Views of Library and Information Science (LIS) Instruction in Morocco

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Compass image: http://ile-de-re.net/ycsmclub/formation.htm

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MAGHREBI AREA STUDIES SYMPOSIUM FOR U.S. FULBRIGHT GRANTEES
April 16, 2009
Tour Hassan Hotel
Rabat, Morocco
Perspectives: libraries in an oral culture?

Libraries as we know them in the US:

• Are issue of a primarily Western tradition
• Were first introduced in Morocco by the French
  – Supported education
  – Were destined for use by the elite
• Embody a metaphor that is not part of the local tradition in Morocco
Information in context

A « Maroc qui bouge » recognizes the importance of information

– Information’s place in study and research (education)
– Information management and monitoring (business)
– Information literacy (general)

Libraries (bibliothèques) and information/documentation centers (centres de documentation) have a clear mandate

– And information professionals have an important place in the future of Morocco
Outline

I. Situating Morocco’s Ecole des Sciences de l’Information (ESI)

II. My personal perceptions (that may be **WRONG**) of:
   – ESI facilities
   – ESI instructors
   – ESI students

III. Final thoughts about the place of libraries and information in Morocco
Brief history and background

Morocco’s Ecole des Sciences de l’Information (ESI)
• Began in 1974
  – Received funding from UNESCO
  – Co-sponsored by Pratt University in the US
• Is an « école » under the Haut Commissariat au Plan
  – Not attached to any of the local universities
  – The sister institution to
    • Centre National de Documentation (CND)
    • Institut National de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée (INSEA)
• Only library and information science program in Morocco
Situating ESI
Madinat Al Irfane

Exprimez-vous :

Madinat Al Irfane Feel free to post any event or news related to Madinat Al Irfane. Nothing will be considered as SPAM if it is related to Irfane.
21 octobre 2008, à 16:05 • Signaler un abus

Activité récente

Madinat Al Irfane a modifié les infos suivantes : Transports en commun et Adresse.
Practical aspects of instruction

• Borrowing from the French
  – Grading system out of 20
  – System of modules
    • Students pass or fail the whole year
  – 4-year undergrad degree & Masters
  – Professional divisions
    • Librarian vs. documentalist

• Making their own mark
  – Calling graduates « informatistes »
Languages in play

- Instruction at ESI
  - Mostly French (technical aspects of topics)
  - Some explanations in Derija.

- Foreign language instruction for undergrads:
  - French
  - English
  - Spanish.

Where is Arabic?
Facilities
School’s bus brought students to the BNRM
Salle des Conférences
Instructors
New Director

El Hassan Lemaillé - Directeur de l'ESI

Activités récentes

- El Hassan Lemaillé - Directeur de l'ESI a modifié les infos suivantes : Informations personnelles, Adresse et Adresse électronique.
- El Hassan Lemaillé - Directeur de l'ESI a modifié les infos suivantes : Date de naissance et Informations personnelles.

El Hassan Lemaillé, né le 12/07/1960 - Directeur de l'Ecole des Sciences de l'Information.
Students

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008

Blogs in class

Today we talked about blogs in Technologies de l'information. I took a photo of the class at the beginning of the hour, and posted these photos, as well as a first draft of this post, at the end of class. Everyone seemed to agree that it’s an easy process, and about eight students came up after class and asked for me to transfer the
Students and after-hours « ateliers »
Final thoughts

• Straight comparisons are often useless
  – ESI classrooms have more equipment than some Rutgers classrooms
  – Many of the strengths and weaknesses described at ESI are also evident in American schools

• ESI educates a group that often becomes part of the Moroccan elite
  – The school is head and shoulders above others in Africa

• Information’s time is here, and ESI’s graduates are well-positioned to take the lead and help keep Morocco moving in the right direction
Thank you.
Merci.
Shukrane.

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