Efforts for Promoting Open Access Repositories in Palestine

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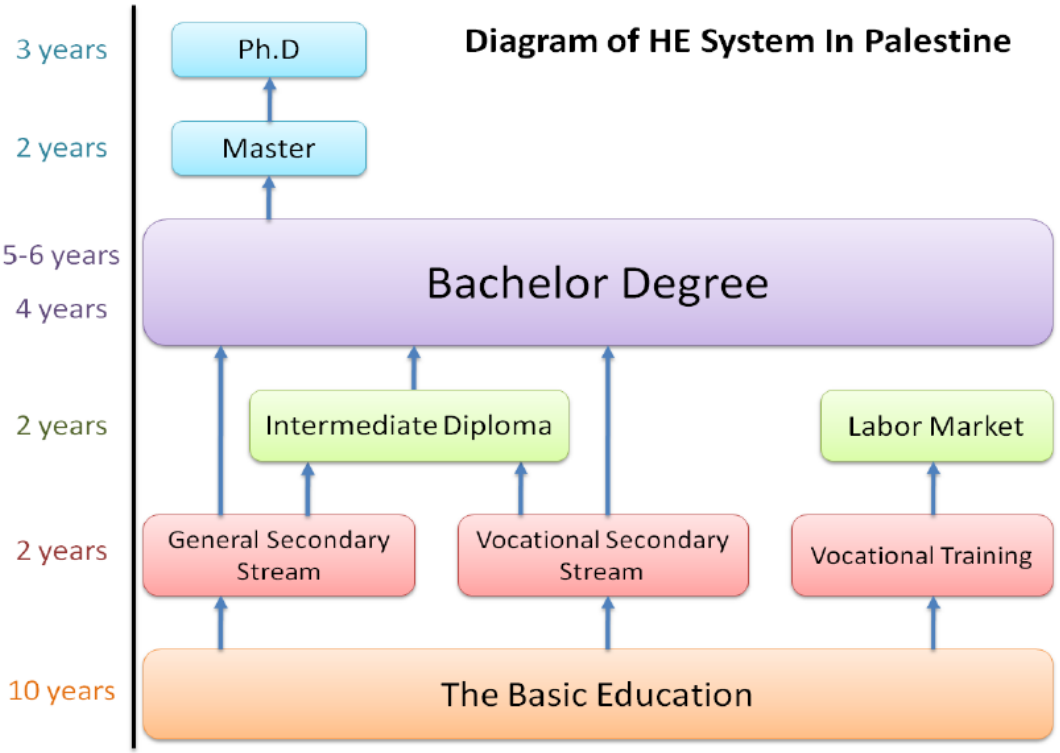
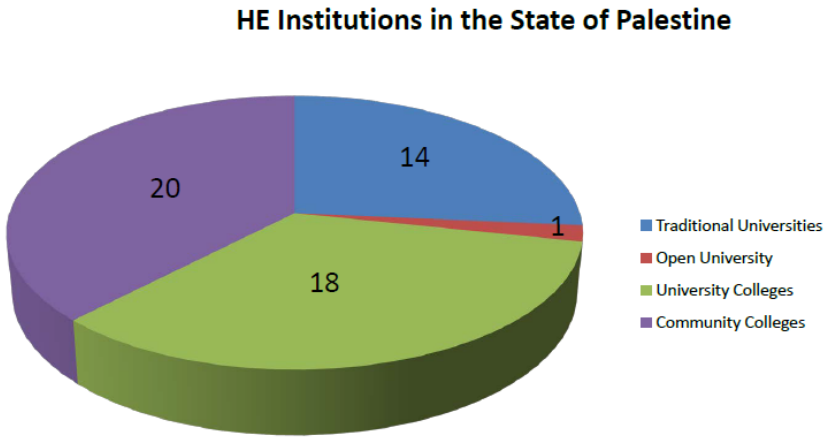
Palestine

- Area= ~ 6,000 Km²
- Total Population = ~ 4.5 M
- Suffered several wars in the past decade

HE Institutions in Palestine

Two-year colleges in 1950's → Universities 1970's → MoHE 1994

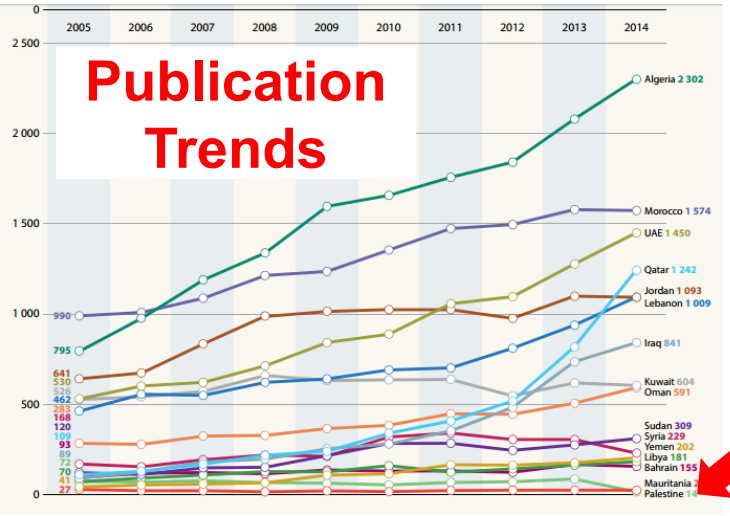




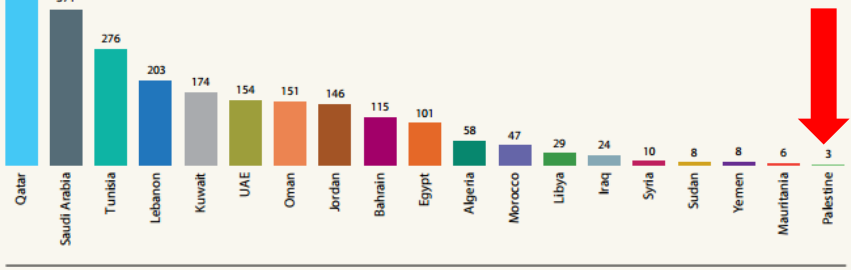
HE Institutions in Palestine

- Scientific research activities are focused on basic research.
- 16 scientific research centers at the PS universities in the fields of agriculture , environment, water, energy, and health.
- Major problems: increasing enrolment fees, lack of sufficient infrastructure, lack of support for research and very little financial support for academic research.
- A national policy for science, technology and research is required.

