

التعليم عن بعد رهان وتحدي لتطوير مهنة المكتبات والمعلومات

**Distance Education Is A Bet And A Challenge To The Development Of The Library And  
Information Profession**

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**Abstract:**

This work aims to highlight the importance of distance education in the field of library and information science and its importance to the development of the library profession and to revitalize it in the field in a more modern and sophisticated way. The various changes and transformations that the profession and specialization have witnessed in the world as a whole have imposed on librarians the skills and competencies that enable them to face these challenges and stakes in the field and give it a distinctive elegance.

Education and training in libraries and information centers on a permanent and continuous basis as a result of these transformations has become more than a necessity for the quality of the services provided, which aim to promote the scientific and intellectual production of the beneficiaries, especially in the field of scientific and academic research.

This research paper aims to address the issue of training and distance education as a strategy for developing the library and information profession in general and in Algeria in particular.

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**Keywords:** Distance Education Library profession, Library specialists, Modern Technologies, Libraries, Configuration.

### ملخص:

يهدف هذا العمل إلى إبراز أهمية التعلم والتكوين عن بعد في مجال علم المكتبات والمعلومات وأهميته بالنسبة الى تنمية وتطوير المهنة المكتبية تنشيطها في الميدان بشكل أكثر حداثة وتطورا. وهذا من خلال ما فرضته مختلف التغيرات والتحويلات التي شهدتها المهنة والتخصص في العالم ككل. لهذا أصبح من واجب المكتبيين التحلي بمهارات وكفاءات تمكن من مواجهة هذه التحديات والرهانات في المجال وإعطاء رونقا مميزا.

لذا ومن خلال هذه التحويلات يجب الاهتمام الفعلي بتعلم وتكوين اليد العاملة في المكتبات ومراكز المعلومات بشكل دائم ومستمر، خاصة وأنها القوة الدافعة للعمل والإنتاج الفكري والتقديم الخدماتي للمستفيدين الناشطين في إنتاج المعلومة سواء الباحثين وحتى المتعلمين منهم.

ومن خلال هذا المقال سنقدم رؤية نظرية حول موضوع التعلم والتكوين عن بعد كاستراتيجية لتنمية وتطوير مهنة المكتبات والمعلومات باعتبار المكتبة العصب الرئيسي لتطور العلوم وانتشار المعلومات. الكلمات المفتاحية: التعلم عن بعد؛ مهنة المكتبات؛ الفاعلية؛ الاستراتيجية؛ الوعي المعلوماتي،

### - Introduction:

The field of library and information science is one of the most fertile fields, which permits greatly the use and use of learning methods, distance education, and e-learning mechanisms with all its steps related to the transfer and sharing of knowledge, which in turn also allow learning and professional qualification in various knowledge societies. The field of library and information science, as it is an existing specialty By itself, it allows the library specialist to play the mediating role between what is available in the learning resources on the one hand, on the other hand, and on the other hand, to deal and communicate continuously with the beneficiaries and their academic needs to be obtained as quickly and

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with the least possible effort. Not only that; Rather, we find that there is a pivotal role that libraries of all kinds play, especially university ones, which are the main nerve of the process of learning, self-formation and the basis of scientific research, and they strive to transmit the best and quality services in the academic community.

Its role is not only limited to providing the sources and references that the researcher relies on in his work, but rather it plays many more roles than that, such as reducing the distances between the beneficiaries and the scientific material through the services it provides through its employees and also by using different broadcast channels: such as the databases that it produces and the links related to it. Provided by the university's website, which is available online.

The use of modern methods and technologies for distance education is one of the most ways and approaches that allow librarians of all levels and types to develop and develop their professional capabilities and learn about everything that is happening in their field of work across the world, add to that their support and motivate them to acquire a culture of good information about everything related to the profession. It is also considered one of the most advanced technologies that keep pace with the formative and educational tasks related to the specialization and the profession together, as it allows the group formed and distance-educated to use various technologies that benefit the tasks carried out by the librarian on the one hand, and on the other hand supports the effectiveness of the library profession in particular, because it enables it Strong and more flexible opportunities to achieve the goals of libraries by supporting and developing the capabilities of the specialist in the field, which is the cornerstone of the library and most centers that provide information service. For this reason, we find that the idea of distance education among the employees in libraries can play a big role in achieving the goals of the individual and the service institution in a strong way.

To find out the reality of this type of formation, the following questions can be asked:

What is distance education?

What are the most important characteristics and features that you show?

What are the most important factors that contributed to its development and prominence?

Where is its importance for the library and information specialist and what are the most important experiences that highlighted its value for the library and information profession?

