UNESCO Contribution in Developing Knowledge Societies in LDC Countries:

The Pilot Project Of Unified Library Management System and Digital Library System For Sudanese Universities as an Example.

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Challenges of Academic libraries in Sudan

lack of:

- Awareness and perception of role and importance

- Adequate Fund for Technology

- Training and Education

Eneya (2008) Development of libraries in Africa is very slow (not a priority)

Ali and Bakshi (2006) LIS profession challenges in India

The rapid development in technology is providing new challenges to the library profession in developing countries and increasing the need for librarians who can use the technology effectively as to serve their clients.

Overview of:

1- Collaborative efforts of 3 Sudanese university to improve library services and library staff

2-UNESCO contribution and participation

The Project

- **Proposal submitted to UNESCO**: 2010

Implementing unified open source integrated library system and digital library system.

1-Univ. of Khartoum (UofK)

2-Sudan univ. of Sci. & Tech. (SUST)

3-Al-Neelain Univ.

- **Project approval**: 2011

- **UNESCO Participation Program**: **26,000 US$**

Project Objectives

- To provide Sudanese academic community with access to vast amount of research materials.

- To provide consortium-based capabilities such as a union catalog that provide one access point to all bibliographic holdings and circulation of Sudanese university libraries.

- to maximize the ability to resource sharing between those libraries.

- To provide electronic data transformation between member libraries.

Project Components

(1) Steering Committee

(2) Hardware preparation

(3) Software implementation and training (UNESCO)

(4) Technical documentation preparation (UNESCO)

1- Steering Committee

To Draw the road map of the project.

Sudanese Research and Education Network **SudREN**
Sudan University of Sci. & Tech (**SUST**)
University of Khartoum (**UofK**)
Al-Neelain University

Dr. Iman Abulmaali manager of SudREN addressing the training attendees

1- Steering Committee

Assigned a Technical Committee (Librarians and IT specialist from the 3 univ.) to:

1- Select the suitable ILS & Digital lib. Sys.

2-Prepare a proposal for implementing the two systems

2- Hardware Preparation

- Each university was responsible of installing a suitable terminals and servers to be used by both ILS and digital library systems.
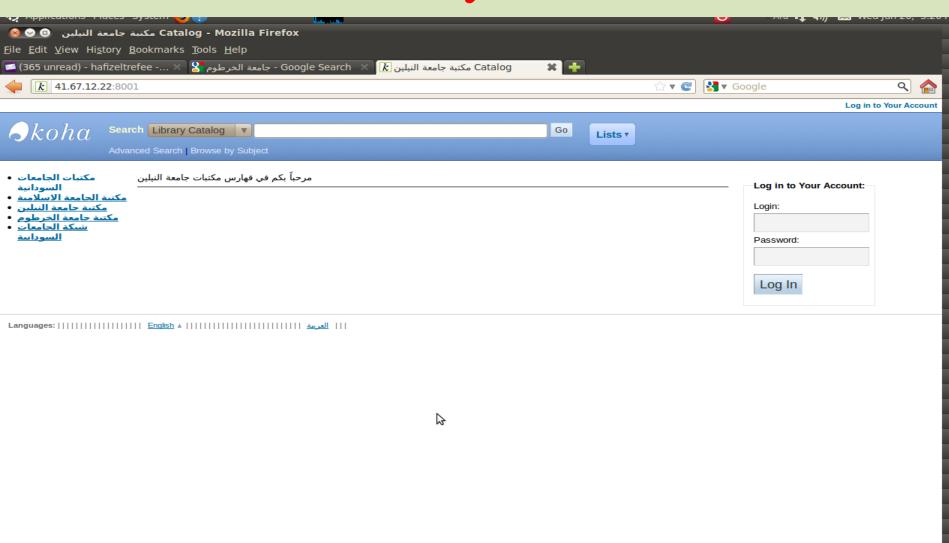
- The servers should be connected to the Sudanese Research and Education Network (SudREN) who will technically provide one access point to OPACs of the 3 universities.
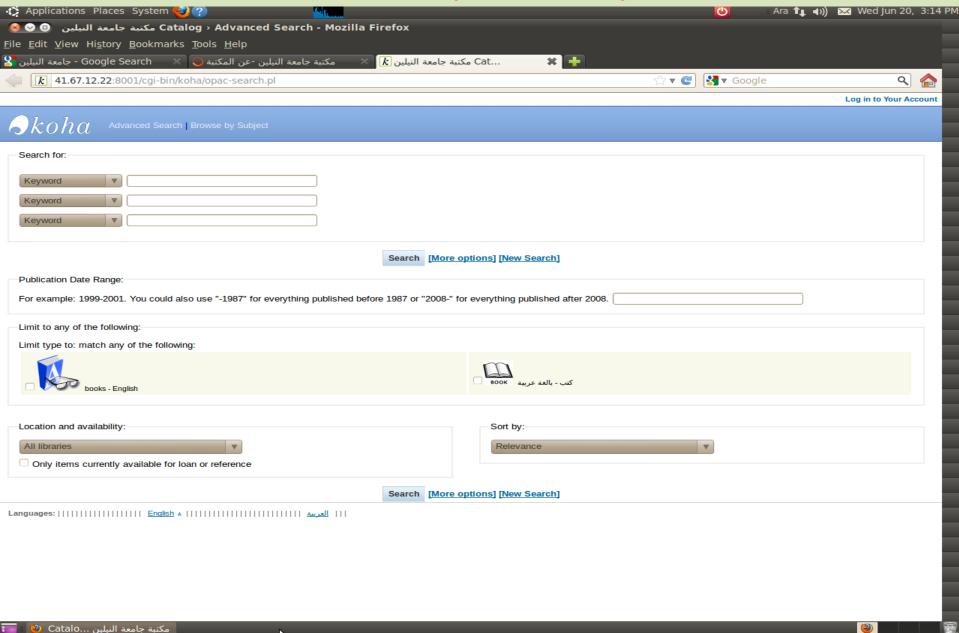
3- Software Implementation & Training

