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# APPLYING MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE THE HOLY BOOK OF ALLAH: AYAT APPLICATION AND DAR AL ISLAM WEBSITES AS A MODEL

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## ABSTRACT

To improve the readership and understanding of the Holy Quran at a global level, it is vital to disseminate it to both Arab and non-Arab speakers with a wide range of facilities. Allah has bestowed some of his chosen believers, whom he favored disseminating the Holy Quran, to reach the horizons of readership of the Quran through websites. In the modern era, modern technology has been used and applied to serve the Holy Quran. This research aims at presenting a model of two websites that have contributed significantly to the service of disseminating the Quran and to the teaching to non-Arabic speakers. These efforts increase the benefit of the user and have accelerated more listening to the Holy Quran all over the world. It has also benefited the scientific and technical efforts to serve the Holy Quran everywhere in the world to bridge the gap between Arab and non-Arabic speakers for a better understanding of the Holy Book. The websites have helped the millions of non-Arabic speakers to read the Quran and encouraging more listening, worshiping, memorizing, learning, and studying the Quran by providing an accessible interpretation in different languages. The Islamic websites also conducted a set of courses to address the teaching of the Arabic language to non-native speakers as well. It also helps to improve the skill of searching on websites that ease the dissemination of the Holy Quran for non-Arabic speakers.

1. **Introduction**

We extend the praise to our almighty Allah, who sent the book to the prophet for guidance to the whole of mankind. Prophets did not twist the message of Allah and conveyed in original form to the people and we wish peace and blessings upon the prophets and messengers for Allah's blessings for a human. The Almighty Allah has revealed the Holy Quran and ensured that it will be preserved until the time of the hour "have, without doubt, sent down the message, and we will assuredly guard it against corruption" (AlHijr 9, Holy Quran). It is the almighty Allah's preservation of the Holy Quran that he disseminates it to those who speak Arabic at first and servants of Islam has conveyed it in the different languages for a better understanding of non-Arab speakers. Throughout times, Allah has chosen some of his believers, whom he favors disseminating the holy Quran, as best as possible. In the modern era, modern technology is used and is applied to serve the non-Arabic people to understand the Holy Quran (Khadr, 2009).

This research aims to present a model of two websites that have significantly helped in the service of disseminating the Holy Quran and providing the teaching services to non-Arabic speakers. These websites are the Holy Quran's website of King Saud University (2020) and a website of Dar Al-Islam (2020). These websites are displaying the names of the surrats with the names of reciters in many languages. Additionally, these websites also provide a translation of the meanings of the Holy Quran for the most famous interpretations in different languages, through easy presentation and search tools for the Holy Quran. Moreover, these websites provide the titles of subjects and contain all relevant materials accessible to the users in different languages. These efforts have helped ten million non-Arabic speaker Muslims to learn the correct recitation of the Holy Quran which has encouraged more listening of the Holy Quran for worship and also helped in understanding the perfect meanings with interpretations.

It is mentioned that Arabic-language websites are available to only 19% of Muslims worldwide. This is because of a reason that the Arabs represent only 300 million out of a billion Muslims and most Muslims are from non-Arabic speaking countries (Al-Sayes, 2020). Therefore, these Muslims cannot take advantage of the Islamic websites which would teach them the correct recitation of the Holy Quran on the internet. It is because of the incapability of most users to read the Arabic language. But, the Islamic websites have helped the millions of non-Arabic speakers Muslims to listen to the Quran, translate its meanings, and encouraged greater listening and worshiping, memorizing, learning, studying, and finding the accessible interpretations in different languages. This research has highlighted a model of two websites that are active in this field and also have greatly contributed to the service of the Holy Quran in all discussed aspects to learn the Quran for the maximum spiritual welfare of whole mankind.

There is a scarcity of websites specialized in disseminating the Holy Quran which would serve those people who desire to listen, to recite the Holy Quran from non-Arabic speaker regions. Hence, these websites are helping the non-

Arabic speakers to access the disseminated Holy Quran recitation with different reciters. These also facilitate access to the title of surrats, reciters, narrations, and interpretation in different languages. Therefore, it is pertinent to understand the importance of websites in disseminating the Holy Quran to non-Arabic speakers and to highlight the websites of the Quran, and the application of Ayat (verses) as well. It could benefit the users of the Islamic website for the application of Ayat. Thus, this research highlights the importance of websites in disseminating the Holy Quran to non-Arabic speakers, introducing the website of the Quran and the website of the Ayat. It would also help in identifying the ways to benefit from the Quran's website and the application of Ayat. Moreover, these websites are highlighting the features of the Quran, Ayat application, and mobile phone learning, to recite the noble Holy Quran (Al-Sayes, 2020).

