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Roles of Digital Libraries in the Future Palestinian Universities

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INTRODUCTION

**"If you fail to plan,
you plan to fail".**

● First Digital Library

DL projects started in the early 1990s. E.g. Vatican Library Accessible Worldwide and Alexandria DL.

● Definition

An organized and focused collection of digital objects, including texts, images, videos and audios, along with methods for access and retrieval, and for selection, creation, organization and maintenance.

● From Traditional Library to Virtual Library
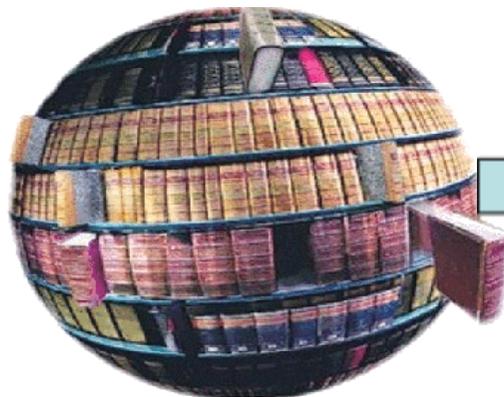
Traditional Library

Automated Library

Electronic Library

Digital Library

Virtual Library

DIGITAL LIBRARY:

- **Digital Library Vs. Traditional Library**

Traditional Libraries	Digital Library
Print collection	All resources in digital form.
Stable, with slow evolution	Dynamic and ephemeral
Individual objects not directly linked with each other	Multi-media and fractal objects
Limited access points and centralized management	Unlimited access points, distributed collections and access control
The physical and logical organization correlated.	The physical and logical organization may be virtually
One way interactions	Dynamic real-time dialogue
Free and universal access.	Free as well as fee based

● **DLs Components:**

The components of a digital library are:
- **Infrastructure.**
- **Digital collection.**
- **Systems function.**
- **Telecommunication facility.**
- **Human resources.**

- **Types of Digital Resources:**
- **E-Books.**
- **Lectures.**
- **Magazines, Research Journals and Articles.**
- **Database of digital material.**
- **Software.**
- **Multimedia files.**
- **Reports, Thesis, etc…**

- **Advantages of a Digital Library**
- **Enhancement of innovation in learning and teaching.**
- **Nearly unlimited storage space.**
- **Lower cost.**
- **No physical boundary.**
- **Round the clock availability.**
- **Multiple access.**
- **Enhancement of information retrieval.**
- **Preservation for some print material.**
- **Structured approach .**
- **Universal accessibility.**

DL INITIATIVES in PALESTINE

The result of all services of DL in Palestinian Universities.