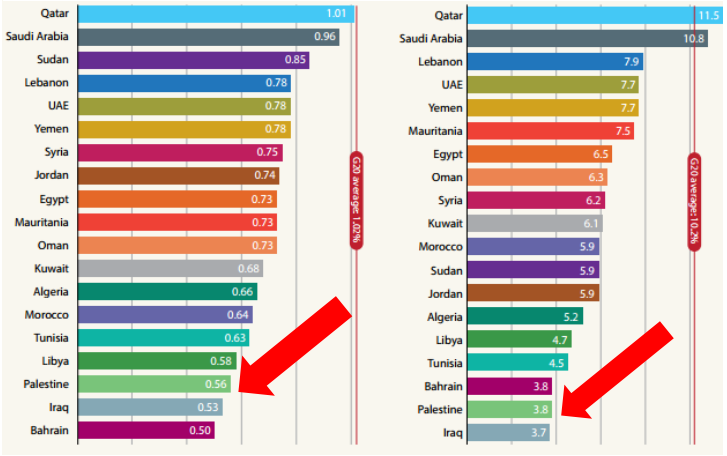
Publication Trends



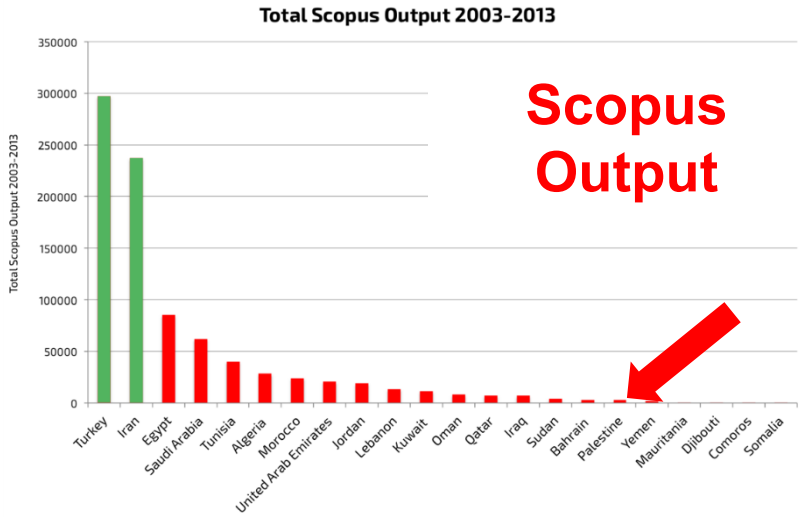
Publication Intensity



Citation Rate



Invisibility of research output from Palestine



Scopus Output

UNESCO Science Report, Towards 2030: https://en.unesco.org/node/252349

ROMOR Project

- Research Output Management through Open Access Institutional Repositories in Palestinian Higher Education
- ROMOR aims to improve the management, visibility, and accessibility of scientific research outputs in Palestinian HEIs:
  - by establishing new or enhancing existing OAIRs.
  - Improving institutional capacity for the management and sharing of research outputs.
  - Developing and/or refining curricula to ensure that emerging researchers are better able to manage their work across the entire research lifecycle.

Main Partners:

1. Islamic University of Gaza
2. Birzeit University
3. Al-quds Open University
4. Technische Universitaet Wien
5. Universita Degli Studi Di Parma
6. University of Brighton
7. University of Glasgow
8. Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie

Associate Partners:

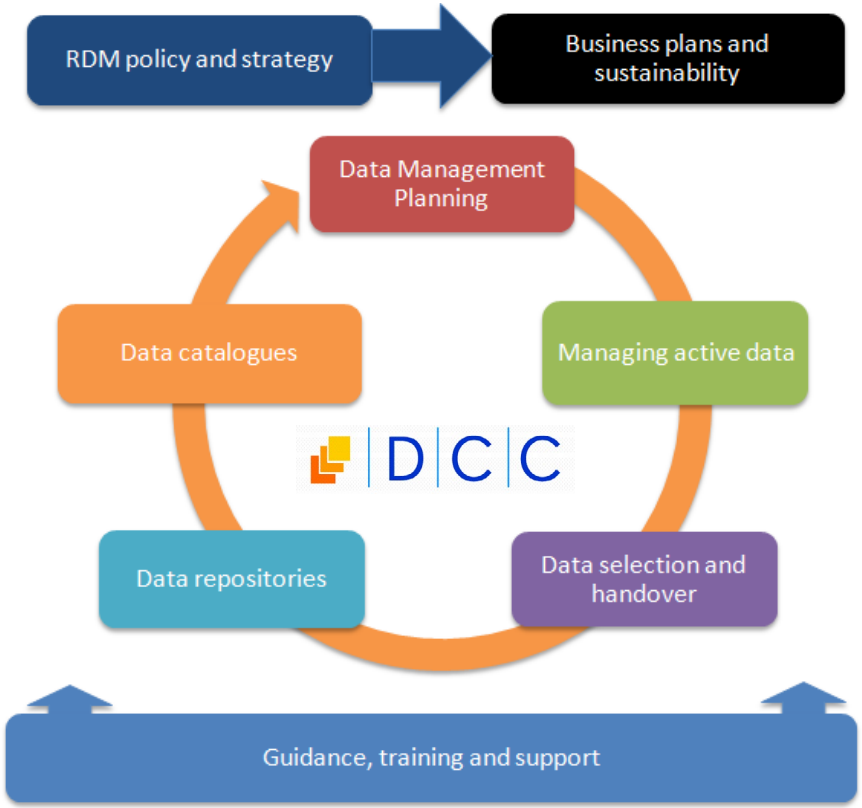
1. Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)
2. The Ministry of Higher Education
3. The Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC)