### **1- Definition of distance learning:**

The concept of distance learning has several terms that it is known by, and we find most of them in the English language, all of which express this educational style, where we find these terms:

Distance education-distance Learning-e Learning means the use of information and communication technology in the process of receiving knowledge. It is also called by other terms, including the following: Internet based Learning-Distributed Learning, as it depends primarily on the use of the Internet during learning.

Not only that, but; distance education has several definitions and concepts that define its features, so all its knowledge according to the school and the orientation to which it belongs, which we find, for example:

The American Research and Learning Development Department defined it as "a process that mainly uses computers and communication technologies that enable the component and the component to receive formative materials from their sources in distant places and at different times."

In other definitions, such as: Pierre Levy and Rust Rooper, where they define distance education as: "an educational method that identifies skills and information and develops and develops human competencies through the use of the latest technological technologies that

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enable the delivery of the required information and knowledge to the location of the learners' presence without resorting to training centers. In this way, he will overcome the problems of the increasing number of co-workers and the lack of components, as everyone can obtain what he wants from intellectual needs from a distance.

Factors that helped the spread of distance education:

"Distance education is one of the formative processes that have gained great popularity in the world because of the capabilities it provides to active institutions in various fields, especially after it has achieved strong effectiveness in societies as a whole. Distance education did not come from nothing, but there are many factors and reasons that contributed to its spread. And its development is fast and strong, and among these factors we find, for example, Jelly Salmon in her book *Distance Education* and Scumburg Jeremy in his book *Distance Education in New York*, who mentioned a group of factors that have contributed to the spread of distance education and its effectiveness in many sectors.

Increasing the capacity of information and communication technology, its flexibility and suitability for educational applications, and its ability to change the types of jobs that were provided by educational institutions.

- The continuous growth of knowledge and the consequent obsolescence, which has created an urgent need to develop models of education and training in many countries.

Increased recognition of the quality of enhanced learning experiences from advanced ICT applications. "

Realizing the democracy of the learner and the right of the citizen wherever he is and at any time, he can learn and obtain the knowledge and information he wants

Benefiting from the experiences of others regarding the applications of various educational programs with the aim of improving work and increasing the effectiveness of the activity.

- "The increasing awareness of many institutions and organizations that the application of information and communication technology will benefit them and lead to an increase in their participation in the education market, which is characterized by competition at the educational level."

- The high expectations of institutions that the development of distance learning experiences and models will contribute to reducing the costs of field training and increasing productivity. It also contributes to developing and charging the innovation and creativity requirements of individuals, which allows reducing the deficiencies that each individual suffers from. Or groups, especially if it comes to accomplishing certain tasks that are difficult for the work team to do.

## **2- Distance Learning Benefits Scheme**

Through these advantages that are done by distance education, we find that the learner can actually participate as desired, as he can learn and learn about all available fields that he wants to choose according to his will without any obstacles or complications. Also, according to what has been approved by many studies, distance education It parallels traditional education, especially if the component uses technology efficiently and skillfully that gives him the opportunity to continue in education and in accordance with the topics and tasks assigned to him by the institution to which he belongs and according to the activity he practices.

The importance of distance education for the library and information specialist:

The library and information profession is one of the leading professions in the world today, which always needs updating and development, especially since the world today has become under strong authority, namely information, as it is the main engine for it. That is why we find that professionals in libraries are in constant need of training, training and continuous learning of everything that is happening in Their field of work across the world is not by relying on traditional learning and training only, but by using a more flexible and

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active training style, which is distance education and training, which we find plays a major role in giving librarians the opportunities to receive the latest knowledge that greatly serves their career path and makes it more active and dynamic. It was mentioned in "French and English Administrative Thought: Distance education allows the library and information specialist to":

Provide him with information and knowledge that gain skills in performing tasks.

Giving motivation and encouragement in performance by instilling self-confidence.

Permanent interaction with the latest technological technologies adopted in learning.

- Developing communication skills and working with groups remotely with the same professional and formative specialization.

Ensuring real growth in the individual's personality by dealing with specialists in the field.

Valuing individuals' knowledge and embodying it in the field.

It makes professional librarians trainers for life and who keep abreast of developments in the field.

Providing them with a strong information culture, whether in their professional field or other fields of knowledge.

Achieving the actual concept of quality in libraries and correct work methods.

Increasing work-integration and spreading the spirit of cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

Renewal and breaking the routine in terms of working within the cognitive system.

