

Networking of Algerian Main Public Libraries: A Case Study of Hamdan Hajaji Public Reading Library in Ain Defla

دراسة حالة مكتبة المطالعة العمومية الرئيسية حمدان: تشبيك المكتبات الرئيسية للمطالعة العمومية الجزائرية

حجاجي- عين الدفلى

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Abstract:

Public reading libraries are educational and cultural institutions that have evolved over history. They have transformed from book repositories to electronic platforms, offering digital services to their beneficiaries using information technology either individually or through collaborative networks that ensure access to and retrieval of information sources in digital formats by exploiting the Internet, which has contributed to reaching and targeting the reader. This is embodied by the Algerian Main Public Reading Libraries Networking Project in an attempt to link various libraries across the national territory such as the Hamdan Hajaji Main Public Reading Library in Ain Defla.

Our study examined the progress of this library in joining the project using a case study approach. It concluded that the lack of legal formats for settling magnetic reader card dues, and the absence of a unified electronic platform for access are among the most important obstacles preventing integration

Keywords: Networking; Documentary Networks; Main Public Reading libraries; Algeria; Information Networks.

ملخص:

مكتبات المطالعة العمومية مؤسسات تعليمية ثقافية تطورت عبر التاريخ، فتحوّلت من مخازن الكتب إلى التواجد على المواقع الإلكترونية، تقدم خدمات رقمية لمستفيديها باستخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات، بشكل فردي أو في شكل تعاوني شبكي يضمن الوصول والحصول إلى وعلى مصادر المعلومات في صيغ رقمية، باستغلال شبكة الإنترنت التي ساهمت في السعي للقارئ واستهدافه، وهو ما جسده مشروع تشبيك المكتبات الرئيسية للمطالعة العمومية الجزائرية للربط بين مختلف المكتبات عبر التراب الوطني، كمكتبة المطالعة العمومية الرئيسية حمدان حجاجي بعين الدفلى. لذا تناولت دراستنا مدى تقدم هذه المكتبة في الانضمام للمشروع، مستخدمين منهج دراسة الحالة، وخلصت إلى أن من أهم العوائق التي حالت دون تجسيد الانضمام الصيغ القانونية لتسديد مستحقات بطاقات القارئ المغناطيسية، وانعدام منصة إلكترونية موحدة للولوج.

كلمات مفتاحية: التشبيك؛ الشبكات الوثائقية-المكتبات الرئيسية للمطالعة العمومية- الجزائر؛ شبكات المعلومات-الجزائر.

Introduction:

Public reading libraries (often referred to as the "People's School") are among the most important cultural and educational institutions due to their vital role in society.

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They are opened to all segments of society regardless of their educational background, field of specialization, or age in order to meet their needs through knowledge resources they provide. These libraries contribute to spreading culture within the community and help users acquire library skills that enable them to access and utilize information sources anytime and anywhere.

Libraries have undergone successive transformations because of rapid technological advancement, leading to a digital environment characterized by electronic publishing, the emergence of the Internet as a competitor to libraries, the rise of digital information resources, and the growing need for information literacy and remote information services using various information technologies to utilize their collections and offer services tailored to user preferences.

As information institutions, public libraries are both influential and influenced by their internal and external environments. They cannot exist in isolation from technology. Consequently, they are compelled to provide digital services and make their resources accessible to both current and future users across vast geographical areas, whether individually or as part of cooperative frameworks (documentary networks).

Public reading libraries around the world have shifted toward implementing collaborative network projects for various purposes, including cooperation in technical services, shared acquisitions, information services, and interlibrary loans. One notable Arab initiative is the Moroccan Ministry of Culture's project launched in 2003 to strengthen the public reading network. This network comprises multimedia libraries equipped with the latest technological tools to facilitate access to information. Approximately 200 Moroccan public libraries have been digitized, and an electronic portal has been created to allow remote access to various services and documentary collections offered by the participating libraries. (Al-Yaala, Ibrahim, Ali, & al, 2022)

Algerian public libraries are no less significant than their counterparts in the Arab world. Since their inception, they have undergone significant and notable developments especially the transition from a traditional physical presence to a virtual one via websites and social media platforms. This evolution has included digitization projects and interlibrary cooperation, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Arts, which adopted a networking project to connect Algeria's main public reading libraries across the country. This initiative aims to facilitate access to and retrieval of knowledge resources through a dedicated digital platform.

The study revolves around the following problematic question:

- Has the networking of Algerian public reading libraries been achieved?

Our study included a set of sub-questions outlined as follows:

- What are the key components required for networking the main public reading libraries in Algeria?

- What are the main challenges facing the Hamdan Hajaji Main Public Reading Library (Aïn Defla Province) in joining Algeria's main public reading libraries networking project?

The study adopted the following hypotheses:

- The Hamdan Hajaji Main Public Reading Library in Aïn Defla Province lacks a digitized documentary collection, which hinders its progress in Algeria's main public reading libraries networking project.

- The lack of librarian training in technical procedures limits the library's advancement in joining the documentary network of Algerian public libraries.

1. Study Importance:

The importance of our study stems from the fact that the digital environment is a defining feature of modern libraries of all types, especially in light of the rapid growth of information technology and its use in all service-oriented institutions, whether for-profit or non-profit, such as libraries. Libraries have shifted from offering their services within their physical walls to providing them through websites for their users. This shift necessitates the implementation of digital projects that meet the needs of users who seek information resources scattered across various geographical locations. This is particularly relevant for Algeria, a vast country that possesses a considerable number of main public reading libraries and their branches located across the north, south, east, and west, which limits users' access to the collections of all these libraries. Therefore, there is a need to adopt a policy of collaborative projects to facilitate access to and acquisition of diverse information resources, especially in light of the multiplicity of forms and types of intellectual production. This is the aim of the National Network Project of Main Public Reading Libraries in Algeria, which seeks to replicate global and Arab cooperation experiences to benefit from the digital collections of these libraries.

2. Study Objectives:

Our study aims to achieve a set of objectives, summarized as follows:

- To introduce the networking project of the main public reading libraries in Algeria.

- To assess the readiness of the Hadjaji Hamdan Main Public Reading Library in Aïn Defla to join the National Network of Main Public Reading Libraries in Algeria.

- To evaluate the progress of the Hadjaji Hamdan Main Public Reading Library in Ain Defla in its efforts to join the National Network of Main Public Reading Libraries in Algeria and to identify the obstacles hindering this process.

3. Study Concepts:

Every study involves a set of key terms, which serve as foundational concepts that must be defined to outline the study's framework. Our study includes the following terms:

3.1. Networking:

It is the process of connecting different networks to form a larger network. It involves the use of devices and technologies that enable data to flow between different types of networks, ensuring smooth communication across diverse infrastructures (NordVPN). It also ensures the flow of data between networks owned and operated by different entities using a shared data connection and Internet routing protocol based on the same TCP/IP protocol suite. Internet connectivity is only possible when all connected networks use the same protocol suite or communication methodologies. (Yasar & Gillis)

3.2. Documentary Networks:

These are networks typically composed of a group of libraries that collaborate in a project to share specific information services such as interlibrary loan, centralized acquisition, etc. They operate in a digital environment and offer an electronic platform through which users can access services. These libraries may be homogeneous or heterogeneous and are usually supervised by a designated authority. (meemapps)

3.3. Public Reading Libraries:

They are community-based institutions established by the state and funded by the national public budget. They exist at local, regional, or national levels and aim to preserve the cultural and intellectual heritage of humanity for the benefit of readers and citizens from all social backgrounds. These libraries provide access to knowledge and information materials and serve all segments of society regardless of race, gender, age, religion, or language. (UNESDOC, 2001, p. 06)

Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 07-275 dated 6 Ramadan 1428 (corresponding to September 18, 2007), which defines the legal framework for public reading libraries, states that: "Main public reading libraries are public institutions of an administrative nature, possessing legal personality and financial independence". (General Secretariat of the Government, 2007)

Additionally, Executive Decree No. 12-234 dated May 24, 2012, which defines the legal framework for the main public reading libraries, specifies in Article 3 that these libraries are established by law, which regulates their operation, responsibilities, and public service obligations... and that they offer their services free of charge. (General Secretariat of the Government, 2012)

According to aforementioned, public reading libraries are considered public libraries due to the following characteristics:

- They are open to all segments of society, welcoming readers of all educational levels, religions, genders, ethnicities, and backgrounds without discrimination.
- Their collections encompass all forms of information sources and cover all fields of knowledge and science, including humanities, social sciences, technical sciences, and pure sciences.
- They provide their services free of charge to all users.

