



**Medical Library to make public health documents available to the public for free
Friday January 22, 2010**

The Saab Medical Library in conjunction with the World Health Organization, East Mediterranean Region, hosted a five-day workshop from December 14 to December 18 titled "Electronic Repository for Public Health Grey Literature in the East Mediterranean Region."

Olla Shideed, who is in charge of research policy and cooperation at the World Health Organization, contacted the Saab Medical librarians to initiate the workshop.

The workshop aimed to create a repository to hold documents about public health in the region, that are called "grey" because they are difficult for the researcher to find. Nine participants from Pakistan, Syria, Morocco, Bahrain, Egypt, and Palestine were invited as trainees to the workshop, in which they discussed the importance of providing ready access to these documents. The workshop trained them on identifying, collecting, and indexing the documents, and then entering them into a database called WINISIS, which will be an electronic repository for public health in the Arab world, and would be available free of charge on the web.

The World Health Organization will cover all the expenses of maintaining and updating this repository, thereby ensuring that every medical doctor, researcher, or public health official looking for specific information regarding public health in the Arab world will be able to find it. The next steps in creating this database will include further workshops involving librarians and public health graduates from each Arab country.