This research is structured to the first component which has two requirements. The first requirement is to learn the importance of using technology in the dissemination the knowledge of the Holy Quran. The second requirement is to look at some websites and application which are interested in the service of disseminating the Holy Quran in different languages. The second component of the research carries three requirements. The first requirement is to understand the definition of the Quran's websites. The second requirement is to understand the ways to be benefited from the Quran's website. The third requirement is to know the features of the Quran's website. The last component of this research carries three requirements. The first is to understand the basic introduction of the website of the Quran. The second requirement is to comprehend the methods of use of the website of the Quran and the third requirement is to know the features of the Quran's website.

## 2. The importance of using technology to disseminate the Holy Quran

Technology has provided many inventions that approached the distance, and delivered sound information to all parts of the world. The strength of the influence of cyberspace was the opportunity that the servants of the Quran did not let it go without crystallizing in the service of Islam, learning, and disseminating the Holy Quran (Al-Shehri, 2013). Especially, scientific statistics indicated that the benefit from the internet was constantly increasing in the Arab and Islamic world (Omar, 2009). Contemporary modern techniques in its various forms are among the other reasons that enabled us by the grace of Almighty Allah. The science taught and helped us to have a maximum benefit in the field of serving, preserving, and reciting the Holy Quran at any time we like, day or night, and anywhere. The use of technology has enabled us to be disseminated the Quran at global perspectives and thus enabled the call of Islam to be spread at every corner of the world (Dakir et al., 2009).

The various techniques have been useful in conveying and disseminating the right sound with good quality to do recitation or read the Quran carefully for a correct meaning. The dissemination of the correct interpretation has also been possible from the right source among non-Arabic speakers which has a sound impact on the understanding of the Holy Quran and has a better understanding

of sensing of its wisdom and rules (Al-Jabri, 2012). The Holy Quran contrasts the familiarities with human speech because of its voiced pattern. It has a great impact even on non-Arabs and pushed them to take care of its hearing. It is also depending on its performance which has a great impact on the process of teaching Arabic to speakers of other languages. So, it becomes an automatic source of learning pronunciation of the Quran.

The proper pronunciation of the language is one of the most difficult elements to acquire it in the right way. In this way, the skill of sound listening to the Holy Quran can be used to convey the technicalities of applying the right recitation of the Holy Quran for a teaching purpose with Arabic voices. It also helps in mastering it to achieve success in the fluency in pronunciation of Quranic verses. Besides, Quran's readings are used to facilitate the teaching of Arabic to the speakers of other languages as it can be used technically, especially in the field of voice and pronunciation. The differences in Quranic readings are mostly performative (Al-Jabri, 2012). Thus, the benefit of modern technologies is spreading the Holy Quran, facilitating its teaching, and encouraging the development of the software to serve the Holy Quran in both inside and outside the Arab nations. It also addressed the techniques of the language of the Quran to the Muslims, who are not speakers of the Arabic language particularly (Al-Khatib et al., 2020).

Today, modern e-technologies have become one of the most important means of education in all fields and all forms of education and languages. They facilitate the absorption of scientific materials and also facilitate access to the believers of Islam. Because, they may provide many services for scholars, researchers, and scientific science students to serve the purpose of learning the Quran (Dakir et al., 2009). The importance of displaying the names of the surrats, reciters' names, and readings in the non-Arab languages of the world lies in the easiness of access to be benefited from these facilities. So, the Muslims of the world may enjoy and messages could approach their hearts. Further, the love to listen to the book of Almighty Allah may be accessed specially to listen to the famous reciters from the great mosque of Mecca, and the Prophet's Mosque, and the other famous reciters from the other corners of the world as well.

## 3.   Websites and Application

Some websites and applications are designed to provide the services of disseminating the Holy Quran in different languages. The Holy Quran's websites are among the first Arab websites on the internet, and we can find different programs that have served the Holy Quran. The hundreds of such websites on the internet are facilitating the learning of the Quran, its language, and its text. These websites also display a specific verse according to the number and name of the Surat and the number of verses in each Surat as well.