4. Study Methodology and Tools:

Our study was conducted in June 2025. We adopted the case study method, focusing on a single case namely, the Hadjaji Hamdan Main Public Reading Library, and assessing its readiness and advancement to join the Algerian National Project for Networking Public Reading Libraries. This approach involves an in-depth analysis of all aspects related to the subject.

We relied on direct scientific observation to collect data, and used the unstructured interview as a tool to gather information that could not be obtained through observation.

5. Previous Studies:

Our study relied on a set of previous studies, outlined as follows:

5.1. Zouheir Maleki's study (2015): This was published as an article titled "Algerian Public Reading Libraries between Legislation and Reality". (Maleki, 2015)

It is a descriptive study in which the researcher reviewed the various laws and regulations governing the organization and management of this type of libraries. He reached several important conclusions, including:

- The Basic Law of Public Reading Libraries, which organizes their management and regulation, is a tool that allows for the provision of library services under the best conditions.
- The main challenge for public reading libraries is attracting readers.

- The quality of public libraries' services is a key tool for attracting beneficiaries and fostering engagement with civil society.

5.2. Halima Kherfi's study (2022): Titled "Public Reading Libraries and Their Role in Reviving Intangible Heritage in Algerian Society: A Field Study in the Main Library of Public Reading, Muhammad Qubati in the Wilaya Sidi Bel Abbès". (Kherfi, 2022)

The study led to several findings, summarized as follows:

- The Muhammad Qubati Main Public Reading Library in Sidi Bel Abbès serves as a scientific and cultural space that preserves intangible heritage.

- The Main Public Reading Library (Sidi Bel Abbès) undertakes various scientific and cultural initiatives to promote reading among different segments of society.

- The Main Public Reading Library (Sidi Bel Abbès) uses media outlets to promote its activities.

- Theoretical Background of the Study:

6. The Algerian Main Public Reading Libraries Networking Project:

The initiative to establish a national network of main public reading libraries in Algeria began with an initiative by the El-Moudjahid El-Hashemi Kouider Public Reading Library in Adrar. The networking project for main public reading libraries was launched in 2019 in the Wilaya of Adrar, which was designated as the central hub for networking digital, bibliographic, and information data. It was entrusted with implementing the project and organizing training sessions for staff of the participating libraries. This project aims to facilitate access to the various catalogues of these libraries, consult documentary holdings, and benefit from digital information services available on their websites, through a unified electronic platform accessible to users. The project was launched under the patronage of the then Minister of Culture and Communication, Ms. Laila Touchen, to create a documentary network among Algeria's main public reading libraries and to establish collaborative organization among them. At the time, more than 37 libraries across various provinces of the country were already part of the initiative, in addition to their annexes. The project also seeks to build a national network of libraries and digitize their services, in line with the directives of the President of the Algerian Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and in execution of the government's action plan that includes the digitization of public services under the e-government policy. (Rafai, 2023)

The first meeting resulted in several key outcomes:

- Identifying the technological requirements (Information Technology) for national library networking, including discussion of programming languages used for data transmission and bibliographic record exchange.

- Presenting the technical work structure of the Adrar Main Public Reading Library to librarians and IT specialists from member libraries.

- Discussing technical protection and cyber security (necessary mechanisms for securing networks, servers, and software, and studying documentation software used in libraries such as SYNGEB, PMB, and KOHA to assess readiness for networking (software compatibility), and opening and securing servers.

- Outlining the necessary equipment for networking, with explanations on IP installation, obtaining a static IP address for the library's server, and instructions for registering a domain name with the national Algerian suffix DZ.

- Presenting electronic information services on each participating library's website and introducing RFID technology used at the Adrar Main Public Reading Library.

- Creating websites and working on standardizing technical procedures for library operations, accompanied by a training course for librarians to initiate the networking process between main libraries.

- Launching the Fennec system, which enables mobile access to library catalogues.

- Providing books and enabling readers to access documentary resources via the catalogues (digital copies).

- Assessing the existing equipment in the main public reading libraries.

The second training session took place in January 2023, and its key outcomes were as follows: (National Committee, 2023)

- Installation of static IP addresses for participating libraries.