Overview of some Activities

- Needs Assessment
- Education Material
- Vocational Training and Academic Teaching
- Planning Institutional Repositories
- Building the Institutional Repositories

Needs Assessment

The Gap Analysis



- 65% of researchers think they do not have an RDM policy at their institution.
- Most HEIs have ad-hoc policies

- 5% of researchers have access to dedicated data management planning support
- Most HEIs indicated that this as an area they were keen to address

- 64% of researchers do describe their data
- Some HEIs use Dublin Core
- Most HEIs do not use any formal metadata standards

- 3% of researchers store their data on institutional servers.
- 23% of researchers have lost data

- 85% researchers feel they responsible for archiving data
- 72% of researchers not aware of discipline specific repositories
- Most PS HEIs will provide storage on request

- HEIs with repositories find it difficult to motivate researchers to deposit materials

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- 18% of researchers wanted RDM guidance and support
- 12% wanted RDM in the curricula
- Most HEIs stated RDM training, and support were key priorities

ROMOR Progress

- ROMOR has managed to establish four searchable and accessible OAIR of a full-text theses, and academic publications in the partner universities.
- ROMOR has managed to develop Research Data Management Policies that are compatible with FAIR and OA needs.
- ROMOR has managed to provide vocational and academic training on OA, IR development and data stewardship for both managerial and academic staff.
- ROMOR has managed to raise the awareness of other non-partner universities who have competed to have higher ranking in the web metrics ranking of world universities.

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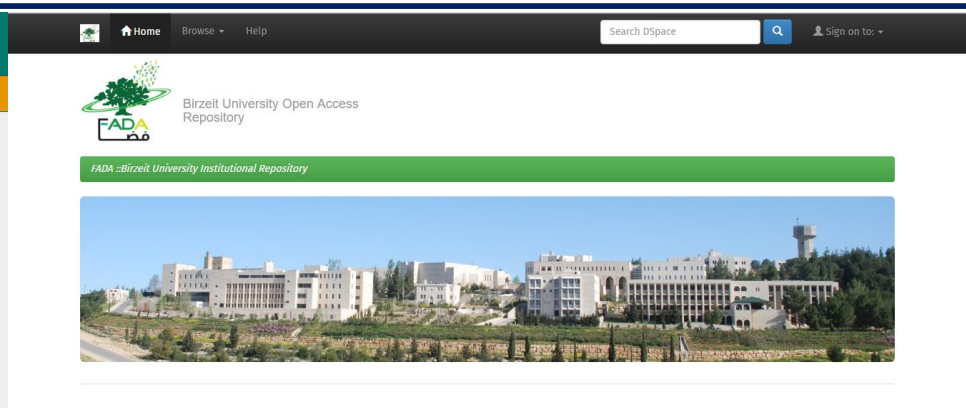

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Language Challenges & Needs

- Faculty members in Palestinian Universities may publish their works in either English or Arabic.
- Content localization: Multi-lingual user interface for IRs??
- Variation of author's names in different languages or spellings??

National Challenges & Needs

- Lack of communication and coordination between MoHE and Palestinian Universities.
- the Ministry does not have up-to-date and accurate information and statistics about research outputs of PS universities.
- The Ministry relies on the research volume and quality of Palestinian universities when evaluating the quality of academic programs.

National Challenges & Needs

Challenges that face the local higher education institutions in establishing their IRs:

- Technical support and security
- Finance
- legal aspects
- lack of skilled personnel to manage the repository
- lack of adequate power supply
- challenges in adopting internal policies that entitle them to publish research outputs according to the principles of OA and copyright Issues.

National Challenges & Needs

- The fragmented environment of IRs, in which effort and costs are duplicated, numerous software platforms and versions are managed individually by each institution, metadata are applied inconsistently, users are served poorly, and universities are unable to take advantage of collective data about content and users.
- Lack of preservation of digitally produced and recorded material.

National Roadmap

- Develop a cross-repository infrastructure to promote the research output of Palestine higher education institutions as a whole, including agreements on design and metadata standards and a fully working service implementation.

Thanks for Listening!

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