Koha implementation

- Installation of the main Koha models; OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) module, circulation module, cataloging module, Serials module, acquisition module in three universities servers.
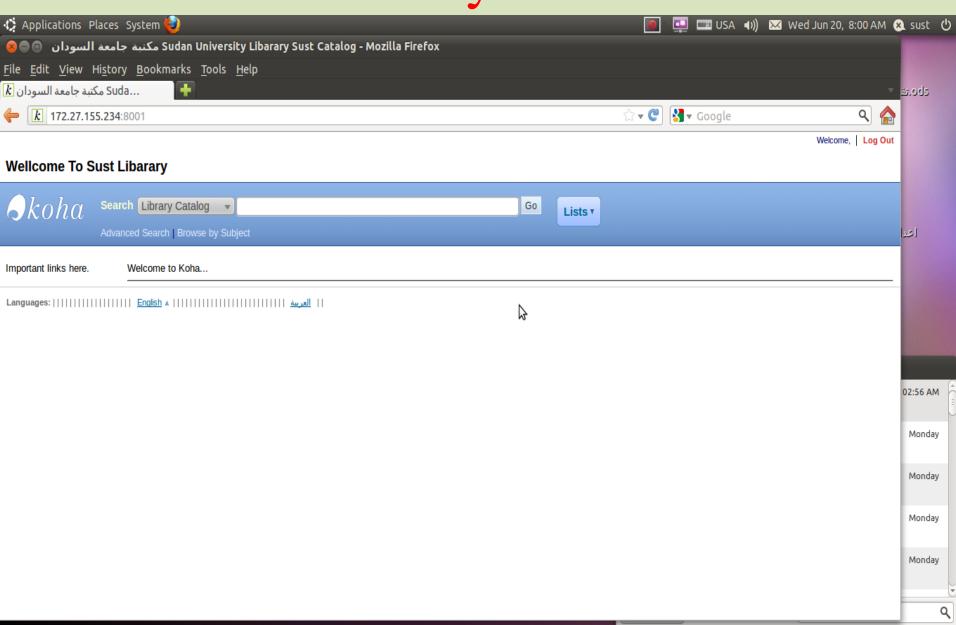
UofK Library *koha*-OPAC

Al-Nailain University Library *koha*-OPAC

SUST Library *koha*-OPAC

3- Sofware Implementation & Training

Koha ILS Training

Technical Training: **10 IT specialists**

Installation, customization, etc.

Operational Training: **20 librarians**

- Use of open source operating system Ubuntu (Linux)
- Application of Koha general features
- MARC 21 (**MA**chine-**R**eadable **C**ataloging)
- Import of English records from the Library of Congress
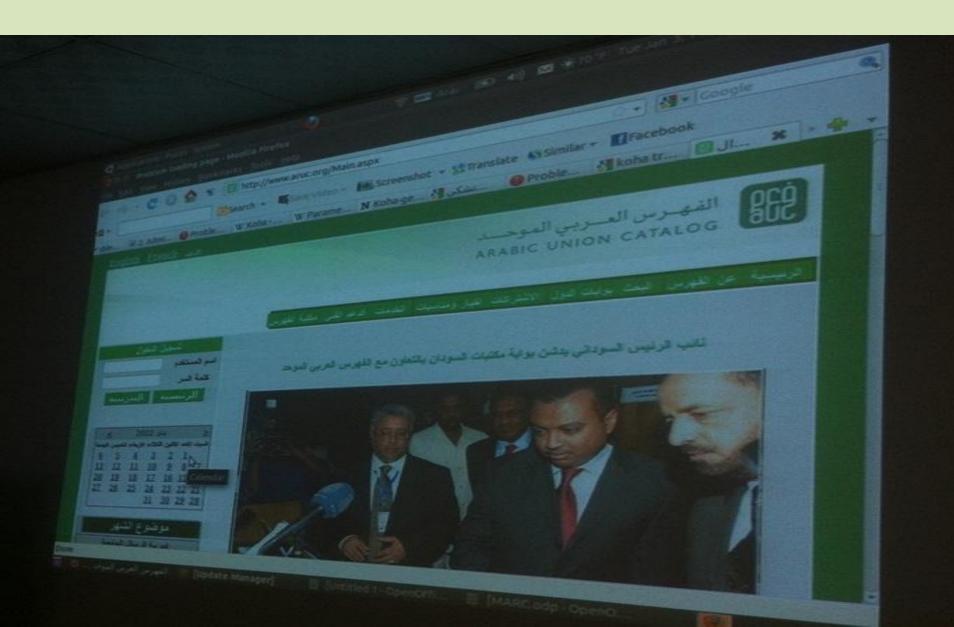- Import of Arabic records from the Arabic Union Catalog

The logo of the training workshop showing the logo of **UNESCO**, **SudREN**, **SALI**, **UofK**, **SUST**, and **Al-Neelain** univ.

Training workshop attendees

Arabic Union Catalog (AUC) Web Page

3- Sofware Implementation & Training

D-space implementation & Training

- As the project is still in ILS phase, the T-Committee is in the process of providing a proposal of implementation and training for the D-space system.

4- Technical documentation preparation

- The Steering Committee assigned a sub-committee to prepare technical documentation for both systems including technical manuals, user manuals (for librarians and library users).

THANK YOU