CHAPTER III

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA OF STUDY

3.0 AN OVERVIEW OF THE AREA OF STUDY

The cataloguing is one of the core activities of library to provide valuable services to its users. As the information landscape has become more complex, library catalogues are forced to change. Exponential growth of digital information, astounding developments in information technology and drastic change in information seeking behaviour have put the library catalogue in a critical state. The library catalogue should be revamped to enhance its capabilities. A research study has been conducted to understand the present status of the library catalogues to accomplish this task. Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs) of leading educational institutions in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations have been taken as sample for this research study. Two ways of approaches has been performed for analysis. General features of OPACs have been considered in the first phase of analysis. Features of Amazon and Google products has been compared with the samples in the second phase of analysis. The following is the profile of the selected colleges and universities to comprehend the status of the selected education institutions.
3.1 Al Bayan College (http://www.bayancollege.edu.om/Facilities/Library.aspx)

Al Bayan College is the first university college in Oman to offer degrees in Media Studies and is located in central Muscat, Oman. The college is under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Oman and is affiliated with Purdue University –Calumet, Indiana, USA. The programmes offered by the college are Journalism, Broadcasting, Public Relations, Advertising, English Professional Writing and English Literature.

The college library has a wide array of literature, non-fiction writings, periodicals, course-specific textbooks to cater to the need of its patrons. When the data was collected, the library had only card catalogue and followed AACR2 cataloguing standards. The collections were limited to books, journals and CD-ROMs. Mr Absal was the librarian.
3.2 Caledonian College of Engineering (www.cce.edu.om)

Caledonian College of Engineering is one of the premier engineering colleges in Oman and is situated in Al Hail South, Muscat, Oman. The college is under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and is affiliated with Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK. All major branches of engineering courses are offered by the college in the undergraduate level. In addition to that, two master degrees in engineering are also offered by the college.

The college has a well-resourced library with many sections such as Quiet Study Area, Discussion Area, Learning Resource Centre, Internet Library and Periodical Section to cater to the need of different type of users. Current Awareness Service, Selective Dissemination of Information and User Orientation Programmes are some of the important services of the library. The library collection comprises engineering, mathematics, science and English language books both in advanced level and basic level. The library subscribes to more than 100 engineering journals in print format. Ebrary (Electronic books), ProQuest (E-journals), SpringerLink (E-journals) databases are also subscribed by the library. The college IT department developed its
Online Public Access Catalogue, which can be accessed only inside the campus. The library follows AACR2 for cataloguing. The name of the library director was H Kalilur Rahman when the study was conducted.

3.3 Dhofar University (DU) (www.du.edu.om)

Dhofar University at Salalah was formally commenced its operation in Sep 2004 and is also coming under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Oman. DU is the first private not-for-profit University in Oman and offers two year diploma programmes and four year degree programmes. The university also offers a Foundation Program (FP) for students who are not sufficiently prepared to join the university programs. There are currently three colleges at DU: College of Arts and Applied Sciences (CAAS), College of Commerce and Business Administration (CCBA) and College of Engineering (CE). These colleges offer 25 academic programs in different fields of specialization, representing 17 diploma programs, 20 bachelor degree programs and one master degree program. In addition, DU has the
Continuing Education Center (CEC) that offers a variety of courses and training programs for executives and employees of government agencies and commercial firms and for adult learners in the local community.

Dhofar University Library aspires to be a distinct library in following up modern technology in support of learning and teaching, through the developing of resources, improving the services and facilitating the automated search of different types and forms of information sources. The library strives to develop its collection in multidimensional forms, which contains books, periodicals as well as electronic resources. The library provides variety of services for the benefit of its staff and students such as interlibrary loan facility, reservation facility. OPAC can be accessed anywhere and anytime. Mr D Venkatrajan was the librarian at the time of the data was collected.

3.4 German University of Technology - Oman
(www.en.gutech.edu.om/index.php)

German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) commenced its operation in October 2007 after its official inauguration in December 2006 in collaboration with RWTH Aachen University in Germany, one of the leading
universities of technology in Europe. The college is coming under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education. GUtech is situated in Athaibah, Muscat, Oman. The first batch of GUtech students started their studies in the Pre-University Programme in October 2007. The first intake of students into four full-time Bachelor of Science programmes (Applied Geosciences, Applied Information Technology, Sustainable Tourism and Regional Development, and Urban Planning & Architectural Design) started their studies one year later, in October 2008. GUtech was the first private university in Oman to receive international accreditation for all its BSc programmes.

The library has both print and digital collections to support the teaching and learning of the college. The Library provides all recommended texts for the programmes offered by GUtech, along with a collection of background and supplementary materials. The name of the librarian is Mr Mansoor. OPAC can be accessed through its website. In addition, the GUtech library provides access to RWTH-Aachen’s electronic resources which further support study and research. Among electronic resources to choose from include 4,399 databases, 303,713 e-books, and 22,201 e-journals.

3.5 International College of Engineering and Management (http://www.fsecoman.com/)
The college specialises in the Management of Fire, Aviation & Airport, Oil, Health & Safety and Facilities. The International College of Engineering and Management (Formerly Fire Safety Engineering College) is a private joint stock company owned by a consortium of sponsors. It is registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and regulated by the Ministry of Higher Education.