There are also many websites which are specialized in interpretation and reciting the Holy Quran according to famous reciters. There are also educational records available to teach the rules of intonation, and the foundations of the accurate recitation of the Quran with educational lessons for

the rules of intonation. There are also programs and recordings available to help in memorizing the Quran and ensure that memorization is accurate, along with practice exercises. The translation of the Quran carries great importance for every non-Arabic nation to understand it well. For Muslims, the Quran carries an immortal message which is for all human beings in general and all of these great messages show the great responsibility for Muslims to understand the commandments of religion. Quran is a great source to communicate the religion and messages of Almighty Allah for all mankind, even belongs to different languages. But, without translation and interpretations in the local languages, non-Arabic speakers people of the globe are unable to understand communications of the Almighty Allah to mankind (Wasel, 2012).

For an effort to serve the Holy Quran, we focus the two examples of the most prominent technical websites which are concerned with the service of disseminating the Holy Quran in different languages. The network does contain websites that serve non-Arabic speakers, including King Fahd Complex (2020) for the Printing of the Noble Quran on top of institutions, which are working for a service of the Holy Quran. They make great institutional and scientific efforts to organize an accurate meaning of the Quran in different languages. This website also elaborated on the mechanism in the use of contemporary technologies to serve the Holy Quran and utilized the modern devices monitoring the services with consistent controls and instructions (Al-Jabri, 2012). This website provides the capability to download high-quality recitations of the Holy Quran for hundreds of reciters in several languages and several ways of recitations.

The Quran with Tajweed program is offered by Quran Flash Foundation (2020). They provide Tajweed in Arabic, English, and French languages with an e-book in flash format which displays the pages of the Holy Quran in a modern and attractive way and also provides a guide to the rules of intonation and the program's interface in the different languages. Almontakhab program for the interpretation of the Holy Quran of Al-Azhar Foundation is also doing a great effort in the Egyptian Ministry of Endowments to serve the purpose. It provides translations in Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian, Spanish, and Russian. It also provides the interpretation of the Holy Quran with the recitation of the Quran. The Quran taught by Sheikh Mahmoud Khalil Al-Hosari can also be downloaded to take advantage of learning. The Holy Quran (2020) carries a website of Ayat of King Saud University (2020) and the Qurans' website of Dar Al-Islam (2020).

## 4.    Application Ayat of the electronic Quran

Ayat is an application to display the Quranic verses with an application which is a desktop version of the Holy Quran's website at King Saud University (2020) in Riyadh. It has also won the Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah Informatics Award. The first version of the Ayat Project was launched in Ramadan 2011 which is an e-simulation of the Holy Quran. It has a distinct design and output, and its interface is easy to use, available in seventeen languages, with a margin for translating the meanings of the Holy Quran into more than twenty non-
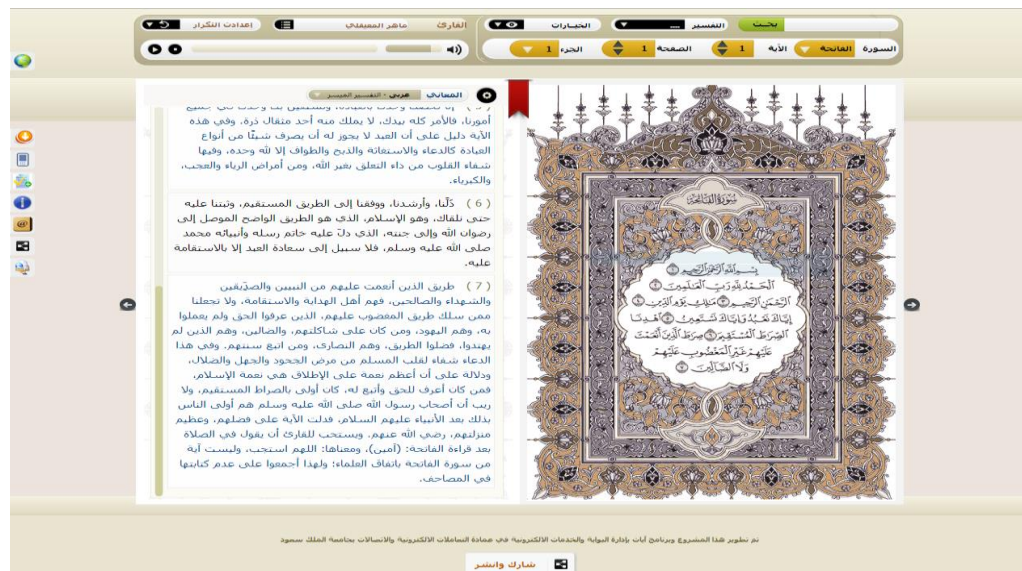
Arabic languages of the world. The translator for the most famous international languages is also available there. The number of visits ranges between 90,000 to 100,000 daily visits with approximately three million monthly visits. It has been downloaded and used on more than 2,000,000 computers worldwide. It was downloaded on more than 2,000,000 on the mobile app, audio translation in Arabic and English, seven interpretations, and recitations of the Holy Quran with the voice of many famous reciters with the ability to choose the reciter. It also supports most of the operating systems and provides a software download service on various computers automatically (Al-Ghanimi, 2013).

