

President's News Digest

Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 22nd issue of the 5th volume of the President's News Digest.

In this issue **Dr. Ammar Jalamneh**, **Director of Library and Information Services Directorate** will address the subject of **"The Library Mission and Culture of Books"**

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Mrs.Hessa Al Meraisi
Manager of President's Office

Message from a Colleague The Library Mission and the Culture of Books

The library's main aim in the university is to act as the information and knowledge hub for those who seek for information, either printed or online. The library is the source to foster cultural activities in the university and the society as a whole. It provides information resources that serves all groups across all cultural levels without any kind of prejudice. Libraries bear the special social responsibilities by offering services that bridge the social, political and economic barriers and open chances that never run out for lifelong learning, cultural development, welfare, creative imagination, individual search and creative thinking. Libraries contribute largely in creating and sustaining competitiveness in this complex world.



Dr. Ammar Jalamneh,
Director of Library and
Information Services Directorate

The Role of Libraries in the Cultural Activity

The current role of libraries and the professional librarians changes the world. Their role is not limited on keeping records of information only, instead it developed to facilitate the chances of obtaining the information and lifelong learning with offering quality services adopting the needs of the moment. Libraries also determine the needs of the society regarding the basic matters i.e health, talent, continuing education and the local communities. In fact, libraries observed the local and national culture since they are the best place to save the popular and academic knowledge and information sources for the present and future generation.

Libraries play a vital role in bridging the information gap by providing free access to the information and communication technology, especially the internet. Such methods build bridges between the individuals on the local level and the global knowledge.

Libraries with the cooperation with the other society institutions offer great deal of activities that are related to enhancing culture in the society as inviting authors to introduce their books and reviewing the manuscripts. Libraries also offer classes for creative writing, introducing information technology and communication, forming free reading groups, organizing books exhibits, summer reading programs, supporting studying and chat groups. Libraries provide bibliographic data that describes the information sources and libraries also revise books and the promotion of books.

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من روائع الشعر العربي

When developing the information sources, libraries consider the needs of the society, special interests, differences, gender differences, age and classes, etc. Libraries organize the available sources of information in an easily accessible way. Libraries also introduce awareness regarding the individual ownership and the justified and proper use of the information data. The use of the international standards in dealing with the information sources facilitates the cooperation and participation in the use of the information sources.

Regarding the university library, ASU dedicated a massive investment in order to develop prestigious library that includes all the needs and requirements of teaching and research for all colleges. The library was established in 2004. ASU library contains a large number of books, periodicals and offers data services and uses Devi Decimal System. Moreover, there are the library regulations which are the directory for the employees, faculty members and students of the university and to all who are interested in having an idea about the rules of the library and borrowing books.

Online Examinations and Assessment

Online teaching is becoming well understood and widespread across the globe as an alternative approach to learning and teaching because of the coronavirus concern which has resulted in the closure of many universities and schools. However, online examinations and assessment is less understood and less trusted because of students authentication issues and lack of experience by instructors and teachers.

In his article “adding authenticity to controlled conditions assessment: introduction of an online, open book, essay based exam” published in the international journal of educational technology in higher education, Chris P. Moore explains how a computer based, unseen, essay format exam was introduced to a final year module for applied science students, where access was permitted to specific online journal resources. Students wrote their submissions under controlled conditions in Microsoft Word and submitted it through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard for grading. The students have achieved better marks than the previous year when it was paper based. According to Moore “the student feedback highlighted an improvement in their ability to organise and arrange their knowledge, and the usefulness of using research material to better evidence their own knowledge. Feedback, being completed online and returned to the students also provided greater understanding of grades achieved and of how to improve for future examinations”.

This article demonstrates that online examination is possible and could be more beneficial when designed properly. Moore also highlighted the importance of upskilling staff to deal with online examinations. It is therefore of crucial importance to conduct staff development at the University in order to help our colleagues deal with a changing world. Many universities like Oxford, Cardiff, and Strathclyde in the UK have adopted the online examination model. We just need a different mindset, trust in our staff and students, and measures to ensure the authenticity of the students is verified. Many techniques are being developed to address the issue of authenticity through image and voice recognition and other means.

In another article on “e-Authentication for online assessment: A mixed-method study” by Alexandra Okada, Denise Whitelock, Wayne Holmes and Chris Edwards and published in the British Journal of Educational Technology, they discussed the issue of Authenticating the students’ identity and authenticity of their work in order to reduce academic malpractices.



