

Analysis of public book policies in the Arab world

International Alliance of Independent Publishers

1/ Presentation of the project

Mapping public book policies

The International Alliance of Independent Publishers is a non-profit association founded in 2002 that brings together more than 800 publishers from more than 60 countries in the world. Together they form a professional network that aims to build a community, sharing experiences, tools, and projects, as well as a laboratory of practices and reflexions on independent publishing and Biodiversity. The Alliance is a pioneering international and multicultural network with members based in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia, and Europe, who all bring to the Alliance the local and political challenges they face as independent publishers.

In 2017, publishers who are members of the Alliance along with academics and experts united to collectively produce some research on Public Book Policies in Latin America and in Sub-Saharan Africa. This has since been converted into a unique digital, graphic and interactive tool for informing and centralising data on the public support systems for books and reading in 22 countries ([see here](#)). In 2024, the International Alliance of Independent Publishers, thanks to the support of Open Society Foundation, extends this project to the Arab world for a better understanding of public authorities' commitment to books and reading in the different countries of the Arab world. To this end, data is collected in 10 countries based on a common questionnaire. The data will then be presented on the dedicated website for each country. A cross-sectional analysis will be carried out on the basis of these data; **the Alliance is looking for an author to draft this cross-sectional analysis.**

This unique and important work! The mapping and the analysis will be presented publicly in December 2024 or January 2025 to professionals and representatives of public authorities in the countries.

Structure of the cross-sectional analysis

1/ Introduction: presentation of the project, methodology, etc.

2/ Thematic analyses based on the main themes of the questionnaire, for example:

Legal framework

Taxation and market regulation

Administrative organisation

Support schemes

Professional organisation

Censorship

Piracy

Each theme will be developed on the basis of the responses collected by country.

See for example: <https://publicbookpolicies.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/analyse/les-politiques-publiques-du-livre-en-afrique-subsaharienne/>

Caution: analyse as data in itself the fact of not receiving responses, of having difficulty in obtaining feedback from ministries in the countries, etc.

3/ Recommendations / proposals / best practice

Calibration of the analysis: between 75,000 and 90,000 characters, i.e. around fifty pages.

The analysis may be written in English or Arabic (translation into either of these languages will be handled by the International Alliance of Independent Publishers).

The analysis will be published online (open access):

<https://publicbookpolicies.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/>

It may also be republished on the websites of book professionals and public authorities who so wish.

Flat-rate copyright: €2,500

Timetable:

- Availability of data collected by country: June 2024
- Writing of the analysis: between July and September 2024
- Corrections, layout: October 2024
- Publication of the analysis in English and Arabic: November 2024

2/ Profile of the author sought

- Researcher/academic specialist in books in the Arab world
- The author must have already published articles/works on books in his/her country (and ideally more widely in the Arab world).
- The author must have a good knowledge of the different geopolitical contexts in the Arab world
- The author can write in Arabic or English
- The author has links with the professional sphere in his/her country (and has a good knowledge of it)
- The author is dynamic and active on social networks and other communication media and will be able to relay and promote all the work on public book policies in the Arab world.

In order to evaluate the various applications, interested authors are asked to send us (equipe@alliance-editeurs.org) before 13 May 2024:

- A short biography and links to articles/books on books in the Arab world
- A letter of intent setting out:
 - 1/ the author's interest in and motivation for writing this analysis (maximum 1,000 characters)
 - 2/ a very short presentation of the situation of the book in the author's country: what are the main difficulties, the challenges to be overcome, the proposals and recommendations (maximum 1,500 characters)