

## **The Analysis of Adaptability of Astan Quds Razavi Libraries in Mashhad with respect to Centrality and Compatibility**

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### **Extended Abstract**

#### **1. Introduction**

The appropriate allocation of space and optimal location of the urban services and physical elements, especially the cultural centers along with paying enough attention to effective factors in locating these centers have a significant role in improving the quality and quantity of services in such centers. Therefore, in distributing public facilities, libraries should be considered in terms of residents' access to the best location. They should be economically and socially justifiable. Therefore, the creation and expansion of libraries- basically, the creation of suitable facilities for studying- is considered as the necessary factor for the perfect life of the knowledgeable people.

#### **2. Theoretical Framework**

From the sub-criteria of urban development, one may refer to the appropriate location of public services, especially the establishment of library centers, which has a positive role in providing citizens with public services. Therefore, locating appropriate libraries and accessing them represents a chain of educational, guidance, and awareness-raising systems that can improve the general level of citizen's awareness. Among the main goals of libraries, we can refer to the

internal and external aspects that can show how people use the facilities. This is associated with rich resources, good employee behavior, having diverse sections, and the high level of services. Among the external aspects affecting the rate of referring and using the library, one can refer to the way in which libraries are geographically located and distributed at the urban level. Thus, the location of libraries and how they are distributed directly or indirectly affect how people use and refer to the libraries (Mokhtarpour, 2009).

#### **3. Methodology**

The current applied research has a descriptive-analytic approach. The library and field method (observation & questionnaire) were used to collect the required data. Hence, in the first step, the criteria affecting on locating of libraries, including 50 main criteria and sub-criteria were determined. Subsequently, based on the identified criteria, a questionnaire was designed to weighting these criteria. The questionnaire was designed using Hierarchical Analysis (AHP) and the views of experts. In the next step, by using Geographic Information System - GIS software) version 10.3) and spatial functions, and by applying the weight to the layers and

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combining the layers, the situation was investigated and the zones were determined.

#### 4. Results

In recent years, access to the public services has become a very common concept and has attracted the attention of planners and scholars. Therefore, access to the public services and the provision of their needs are a multidimensional influential concept in the social sciences and in many other disciplines. Thus, it has attained a special attention in the relevant literature and some believe that it is a missing piece in the citizens' livelihood requirements. In Iran, due to the urbanization and its related issues, access to the public services, including library centers in urban neighborhoods has led to the development of awareness and intellectual development in the urban areas over the recent decades. The study area of this research is located in Mashhad, a city in the east of Iran, with a history of more than a hundred years. It has undergone many changes in terms of urban and cultural development. Like all other cities of the country, in the last three decades, with the commencement of land provision in Iran, there has been a significant increase in taking the public services such as the growth of culture and education into account. Therefore, on the one hand promoting public services and raising awareness have been addressed in these urban neighborhoods and on the other hand, having access to the library services has attracted the urban managers and planners. Thus, it has led to

improvements in locating libraries in the urban centers. As a result, the adaptability of Astan Quds Razavi libraries to the centrality and compatibility is considered in the current study.

#### 5. Conclusion

The findings of the research showed that a number of the libraries located in the areas are completely incompatible. Therefore, in determining the degree of adaptability of the libraries to the centrality, it was found that 24% of the libraries are in perfect locations, 33% are in the proper locations, 22% are in a relatively good location, and 17% are in the wrong locations. In general, 24% of all affiliate libraries were in a perfect location. Also, the findings show that in order to achieve proper productivity, prior to any planning for the establishment of a library, adequate studies should be done on the correct location from the point of view of centrality and compatibility. Therefore, according to the results of field studies and the research on the establishment of Astan Quds libraries, much work is needed to improve the quality and quantity of services in these areas compared to more compatible and appropriate areas. This should be among the very concerns of the official managers and organizations.

**Key words:** Astan Quds Razavi libraries, locating the libraries, Geographic information system of SAJ, Mashhad, Centrality, Compatibility

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