Written By
Professor Ghassan Aouad
**The President of Applied
Science University**

According to these authors, “this study aimed to shed light on this area by examining the attitudes and experiences of 328 students who used an authentication system known as adaptive trust-based e-assessment system for learning (TeSLA)”. The research conducted demonstrated these e-authentication technologies are accepted by distance education students. The study highlighted the findings “that men were less concerned about providing personal data than women; middle-aged participants were more aware of the nuances of cheating and plagiarism; while younger students were more likely to reject e-authentication, considerably due to data privacy and security and students with disabilities due to concerns about their special needs”.

Some important findings from this study highlighted that, “e-Authentication systems which are emerging for detecting plagiarism and cheating, an e-authentication system framework with functionalities to check identity and authorship, and a model for evaluating trust-based e-authentication systems are needed. In addition, students’ needs should be considered when designing e-assessment tasks with e-authentication”.

The whole world is suffering from the coronavirus and every aspect of life has been affected including the learning experience of students. For those who are questioning online teaching and examinations they have to understand that many schools including medical schools across the globe have managed to do and are doing online exams for their graduating students in order to help them move to the next stage of their careers. Let’s not become obsessed by the issue of students’ authenticity of identity, but let’s focus on introducing some measures in this area and help our students and especially the graduating ones complete their degrees through online teaching and examinations and assessment. Life should go on and the coronavirus may stay with us for few more months, but it is our moral and professional duty to provide our students with the opportunities even if they were delivered remotely. At the end of the day, we will follow the guidelines provided by the Higher Education Council regarding examinations and assessment. However, let’s us be prepared and trained of how to conduct reliable online examinations the way we have managed to deliver good online teaching and learning experience to our students.

References

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First Ever All Staff Virtual Meeting

ASU conducted the first ever all staff virtual meeting that was led by Prof Ghassan Aouad the President of the University and it was a very successful virtual Meeting with 185 participants (Academic and Administrative).

The meeting was held on Monday March 23rd at 12 noon and lasted for an hour via ASU e-learning system .

Please find below the key points that were discussed during the meeting.:

Online teaching and assessment

- Prof Ghassan Aouad started the meeting by thanking all the members who played a vital role to achieve the online teaching.
- Prof Khaled Ghraibah shared and explained the suggestions regrading mid-term and final exams and that the President has sent a letter to the HEC about our aspirations and the final decision is to be taken by the HEC.
- Prof Khaled Ghraibah asked all the faculty members to attend the workshop that will be held on Thursday to study the technical aspect of the online teaching assessment and he urged everyone to be well prepared.

Student support and office hours

- All in progress and for the students who are not participating, we need to get their names and communicate with them.

Guidelines for working from home

- Prof Ghassan pointed that this matter will be discussed soon.

Guidelines for working from the University

- Mr. Abdulla assured that ASU staff Health and safety comes as the priority during the situation, therefore he encouraged every one to wear the mask and follow the safety guidelines.

HEC and BQA issues

All on track



Written By
Mrs. Hessa AlMeraisi
Manager of President's
Office



IT Support Team

On Thursday 12th March 2020, an administrative decision was made to form a committee that aims to provide technical support to the instructors (full time and part time as well) who are teaching online courses. The committee members have been selected by Mr. Rifat Hussain the Director of Information Communication Technology and Knowledge Management at Applied Science University based on the experience and competency of each member in using the technology.

A training session was conducted where the committee members learned how to use online teaching platforms such as (Moodle). Each committee member was allocated to a college to provide technical support including the Collage of : Law, Engineering, Administrative Sciences and Arts and Science.

The role of the committee members included visiting the instructors prior to the online classes to ensure the technical readiness and sort any issue in a prompt manner.

This effort is taken in response to the current global situation of the Coronavirus COVID- 19, to reduce the physical interaction as much as possible while ensuring the flow of the education wheel.



