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Saudi Digital Library and Nature Publishing Group sign agreement

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

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Saudi Digital Library secures access to leading science journals on nature.com

The Saudi Digital Library (SDL), part of The Saudi Ministry of Higher Education, has signed a major agreement with Nature Publishing Group (NPG). Thirty Saudi Arabian universities, members of the Saudi Digital Library Consortium, will have access to all journals on nature.com until 31st of December 2014, including six years of archive content. NPG's journals include the prestigious Nature and the Nature research and review journals, some of the world's leading scientific journals. Thanks to the agreement between SDL and NPG, over one million students, researchers and scientists in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) will have access to these journals.

Investments in infrastructure like SDL are part of KSA's drive to become a knowledge economy by 2022. In 2013, KSA will spend about a quarter of its federal budget on education and research infrastructure, allocating \$54.4 billion (SR204 billion) to education and training. "By 2026, KSA intends to be spending 2% of gross domestic product (GDP) on research", Dr. Musaid Al Tayyar Head of the Saudi Digital Library. This percentage is comparable to research-intensive countries like the United States and United Kingdom.

Launched in November 2010, the SDL holds more than 260000 e-Books and reference works, covering all academic disciplines. It is also a Digital Consortium for all the Saudi Universities and provides them with a rich digital platform for research.

"SDL provides researchers and students with an invaluable collection of research resources," said Dean Sanderson, Commercial Director, Nature Publishing Group. "We are delighted that Nature Publishing Group journals are now part of SDL's information provision for universities in Saudi Arabia, and proud to play our part in these ambitious plans for science and education infrastructure."

NPG is committed to working with institutions in the Middle East region to help build research capability and promote scientific excellence. In the last few years, NPG launched *Nature Middle East* (www.nature.com/naturemiddleeast) and *Nature Arabic Edition* (arabicedition.nature.com). *Nature Middle East* showcases scientific and medical research from the Arabic-speaking Middle East region and is continuously updated with articles in English and Arabic. *Nature Arabic Edition* is a translated digest of *Nature*, the 144 year old prestigious scientific magazine.

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About Nature Publishing Group (NPG)

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a publisher of high impact scientific information in print and online. NPG publishes journals, online databases and services across the life, physical, chemical and applied sciences.

Focusing on the needs of scientists, *Nature* (founded in 1869) is the leading weekly, international scientific journal. NPG publishes a range of Nature research journals and *Nature Reviews* journals, and a range of prestigious academic and partner journals including society-owned publications. Online, nature.com provides over 8 million visitors per month with access to NPG publications and services, including news and comment from *Nature*, and the leading scientific jobs board *Naturejobs*.

Scientific American is at the heart of NPG's consumer media division, meeting the needs of the general public. Founded in 1845, *Scientific American* is the oldest continuously published magazine in the US and the leading authoritative publication for science in the general media. Together with scientificamerican.com and 14 local language editions around the world it reaches over 5 million consumers and scientists. Other titles include *Scientific American Mind* and *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* in Germany.

Throughout all its businesses NPG is dedicated to serving the scientific community and the wider scientifically interested general public. Part of Macmillan Science and Education, NPG is a global company with principal offices in London, New York and Tokyo, and offices in cities worldwide including Boston, San Francisco, Washington DC, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Dubai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Melbourne, Osaka, Seoul, Barcelona, Madrid, Basingstoke, Heidelberg, Munich and Paris. For more information, please go to www.nature.com.

About Saudi Digital Library (SDL)

<http://portal.sdl.edu.sa/english/>

Saudi Digital Library, is the largest academic gathering of information sources in the Arab world, with more than (262.000) scientific reference, covering all academic disciplines, and the continuous updating of the content in this; thus achieving huge accumulation cognitive in the long run. Library has contracted with more than 300 global publishers. The library won the award for the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information 'know' for outstanding projects in the Arab world in 2010.

It also provides a digital environment for various Saudi universities, and research organizations in common with it, and in this environment of the benefits and advantages cannot hand one to play, or to reach him, and these advantages:

- One central management, manages this huge content, and constantly updated.
- Common share for the benefit of, any University would benefit other universities that are now available to the other, in any scientific field.
- Enhance the status of universities when evaluating, for Academic Accreditation, and through sources rich, modern, and publish the best Global Publishers.
- Bridging the gap between Saudi universities, where emerging universities can get the same service you get major Saudi universities.

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