

Arabic Early Reading Assessment

The Arab Thought Foundation has signed an MoU with Diglossia to fund the development of an Arabic Early Learning Assessment to promote early literacy skills in young learners. The MoU came as part of the organization's efforts to improve the teaching and learning of the Arabic language throughout the Arab World.

Experts agree that early and frequent measurement of young learners' progress toward the acquisition of early literacy skills is an essential element for developing successful readers and writers.

Building on the experiences of researchers and educators who have developed similar tools in other languages, combined with the innovative use of evolving capabilities in mobile computing, the Arabic Early Reading Assessment (AERA) will give teachers and administrators a powerful and easy-to-use tool for the systematic gathering, recording, and interpreting of student data to inform effective instruction and intervention.

As a progress monitoring tool, the AERA will make it easy for teachers to maintain a running record of every student's progress towards meeting the benchmark requirements for each of six to ten pre-reading and early reading skills that have been identified by experts as essential to the development of reading fluency in young learners.

As a formative assessment tool, the detailed data obtained from regular administration of the AERA will give teachers the diagnostic information they need to provide every child with meaningful formative feedback, and to develop personalized, evidence-based remediation and intervention strategies tailored to each child's individual needs.

To fully monitor progress, the AERA should be administered no less frequently than once every six weeks, although more frequent administrations will provide more meaningful information, particularly where reliable Response to Intervention (RTI) data is desired. AERA will be available on mobile devices, and a full range of reports will be available.

The project will span two years and is expected to be available in November 2017.