

GRC Took the Lead in Building Digital Research Networks Long before the Rise in Social Media

GRC: 20 years of Utilizing Technology to Serve the Gulf Region



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All



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Since its establishment in the year 2000, GRC has been keen on utilizing the latest technologies to enable itself to achieve its scientific and scholarly objectives. GRC has made vigorous efforts to promote interest in knowledge and employ Information Technology to contribute to enhancing relevant research on the Gulf region for its target audience.

Out of firm belief in the vital role played by IT in various walks of life and in line with its slogan "Knowledge for All," GRC has utilized digital technologies of various types as an essential component in the Gulf-related research, contributing to enriching knowledge content available for decision-makers, researchers and specialists worldwide.

“ GRC took the initiative to establish the news portal "Gulf in the Media" in both Arabic and English, which presented the latest developments in the Gulf region ”

GRC has published its studies, research and publications in both Arabic and English via its website, which is visited by hundreds of users daily as an important source of the Gulf-related research content. As a result, GRC has been at the forefront of think tanks adopting the principles of electronic publishing and digital information services.

Furthermore, GRC has paid great attention to multimedia to enhance the scientific content it presents, including video files and interactive presentations.

The digital presence of GRC has not been confined only to its website. As a pioneering initiative, the GRC created a news portal under the rubric "Gulf in the Media" in both Arabic and English to present the latest developments, events, and affairs of the Gulf region. This portal was first of its kind at that time of its establishment to offer distinguished electronic content for researchers and those who are interested in Gulf affairs. In this context, GRC hosted the Communication Data Center in 2003.

GRC has taken the lead in establishing digital research networks long before the emergence of social media platforms. Through rich databases, which GRC created and managed utilizing the findings of its various research studies, GRC has acted as a meeting point for researchers throughout the world, promoting Gulf-related scientific research production. Furthermore, GRC's digital periodical "Araa Magazine," was the first Gulf periodical specialized in Gulf affairs, issues, challenges and risks facing the region. The magazine is considered an academic reference for researchers, scholars and MA and PhD candidates in various Arab universities.

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GRC contributes to promoting research on the Gulf region by providing fact-based studies and organizing global and regional meetings and conferences. All these contributions are made available to allow for a large number of users working in the fields of economy, energy, political systems, foreign relations, security and defense issues, environmental issues, scientific research and technology programs. Moreover, GRC has held numerous seminars and executed partnership agreements with a large number of universities and international research centers. In this context, GRC was one of the first entities that utilized video conference technology to deliberate graduate theses remotely, a drastic educational shift in the Gulf region. The GRC managed the implementation of a database on key data relevant to the Gulf region. As a think tank, GRC has sponsored various lectures and training courses related to promoting knowledge production, including the development process, mainly in the domain of information technology, and contributing to producing research that serves society,

furthering the knowledge economy, creating a stimulating environment for intellectual creativity, and the optimal use of technology for effective local and global partnerships. In this regard, GRC adopted relevant research programs, most notably, its Science and Technology Research Program. This distinguished research program focused on the impact of technology innovations on politics, decision-making, economy and development in the Gulf region. Such programs have contributed to conveying the wide range of experience acquired by GRC over the last two decades. The use of information technology in scientific research has allowed researchers to increasingly access data, which before was confined exclusively to certain places and entities. It has promoted interactions and discussions through increased users of IT,

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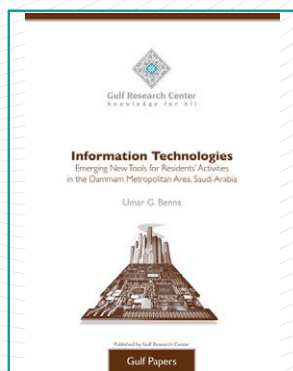
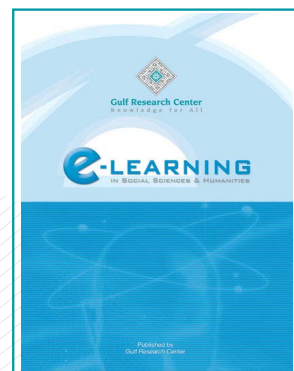
which at its onset was used primarily by certain governments and think tanks, along with the widespread use of IT through social media platforms by all segments of society, subsequently impacting public policy, think tanks and researchers.

Through the organization of its annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) for ten consecutive years at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, GRC has managed to play a leading role in academic research circles dealing with Gulf affairs. The findings of this event have contributed to providing unprecedented Gulf-related digital research content, including more than 2,000 research papers and 52 books in addition to videos and media contents, with the participation of more than 3,000

researchers from more than 34 think tanks and educational institutions worldwide.

Throughout the last 20 years, GRC has been a pioneering example for the creative use of modern technology for promoting research on the Gulf region. By persisting in its mission of "Knowledge for All," GRC will continue to utilize the latest technology with the view of enhancing its research activities and conveying subsequent findings to the largest audience possible.

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