

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AT THE LIBRARIES OF SAUDI TRADITIONAL UNIVERSITIES AND KING ABDULLAH UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KAUST)

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Abstract _The objective of this research is to explore the present status of the application of Knowledge Sharing at the work environment of the traditional Saudi university libraries and KAUST, through the systems being used to document experiences and knowledge; the venues library employees use to share knowledge among themselves; and to reveal impediments confronting the sharing of knowledge at these libraries. The Author used the Descriptive-Survey method for the research; as well as a questionnaire in both Arabic, and English for the benefit of KAUST. It was sent electronically to all Deans of Libraries; feedback was received from all of them.

Main results of the research:

All Saudi Universities used electronic sites to manage Knowledge Participation at 100% rate; meanwhile the use of Electronic Sites of Social Networks was by 83.3%. The Higher Management encourages employees to innovate new solutions for work demands scored 83.3%. Regarding the system used to document experiences and knowledge, was 100% for paper reports; next comes the usage of data base by 83.3%. Electronic reports, electronic documents; and work procedures came by 67.7% for each of them. The least method used for this purpose was paper directories and paper work procedures at 50% for each. Regarding the venues of knowledge sharing, the use of personal phone stood first; Electronic Mail came next. For the rest of the universities, the most important impediment came from the employee himself as a personal short comes that impaired knowledge sharing.

Keywords: Knowledge Sharing, Managing Knowledge, Saudi University Libraries, , Systems, Ways of Knowledge Participation, King Abdullah University for Science and Technology (KAUST).