University	Home page	PhD-Master Thesis	Journal 1	Journal 2	External Library Databases	e-learning	Projects, Researches, e-Book, Articles
Al- Azhar University- Gaza	www.alazhar.edu.ps	Abstracts only: www.alazhar.edu.ps/arabic/master_Details/master.asp	Journal of Al Azhar University–Gaza (Natural Sciences): www.alazhar.edu.ps/journal123/human_Sciences.asp?typeno=0	Journal of Al Azhar University–Gaza (Natural Sciences): www.alazhar.edu.ps/journal123/natural_Sciences.asp?typeno=1	www.alazhar.edu.ps/Library/databases/databases.asp		http://portal.aauj.edu/lib/e_books.htm
The Arab American University	www.aauj.edu				http://portal.aauj.edu/lib/e_database.htm	Not Active	http://library.ppu.edu/ar/freeresources/Default.aspx
Palestine Polytechnic University	www.ppu.edu		Journal of Humanities:	Journal of Natural Sciences:	http://library.ppu.edu/ar/E-Databases.aspx	http://elearning.ppu.edu	http://library.ppu.edu/ar/Graduation%20Projects.aspx
An-Najah National University	www.najah.edu	www.najah.edu/theses	Journal of Al-Quds Open University For Research and Studies : www.najah.edu/page/2146	www.najah.edu/page/2147 Palestinian Journal of Open and Distance Education:	www.najah.edu/page/2242	www.najah.edu http://elearning.qou.edu	www.najah.edu/ebook Research of Distance Education & E-Full Articles Research: Learning:
Al-Quds Open University	www.qou.edu		Hebron University Research Journal: www.qou.edu/arabic/index.jsp?pageId=206	Journal of Medical and Health Sciences : www.najah.edu/page/4319 www.qou.edu/arabic/index.jsp?pageId=223	www.qou.edu/arabic/index.jsp?pageId=216		www.alquds.edu/en/research/researchers-portfolio/aqu-published-research.html www.qou.edu/arabic/index.jsp?pageId=163 www.qou.edu/arabic/index.jsp?pageId=152
Hebron University	www.hebron.edu	http://elearning.hebron.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=274	www.hebron.edu/index.php/en/hu-journal.html		www.hebron.edu/index.php/en/2010-02-15-10-13-54.html	http://avicenna.qou.edu http://elearning.hebron.edu	
AL-Quds University	www.alquds.edu				www.library.alquds.edu	http://eclass.alquds.edu	Statistical & reports: http://library.iugaza.edu.ps/other_resources.aspx
Islamic University of Gaza	www.iugaza.edu.ps	http://library.iugaza.edu.ps/thesis.aspx Abstracts:	Islamic University Journal: www.iugaza.edu.ps/ar/periodical		http://home.birzeit.edu/library/full_text_journals_en.php http://library.iugaza.edu.ps/fulltext.aspx	http://elearning.iugaza.edu.ps/	http://home.birzeit.edu/library/index.html www.alquds.edu/en/statistical-reports.html
Birzeit University	www.birzeit.edu		Bethlehem University Journal:				www.iugaza.edu.ps/ar/AboutIUG/version.aspx Archived Articles:
Bethlehem University	www.bethlehem.edu	http://home.birzeit.edu/library/bzu-ths/bzu-ths.php	Journal of Al-Aqsa University–Gaza (Natural Sciences):	Journal of Al-Aqsa University–Gaza (Natural Sciences):	http://library.bethlehem.edu/resources/onlineDB/index.shtml http://library.bethlehem.edu/library/onlineservices.htm	http://moodle.bethlehem.edu	http://home.birzeit.edu/library www.alquds.edu/en/statistical-reports.html
Al-Aqsa University -Palestine -Gaza	www.alaqsa.edu.ps		http://192.116.4.4/WebOPACNew/catalog/search.aspx		www.alaqsa.edu.ps/ar/default.asp?pageid=871		www.bethlehem.edu/archives
Palestinian Technical University - Kadoori	www.ptuk.edu.ps		www.alaqsa.edu.ps/ar/default.asp?pageid=1080	www.alaqsa.edu.ps/ar/default.asp?pageid=1079	www.ptuk.edu.ps/pages.php?shid=27		
Palestine University	http://up.edu.ps				http://up.edu.ps/ar/?action=artical&id=25		
Gaza University	www.gu.edu.ps				www.gu.edu.ps/library/electronic		

The Results:

- These DLs are still in their infancy.
- The concept of DLs is still limited to the reservation of some global database libraries.
- All the universities had automated their libraries and allow accessing them from web (Electronics Library).
- Some of them post their Journals and put some resources in their sites.
- Setting the project goals to be achieved by the university.

Adopting DL initiative

- **THE ROAD MAP - STRATEGIC PLAN.**
- **Formatting the project committee.**
- **Developing a strategic plan:**

1) Setting the vision, mission and goals:
- Determining the desired vision, or overall objective of the project.
- Setting the project goals to be achieved by the university.

2) **Bridging the gap** (Where are we? what do we want?)
I) Surveying the current situation (Where are we?):
  ● <u>Infrastructure:</u>
  ● <u>Skills:</u>
  ● <u>Content:</u>
II) Determining the project requirements (What do we want?):
  ● Using current resources or updating available resources.
  ● Identification of new requirements.

3) Carrying out the following studies:
   1. 1)A study of the DL resources:
e.g. ebooks, magazines, articles, researches…etc.
2) A study to identify the needed software infrastructure:
Type, license and source of DL platform and other related software.
3) A study to determine source of e-Contents and e-Resources:
developed at the university, purchased, or shared with other partners.
 4) A study of priority criteria of developing content and resources.

4) Identifying necessary steps to establish DL project and determining its staff.

5) Identifying the content-resources developing procedures:
- **Conversion procedures from content to e-Content.**
- **Standards of Quality assurance.**
- **Methods of evaluation.**
- **Determining the intellectual property rights.**

