

## **Non-impact of Open Access on Algerian Academic Libraries: A comparative analysis study between Constantine University 1 and 2.**

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### **Abstract**

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The objective of this analysis study is interpreting the obstacles facing the Open Access project application in Algerian academic libraries. This tendency is a challenge for today's librarians; consequently, we have chosen the University of Constantine 1 and 2 as a model in order to get results that clarify the non- impact of Open Access. The study employed comparative analytical survey conduct, which is the appropriate approach for confirming or rejecting our starting assumption; we relied on a detailed questionnaire to collect data, interpret results. The survey revealed that there is no significant impact of open access on the Algerian local libraries studied, due to the most crucial difficulties which are: absence of open access policy, technological infrastructure also appropriate training programs. As a result, it is obvious that librarians are far away from putting into practice the open access project. But they express their awareness about it. The study clarifies the open access situation for the stakeholders in both universities. In order to take the suitable procedures for supporting this tendency and making it reachable.

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**Keywords:** Open Access- Academic libraries- Constantine University 1 & 2 - Non-impact-Survey- Algeria.

### **1-Introduction:**

The serial crisis influenced the scholarly communication system as well as the workflows of librarians; «for more than a decade as shorthand for the rise in costs for academic journals and the inability of libraries to bring these costs under control. Price inflation for academic journals significantly exceeds the consumer price index.

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The most recent data show that journal prices increased at an average rate of 8% in 2007. Because journal subscriptions are a large part of the collections budget at academic libraries» (Philip Young, p.1, 2009). The price is beyond the reach of both librarians and users. As a result, Algerian libraries have faced a challenge representing how to overcome the serial crisis in this digital era. And to determine the solution it seems obvious and easy by establishing a new scientific model which is: "Open access" through their avenues. But, there are important obstacles should be identified and treating them. Then we speak about the implementation of it. Therefore, the study was based on two previous investigations for answering the research question and enriches the analysis procedures of the survey. The first entitled: «Librarians' role in the establishment of open access movement to scientific and technical information: A perspective study in Academic libraries at the University of Constantine 01». Equally important the second one is: «Intellectual capital is a successful investment for knowledge management in an open access environment: Case study of Academic libraries at Constantine 2-Abdelhamid Mehri, Algeria».

## **2- Research design of the Study:**

### **2-1-Research Question:**

With the fast growth of information industry, also the increase of access rates to knowledge, it became compulsory providing necessary tools for the academic libraries. Meanwhile, there is inevitability about the investment in the human resources (librarians) for the following reasons: ability to find open resources, produce and manage digital open content. For this, we raised the following question: why Algerian academic libraries of Constantine University 1 and 2 (\*3), are still not able to establish the Open journals and institutional repositories; for the sake of managing knowledge effectively in the digital era?

### **2-2-Research hypothesis :**

Through the above question we hypothesize that:

Algerian librarians at Constantine University 1 and 2 are not able to put the Open Access Project in practice, because of the absence of appropriate training programs and technological infrastructure.

### **2-3-Survey population and Data collection:**

#### **2-3-1-Place of the study:**

Academic Libraries at Constantine University 1 and 2 have represented the geographical place of the investigation. (See the table 2).

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(\*3) CU1 & CU2.

### 2-3-2-Demographic data:

This survey has distributed questionnaire to all the librarians at CU1 and CU2 to gather the necessary data. 31 librarians contacted from the University of Constantine 1, but we retrieved 23 with a rate of 74.19%. Whereas, 08 were removed for a response rate 25.80% because they considered out of scope. In like manner, 14 librarians also contacted from the University of Constantine 2; but we retrieved 11 with a rate of 78.57%. Whereas, the rate of 21.42% was not returned. As a result, the population of the survey consisted of 23 Librarians from CU1 and 11 from CU2.

### 2-3-3-Time scope:

The survey conducted the librarians of Constantine University 1, duration from Jun - July 2014, and the librarians of Constantine University 2, from May - Jun 2015.

