

Privacy Policies in Public Libraries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries: Open Doors, Closed Windows

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ABSTRACT

In an era dominated by digital technologies and the exponential growth of data, safeguarding personal privacy is more crucial than ever. This research investigates the privacy policies of public libraries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, aiming to understand the extent to which these policies protect patrons' privacy rights regarding openness and restrictions. The study employs a qualitative method using structured content analysis of policy documents available through the official websites of the selected public libraries. This study will report coding results to indicate how public libraries in GCC countries address patron and user privacy, including exemptions to established laws and authorities' protection. This research aims to contribute to the broader discussion on the region's privacy rights and data protection. The findings of this study will provide insights into current privacy practices and identify areas for improvement. The implications of this research will support recommendations for policymakers and the Ministries of Culture in GCC countries.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Information governance; Information policy; Information privacy; Public libraries; Records and information management.

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries; Personal privacy; Data collection; Library policy; Data access and control.

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