We can benefit from the website through the internet directly, or after installing it on the device and using it without an internet connection, or downloading the application and displaying some of the surrats. The website aims at connecting the Muslim nation with reliable interpretations, occupy times and their connection to Almighty Allah's Book, and to learn the Arabic language through listening.

***Figure 1:*** *The program interface*

*Figure 2*: *The main program interface*



Some options are accompanying the presentation of the Quran including the smooth transmission of the surrat, the page, and the required verse, with the ability to repeat the verse, and facilitate the memorization of children and the blind people. The beneficiary can choose as per his/her favorite choice, and it is easy for him/her to reach it once he needs it. Ayat provides all the features of the website on the personal device without a need to connect to the internet. It has multiple available versions i.e. Windows version, Linux version, Mac version, Android version, Windows Phone version, and iOS version. It has applications for computer Programs, Ayat App for Android, Ayat App for iPhone, Ayat App for Windows phone, and Ayat app for Twitter. The user of the website may get to read and hear the recitation, to the memorization test, to the presentation of the translation of meanings, and the bookmarks available in the mobile version. Today, a number of these translations are available on the worldwide websites on the internet in different languages i.e. English, Albanian, Dutch, German, Bosnian, Finnish, Italian, Polish, Urdu, Russian, Bengali, Persian, Chinese, French, Japanese, Malaysian, Indonesian, Pashto, Spanish, Portuguese, Tamil, Swahili, and Turkish.
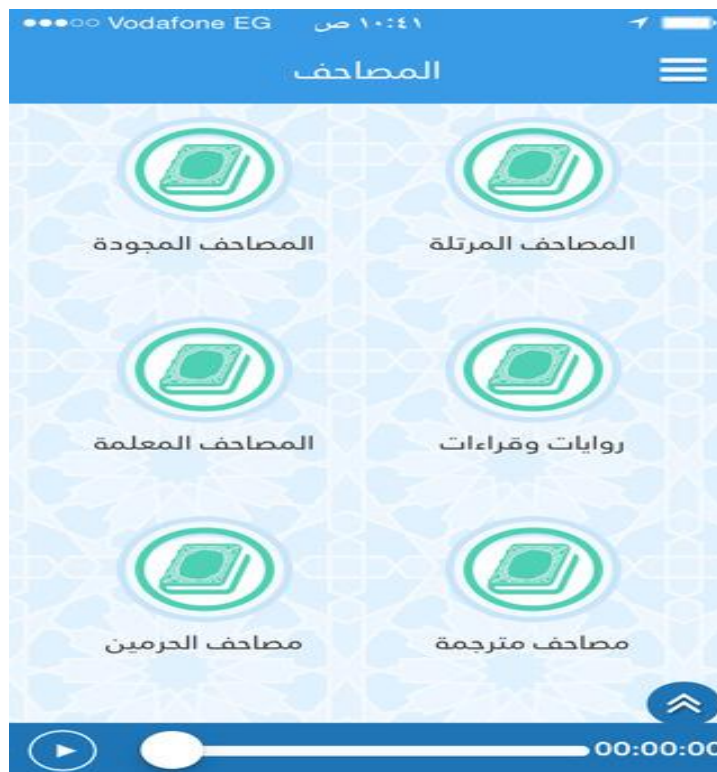
## 5.    The website of Dar Al Islam

This Quranic website is one of a group of websites which is specialized in spreading Islam in more than 100 languages, and it represents the closest and largest reference for identifying Islam in all living languages and disseminating it through the internet and available electronic means. It was launched in the year 2001. It is the winner of the first prize in the Digital Excellence Award, E-Culture Branch in 2006, 2007, and 2011. It is a website directly accessible on the internet which aims at facilitating and enabling every Muslim to listen to the recitations of the Holy Quran with a great choice of reciters for any surrat. Further, there is a translation of verses with a full of information, names of

reciters, and surrat in many languages. In this application, many services can help a Muslim to organize listening and to arrange his selections as well.

