

30th General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
15-17 November 2024
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023]

Name of Country : **State of Qatar**
Name of Library : **Qatar National Library**
Name(s) of National Librarian, : **Huism Tan**
Director-General and/or Director
Contact Person : **Habeeb M Feroz**
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	a) n/a b) n/a
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post-graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	a) 186 staff b) 23 staff with Library Qualifications c) Approximately 20 + other qualifications
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	a) Physical collection: 975,122 b) Digital collection preserved: 15,056 items (approx. 1.8 million pages)
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	a) Physical visitorship: 1,100,000 b) Website visits: 1,304,264
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	660

2 Overview of Major or New Developments in Library Buildings, Collections, Access or Services [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

1. **Increased footfall and program engagement:** Qatar National Library (QNL) recorded over one million visitors in 2023, the highest since the library's inauguration, indicating a strong community engagement with library resources and programs. QNL also delivered 528 programs attracting over 152,000 participants.
2. **QNL's Manara Qatar Research Repository project:** Manara (meaning "lighthouse" in Arabic) is Qatar's open-access repository, designed to digitally preserve and provide long-term open access to research outputs created in Qatar, supporting both traditional academic works (e.g., papers, theses) and non-traditional outputs like datasets, conference posters, and presentations. Since its launch in 2022, Manara has hosted over 6,000 items, gathering over 170,000 views and over 100,000 downloads.
3. **QNL mobile App:** Our app received strong traction in 2023 from the users. Over 46,000 books were downloaded from the app, and nearly 23,000 books were borrowed using the app in 2023.
4. **Cultural Salon Series:** This initiative in Arabic promotes dialogue on contemporary issues, featuring discussions on topics like the impact of the FIFA World Cup and ethical challenges in artificial intelligence.
5. **QNL's Qatar Reads** initiative achieves outreach across five key environments. In 2023, the initiative facilitated the distribution and activation of over 20,000 books that resulted in cultural exchange, building home libraries locally, promoting Arabic language and Arabic literature and increasing community participation. Across their events they impacted 127,417 participants in Qatar.

3 Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in your Country [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

- 1) QNL signed several MOUs with government authorities, namely: Ministry of Endowment, Civil Services Bureau, Ministry of Environment, in relation to areas of mutual interest in social welfare, cultural development, and scientific research.
- 2) QNL signed an agreement with Qatar Research Development Institute (QRDI) and MADA to install ability-friendly technologies in QNL to serve people with disabilities.

- 3) QNL signed an agreement with Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) to work on a research project in order to evaluate and stabilize old metal-containing pigments.

4 International Collaborations such as Formal Arrangements for Cooperation with National Libraries [Please provide a maximum of 5 highlights]

- 1) In 2023, QNL was approved by the Governing Board of IFLA to be the IFLA Regional Office for the period (2024-2026) for the MENA Region, and the agreement was signed in Feb 2024.
- 2) QNL signed an MOU with the Ministry of Culture, Kazakhstan to develop cooperation in the field of preservation and the use of cultural heritage, exchange of scientific research, cataloguing, and digitization.
- 3) QNL hosted the 29th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) to network and learn about strategies in cultural preservation and engagement.