. It is vital that the partners you choose for your digital library project will stay with you for the long haul. They must be capable of offering and guiding the changes your digital library will go through.

A digital national library needs to be prepared for the future more than most. Here good basic design with an eye on the immediate and longer-term future is the foundation. The rest of the structure must be built using tools and techniques, which provide solid reliable operation with the flexibility to change, adapt, and innovate in the future.