

Research Proposal

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Date: 24 March 2014

1. Proposed Research Topic

The Feasibility of Applying Electronic Voting System in the Bahraini Parliamentary Elections

2. Background

Electronic voting is the process of casting and counting votes in elections and referendums by using electronic systems and techniques. This technology was first introduced in the 1960s but was not used until after the 2000 in the United States. Thereafter, 13 more countries have used electronic voting including Estonia and the United Arab Emirates that use it nationwide whereas Australia, Canada, France, Mexico and Switzerland use it in some parts of the country or for certain members of the electorate (Goldsmith 2013). On the other hand, Bahrain uses the traditional voting where 350 thousand voters mark on ballot papers and deposit them into ballot boxes; irrespective of the abroad electoral bloc that is estimated at about 15 thousand voters. The Bahraini government tried to implement the electronic voting technology in 2002 and 2006 elections, but both attempts failed (Naser 2012).

3. Research Questions

How possible is implementing electronic voting system as a method for casting and counting votes in the Bahraini parliamentary elections? What is required to make this system work successfully?

4. Research Goal

To analyze the feasibility of and the requirements for providing an electronic voting system to Bahraini citizens

5. Objectives

- To examine electors' opinion and confidence in the quality, ease and security of the electronic voting system.
- To record the concerns of the members of the parliament and document their expectations and suggestions about implementing the electronic voting system.
- To display the moral and physical requirements for implementing the electronic voting system.
- To carry out a SWOT analysis of the electronic system in comparison to the traditional system.

6. Significance of the Research

The results of this research will reflect the willingness of users (i.e. voters) to shift to electronic version of voting and how much they trust its results, which can help determine whether to implement electronic voting or not in Bahrain. Electric voting, in return, would aid in adding accuracy and credibility to election results, something which in return can speed up the process of counting results, make voting easier and more convenient for citizens, and reduce the cost of the electoral process in the long term.

7. Procedure

- collecting information on Bahrain voting system and other research on electrical voting
- surveying and interviewing potential users of electrical voting
- analyzing collected data into statistics and discussing the results

8. Timeline

15 March – 21 March	writing the background
22 March – 31 March	writing the methodology
1 April – 7 April	designing a survey and getting supervisor's approval
8 April – 17 April	distributing the survey and collecting answers
18 April – 20 April	analyzing answered survey
20 April – 30 April	writing the analysis chapter
31 April – 1 May	writing the abstract
2 May – 3 May	writing the introduction

6 May – 7 May	writing the conclusion
10 May – 11 May	editing the format and the layout of the document
12 May – 15 May	editing and proofreading the project

9. References

GOLDSMITH, B. (2013) *Internet Voting: Past, Present and Future*. [Online] Available from: <http://www.ifes.org/Content/Publications/Interviews/2013/Internet-Voting-Past-Present-and-Future.aspx>. [Accessed: 24th March 2014].

NASER, S. J. (2012) *Factors Influencing Perceived Trust in e-Voting Solutions*. [Online] Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing. Available from: <https://www.lap-publishing.com/catalog/details//store/ru/book/978-3-659-11543-1/factors-influencing-perceived-trust-in-e-voting-solutions>. [Accessed: 24th March 2014].