RESEARCH WORKS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

VOLUME 3

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IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

RESEARCH WORKS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE VOLUME III

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IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Roslina Othman, Basri Hasan and Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar: Research Works in Library and Information Science Volume III

ISBN: 978-967-418-114-7
Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :
IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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1. ONLINE DATABASES AT SAUDI ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Ezzat Abdul Aziz Mansour, Basri Hasan, & Roslina Othman

ABSTRACT

This chapter reports on the provision of online databases at Saudi Academic Libraries. Over the last two decades many academic libraries in the Arabian Gulf region have introduced electronic resources into their library operations. The degree of their progress in changing from a traditional library environment into an electronic library environment have varied according to their level of education and awareness of the library managers, the direction and support of the mother institutions, and the demands for electronic information sources made by their clientele.

1.1 Introduction

The development of the Internet has transformed the use of information resources and the primary tools for locating information in the libraries. This transformation has provided new tools with greater potentials in helping users to find as much needed information as opposed to library catalogues. The availability of electronic information resources on the Internet, the Web and other forms of electronic storage device are widely viewed as a significant feature in the contemporary educational context and one which offers exciting new opportunities for students and academics (Byerley and Chambers, 2003).

The whole world is living in a state of rapid progress and technological development, as a result of new revolution in information and communication technology. In the light of this development, the Internet has become one of the main sources of