Written by
Eng. Mohammad Salameh
**Laboratory Supervisor In
Department of Civil and
Architectural Engineering**



بوابات الجامعة بقلم د. علي الددا- قائم بأعمال رئيس قسم العلوم السياسية



مسافاتٌ من مكنون أعماقك، هي ما يربطُ غراك بغرى بواباتِ جامعة العلوم التطبيقية، تأتيها صباحًا بوشائج حبك الوثيقة، لتلغج وجهك بعض النسمات الخفيفة، مختلطةً مع أشعة الشمس التي تحمل البشائرَ بيومٍ جديد، وليشكلكن معًا كُنْة الأسرار لجاذبية المكان. من بعيد سترى إطلالة الجامعة في تمازج متقنٍ للألوان مع طبيعة المكان، وكأنها لوحةٌ اتقن فيها الرسام قواعد المنظور وتوزيع الظلال، وأمسك فيها بلحظةٍ من الزمان، أشارت إليه ساعتها التي احتضنتها فخامة العمران. ولا بد أنك سنكتشف ذلك التناغم الرائع بين الأثر الذي تركه عناق المياه الرقراق، على متعة التأمل وإطلاق النظر.

وإذا أقبلت وانتهى بك المسير ولم يطل، لا بد لك من أن تلتقي أولًا ما تلتقي بالملاح البحرينية، تلك التي تجسدت في "أبو علي" والذي كنتُ أخاله لو طال أن يطوق مباني الجامعة بذراعيه لفعل، وإذا دقت النظر ستجدّه يحثّ الخُطى بين البوابات، ويلتفتُ مرةً هنا ومراتٍ هناك، وستقرأ في عيونه لا محالة، ما يجعلك تستذكر أسطورة الملاك الحارس، الذي ما انفكّ يطمئنُ على محبوبته بلفاته ولهفاته. وعند بواباتها سترى سارية العلم، وإذا أطرقت سمعك، ستسمع صدئ يرنُّ من هاماتٍ أعمدتها، يُنبئُ "بلد الكرام مهد السلام دستورها عالي المكانة والمقام". وبقليل من التؤدة ستجد نفسك قد دخلت في ساحةٍ مليئة بالسيارات، تصطف بانتظار من ركنوها إلى حين.

ستقابل مباني الجامعة الفاتنة للعين والأسرة للقلب، والتي اتسعت لها قلوب العاملين فيها، وستجد أينما وليت وجهك ما يسرُّ ناظرِك وما يسافر مع روحك ويرفُّ مع رفيفها، وما يحتوي عقلك ووجدانك. وإذا قادتك خطواتك باتجاه المبنى الإداري، رُحبت تقطع ممرًا ستظنه من الوهلة الأولى هادئًا، لما احتوى من معاني التأمل وبعد النظر، لتنداهمك بعد ذلك خلية عملٍ لا تهدأ. وفي نهاية الممر، البداية لعملٍ يومي، هناك أرقامٌ وجاهزية وإدارات، وفيه تجد ضالتك ومبتغاك، وما تعودُ إلا وقد تهللت أساريرك، ووقعت عينك على رسمٍ جداري جميل، أو انتشيت أريجًا تَضَوُّع وفاح شداؤه من الياسمين.

وإذا يَمَّنت وجهك شطرَ المبنى الأكاديمي، مُرورًا بموسيقى النوافير وروعة الزهور الباسمة، ودخلت أروقة المبنى، ربما يُصادفك أحد موظفي التسجيل، أو أحد الموظفين يصعدُ درجات المكتبة. وفي أعلى طوابق المبنى خطاباتٌ تُصعد، واجتماعاتٌ تُعقد، أفكارٌ مدروسة وأفعالٌ ملموسة. وفي بقية طوابق المبنى المتعددة، تنتشر القاعات، حيث نشوة الروح ومواعيد اللقاء مع الطلبة في الصباح وفي المساء. وهنا في ذات المبنى، ستحفل بفرصة مقابلة العلماء، أهل الدراية والاختصاص، كل شيء هنا يستند إلى أسس علمية ومصادرٍ موثوقة، أدلةٌ وحججٌ وبراهين، هنا حتى الأحاديث الجانبية تلمسُ فيها الجدية، هنا المنطقُ والصواب، هنا حيثُ الانكبابُ على الكتاب.

