

ARABTERM.org: a technical dictionary for the Arab world

Nicole Zarzar – German-Jordanian University/Arabterm Project

Amman, Jordan

Keywords: technical terminology, arabicization, specialized onlinedictionary

Today, young people in the Arab world face significant terminology obstacles that hamper knowledge acquisition. At many universities in the Middle East and North Africa the teaching materials for technical subjects such as science and engineering are often only available in English or French. Students work from texts written in these languages while classes are conducted in Arabic. This makes it much more difficult to train future specialists in these areas.

ARABTERM stands for a serious effort to reanimate the Arabic scientific language and close the growing gap in standard terminology for technical fields left by dependence on foreign languages among other factors. This multidisciplinary project aims at creating opportunities of knowledge transfer for key technologies that have been identified as vital with regard to more sustainable absorption within the Arab world.

The fact that the ARABTERM dictionary is online, free of charge, very specialized, user-friendly, and interactive makes it an extremely useful tool for students, translators, trainees, engineers, and other people working in a multilingual environment and who rely on technical terminology.

ARABTERM is realized by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is an independent project based on the measures for standardizing technical Arabic terminology, which are being led by the Arabization Coordination Bureau (BCA) in Rabat on behalf of ALECSO. In addition to that, the Goethe-Institut, the Egyptian-German Cultural Center (ÄDK) and the German-Jordanian University (GJU) also participate in the project. ARABTERM is published by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).