Abstract

This dissertation considers the major influences on the output of books and theses in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan between 1970 and 1995. It considers the historical development of printing and publishing from the earliest days of Jordan’s separate political existence up to the end of 1995. Some evaluation is made of the geo-political, religious and economic factors bearing on printing, publishing, marketing and distribution of books along with the special conditions relating to theses production. The development of education and mass literacy with the ongoing growth of universities and community colleges is examined. A detailed analysis is made of all books produced in the 26 year period backed by comprehensive tables and figures.

These tables and figures are examined and interpreted to better understand the nature and direction of the industry. Theses are treated in a similar manner having regard to the special circumstances and nature of theses production. Structured interviews with publishers are tabulated and evaluated. There is discussion of the development of a national bibliography for books and theses, along with consideration of legal deposit legislation and the work of the Jordan Library Association (J.L.A.).

There is a real need for this research due to the absence of any previous detailed evaluation covering all these factors in the output of books and theses in Jordan. Tertiary education is growing at an explosive rate and the parallel demand for and production of, printed material is striking. In these circumstances, it is all the more important to understand and evaluate professionally the influences on the output of the primary tools of learning and academic development.