The college has well established library. Mr Muhammad Tahir is the librarian. Books, journals, proceedings, thesis, videos and CD-ROMs are the collections of the library. OPAC can be accessed only inside the campus.

3.6 International Maritime College (http://www.imcoman.net/index.php )

IMCO (International Maritime College Oman LLC) has been established on 24 April 2005. Government of Oman (70%) and the STC Group, Rotterdam, the Netherlands (30%) are the owners of the college. The STC-Group has more than 25 years experience in providing innovative study environments in which students can learn about the maritime, transport, and oil and gas industries. IMCO brings this dynamic learning environment to the Sultanate of Oman combining experienced
educators with hands-on training. Therefore IMCO is able to guarantee high-quality education and training. IMCO is the only education and training institute in the GCC Region that offers Diploma and Degree Courses, and Short Courses for the Maritime, Shipping, Port, Transport and Petro-Chemical Process Industries for male and female. IMCO is also very active in training people from the industry, in and outside Oman.

The college aims to develop the library as a modern one and is taking all steps to achieve this task. Its collection is also multidimensional which includes books, audio-video materials, e-books, e-journals and e-references. All staff and students of the college are automatically registered in the library system (ProMIS) as long as they hold valid College ID cards. Therefore, students are obliged to show their college ID when borrowing any library material. The collection of the library strives to fulfil the need of its staff and students as their needs are unique in specific disciplines. The library catalogue can be accessed only inside the campus.

3.7 Mazoon College (www.mazooncollege.edu.om)
Mazoon College was established in the year 1999 under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Oman and in collaboration with the Missouri University of Science & Technology, Rolla, USA and Banasthali Vidyapeth, Jaipur, India. The college is located in Airport Heights Seeb, Muscat, Oman. Presently the college is providing an excellent ambience for Master's Degree, Bachelors Degree and Associate Diploma in Accounting, Economics, English, Business Administration, Management Information Systems & Psychology, Computer Science, Information Science & Technology, and an Intensive English Program (IEP). The college offers full-time study only for ladies but the evening session starting from 4 pm till 9 pm is open for both men and women.

Mazoon College has a modern central air-conditioned Library located in the second floor of the building with a capacity of more than 100 users which is being managed by the qualified Staff. Library has been installed latest RFID technology for control over book thief. The Library acts as the main Learning Resource Centre. Vidya library management software is used for the library automation. OPAC of the library can be accessed in all places by the members. Ms Abida Durrany was the librarian when the questionnaire was circulated. Books, journals, sound recordings, videos, CD-ROMs and E-books are the main collection of the library. E-Learning center has been established with 17th highly configured computer terminals to access CDs, DVDs, Audio and cassettes.
Middle East College of Information Technology (MECIT) (http://www.mecit.edu.om/index.html)

Middle East College of Information Technology is one of the premier institutes in Oman in the field of Higher Education and is housed in the Knowledge Oasis, Muscat that incorporates the IT Park of Muscat. Middle East College has an academic affiliation with Coventry University from the United Kingdom and comes under the Ministry of Higher Education, Oman. The college offers a wide range of programmes in different areas of technology, communication and Business Management. Besides it has partnership with Dublin Institute, which awards the qualifications for Business & Information Systems programmes offered at Middle East College. The college students have the opportunity to work towards obtaining various degrees in Design, Engineering and Technology. The college has professional partnership with Microsoft IT academy, Oracle Academic Initiative, Cisco Network Academic Partnership and EC- council.

The College has well-equipped library with a strong collection of over 25,000 books on a broad range of topics and subjects. The collection comprises of reference books, text books and audio-visual materials. The library subscribes to print & electronic journals and databases. The library includes two reading areas with an area of 2400 sq meters and has a seating capacity for 310 students at a time. The ground
floor is equipped with a circulation counter, a reference section, five discussion rooms, photocopying and a large reading hall with a seating capacity for 150 students at a time. Additionally, the first floor is dedicated to book stacks, a silent reading area with reading carrels, a faculty research and periodical section, an audio-visual section and a photocopying section equipped with state-of-the arts machines. Mr Rumman Ahamed is the librarian. OPAC can be accessed only inside the campus.

3.9 Oman Medical College (OMC) (http://www.omc.edu.om/)

OMC is a private medical college in Oman and has academic partnership with West Virginia University, USA which gives the students an opportunity to obtain a U.S.-style Medical or Pharmacy degree entirely within Oman. The language of instruction is English. The Education Programs offered by the College are approved by the Ministry of Higher Education of the Sultanate of Oman. Galfar group of companies conceptualized this initiative in the year 2000 and took it forward with the approval of the Ministry of Higher Education and secured the academic partnership with the School of Medicine of West Virginia University in the United States of
America. OMC began its first year of operations on October 1, 2001 with an incoming class of 69 students enrolled for the premedical education program. The College offers a 7-year program of study leading to the M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) and a four and a half years program of study leading to the B. Pharm (Bachelor of Pharmacy) degree. The first 3 years of the Medical Program are conducted in the Bowshar Campus and the remaining 4 years at the Sohar Campus. The Government of Oman has extended its full support to the project by sponsoring a large number of Omani students, giving free land, and above all, by dedicating the Sohar Regional Hospital as the teaching hospital of the Oman Medical College.

