Digital Content in Egypt

Past.. Present.. & Future

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First Deputy to the Minister
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Agenda

Introduction

Digital Content in Egypt .. Continuous Efforts

The Way Forward.. Towards the National Strategy
Introduction

- Huge Available Heritage Content
  - Diversified Portfolio (Pharonic, Greek, Roman, Coptic, Islamic, Modern, ...etc)

- Maintain Egyptian Identity & Preserve Heritage Content

- Recruitment of ICT Tools -> Digital Content
Preservation of the Cultural Heritage

- Eternal Egypt
- Memory of the Arab World
- Description de l'Egypte
- L'Art Arabe
- Arabic Digital Library
- Presidential Archives
- Memory of Modern Egypt
- Memory of Suez Canal
- Al-Ahram Newspaper Digital Archive
- Al-Hilal Magazine Digital Archive
- Manuscripts of Al-Azhar Library
- Arabic Manuscripts Online
- Archeological Map of Egypt
- Architectural Heritage of Cairo
- Arabic Music National Database
- .......... Lots more
Eternal Egypt

Project in Figures

- **3,500** Pieces Museums
- **444** Historical Figures
- **345** Archaeological Zone Articles
- **46** Grouped Stories

**Project Stakeholders**

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina (CULTNAT)
- MCIT
- IBM
- Supreme Council of Antiquities

http://www.ternaegypt.org/
Memory of the Arab World

- Launched by ‘Council of Arab Ministers of Communications’ Tunisia, 2006

Project Focus
- Shared Memory
- Manuscripts
- Arabic Architecture Heritage
- Information Technology
- Arabic Folklore
- Heritage of Arabic Music

Project Stakeholders:
- MCIT of Egypt
- The League of Arab States
- UNESCO/ITU
- The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
- The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

http://www.memoryarabworld.net/

• Capture and Preserve the Arab Heritage
• Strengthen the Cultural Links between the Arab Countries
Description de l’Egypte

- 200-year old masterpiece dates back to 1798
- Documenting all aspects of Egypt
- **11** Plate Volumes
- **9** Text Volumes
- **8,500** pages Digitized & Availed
- **21+ Millions** Hits (2009-2013)

http://descegy.bibalex.org/
L’ Art Arabe

- Published in 1869
- Documentation of Islamic Monuments in Egypt
- 3 Plate Volumes 222 plates
- 1 Text Volume 388 pages
- Browsing & Searching Tools
- Plates related to Text

http://lartarabe.bibalex.org/
Arabic Digital Library

- The Largest Digital Arabic Library Worldwide 180,000+ on line books

- Multidisciplinary Portfolio of Books (Generalities / Philosophy & Psychology / Social Sciences / Natural Sciences / Mathematics / Technology / Arts / Literature /etc..)

- Features
  - Book reader
  - Arabic Search
  - Personalization
  - Underline, highlight, sticky notes
  - ...

- 15 million visits (2011-2013)
- 850 million hits (2010-2013)
59,500+ Photos
1,360+ Speeches
1,200+ Documentary films
18,000+ Documents
4,300+ Articles and Newspaper clips
1,200+ Revolution songs
520+ Stamps, Caricatures, Currencies

17+ million hits in 2013

http://nasser.bibalex.org/
Presidential Archives - Sadat Digital Archive

1,116+ Speeches
220+ Videos
10,078+ Photos
5,281+ Press Archive
85+ October War English
139+ October War Arabic
45+ Peace Accord Documents
46+ Stamps
39+ Caricatures
29+ Cards
120+ English Magazines covers
96+ Arabic Magazines covers
46+ Book Covers

http://sadat.bibalex.org
Memory of Modern Egypt

- The Last 200 years of Egypt
- Modern History
- Expandable to include continuous addition of data

http://modernegypt.bibalex.org/

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Memory of Suez Canal

- Suez Canal from Excavation till Nationalization
- Documents, Pictures, Letters, Maps, Documentary Films, Related Books, etc.

http://suezcanal.bibalex.org/
• The Oldest Egyptian Newspaper

• Since the First Edition
Aug 5, 1876 till now
500,000 + Pages

http://digital.alahram.org.eg/youmy
Al-Hilal Magazine Digital Archive

• The oldest cultural journal in the Arab world

• Issues since 1892 digitized, processed, indexed and available on 12 DVDs

• Browsing and searching tools
Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Manuscripts Preservation Project: Al-Azhar Library

- Preservation of the Ancient Islamic Manuscripts (Al Azhar library)
  - 42,000 Manuscripts
  - 7,000,000 Pages
  - 2.5 Millions Digitized pages
Wellcome Arabic Manuscripts Online

- 500 Arabic Manuscript - Wellcome Trust
- History of the Arabic Medicine
- Associated Rich Metadata
- Browsing and searching tools

http://wamcp.bibalex.org/home
Archeological Map of Egypt

- Visualize the Geographical Distribution of the Egyptian Archaeological sites
- Display of the Digitized map of the entire country
- Bilingual System

Data includes the following:
- Basic information
- Recent & Old photos
- Missions reports
- Bibliography of the site
- Objects of Egyptian & other museums
- Objects in museums
- Boundary maps
- Site details
Architectural Heritage of Cairo
Arabic Music National Database
The Way Forward ...
Towards the Digital Arabic Content which will preserve the Egyptian identity and enhance our creativity, in order to serve the Sustainable Development and the Transition to the Knowledge Economy

Strategic Objectives

1. Preserve the Egyptian cultural identity
2. Improve the production and availability of DAC on the Web
3. Develop a robust DAC industry, stimulate investment and create job opportunities
4. Provide human capacity building programs
5. Increase the sector contribution to the national GDP
Challenges

- **Standards** must be set for **Digitization**
- **Repositories** must be built holding a master copy of highest quality
  - allowing collaborative content creation
  - offering a middleware allowing security
  - universal intellectual access
  - integrated digitization workflow
  - tools for archiving
- **Standards** must be set for **Archiving and Preservation**
  - There are only recommendations
  - Objects must be archived with their metadata and tagging data
  - **Standards** must be derived for both metadata and tagging data
- How to offer services for users with **low Bandwidth**?
- **Standards** must be set for **born digital material**
- New models for **User Generated Content**
The Digital Content Ecosystem

- Set the Technical Standards
- Develop the Regulations
- Identify Attractive Business and Economic Models
- Preserve Providers and Consumers Rights
Strategic Directions

DAC Ecosystem
- Set the guidelines, standards and regulations for the processes of; Archiving, DOI, Repositories, Born Digital

Capacity Building
- Develop the required skills and qualifications on both technical and administrative aspects

Government Content
- Develop the Government Digital Content (OGD, Real-time)

Arabic Content
- Develop the DAC (Educational, Scientific, Touristic, Media, Environmental, Cultural, Heritage, ...etc)

DAC Sustainability
Thank You ...