

Creating a System of "Remote Read"

In the Library of Deir al-Asad, Hosted by: Magda Hawash.

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Deir al-Asad library was founded in 1991 and serves 12,000 readers. As an information service center, the library provides service in locating materials in every field, book loans, joint classes and cultural activities to all ages. However, notably, to this day, the library had no online borrowing system and readers had to come to the library to get minimal services such as extending the lending period or checking a book's availability.

The project's purpose was to build a system that allows online remote access to the reader's card. The system, "Remote Read", helps to facilitate processes such as lending a book, extending book lend and opening a reader's card without coming to the library. During the project, I conducted a wide overview of public library readers' interfaces in rural areas, to find and compare existing solutions for user's remote access needs. I took an active part in characterizing the system according to those needs with consideration of the library main processes: Opening a new reader's card, lending status, return dates, reserving borrowed books, extending loans period, loans history and personal information update.

One of the most important steps in the process of implementing the system was the stage of conducting user training which allowed full familiarity with the system's features and the advanced functions in it. The contribution of "Remote read" system to the library and KM field, is expressed in promoting knowledge management and providing the ability to locate information effectively and independently, especially when the library is closed. The project helped me in making good theory practical as I learned how to make the information available to everyone. The main conclusion is that having an online reader card helps in saving additional time and resources.