- Gradual compliance with the National Reference for Information Security (Référence Nationale de Sécurité de l'Information).

- Initiation of networking for the ready main libraries.

- Launching specialized training for librarians and information technology professionals in programming, networking, and library services, under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Arts, based on operational needs.

- Establishing the basic infrastructure for networking main public reading libraries.

- Setting up a dedicated committee to oversee and manage the library networking process under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Arts.

- Activating the national network between the ready libraries as soon as possible.

7. Requirements for Establishing a Cooperative Network between Libraries:

7.1. Planning:

Any project requires an essential administrative function, which is planning along with other functions that contribute to the success of any collaborative group endeavor. Through planning, both the broad outlines and the finer details will be determined, starting with defining the main objective and the sub-goals of the project, which must be realistic and clear.

Management experts have summarized this through the acronym SMART, which stands for SMART goals, meaning:

- **Specific:** The goal should focus on a particular topic or aspect in order to avoid overlaps.

- **Measurable:** The goal must be clear and have a measurable indicator to assess progress toward the correct path.

- **Attainable:** Goals should be realistically achievable given the available resources and capabilities; otherwise, they won't serve the intended purpose.

- **Relevant:** Goals must align with the broader vision that the institution seeks to achieve.

- **Time-bound:** Any project should be time-bound, whether in the short or long term. This helps in scheduling tasks and ensuring adherence to the allocated timeframe.

The project of networking public reading libraries began in 2019. A significant budget was allocated to each main public reading library to meet the material, technical, and implementation requirements needed for networking—that is, linking libraries and their branches across the national territory, particularly those with a large number of branches (This refers to the creation of the National Library Network). The goal is to create a centralized catalogue that consolidates all holdings across these libraries and makes them accessible to users and regional main libraries. For example, all libraries in the western region would share a standardized catalogue, and the same would apply to libraries in the eastern, central, and southern regions. Therefore, the creation of a national network will be facilitated, and which requires a set of essential elements, as outlined by specialists in the field below:

7.2. Library Collections:

These refer to the diverse range of knowledge containers in both printed and digital formats, such as periodicals, grey literature, books, and magazines. The collection is the most critical component in establishing any cooperative network, regardless of its purpose. (Zayat & Boudurban, 2017, p. 136)

7.3. Standardized, Integrated Documentation Software for Library Management:

Libraries of all types have adopted standardized software to organize and manage information resources, making them more useful by offering tools and search methods based on a set of standards that facilitate access and retrieval, such as automated catalogues (Zayat & Boudurban, 2017). This common platform fosters interoperability among libraries. In Algeria, some main public reading libraries use the PMB software-like the one in our case study- while others rely on custom-designed software developed either by private providers or by in-house IT specialists. Some libraries do not use any software at all. The lack of standardized software hinders the unification of access points between libraries, which can only be achieved through compatibility among the automated systems in use.

7.4. Hardware and Software Equipment

This includes all hardware such as computers, printers, and scanners, which must be selected based on well-defined specifications, including capacity and materials used. It also includes software, such as compression and optimization tools, interactive applications, metadata encoding programmes, digital document retrieval systems, file transfer protocols like Z39.50, user authentication software (Bahi, 2023), database management systems, and all interactive software and applications related to the technical infrastructure of the network.

7.5. Standardized Protocols and Specifications:

These are the communication and data exchange standards necessary for interoperability, including bibliographic data formats and structures and standards for textual data files like AACR2, and formats for catalogue card exchange such as UNIMARC. (Al-Madadha & Al-Sardi, 2013, pp. 121-135)

7.6. Human Resources Requirements:

Human resources are the foundation of any project. In the case of the networking project, librarians represent the core workforce responsible for implementing the processes involved. In addition, they play a role in marketing and promoting the library's services, collections, and the national library network (the Main Public Reading Library).

This is in collaboration with the library director and official bodies responsible for developing and guiding the library's general policy and IT specialists, including developers, programmers, designers, and technicians who are also essential for maintaining websites and managing databases.

7.7. Legislation and Regulations:

This includes all laws and regulations related to Intellectual property rights: access permissions and licensing; Publishing laws for licensed materials; Collection development policies; Access and usage policies, etc.

