

Challenge 3: Research contexts – priorities, training and impact

A Perspective From the Arabic Gulf and the Levant

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Context

- ♦ Some figures (Arab World = 22 States)
 - ♦ Internet penetration is between 36 to 40%
 - ♦ About 413 million Internet users
 - ♦ 71 million social networking technologies users.
- * Research prompted by political role/democratic/revolutionary potential
 - ♦ Western NGOs
 - *♦ Arab-based NGOs*
 - ♦ Local governments Inter-Arab State Agencies

Research Interests

Arabian Gulf (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain)

- *♦ Economic and culturally oriented*
- ♦ Examples:
 - Literacies and capacity building.
 - Developing cultural safeguards

The Levant (Lebanon, Syria, Palestinian Territories and Jordan)

- *♦* Economic implications
- ♦ Examples:
 - Literacies and capacity building.
 - Media development research

Research Areas/Training

- ♦ Access & the digital divide
- ♦ Content & Value
- ♦ Literacy & Pedagogy
- ♦ Legal