OMC has a well established library to cater to the need of its patrons in Bowshar campus as well as in Sohar campus. The library offers many services such as interlibrary loan, printing & photocopying service, user education service, current awareness service and literature search for the benefits of its users and in which, some of the services are web based. SOLE (Secure Online Environment) is the library portal for online education and information. It is a web-based tool for students to access courses & databases and for instructors to build and maintain those courses. The library subscribes to online databases. Besides the patrons can access all online resources of West Virginia University library, which ultimately helps to fulfil the users, needs.
Sultan Qaboos University is the only Government University in Oman and is located in Al Khoudh, Muscat. Sultan Qaboos University is the realization of the promise announced by His. Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said during the 10th anniversary of Oman’s National Day in 1980. Construction started in 1982 and the first Sultan Qaboos University students were enrolled in 1986. In accordance with the Royal Directives of His Majesty, The University commenced with five colleges; namely Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Education and Science. Furthermore the College of Arts was established in 1987, following the College of Commerce and Economics which was developed in 1993. The College of Law joined the University in 2006 and finally the College of Nursing was established in 2008. The university offers undergraduate programmes in almost all major disciplines. The University has been offering master's programs since 1992. A key recent development is the creation of doctoral programs in the four science-based colleges and the College of Arts and Social Sciences. A total of 29 doctoral programs are currently offered in five colleges. These programs rest on a strong research base, which emphasizes academic excellence and addresses issues of national strategic importance.
Sultan Qaboos University Main Library is the biggest library in Oman and has wide range of high quality information resources to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the university as well as the country. The multi-storey building of the library has huge number of print books and journals. The library subscribes to vast number of e-resources which covers almost all field of knowledge. Science Direct, Academic Complete, Wiley online library, Taylor & Francis online, SpringerLink, Sage Journals, ProQuest, Oxford Journals, Cambridge University Press, JSTOR, Emerald, IEEE Explore, IEEE computer society, IET, ACM digital library, ASME, ASCE, Access Medicine, Agricola, BIOSIS, Business source complete, ERIC, LISA, MatSciNet, Medline, Scopus and Ebrary are some of the major e-resources subscribed by SQU library. The library extends its services such as ask librarian, chat and topical guide to its user community through its portal. The name of the librarian when the data was collected Mr Omar Sulaiman Fadlallah. The well developed OPAC of the library can be accessed from any remote places.

3.11 University of Nizwa (www.unizwa.edu.om)
The University of Nizwa (UoN) was established in the Sultanate of Oman in 2004 as a faculty governed not-for-profit private university. It is located in the interior region of Al-Dakhiliya near the historic former capital of Nizwa, which is 140km away from Muscat. Since its inception, the guiding philosophy of UoN has been to provide students with a high quality education that prepares them to contribute meaningfully to the economic, artistic and aesthetic growth of the country. Graduates, irrespective of their majors, are expected to be capable lifelong learners with skills in numeracy, communications, critical thinking and problem solving. In the short time since the inaugural class of 1200 students began taking courses on 16 October 2004 the University has expanded tremendously, both in physical size and in the number and diversity of programs offered to students. At this time the University offers over 30 undergraduate majors and 6 masters programs to a student body of nearly 6500. Construction is underway nearby on a new state of the art campus to support the continued growth of the university and its academic offerings. The college of Arts and Sciences, The College of Economics, Management & Information Systems, The College of Engineering & Architecture and The College of Pharmacy & Nursing are functioning in the university campus and offer many courses in their respective fields.

The University Library was established with the official inauguration of the University of Nizwa in October 2004. Presently, the Main Library is housed in Building 21 at the Initial Campus and consists of 3 large Halls. Two Halls provide separate studying facilities to Girls and Boys. Study tables, to be used by only one student, as well as tables, to be used by 4 students, have been provided in both the Halls to provide comfortable study to the students. The Central Hall houses Reference Collection, General Circulating Collection, Reference Desk, Circulation Desk,
OPACs, Self Check-out Station, and Photocopiers. Twelve (12) computers have also been provided in the Central Hall to provide access to all electronic resources available in the library. The Library provides service to faculty, staff, students, researchers, and outside users. In its initial stages, the Main Library has been designed to accommodate approximately 100,000 library items to serve the University community. Plans are under way to build a five storey Main Library building in the Main Campus in the near future. The collection of the library comprises books, journals, sound recordings, proceedings, thesis, CD-ROM, E-Books, E-Journals, Online Databases, and maps. OPAC can be accessed only by the members wherever they are. Dr. Moid A. Siddiqui was the library director, when the questionnaire was circulated.

3.12 Waljat College of Applied Sciences (www.waljatcolleges.edu.om)

The college was established in Oct 2001 in academic partnership with the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, India and is supervised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Oman. The WCAS campus is located in Knowledge Oasis Muscat, Rusayl with state-of-the art teaching facilities, laboratories, library and student
services. All academic programs are conducted in English and admissions are open to all nationalities. The Department of Biotechnology, Department of Computer Science & Applications, Department of Electronics & Communications Engineering, and Department of Management offer Graduate programs leading to Bachelor of Engineering (BE), Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Post Graduate Programs offering Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Executive MBA (EMBA) Degrees respectively.

