

# Information Seeking and Information Needs

Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar



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**Editor**

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# 8. THE NEED FOR ONLINE RESOURCES IN AN ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was: (1) to investigate users' perceptions of a Saudi university's online catalog (OPAC), and (2) to compare users' experience in using FRBR-based online catalog and the university catalog in finding, identifying, selecting, and obtaining works on Islam. The study was concerned with evaluating the four identified FRBR model tasks, i.e. find, select, identify and obtain, with regards to applying FRBR in library online catalog as a means to enhance the quality of its bibliographic records as well as improve the existing services. The population in this study comprised of all undergraduate students of Library and Information Science Department in Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia. They were asked to perform the four tasks in searching works on Islam for original work, author, editions and translated copies. A questionnaire was designed to investigate their perceptions of Umm Al-Qura University OPAC features, perception of Umm Al-Qura's online catalogue after task completion, perception of WorldCat after task completion. The findings showed that respondents experienced difficulties in meeting the four user tasks while using Umm Al-Qura's online catalog. It was also found that the Worldcat FRBR prototype system supports the user tasks; "find, identify, select and obtain" better than the regular online catalog. Moreover, the study discovered perceived ease of use and perceived helpfulness of the Worldcat FRBR-based OPAC and the use of color and design were among the factors contributing in users' differences in their