Field Aspect of the Study:

1. Introduction to the Field of Study:

The Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library of the Wilaya of Ain Defla was established under Executive Decree No. 09-346 dated 3 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1430 AH (corresponding to October 22, 2009), which supplements Executive Decree No. 08-236 dated 23 Rajab 1429 AH (corresponding to July 26, 2008) concerning the creation of public reading libraries.

The library opened its doors to users in July 2008. It was initially under dual supervision until 2010, at which point it became administratively and financially independent from the Directorate of Culture. Prior to that, the Directorate had been responsible for acquiring library materials.

The arrangement continued until the 2013 fiscal year, when the library officially became affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Arts. Its name was later changed from Public Reading Library to the Main Public Reading Library by Decree No. 12-234 dated 3 Rajab 1433 AH (corresponding to May 24, 2012).

Table 1:

Technical Card of Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library- Ain Defla:

Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library	
Area	1,789 m ²
The Building:	Entrance area 14m ² - Lending desks- Reading rooms 240m ² - First storage 200m ² - Second storage 80m ² - Children's wing 100m ² - Mediatheque 96m ² - Lecture hall 250m ² .
Human Resources:	50 Employees, including 21 library and documentation specialists with various qualifications: University Applied Studies Degree, a

	Bachelor's degree in Library Science, Library Science Master's, and some PhD students.
Documentary Holdings & Subject Coverage:	The collection size is estimated at 45,000 titles, equivalent to 120,000 copies, in various specializations: technical sciences, humanities and arts, etc. It covers the needs of secondary, middle, and primary school students, as well as university students, including postgraduate levels.
Equipements:	Tables- Projectors- Cameras- Fire extinguishers- Air conditioners- Printers- Computers- Chairs- Electrical generators.
Information Services:	Internal and external lending service- Internet service- Guidance and counselling service- Current awareness service- Bibliographic search- Children's services.
Educational and Cultural Activities:	Drawing workshops- Book exhibitions- Educational and cultural trips- Handicrafts- Recreational and intellectual games- Intellectual competitions among library readers- Scientific, religious, and cultural lectures.
Documentary Software Used:	Closed commercial software Syngeb, then transitioned to open-source software PMB after joining the National Network of Main Public Reading Libraries.
Library's Social Presence:	Facebook page at the following link: https://web.facebook.com/biblio44/?locale=ar_AR&rdc=1&rdc
Website:	https://bplp-aindefla.dz/

Source: Prepared by the author based on the library's website.

2. Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library and the Networking Project:

In 2021, the library joined the network by a decision from the Ministry of Culture and Arts to promote this type of libraries. Instructions were sent to the library staff to attend a training session held at that time in Adrar, with the presence of a librarian and an IT engineer, to learn about the project and train them for implementation in two sessions: the first in January 2019 and the second in 2023.

The Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library in Ain Defla implemented the ministry's directive to join without having enough time to regulate everything related to networking, such as assessing existing resources, identifying needs and the necessary requirements for participation at the level of the library (Hamdan Hadjaji). The latter does not use the same documentation languages with other libraries, nor does it have the same capabilities (equipment), given its establishment date, library collections, human resources, technical capabilities, and the number of annexed libraries.

Additionally, the Hamdan Hadjaji Library was using the closed commercial software Syngeb and was forced to switch to the open-source PMB software. This prompted librarians to re-catalogue the entire collection and enter missing data for each document, as the compatibility rate between the two systems did not reach 100% during data transfer. The process of entering missing data for information sources has not yet been completed due to the massive size of the library collections. Although the IT engineer at the library converted the library's database from the closed to the open-source software, it needs to be re-catalogued to add barcodes so they can be read later by barcode readers at the lending desks. (The Library's Governor, 2025)

The supervising ministry (Ministry of Culture and Arts) provided the Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library (Ain Defla) with the necessary requirements to join the Algerian National Network of Main Public Reading Libraries. It received the following equipment as prerequisites for participation. (IT Engineer, 2024)

- 2 servers (one for storing the library's database and the other for networking).
- Magnetic card printer for readers.
- Anti-theft system.
- Self-checkout computer.
- Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) (1) for the computer.

- RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology: This technology uses wireless radio waves to automatically identify entities containing a silicon chip. It can track information sources and store their information to manage lending and retrieval services. (RFID)

- PMB software.
- Computers.
- Book sterilizer.
- Book barcode readers.
- The task of supervising the implementation and final installation of the system was assigned to the service provider, Mégastore.

All these requirements, in reality, enable network connectivity based on the decision of the Ministry of Culture and Arts, allowing access. However, the absence of digital copies because of intellectual property rights has hindered all digitization projects in Algerian libraries of all types. It is impossible to obtain digital information sources

when user needs have moved from locating physical items to accessing the full text from any internet-connected computer with a user interface using a computer-tablet communication channel. The Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library has only digitized the table of contents for each document, which contradicts the aspirations and requirements of a digital environment user who is not satisfied with bibliographic data and cannot travel from one region to another to obtain a hard copy of knowledge resources. Therefore, it is necessary to think of a permanent solution and an agreement that neither deprives the user nor violates the author's rights to achieve greater benefit from the documentary network of Algerian Main Public Reading Libraries.

3. Study Results:

Main Public Reading Libraries networking project, like others, suffers from a set of shortcomings observed at the Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library in Ain Defla. They are as follows:

- The absence of a national networking platform, i.e. there is no unified interface ensuring access to all participating libraries' catalogues to utilize the provided services.
- Lack of a legal formula for magnetic cards dues for readers and employees.
- The adopted system for providing the direct catalogue available on mobile phones (Fennec) and how to apply penalties to readers and all matters related to inter-library loan procedures.
- The problem of providing selective dissemination of information (SDI) and current awareness services to readers due to the absence of an official mobile phone operator and settling payments related issue.
- User data is not available on the network, which limits future reservation and lending operations if digital copies become available.
- Absence of full text for information sources because of intellectual property rights.
- Training of human resources at the Main Public Reading Library, where only two individuals were selected: the IT engineer responsible for the technical aspect and a librarian.
- The enormous size of the library's documentary holdings and the absence of compatibility between the Syngeb and PMB systems.
- Lack of network connectivity between the main library (Hamdan Hadjaji) and its branches.

- Absence of a unified catalogue between the main library and its branches.
- Lack of specific timelines for the final implementation of the Algerian National Network of Main Public Reading Libraries.

4. Hypotheses' Discussion in light of the Results:

Based on the findings, the hypotheses are either proven or refuted. Our study included:

4.1. First Hypothesis:

The Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library in Ain Defla does not possess digitized documentary holdings, which hinders its progress in the Algerian Main Public Reading Libraries Networking Project.

This hypothesis is proven because of intellectual property rights, as the Algerian state does not have flexible, modern laws and legislations compatible with collaborative projects in the digital environment.

4.2. Second Hypothesis:

The lack of training for librarians on technical procedures limits the progress of joining the Algerian Main Public Reading Libraries Documentary Network, which hinders its progress in the Algerian Main Public Reading Libraries networking project.

This hypothesis is proven considering that the human resources staff did not receive any training at the library regarding work procedures within the network and its processes. This was confirmed by the human resource of the library (study sample).

5. Conclusion:

Cooperative projects between libraries, regardless of their type, are a hallmark of the era. No single library can fully meet the needs of its users and provide comprehensive collections that serve all their specializations and levels. This requires resorting to a collective policy via library clusters or networks to share specific services achieving self-sufficiency for users in an information technology-based environment. This enables accessibility in geographically dispersed areas amidst the technological surge we are witnessing.

The Algerian state, in an attempt to keep pace, previously adopted such projects concerning university libraries, under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, notably the RIBU network and the CCDZ unified catalogue. The Ministry of Culture and Arts followed suit by establishing the Algerian

National Network of Main Public Reading Libraries to provide access and retrieval for its users.

Our study showed that the Hamdan Hadjaji Main Public Reading Library has not achieved significant progress to join the project because of many obstacles, primarily intellectual property rights. Therefore, the bodies responsible for issuing laws and legislations must balance user rights and author rights, prioritize human resources by training and qualifying them for this transformation to equip them with the qualifications and requirements of the library profession in the digital age, study the changes in the internal and external environment of the Main Public Reading Libraries that are members of the documentary network, and activate the role of librarians and involve them in all stages of implementing collaborative projects of information institutions. Will the project ultimately achieve remote access and retrieval of digital collections for users without obstacles?

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