The college library has very good infrastructure facility to accomplish its task and intensely focuses on developing its collection in all formats for example books, journals, CD-ROMs and e-books. VIDYA library management software is used for the library automation. OPACs can be accessed both inside and outside the campus only by members. Dr S D Khan is Information Manager and head of the library.

**United Arab Emirates Libraries**

3.13 American University in Dubai (AUD)  
(https://www.aud.edu/Library/index.asp)
The American University in Dubai is a private, non-sectarian institution of higher learning founded in 1995. AUD offers undergraduate courses in Architecture, Business Administration, Communication & Information Studies, Computer Science, Engineering fields and Visual Communication, and also some post graduate degrees. AUD is accredited by the Commission on Colleges (COC) of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), USA to award Bachelor's and Master's degrees. AUD is officially licensed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the United Arab Emirates. AUD’s multi-complex facility has been conceived with the objective of supporting the university's programs (both academic and extra-curricular) to an American standard. The campus surroundings include Dubai Internet City and Media City. AUD’s curricula across its degree-granting disciplines are skill-directed and career-oriented. The American University in Dubai, although still very young, is a vibrant institution which serves as a point of reference for higher education within the Gulf Region and greater Middle East.

The Library at the American University in Dubai provides books, magazines/journals and electronic resources to enrich the university’s educational program. AUD’s Library has a large English language collection of over 100,000 print/e-books. The Library has a rich collection of approximately 60 online resources offering access to full-text journals, magazines and international newspapers. The Library also subscribes to over 345 print journals, magazines and newspapers. The collection is particularly strong in resources for disciplines in which AUD grants degrees, although other materials not related to programs are purchased for a diversified collection. Bibliographic records of materials are available through catalogues and indexes that allow patrons' access to resources available. Both on-campus and off-campus access
of the OPAC is possible. The AUD Library provides the tools needed to complete research and create presentations. It contains two computer labs (24 computers) and one teaching lab (24 computers) in addition to 11 computer workstations in the Reference area, a photocopier, two printers, four scanners and four study rooms. Wireless access is also available

3.14 American University of Sharjah (AUS) (http://www.aus.edu/)

AUS was Founded in 1997. The university is an independent, not-for-profit coeducational institution, serving students from the region and around the world. AUS is licensed and its programs are accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the United Arab Emirates. AUS is also accredited in the United States of America by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Department of Education of the State of Delaware. All six of the
bachelor degree programs in the AUS College of Engineering are accredited by ABET, http://www.abet.org. The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration as well as the Master of Business Administration and Executive Master of Business Administration degrees offered by the School of Business and Management are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), www.aacsb.edu. The Bachelor of Architecture program of the College of Architecture, Art and Design is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) of the United States, www.naab.org. AUS offers 25 majors and 52 minors at the undergraduate level, and 14 master's degrees programs through College of Architecture, Art and Design, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and School of Business and Management.

The library is the biggest of its kind in United Arab Emirates. The total collection contains 1,22,000 items including books, CDs, DVDs, 90,000 electronic books, 250 current journals in print and 50 online databases. The library building is designed to meet a wide range of students and faculty information needs. Stunning state-of-the-art library building has spaces for quiet study, group study, computing and technology-enriched learning, media viewing, browsing and instruction. The library also has Research Help Desk to further support research activities in the campus. Additionally it has Faculty Resources to support the teaching process. Electronic resources and OPACs can be accessed locally and remotely.
Gulf Medical College, Ajman
(http://www.gmu.ac.ae/aboutgmu/aboutgmu.php)

Gulf Medical College, Ajman started functioning in 1998 and now it has become Gulf Medical University, Ajman in 2008. The Gulf Medical College Ajman began with the M.B.B.S program and later the Bachelor of Physiotherapy program was added in October 2000. Today, the Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research has permitted the University to foray into newer programs in Pharm D, DMD, Masters Programs in Clinical Pathology, Toxicology and Public Health. The university also publishes a quarterly Health magazine - GMC Health Journal, as part of its commitment to informative medical journalism. Gulf Medical University Ajman is promoted by the Thumbay Group U.A.E. This was the first medical institution in the region, which offers admissions to both boys and girls of all nationalities. The university has infrastructure and facilities, which is on par with some of the established medical institutions in the world. Apart from the academic programs, Gulf Medical University is in the forefront of Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development Programs.
GMU Library is a modern library with a total area of 10000 sq ft and is located strategically for faculty, students and staff to support their information needs and to access Library at any time of the day or night. Library has been conceived and developed as a multifaceted learning centre dedicated to serve the multi facet agenda of the college as being operated by its students, faculty, research and health professionals. The Library has access to a large variety of learning resources such as Books, Journals, Online database, access to Internet & Multimedia facilities in the field of biomedicine and health care. The library has 6,000 books, 45 thesis and more than 95 International Journals in its collection and also provides access to several online databases, e-books & e-journals. OPAC can be accessed both inside and outside campus. The library provides the Multimedia Collection & Services, Online Database Access, Internet & Intranet Access, Online Catalogue, E-Books & E-Journals, Inter Library Loan & Inter Library Document Delivery, Photocopying and Binding Services, Study Carrels, Group Study Rooms and Audio & Video Room Section services for the benefit of its patrons.

