

## INFORMATION ORGANIZATION IN IRANIAN LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS: TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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**Abstract** - Information organization (i.e., cataloging, classification, abstracting and indexing) is a crucial service in libraries and information centers. Modern and standard practices in this regard started around 1960s in Iran. This paper outlines the development of modern practices in information organization in Iran. It illustrates how Iranian libraries and information centers implement standard practices and organize information for easy access. A number of international standard tools for information organization, such as AACR, ISBD, LCC, DDC, LCSH and MESH have been modified to fulfill the needs of different types of libraries. The CIP project is successfully implemented nationwide and the Iranian National Bibliography is now a standard source available online and on disc. Furthermore, indexing and abstracting services in Iran benefit from standard practices. So far many general and subject thesauri have been developed and used in Iran. A major step towards information organization is the design and development of a considerable number of online and on disc databases by Iranian libraries and information centers. Teaching, research and publishing in information organization are flourishing due to the establishment of many library departments and schools during the last two decades.

**Keywords** - Information Organization, Information Retrieval, Cataloging and Classification, Iranian Libraries.

### INTRODUCTION

Iran has a long history of traditional librarianship, great libraries and large manuscript collections. There are many evidences in the literature which show that such large collections utilize some sort of locally-developed classification systems for the ease of access. There are also a number of old descriptive bibliographies arranged by subject or title [1,20]. However, the concepts of modern librarianship and modern methods of information organization are relatively new in Iran. This is due to the fact that modern libraries in Iran have a history of less than a century, their collections have grown very slowly, and that during the past years there were no librarians who could organize the collections based on new standards.