

The National Archive and its Role as an Information Resource

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Abstract:

Archives are considered one of the main resources of information for the national information systems in all their types; government or nongovernment; public or private archives. In addition, they are the most significant source of knowledge on administrative and regulatory history as well as the functional activities of the country. They represent concrete evidence on the presence of an administration and prove the right of the government to perform its roles. Archives collect and preserve documentation. Also, they allow access to their information stock to beneficiaries. In fact, they are not warehouses for archive storage. Rather, they are an enormous information centre on the economic, political, social and regulatory history of the country.

The cultural advancement of nations is measured with their culture stock from information resources and what services their archives provide. National archives face great challenges in modern times. This is due to the expansion of their administrative activities and, thus, the increase of their documentation production (Schellenberg, T. R. Modern Archives). In addition, this is also because of the accompanied telecommunication and information technology revolution, which was expected to reduce the production of documentations. To the contrary, it might increase the production to the point that they become difficult to manage.

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia, like other countries, has strived to collect and preserve its national heritage. In addition, the country has made it available to users in a national centre that reflects its activities and history. This paper will discuss this country's national centre and what have been done since it was established from 1409AH/1988AD up till 1433AH/2012AD.