The skills that a library and information specialist acquires from distance education:

If we want to actually get to know and in more detail the skills required for library workers, there are many studies that have dealt with this topic, which we can highlight as an example of this is the Sreenivasulu study in 2000, which confirmed that distance education requires the library and information specialist to have different skills, including the following:

This aims to further develop the library and information profession and give it a more modern path that can make the profession more dynamic and able to keep pace with the strong developments taking place in the field of information, which has become the basis for the development of societies as a whole in all sectors.

### **3- Leading distance learning experiences in the field of library and information science:**

Library science, information science, and the economics of libraries are some of the terms through which the specialization of library and information science has emerged, which has garnered great interest from many countries of the world because it is one of the most active fields and the most important factor through which it is possible to know the value of information, especially when there is an urgent need for it. That is why we find that there are many experiments that worked strongly in giving him a more technical and modern path compared to what it was in the past, especially when it comes to the role played by the mediator or rather the librarian, the information specialist, being the first element concerned with that. Which emphasized the need for distance education in various sectors, which was the first in this:

**The German experiment** is an experiment carried out by the Institute for Library and Information of the Humboldt University of Berlin.

This institute is considered one of the most important pioneering schools in the field of library science, as it is a permanent member of the e-school organization and it is the only institution that awards postgraduate degrees in the field of library science. It is also accredited as one of the first and most famous institutions to train remote librarians. The Mod le platform is the platform. Basic in the distance education process because it includes the various technologies and functions included in the distance education process and is in direct line with the "Open Education Resorce" license. In this experiment, the main objective



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of the inclusion was Library and information specialists in this educational style are: Teaching them the jobs they must master, such as dealing with digital repositories, making and disseminating the knowledge required by the beneficiary community, training them how to use the automated programs that serve the professional field, as well as Tracking and solving problems that may arise in the work and mixing all practical and theoretical knowledge, and making use of them.

**The Italian experience:** "The University of Padua is one of the first universities to experiment with distance education among the staff in libraries, eliminating the language problem, especially the English language, because the institute includes foreign students, which forces librarians to become familiar with languages. For this reason, the university decided to develop the electronic modle platform as a platform." It allows librarians to learn independently and continuously in the field of their profession and eliminate the problem of language by interacting with them remotely and improving language skills through the information provided that enhance their linguistic abilities as well as their acquisition of good technological skills that allow them to create different pages that allow them to support the beneficiaries. It did bring some kind of renewal into the profession and contributed to the development of library groups in Italy.

**The Saudi Experience:** Through the experiment carried out by Imam Muhammad bin Saud University 2004:

"It is one of the most famous Arab experiments that used the method of distance learning and also relied on the modle platform in order to create an educational portal for students and employees in the library and information sector with the aim of creating":

Also, this matter is not limited to these countries only, but it goes beyond that to receive great attention also from the experiences and studies carried out by unions and bodies specialized

in the science of libraries and information, which is a strong factor in defining the actual value of the information sector, which we mention: ifla-afli -oclc and others, so through these experiences and studies that relied on distance education and training in the field of libraries and information, we find that most of them focused on achieving a set of elements that must be available to all library and information specialists to stay in the field permanently and in continuous activity. Except by setting:

Through this, it is possible to actually talk about the value that distance education gives to employees in the field of libraries and information, which helps them raise the challenges and stakes in everything related to providing information, methods of transmission and how to benefit from it in a sound and academic way; in addition to giving them the ability to deal with various information from Through their awareness of the importance of information and the skills required by library and information specialists to meet the knowledge needs of the beneficiaries in general and themselves in particular, because they are primarily concerned with knowing the value of the information.

#### **4-Conclusion:**

Through our studies and this, and after reviewing many experiences that contributed to the profession of libraries and information through their applications related to distance education among professional librarians, we found that this educational pattern has greatly contributed to the development of the library and information profession in the world, especially since the main factor in this success is the uses Technology being the main ground to be provided and to be relied upon in the first place.

We also found that distance education, with its various applications and approved technologies, has radically changed the practice of the profession of libraries and information in the world, especially when it comes to providing information services in remote libraries, interaction and openness to the beneficiaries in the digital environment,

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and distance learning in the world has contributed to making the beneficiary In continuous interaction with specialists in the field, as the librarian can directly receive the needs and inquiries of the beneficiaries remotely and directly deal with them in analyzing those needs and initiatives to encourage them for the services provided, in addition to receiving the suggestions directed to them. This is the main thing that we must constantly think about and why it is not We, as Algerian librarians, also have a remote training initiative to advance the profession of libraries and information and to make ourselves more dynamic and technical in accomplishing our tasks permanently and continuously

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