3.16 Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE (HCT) (http://www.hct.ac.ae/)

HCT Dubai (Men’s campus)
HCT is established in 1988 and the UAE’s largest Higher Education Institution. 17 men’s and women’s colleges are coming under the HCT. HCT offers over 90 different, English-taught programs in Applied Communications, Business, Engineering, Information Technology (IT), Health Sciences and Education at various levels. Strong ties to business and industry result in large numbers of HCT graduates finding rewarding employment.

Higher Colleges of Technology libraries are among the best equipped and most extensive in the Gulf region, boasting the full range of library collections and services and featuring advanced information and learning technologies. The libraries collections consist of more than 200,000 titles and 320,000 items including books, popular and scholarly journals, and multimedia materials, can be accessed through the Library catalogue. The Higher Colleges of Technology libraries subscribe to a wide variety of online databases that provide full-text journal articles, e-books and other electronic resources. The Higher Colleges of Technology is a member of the LIWA consortium, which makes resources from Zayed University and UAEU available to their students and staff. OPAC can be accessed from any place.

3.17 Khalifa University of Science, Technology & Research, Sharjah
(www.kustar.ac.ae/contactus/sharjah/default.aspx)
The University presently offers undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs in engineering. An international Centre for Research & Development is being developed with a range of key partners to ensure that research is an integral and very important part of the university. Khalifa University is actively involved in establishing long term partnerships with a variety of organizations including The Georgia Institute of Technology, The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Texas A&M University – Nuclear Security Science & Policy Institute, The University of Bristol and Zayed University.

The university library has both print and digital collections to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the university. Number of E-books, E-journals and Databases are subscribed by the library. All e-resources can be accessed wherever their patrons are. Information literacy, Inter library loan, reference help, document delivery, tutorials and workshops are some of the valuable services of the library. OPACs can be accessed from any place through the library website.

3.18 Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi (www.pi.ac.ae/)
The Petroleum Institute (PI) was created in 2001. Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and four major international oil companies are sponsors of PI. The campus has modern instructional laboratories and classroom facilities and is planning a major research centre on its campus in Sas Al Nakhl, Abu Dhabi. Currently the PI offers Bachelor degrees in Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical and Petroleum Engineering, Metallurgical and Polymer Science & Engineering and Petroleum Geosciences as well as Master of Engineering degrees in Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical and Petroleum Engineering, and Master of Science degrees in Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical and Petroleum Engineering and Petroleum Geosciences.

PI has well-established library with wide variety of print and electronic collections. Research help, Group study and interlibrary loan are some of the important services of the library. The library subscribes to many e-books, e-journals and online databases. The users should login to use the library resources including OPAC both inside and outside the campus.

3.19 United Arab Emirates University (http://www.uaeu.ac.ae/about/index.shtml)
United Arab Emirates University is UAE’s national university and was established in 1976. College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Science, College of Education, College of Business and Economics, College of Law, College of Food and Agriculture, College of Engineering, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, College of Information Technology and University General Requirements Unit are coming under the university. The university offers bachelor degrees, postgraduate courses, and PhD programs in all major fields.

The University Libraries were founded early in the establishment of UAE University, during the 1977-78 academic year. In 1988, the libraries began to automate some of its services with the help of the Computer Centre. In 1992, the Libraries Deanship launched a major project to modernize its services by adopting a fully integrated library system that would both meet the needs of research and support the Deanship's bibliographic standard. This plan led to two major achievements that took up most of the decade of the 90s, which are:

- Conversion of all library holdings from Dewey Decimal Classification to the Library of Congress system.
- Entering the data from these holdings into a bilingual database.

The University Libraries include these locations:

- Zayed Central Library, which serves all students and faculty, as well as outside users
- Main Library (Crescent Building), for faculty, staff and women students.
- Falaj Library for men only
- Jimi Library for men only
- Islamic Institute Library for men only
The library collection consists of both print resources and electronic resources. The library is enriched with number of online databases including e-books and e-journals. All major online databases are subscribed by the library. OPAC can be accessed by anyone and anywhere.

3.20 University of Wollongong in Dubai (http://www.uowdubai.ac.ae/index.php)

The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) is one of the UAE’s oldest and most prestigious universities. It is established in 1993 by the University of Wollongong in Australia and is located Dubai Knowledge Village, UOWD. UOWD offers a variety of specialist Undergraduate and Postgraduate programs in its three faculties – Business & Management, Finance & Accounting, and Computer Science & Engineering. All UOWD degree programs are accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. In addition, the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) includes UOWD in its audits of UOW.
The UOWD Library has rich academic resources for its students and alumni, which contains a comprehensive range of print and electronic information, including electronic journals, indexing and abstracting services, links to subject-based resources, standards and statistical information. 27,000 items including books, journals, newspapers, kits, cassettes, videos and DVDs, Over 60,000 eBooks, 300 Online Databases, 1,037,658+ online accessible documents, 70,000 electronic journal titles and 300+ e-references are evidence for its rich collection. OPAC can be accessed both inside and outside the campus. Virtual demo is available on the library website to use the library catalogue proficiently.