The application of "The Holy Quran", which is an audio encyclopedia of recitations of the Holy Quran that includes many famous reciters with the narration of Hafs based on the narration of Asim, Warsh based on the narration of Nafi and Qalun based on the narration of Nafi and others. It also contains recitations with the names of reciters and names of surrats for several foreign languages i.e. English, French, Urdu, Indonesian, etc. This application aims to help every Muslim in listing recitation of the Holy Quran for any reciter and any surrat. Moreover, there is a translation of information and names of reciters and surrats in many languages. It is the Muslim's companion to continue reading and managing the Holy Quran in a learning way.

The application alerts the user to read and respond daily according to the dates set by the user. Also, it is automatically linked to prayer times or fixed dates throughout the day. It includes the application of Saadi's interpretation and several recitations as well. This App provides a search feature and a bookmarks feature as well. The website can be used directly from the internet. Or, after installing it on the device, it can be used without an internet connection or download the application and a display of some surrats. The website aims at disseminating the recitations of the Holy Quran and its meanings to all people in all their local languages, to enrich the internet field with accurate, free and reliable readings in the different languages of the world. All contents of the website are free and can be republished and distributed.

**Figure 3***: Masahef program interface*

*Figure 4:* *Khitma application interface***:**



## 6.   Features of the Services of the Quranic Website

The application of the Quran allows direct listening to the recitations, as well as memorizing and listening to the recitations without an internet connection. The record can also be maintained to listening to the ten recitations. One of the advantages of the site is that it is among the websites of Dar Al Islam and it has an average of one million direct visitors a month of this website. The average 3 million monthly pages are visited as well. And, the average number of visitors from smartphones are 300,000 monthly. The average monthly visitors coming from search engines are 600,000. The average number of visitors coming from social networks is 50,000 thousand monthly. The website receives visitors from more than 220 countries every month. The volume of the files, that have been downloaded from the site, is 33 terabytes or 33,792 gigabytes per month. The total downloadable files on the website are currently 112,000 files. The number of followers of the website on social networks is more than one million.

One of the advantages of the Holy Quran website is that it is within a branch of the Dar Al Islam website, that has more than 160 Qurans read by the greatest reciters in the Islamic world. Each Quran has a translation of its information in many languages which aimed at facilitating and empowering every Muslim to access these recitations, listening, or download to the device. Downloading Center (torrent) also provides a service to download all files easily which are in different languages. It is a service on the internet which has affiliated with the website to allow downloading entire Quran in a short time and allows those who desire to make their computer available to others to download the Quran

and other materials from the website and directly from the devices as well, i.e. a broker accounted for spreading goodness.

Wasel (2012) mentioned that the translations of the Holy Quran are available on the website in more than fifty languages, and it is one of the best available translations from the King Fahd Complex (2020) for the Printing of the Holy Quran. All the data is written to disseminate all Quran's materials in all languages to facilitate the accessibility of speakers of those languages, once searching. It also provides powerful e-marketing services in global search engines in all languages of the world. The materials of the Holy Quran on these websites are easily accessible to speakers of all alive languages.

## 7.    Conclusion and Recommendation

This present research explores the discussions of the websites which are dedicated to disseminating all materials related to the Holy Quran. Particularly, the role of information technology in disseminating the Holy Quran to non-Arabic speakers is intensively discussed. We recommend to aware the Muslims about the necessity of benefiting from the scientific and technical efforts of websites to serve the Holy Quran anywhere in the world, and by any means to bridge the gap between Arabic and non-Arabic speakers to take care of the right understanding of the Holy Quran. It may enable us to understand the importance of helping millions of non-Arabic speakers Muslims to read the Quran, encouraging more listening, worshiping, memorizing, learning and studying, and searching accessible interpretations in the mother language of users. Moreover, some organizations should conduct a set of courses to address the teaching of the skill of searching on websites to the non-Arabic speakers to learn the Arabic language, that serves the dissemination of the Quran and its sciences for non-Arabic speakers worldwide. Lastly, it is pertinent to disseminate the information of Quranic websites through social media to realize every Muslim of the world about the available facilities of the online material of the Quran on the Quranic websites. So, the benefit of these websites can be extended at the maximum level at zero marginal cost.

### Acknowledgment

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