The 2nd decade of the twenty-first century is the most challenging and amazing time for knowledge and for learning.

The SLA/AGC intends to be involved and share the knowledge future, to participate in preparing new generation of professional to deal with new generation of knowledge access. The SLA/AGC, as being the specialized association in the region, plans to follow up relevant developments to the profession of library and information science, to enable insight for learning, practicing, knowledge acquisition, and creative services. SLA/AGC believes that it has an impact on the future of the profession in a way that should correspond to the actual needs of members to get them involved in the future of their profession. This will be achieved through the SLA/AGC 19th conference sessions, roundtables, and plenary sessions. The conference will focus on issues relevant to the future of librarianship and librarians, academics, vendors, publishers and associations in the discipline and other interrelated disciplines. That is to ensure the sustained integration between Library and Information Studies (LIS) education, professional, professional associations, and the information-marketing agents.

Important Dates:

- Submission of Abstracts deadline
  December 10, 2012
- Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance of proposals
  December 20, 2012
- Submission of final paper
  February 31, 2013
- Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance of Final paper
  March 15, 2013

Join your colleagues in the information profession from around the world by becoming a member of SLA. As a member of the only global organization for information professionals, you have access to SLA’s valuable and respected products and services designed to enhance your career and benefit your organization. SLA offers a wide array of professional development opportunities, including the industry’s best online education programs, designed to sharpen your professional skills throughout your career. For more information visit our website arabiangulf.sla.org
Criteria for Assessment of Papers for Awards:

1. Coherence and logical relationships among the paper's concepts and contents,
2. Clear statement of the problem or objective theme,
3. Significance/originality,
4. Relevance to the conference theme,
5. Review of literature
6. Methodology/approach
7. Findings
8. Discussion of findings
9. Writing/composition/style
10. Documentation

The Main Themes of the Conference

The event will be of interest to all information professionals, educators, decision makers, information users, information content developers, and digital information suppliers. The basic themes of the conference will cover:

1. Information Literacy and the 21st century skills (Social networking, mobile technology, open access)
2. Knowledge workers as librarians of the future
3. LIS education and the future of librarianship, are LIS programs ready to position their graduates as knowledge workers of the future?
4. E-books and the future of library shelves and catalogues
5. Metadata tool and the future of cataloging and catalogers
6. Social media (fingertips to fingertips services) and the future of face to face services
7. Publishers and vendors as managers of electronic resources and digital content provision
8. Policy makers roles in digital content strategies

Roundtables and plenary sessions:

1. Professionals Role
   Although libraries moving towards being information centers, and librarians took new position as information professionals or information consultant, but:
   • Do they achieve their rights as professionals?
   • Do they change themselves and gain the possible competencies to engage with the information digital environments as digital professionals?
   • How will/does the use of new technologies, including mobile technology and self-service machines affect the job of information professionals?
   • What changes to job roles do professionals foresee?

Correspondence
Participations (Abstracts, Papers) should be directed to the head of the Scientific Committee
Dr. Naeema H. Jabur at: mnjaburh@hotmail.com,
and a copy should be directed to the coordinator.
Mr. Abdullah Al-Sarmi. at: asarmih@hotmail.com
• Do libraries have to let go of books and help a new outsourced digital infrastructure develop within the infrastructure of their libraries?

2. Publishers Role

• Issues such as costs of subscriptions, licensing, legal issues involved with copyright, privacy and what not, how can libraries provide access to all of these types of materials will be discussed.

• Google’s mission is to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful, what the information producers will do?

• Is their big challenge reside in bringing offline content online – to make it accessible and discoverable?

3. Library and Information Studies Departments Role

• Do they ready to prepare professionals for the future of digital environments?

• Is the interdisciplinary a good solution for integrating professional knowledge of the future?

• Do professional learning programs in Arabic regions are ready for quality assurance assessment, what difficulties are facing?

4. Professional Associations Role

Usually think of association as gathering of members for better future and professional image. In terms of library and information professional associations:

• Do they empower the image of the professionals in the current information society?

• What will be their role in leveraging the quality assurance of the professional programs in the Arabic regions?

• What benefits professional are expecting from them?

Distribution of Papers

Accepted papers that are submitted on time will be published on a CD and distributed to participants of the conference.

Paper Awards

The purpose of the awards is to encourage young researchers and writers of the accepted papers for presentation by the scientific committee, thus papers presented by full professors and those who received an award within the previous two years will not be included.