3.21 Zayed University (http://www.zu.ac.ae/main/en/index.aspx)

The University was founded for UAE National women in 1998, with campuses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Today, the University is educating both male and female students from 19 countries to compete and thrive in a global environment at the following campuses: Abu Dhabi - Khalifa City B, Dubai – Al Ruwayyah, and
Dubai – Knowledge Village. The university is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Zayed University offers globally recognized bachelor degrees in Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, IT and Media.

The library’s good resources are its strength. The library subscribes to many online databases relevant to its curriculum such as Academic Search Complete, Lexis Nexis, ProQuest, AskZad, JSTOR, Ebrary and Safari Tech Books online. Subject Guides and Tutorials are made available on the library website to guide the users to encourage the proper usage of the library. To further support the users, Learning Enhancement Centre, Curriculum Resources Centre and Archives & Records Management have been created in the premises of the library. Electronic Resources and OPAC can be accessed off campus through the extranet facility.

Qatar Libraries

3.22 Carnegie Mellon University, Qatar (http://www.qatar.cmu.edu/)
At the invitation of Qatar Foundation, Carnegie Mellon joined Education City in 2004. Here, Qatar Foundation created a unique center for scholarship and research that is the ideal complement to Carnegie Mellon's mission and vision. Students from 39 different nationalities enroll at its world-class facilities. Carnegie Mellon Qatar offers undergraduate programs in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Computational Biology, Computer Science and Information Systems.

The Library’s services and resources support the current academic and research programs at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. Access to a large collection of databases, e-journals and e-books are provided both on-site and remotely. The library houses a physical collection of more than 10,000 print volumes in all major disciplines as well as general education topics including math, physical sciences, economics and history. Cameo is the Library’s online platform for locating resources, and is integrated with the Pittsburgh holdings. Mr Bijan Esfahani is the Library Director. OPAC can be accessed from any remote places.

3.23 Georgetown University School of Foreign Studies (http://qatar.sfs.georgetown.edu/)

![Georgetown Building Celebration](image)
Georgetown University School of Foreign Studies Qatar campus was established in 2005 in Doha, Qatar. As a part of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and with the support of the Qatar Foundation, Georgetown's Qatar campus provides a global education in Qatar. The university offers International Politics, Culture & Politics and International Economics multidisciplinary programs.

Qatar campus library is a resource for the entire community. The Library’s rich collections, staff, spaces, and technologies facilitate academic exploration and research to best serve the Georgetown SFS-Qatar community, Education City faculty and students, as well as the larger Qatar community. The library collection is constantly increasing. At present it has 60,000 books, 5000 DVDs and other media materials, 1400 microform items, 500 article databases, 60,000 journals and newspapers and 7,00,000 e-books. Frieda Wiebe is the director of the library. OPAC can be accessed anywhere by anyone, but other electronic resources can be accessed by using member’s VPN connection.

3.24 Qatar Foundation, Academic Bridge Program (ABP)
http://www.abp.edu.qa/output/page3.asp
The ABP was established in 2001 to make Qatari high school graduates ready for university education. Students must complete an intensive program in English, science, math, and computer skills combined with improving their time management, test taking, and study skills. ABP has English as a Foreign Language Department, Maths & Physics Department, Computers Departments and Science Department for its core teaching.

The library collection includes books, journals, audio/videos and electronic books. The library also subscribes to some of the popular online databases to support the teaching and learning process. The library collection is currently little over 11,000 and growing steadily. The scope of the library collection extends beyond the subjects taught in the ABP viz, English, Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computers and includes Information sources that help in the overall development of the students. OPAC can be accessed only inside the campus. Mr S C Kumaresan is Head Librarian.

3.25 Qatar University (www.qu.edu.qa)
In 1977, Qatar University was founded with four colleges: Education; Humanities & Social Sciences; Sharia, Law, & Islamic Studies; and Science. In 1980, the College of Engineering was established, followed by the College of Business & Economics in 1985. At present, Qatar University is comprised of seven colleges.

The library has high quality library collections, physical and technological facilities, and provides research and information services in order to support the educational, research, and community service needs of the university. The library subscribes to many online databases relevant to its curriculum. Any member can access the e-Resources using the Qatar University Library website. Authentication usually relies on QU IP ranges that are registered as belonging to Qatar University campuses. While accessing the library resources from outside, the university students, staff and faculty are prompted to enter their QU email username and password to gain access, but OPAC can be freely accessed by anyone. Dr. Taj Elsir Ibrahim S Kardaman is the Acting Director of the library.

3.26 Texas A&M University at Qatar (http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/)
Texas A&M University’s Qatar branch began its operation in Sep 2003. Since 2003, Texas A&M University has offered Bachelor of Science degrees in chemical, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering at Qatar Foundation’s Education City campus. These degrees are administered by the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. It also offers two graduate degrees in chemical engineering; a Master of Science and a Master of Engineering.