## 3-Results and Discussion:

### 3-1- Profile of the population:

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Frequency	Percentage	F	P
Master Degree	02	08.69%	02	18.18%
License Degree	09	39.13%	08	72.72%
Diploma in Applied University	02	08.69%	–	–
Higher technician	05	21.73%	–	–
Other License Degree	03	13.04%	–	–
No response	02	08.69%	01	09.09%
Total	23	100%	11	100%

**Table 01: Qualification of Librarians**

The table n°01: shows that the majority of librarians are qualified and holding a license degree in library science in both universities. It means, they have university education in library science. On the other hand, 13.04% just for librarians that have another education at CU1. Also we noticed that CU2 has employed simply professional librarians that have Master and License degrees. Whereas, the following rates 08.69% and 09.09% for empty response.

University Response	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University Response	University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Frequency	Percentage		Frequency	Percentage
Central library	09	39.13%	Central Library	02	18.18%
library of law faculty	03	13.04	Library of Humanities and faculty	02	18.18%
library of Nature and Lif	04	17.39%	library of Psychology and faculty	01	09.09%
library of Exact Sciences faculty	04	17.39%	Library of Modern Inform faculty	01	09.09%
library of Geology faculty	02	08.69%	Library of Economic and faculty	02	18.18%
library of Nutrition institute	01	04.34%	Library of Library Science institute	02	18.18%
—	—	—	Library of Physical Sports	01	09.09%
Total	23	100%	Total	11	100%

**Table 02: Librarians Distribution According to Libraries**

The table n°02: shows that libraries at Constantine university 1 concentrated on sciences, except the library of law faculty. Similarly, libraries at Constantine university 2 focused on humanities and social sciences, except the library of modern information technology and communication. This division just due to geographical reasons.

University Response	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	F	P	F	P
Reference librarian	02	08.69%	02	18.18%
Technical librarian	07	30.43%	05	45.45%
Collection Development librarian	08	34.78%	04	36.36%
Electronic Resource librarian	00	00%	00	00%
Automated Systems Specialist	02	08.69%	—	—
No Specific function	04	17.39%	—	—
Total	23	100%	11	100%

**Table 03: Librarians' profile profession**

Table n° 03: shows that collection development librarians are the majority 34.78%, at Constantine University 1. However, 45.45% represented technical librarians, at Constantine University 2. It is noticed above, that the librarians still working on traditional environment with the technical services and collections management, Also there is a lack of them.

### 3-2- Librarians' Awareness towards the Open Access

The table below demonstrates the respondent's current awareness towards the Open Access, as it is mentioned:

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
Response	Frecuency	Percentage	Frecuency	Percentage
Yes	20	86.95%	07	63.63%
No	02	08.69%	03	27.27%
No response	01	04.34%	01	09.09%
Total	23	100%	11	100%

**Table 04: Librarians' Awareness of « Open Access concept »**

Table n°4: shows that the majority of the librarians 86.95%, at Constantine university 1. Similarly, 63.63% of librarians belong to Constantine university 2, are aware of the open access concept. The survey revealed that librarians had heard of the open access from various ways which are: Internet, Publishers, Colleagues.

### 3-3-Librarians' Training and Skills:

Alfred Marshall stated that: «The most valuable of all capital is that invested in human beings» (Gary S Becker, 1975). The above statement depicts the main characteristics of the present knowledge society. Where librarians are becoming both: A- an inexhaustible resource, and B- a real indicator of the information systems evolution (academic libraries). Nowadays, librarians are the potential greater profit as far as tacit knowledge is concerned. On the other hand, the act of investing money in them would be more valuable in this open access environment through appropriate training programs. For this reason, we come to give details as following:

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University	University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Q : How did you acquire			Q : What type of training do you h	
Options	Frecuenc	Percentage	Options	Frecuency	Percentage
Self-Learning	20	80%	Training workshops	03	30%
Computer Center training	03	12%	Short-training sessions	05	50%
Training at the University Library	00	00%	Attending experts' training courses	02	20%
No response	01	04%	-	-	-
Short-training sessions	01	04%	-	-	-
Total	25	100%	Total	10	100%

**Table 05: Types of training**

Table n° 5 : above has showed that the majority of librarians 80% acquire the internet skills by self-learning, at Constantine university 1. And 50% of librarians acquire it by short-training courses, at Constantine university 2. The survey revealed that there are different types of training programs but did not help the librarians improve their level. These programs need to be in a planning framework for the current needs (open access). This can be proved with more details below.

