

## Digital Knowledge: The Way of the Future

A quick look at the technological development witnessed by humankind in the last decade shows that man will easily discover that a nation's future lies in prioritizing the acquisition of knowledge. Desired development does not happen unless people are knowledgeable not only in a specific field but in all fields.

Everyone knows that the paper book remained the most important and influential repository for the dissemination and preservation of knowledge over many centuries. Man began writing his thoughts and visions since he realized the path to writing, and with the invention of movable types in 1447 by the German goldsmith and inventor Johannes Gutenberg, dissemination of knowledge moved to an unprecedented level, books became easy to publish and so did their distribution around the world.

Now, with the amazing technological leaps, people have devised other ways of publishing books to keep pace with these fantastic jumps, and perhaps the most important of these innovations is the digital book.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, always urges us to innovate in order to remain at the forefront of the countries; so, we have established the Digital Knowledge Hub, under the directives of Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF).

Our goal was and still is clear and specific; this Hub is an advanced electronic platform that promotes the culture of reading and supports Arab content online.

The Hub includes thousands of books in the Arabic language, authored and translated in various fields, as well as Arabic periodicals, maps, dictionaries and photos.

It is well clear that the consolidation of Arabic content on the Internet will undoubtedly contribute to the spread and support of Arabic, a language that God the Almighty honored that anyone who enjoys the virtue of the desire to read will enjoy browsing the Internet and read. The digital book has become a tangible reality that cannot be overlooked due to its strong presence and its increasing impact in our time, as it opens new horizons for every knowledge student, and every bibliophile.

According to education experts and psychologists, the digital book will contribute to improving the education of children, will save time and effort for them, and will motivate them to ask for more knowledge from different knowledge fields because it provides them in the easiest way, which makes the student more eager to know and read.

It is striking that the digital book meets the needs of people better if the coercive conditions compel them to stay in their homes as we see with the Covid-19 that has invaded the whole world in the past few weeks, forcing millions of people to isolate themselves inside their homes, after most countries imposed restrictions on movements, closed institutions and places such as the traditional libraries that attract mass gatherings of people. Here is where the digital book plays a great role as it allows those who sit at home to read whatever books, periodicals in various fields, and dictionaries they want without leaving their bedroom.

Indeed, digital knowledge leads everyone's path to the future.



**Jamal bin Huwaireb**  
CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid  
Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation

