Information Society and the Digital Divide in Arab countries

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Abstract

At the beginning of the 21st century Human societies has a pass, new stage of social and economic development, characterized with worldwide Proliferation levels of information and communication technology (ICT). But the level development of (ICT) differs between countries and their evolution and transformation to becoming an information society. The differences between countries in becoming an information society is described as "The Digital Divide. " The digital divide is defined as "the gap between individuals, countries and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels to their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities. The digital divide is usually measured in terms of people's access to ICTs. Penetration levels of mobile cellular subscriptions, Internet users and personal computers. One approach to analyzing the global digital divide is to look at the differences in information society developments between developed and developing countries, The IDI provides a useful tool for monitor They digital divide, this tool combines 11 indicators into a single index of ICT development aspects in both developed and developing countries. This Research tries to monitor the digital divide between Arab counties and developed economy and Price Basket of

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For the paper in Arabic see pages (349-391).

(ICT) as additional tool to measure the digital divide . Several Arab countries have shown strong improvements in their IDI score and ranking (a closer look at each of the three IDI sub-indices (access, use and skills) between 2002 and 2008. Notable examples in the group include Bahrain, United Arab Emirates have high levels of ICT and other Arab Gulf Countries also has upper levels , but other Arab countries in medium and low groups. So the Digital Divide still exists between Arab Countries and developed countries. In addition to this tools, we try to draw an integrated picture about the Digital Divide with indicators (activation of E-Government, Information Content and retire levels in information society.

28