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University	University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Q : Have you well trained to deal with open access technology?			Q : Does your training program improve your skills for the sake of managing knowledge in digital environment ?	
Response	Frecuency	Percentage	Response	Frecuency	Percentage
Yes	04	17.39%	Yes	03	42.85%
No	15	65.21%	No	04	57.14%
No response	04	17.39%	-	-	-
Total	23	100%	Total	11	100%

**Table 06: Librarians' state of training and skills improvement**

It is obvious from table n° 6: that the majority of librarians 65.21% have not got training about open access technology, at Constantine university 1. And 57.14% of librarians declared that their knowledge management skills in digital environment still are not improved, at Constantine university 2.

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers	University	University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	open-ended Q : What is your poi		Q : Do you think that training prog	
Response		Response	Frecuency	Percentage
- librarians support Open Access		Suitable	00	00%
		Need restructuri	10	90.90%
		No response	01	09.09%
		Total	11	100%

**Table 07: Librarians' future vision and opinion towards Open Access**

The table n°7: shows that all librarians at Constantine University 2, 90.90% are confirmed the restructuring of the training programs to the open access. Likewise, librarians belong to Constantine university 1 are determined their support for the open access as it is solution to get easily the information needed.

### 3-4- Technological Infrastructure:

« Technological capabilities have always been a fundamental component of economic growth and welfare. One of their key characteristics is that they are far from being uniformly distributed across countries, regions and firms » (Daniele Archibugi, p. 629, 2003).

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University	University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Q : The technological tools a			Q : Select the type of techn	
Response	Frecuency	Percentage	Options	Frecuency	Percentage
Yes	07	30.43%	1-Open Access Databases	00	00%
No	15	65.21%	2-*SNDL Databases	03	18.75%
No response	01	4.34%	3-Open source softwares : Koha, Greenstone...	01	06.25%
—	—	—	4-The Computers are suffic	06	37.50%
—	—	—	5-Availability and Flux of th	03	18.75%
—	—	—	6-No response	03	18.75%
Total	23	100%	Total	16	100%

**Table 8: Technological tools of the Libraries**

### \*SNDL : Système National de Documentation en Ligne (National System for Online Documentation)

The table n°8: shows that the majority of librarians at Constantine university 1, with rate 65.21% stated that the technological tools in their libraries can not permit them to establish 'institutional repositories'. Then, librarians at Constantine university 2 showed different types of technological tools with low rates, such as: SNDL databases, open source software..

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers	University	University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Open-ended Q : What are the		Option 05: Availability and Flux of the Internet, from the table n°08 ab	Frequency
Response		Response		
1- Lack of information retrieval skills		Yes	03	18.75%
2- Lack of training in the digital environment		No	05	72.72%
3- can not access websites (low internet access)		No response	03	18.75%
4- Oldness computers		Total	11	100%

**Table 09: Representing the Internet Access**

«The Internet is a vital infrastructure not only for business purposes, but also for access to knowledge. Internet users access a worldwide network» (Ibid. p. 634, 2003). But, from the table above it is clear that there are crucial difficulties when utilizing internet at Constantine University 1 (Lack of research methods and information retrieval in the digital environment, low flux of internet, bad computers quality). In like manner, the majority of librarians 72.72% had a very low access to the internet, at Constantine University 2.

University	University Constantine 1- Mentouri Brothers		University Constantine 2- Abdelhamid Mehri	
	Q : Do your library have website ?			
Response	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	20	86.95%	07	63.63%
No	03	13.04%	04	36.36%
Total	23	100%	11	100%

**Table 10: Website of the Libraries**

The table n°10: shows that the majority of libraries 86.95% had a website, at Constantine University 1. Similarly, libraries at Constantine University 2 have a website with a response rate 63.63%.

**Conclusion:**

To sum up «Open Access is a recent movement in Algeria; However, there has already been positive and steady feedback on it from variety of stakeholders; librarians, academics and researchers - all support and participate in the OA movement.» (UNESCO). Although this may be true, but the survey found that both universities have no open access policy.

The hypothesis is therefore confirmed, due to the indicators below:

- Lack of appropriate training programs.
- Lack of basic technological infrastructure means (ICTs)
- Lack of human resources (number, digital librarian).

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