The Texas A&M University at Qatar Library supports the academic programs of the University in an environment that fosters learning and inquiry. The Library maintains an onsite print collection of books, journals, reference works and multimedia and access to vast electronic books, journals and citation indexes. By coordinating with College Station and other Education City libraries, the University gives its faculty and staff access to a robust array of resources. Searching OPAC outside the campus is permitted to all, but e-resources can be browsed only by the members.

3.27 Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar (VCU Qatar)
http://www.qatar.vcu.edu/
VCU opened its campus in Qatar in 1998 at the invitation of Qatar Foundation and offers undergraduate programs in Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Painting and Printmaking, and also the Master of Fine Arts in Design Studies. VCU Qatar is located in Education City.

The Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar Libraries provide exemplary resources, services, and gateways to information to meet the needs of VCU Qatar’s instructional, research and community programs. Ms Carol Hansen is the library Director. Books, journals, e-journals databases, e-books databases, DVDs, thesis and dissertations are major collections of the library. OPAC access is open to everyone and access to other databases is restricted to its members.

3.28 Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar (WCM, Qatar) (http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/index.html)

Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar was commenced its academic operations in 2002 with historic partnership between Qatar Foundation and Cornell University. It offers a unique, six-year American curriculum, which includes premedical and medical education, leading to the same M. D. awarded to graduates of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.
WCM Qatar library develops its collections in multidimensional formats to meet the users’ needs. DeLibCasts are instructional videos. It mainly focuses on digital resources and provides subject guide on the library website. Table of Contents is available for journals only to members. The college permits everyone to access its OPAC freely.

Kuwait Libraries

3.29 American University of Kuwait (AUK) (http://www.auk.edu.kw/index.jsp)

AUK was established in 2003 and was accredited in 2006. Division of Arts & Humanities, Division of Social Sciences, Division of Science & Engineering, Division of Business & Economics at AUK offer all degree programmes. They are based on American model of higher learning.

The library is well established and has rich collections in all formats including conventional books, journals and DVDs. The library subscribes to all major online databases and provides access to all its members both inside and outside the campus.
Off campus facility is given through the university portal. Access to OAPC is permissible to everyone. In addition to the resources, library guide is also available to improve the proper usage of all its resources.

3.30 Arab Open University (AOU), Kuwait (www.arabou.edu.kw/)

AOU was established in 2002 and has strategic partnership with the Open University in United Kingdom. AOU runs its various graduate and post graduate programmes through its Faculty of Business Studies, Faculty of Computer Studies, Faculty of Education, Faculty of General Studies and Faculty of Language Studies.

AOU has its own e-library to cater to the needs of its staff and students. As it is an open university, most of the resources are made available online for the benefit of its remote students. OPAC can be accessed through its website. The library subscribes to huge number of e-books, journals and databases. Apart from these, many online dictionaries, thesaurus, conference papers, biographies, images and sound resources are available on its library website.
GUST got permission to start its first academic year in 2002-2003. College of Arts and Science, and College of Business Administration are coming under the university and offer many degree programmes.

The Library supports a curriculum-oriented collection containing books, e-books, journals, e-journals, audiovisual materials, and bibliographic/full-text databases. The collection is divided into three categories. They are Digital Resources, Print Resources and Audiovisual Resources. The library subscribes to more than 58,000 e-journals, 91,000 e-books, and many bibliographic & full-text databases. Its online collections enable the students to access quality educational resources. 12,000 books titles are available in the library. The library subscribes to 70 print journals. The audiovisual collection consists of over 930 videos, audio-cassettes, CDs, and DVDs. The CD and DVD collections are for use only within the library. OPAC can be accessed freely by anyone.
Kuwait University was founded in October 1966. KU has colleges for almost all major disciplines including law, science, medicine, engineering and education. Some KU colleges have received academic accreditation as they offer wide range of programs in sciences and humanities at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels, with 1342 internationally renowned and culturally diverse community of professors and academicians, providing the highest level of teaching, research and scholarship.

The Kuwait University Libraries Administration (KULA) supervises the administrative and technical aspects concerning the university libraries and is considered a basic centre for academic and research activities at Kuwait University. The technical divisions handle the centralized acquisitions and cataloguing processes, whereas the libraries provide information services to the university colleges. Kuwait University Libraries collection contains approximately 267,912 titles / 393,563 volumes of Arabic and non-Arabic monographs, 1233 original manuscripts and 14,885 manuscripts on microfiche/microfilm, reference materials, dissertations and
reports in different branches of knowledge. KUL subscribes to 64 databases and E-Books - contain 10,000 Titles in various fields and 2522 scientific periodicals. In addition, the audio-visual collection consists of approximately 20,000 items, Manuscripts collection consists of approximately 1273 original and 16,607 copy. Currently, the library catalogue includes bibliographic records for the Arabic and foreign books and periodicals of all disciplines. Item information and copy’s locations are being updated. The library allows everyone to access its OPAC.