وهنا أيضًا تنتوع العلوم والفنون والمعارف، وستُغدقك فيضُ عطاء كل من تقابلهم في أروقة المكان، وما يجري من شهيدٍ على ألسنتهم، قولًا خيّرًا وفكرًا نيرًا. وعلى الأغلب هم سيديرون معك نقاشًا مفيدًا لبعض الوقت- فكن مستعدًا- وربما يطلعونك أيضًا على معلومةٍ جديدة هي بالنسبة لهم منتهى الغاية. في الجنبات تنتشرُ مكاتب حملة الرسالة، التي ازدانت بكتيبهم وشهاداتهم التي تروي لك جزءًا من قصة ما تجسّموه من عناءٍ خلال سيرهم في الدروب الصعبة، طلبًا للعلم وبُعية إيقاد الفكر، وتخبرك أيضًا عن المسافات التي قطعوها من سني أعمارهم ونذروها لبناء الأجيال ورفعِ الأمم، وربما تشي أيضًا بمألٍ نور عيونهم الذي تركوه بين صفحات الكتب.

على ضفاف ذاكرتنا أقامت العديد من تفاصيل أيامنا في جامعة العلوم التطبيقية، طوّقت دقائق قلوبنا بنسيج من الأحلام المرسومة على تقاسيم وجوهنا. وهنا أيضًا حفرت الأيام على خارطة أفئدتنا آثارًا من همسات الحنين، بعد أن لامست أمواجها حواف قلوبنا جيئةً وذهابًا. وعلى أكتاف الأمل أيضًا اشتدت أوتار قيثاره ضجّت بأنغامها، تهلّ من عذوبة الإحساس جمالية الحروف، لتحرس بها صباحات الأمنيات التي احتوتها محبرة كاتب، راح نثار قلمه يعانق السطور ويُشعل من حولنا مصابيح الذاكرة.

Interview with Alumnus

	 <p>ASU Alumni Club</p>
Name:	Abdurahman Mohamed Al-Malki
Workplace:	Freelance
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Political Science
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	ASU is one of the best private universities in Kingdom of Bahrain. When it comes to teaching methods, the instructors use advanced and modern skills. In addition to that, they guide their students to discover things related to the market and develop their skills.
What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	Family atmosphere. I always felt that we all are very close to each other and we all respect each other. This created a high degree of harmony between the students
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	Participating in the tenth cycle of the Student Council. This helped me to deal with people and interact with other students at the university. Now, I have more experience when it comes to participating in social activities and discussing matters related to what I do and make the necessary plans for the future.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	More training and practical workshops in order to help students create some kind of link between what they study and what they practice in real life.
Final words	All the best for our university.



Interviewed By: Mrs. Noora Musalam, **Manager of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office, Deanship Of Student Affairs**

Online Examination Preparations

Survey to assess our readiness for online examination.

A survey was performed in order to check our readiness for online examination, by first comparing for all courses, the types of exam questions, traditional versus proposed online type of questions available via by Moodle platform. Secondly, to evaluate the requirements for online exams including software, tools, etc., that are critical to meet the intended courses learning outcomes.

Professor Khaled Gharaibeh, acting VP for Academic Affairs and Development, expressed that the results are encouraging, showing our readiness for online examination, he added that training and guidelines are important for all academics and students to ensure a smooth implementation of online examination process.



Written by
Dr. Faiza Zitouni
Assistant Vice President
for Academic Affairs and
Development

Online training sessions for online examination.

On Thursday 26 March 2020, as per the current emergent situation, the Academic Staff Development Unit Organised online three training sessions that were delivered by the ICT Department on; "Online Assessment via Moodle platform", for all Colleges as below;

- ⇒ College of Admin Science, March 26 10:00 11:00
- ⇒ College of Law Thursday, March 26 12:00 13:00
- ⇒ College of Arts and Science + College of Engineering, March 26 14:00 15:00

The training sessions were very interactive and very well received (30- 45 users per session).

Mr Rifaat, and Mr Muath presented six main important areas that support online examination including ; (a) How to prepare exam questions via Moodle, (b) How to add exam questions, (c) The type of exam questions that Moodle provides, (d) How to create a question bank, (e) How to have random questions, and how to shuffle questions from the question bank, providing students with different random questions, and eliminating cheating possibilities, (f) How to do invigilation during the exams, using the camera.

For extra support on the preparation of online exams, champions from all colleges are to be designated and supporting materials (presentation/ video) will also be made available by ICT department for all academics.

Quote of the Week

“ Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education “

- Martin Luther King JR

من روائع الشعر العربي

أني أنا ليثُ العرينِ ومَن لهُ *** قلبُ الجبانِ مُحَيَّرٌ مدهوشُ

إني لأعجبُ كيفَ ينظرُ صورتي *** يومَ القتالِ مُبارزٌ ويعيشُ

- عنتره ابن شداد