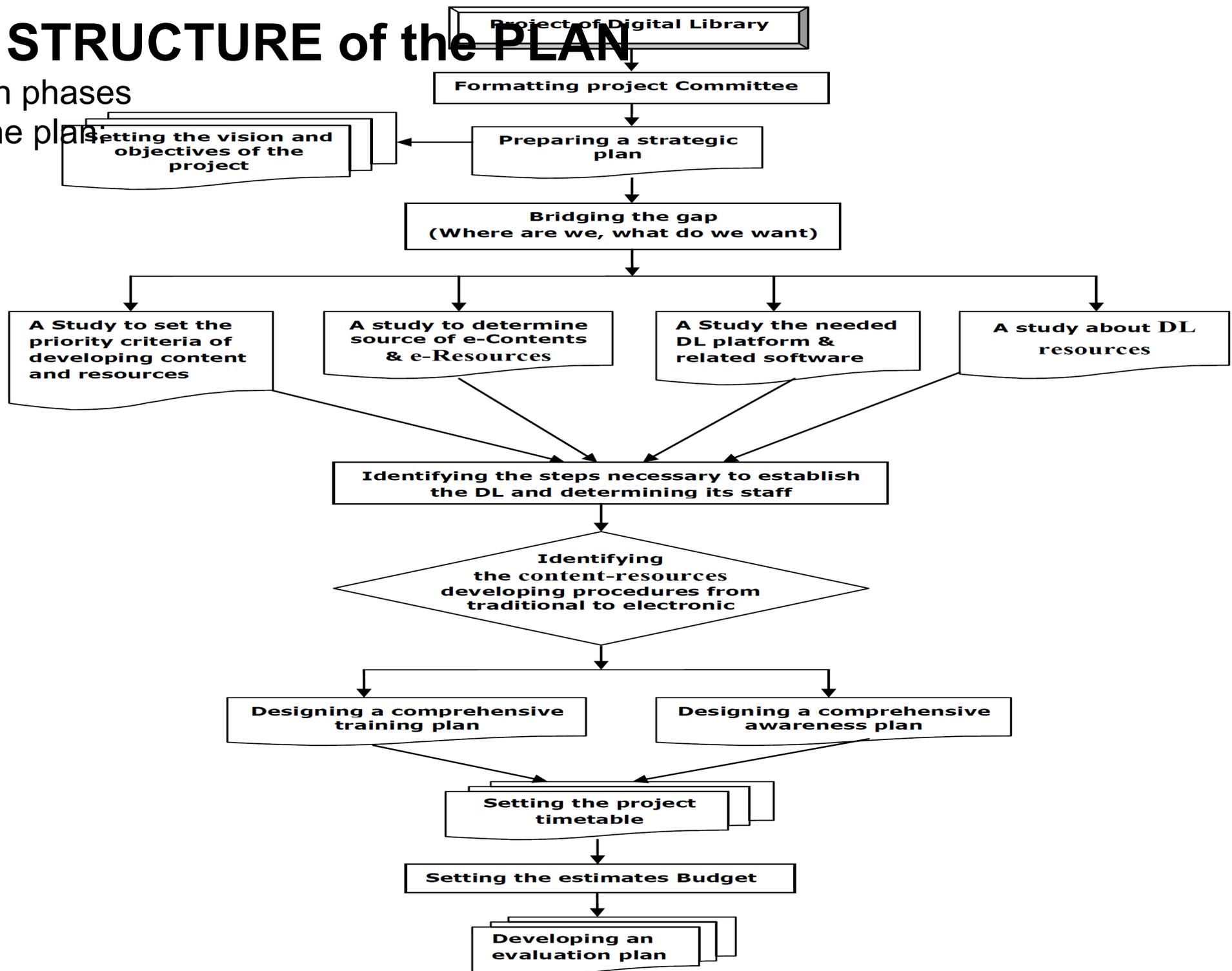**6) Designing plans of awareness and training:**
- **A comprehensive awareness plan.**
- **A comprehensive training plan.**

7) Setting a timetable for the project.
8) Setting the estimates budget of the project.
9) Developing an evaluation plan.

● STRUCTURE of the PLAN

Main phases
of the plan:

Project of Digital Library

Formatting project Committee

Preparing a strategic plan

Setting the vision and objectives of the project

Bridging the gap (Where are we, what do we want)

A Study to set the priority criteria of developing content and resources	A study to determine source of e-Contents & e-Resources	A Study the needed DL platform & related software	A study about DL resources

Identifying the steps necessary to establish the DL and determining its staff

Identifying the content-resources developing procedures from traditional to electronic

Designing a comprehensive training plan

Designing a comprehensive awareness plan

Setting the project timetable

Setting the estimates Budget

Developing an evaluation plan

CONCLUSION.

Adopting high-quality eLearning at university is a complex process. It requires a variety of competencies at every stage of the integrating process. In the area of interest (at Palestinian Universities), literature is rather poor and lacks good knowledge. There is much work to be done in the field.

Many Palestinian universities tried to adopt the idea of DL without careful planning or adequate studies. This costs them more time and effort and perhaps a project failure. This research aims to clarify the adoption procedures in a flexible way by taking the vision and privacy of each university into consideration.