Saudi Arabia Libraries

3.33 King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
(http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/default.aspx)

King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM) was officially established by Royal Decree on 23 September, 1963 as College Petroleum and Minerals. In 1975, the College of Petroleum and Minerals became the University of Petroleum and Minerals, a change both in name and academic status. In 1986, the University was renamed: The King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. King
Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM) is one of the main universities in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. KFUPM is supervised by the Ministry of Higher Education, and regulated by The Council of Higher Education. The academic organization of the University includes the Preparatory Year Program, seven undergraduate academic colleges, and the Deanship of Graduate Studies. The seven undergraduate colleges are the College of Applied Engineering, the College of Engineering Sciences, the College of Sciences, the College of Environmental Design, the College of Industrial Management, the College of Computer Sciences & Engineering and the College of Applied and Supportive studies. The Deanship of Graduate Studies awards Master of Science (M.S.) degrees in 24 major fields. The Deanship of Graduate Studies also awards Master of Engineering (M.Engg) Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Executive Master of Business Administration (Executive M.B.A.), Master of Geology, and Master of Geophysics.

The library supports the academic and research programs of the university by providing quality information resources and services. In developing the library collection, the library gives much emphasis on digital resources of e-books, e-journals and others. The library has recently joined the Saudi Digital Library (SDL) project that gives the users access to more than 140,000 e-books. SDL is a project of the National Centre for E-Learning (NCEL), run by the Ministry of Higher Education. The library also provides access to over 16,000 e-journals and more than 200,000 e-books relevant to the academic profile. Off campus access to all e-resources to its members is one of the key services. The well developed OPAC can be accessed by anyone on its website.
3.34  **King Abdul Aziz University** (http://www.kau.edu.sa/home_ENGLISH.aspx)

The university started its first year in 1968 by inaugurating the preparatory study program with a few number of students and directly the year after, the university inaugurated its first college (the College of Economics and Management,) then in the following year the college of Arts and Human Sciences was established. The university offers courses in all major subjects of knowledge including arts, science, medicine and engineering.

The library gives its main focus on its collection development to serve in a better way to the members of the library. In addition to the regular books and periodicals, the library collection comprises many online databases, e-books, e-journals and reference sources such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias. The library guides are made available on the library website to use all these resources effectively. OPAC is developed by Horizon Information Portal, Dynix and can be accessed both inside and outside the campus.
KSU is one of the oldest universities in Saudi Arabia and was established in 1957 with aim to improve the higher education and research in Saudi Arabia. KSU offers various courses through its Community Colleges, Female Centres, Humanities Colleges, Health Colleges and Science Colleges. KSU has separate department exclusively for research activities.

KSU has many libraries under its umbrella to cater to the need of various colleges. Seven-story Prince Salman Central Library is the main library and is located in the heart of the KSU campus. The Deanship of Library affairs was established in 1974. The library has very rich collection. More than 13,00,000 books, more number of periodicals, vast number of rare books, theses, microfilms, audio visual materials, maps and online database are the strength of the library and augment its services. The library is now focusing on increasing its electronic resources to fulfill the demand of modern users. These resources can be accessed via the library electronic portal. AACR2 and MARC format are followed by the library for cataloguing, OPAC can be accessed without any geographical barriers by all.

Qassim University is located in Qassim and was established in 2004. Twenty Nine colleges are coming under QU. It is one of the biggest universities in Saudi Arabia and is having 44,000 students enrolled. The university is accredited by NCAA and ABET. The college offers Diplomas, Degrees in all major disciplines including agriculture, veterinary medicine, engineering, computer science, medicine, science and arts. QU also encourages research activities.

QU has a well-equipped library and subscribes to many online databases which include E-books and E-journals databases. Besides affluent number of print books and print periodicals are stacked by the library. All e-resources can be accessed only with valid username and password, but OPAC is free to access. OPAC is developed by SirsiDynix. QU library has supply division, periodical division, lending & users service, university manuscript & thesis division and indexing & classification division for its effective functioning. Wiley-Blackwell, BMJ medical database, Cambridge Journal, SpringerLink, MD Consult, ASCE, Oxford journals, APS physics, ProQuest, Engineering Village, IEEE Explore Digital Library, EBSCO
database and Science Direct are some of the notable databases subscribed by the university library.

**Bahrain Library**

**3.37 University of Bahrain** ([www.uob.edu.bh/english/](http://www.uob.edu.bh/english/))

University of Bahrain (UoB) is the only national higher education institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain that offers mainly undergraduate bachelor degrees and some postgraduate degrees. It was founded in 1986. UOB offers its degree programmes through College of Arts, College of Business Administration, College of Engineering, College of Information Technology, College of Law, College of Science, College of Applied Studies, Bahrain Teachers College and Academy of Physical Education and Physiotherapy. The university has many accredited courses by various accreditation boards.

The University of Bahrain has four libraries and a number of specialised branch libraries. All UOB libraries are linked electronically through the Symphony Sirsi catalogue which can be accessed remotely 24/7 by students and faculty. 250,000
printed books are available, which is constantly increasing. Digital library can be accessed which includes over 20,000 mostly full-text electronic journals; 50,000 current electronic books and one and half million electronic theses. Library orientation programmes, inter-library loan, course reserve services and subject librarian service are some of the important services of the library. The library has four major divisions namely Library Service Division, Technical Service Division, Library Systems Division and Library Instruction Division to carry all its operations effectively and efficiently.