



# What Is Our Future ? National Libraries In 2040

27<sup>th</sup> General Conference  
21 February 2019  
Singapore

## Country Report

[Period Coverage: 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018]

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<b>Name of Country</b>	: Qatar
<b>Name of Library</b>	: Qatar National Library
<b>Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director</b>	: Dr. Sohair Wastawy
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### 1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	N/A
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	We currently have 181 FTE. i. 32 staff members hold a Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS)
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i. More than one million print volumes and 380,000 ebooks ii. 1,878,787 pages of Arabic books, 2,165,307 pages of Latin books, 56,317 manuscripts, 15,522 newspapers and 654 maps
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i. 375,518 visitors in 2018 ii. 378,209 users resulting in 4,318,526 page views in 2018
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	N/A

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

- a) Qatar National Library was inaugurated by His Highness the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on 16 April 2018, and officially designated as the country's national library. To mark the occasion, the Library hosted a prestigious grand opening ceremony with more than 700 invitees.
- b) During 2018, we witnessed an extremely high demand for membership and added 64,209 new members, taking our total membership to over 100,000. We also added 41,461 new titles, including 29,876 titles in Arabic.
- c) In 2018, increased our programming to reach multiple communities that had not previously engaged with a library, with a particular focus on encouraging creativity in our youngest users. In total, we hosted 801 events with more than 15,600 registered participants.
- d) The permanent heritage exhibition presents more than 400 of the Heritage Library's most important items, and the exhibition "Arab and German Tales: Transcending Culture," hosted in cooperation with three German museums, showed the similarities between the folktales of Europe and Arabia. In November, we hosted an exhibition illustrating the history of Syria from 1918 to 1946, when it was governed by the French Mandate. Throughout the year, visitors could use 11 digital totems to interact in English and Arabic with our first digital exhibition, "Information is Beautiful."
- e) We continued to develop and promote the Qatar Digital Library (QDL), which we maintain through a partnership between Qatar Foundation and the British Library. The QDL hosts digitized records on the region from the British Library and our own collections. In 2018, 350,905 users visited the QDL, resulting in 2,523,270 page views and 77,122 PDF downloads.

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

- a) In 2018, our Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) services were shared with Dar Al Kutub, the library at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, and the library at the Translation and Interpreting Institute. Extending our expertise and services to these partners provided them with more resilient infrastructure and resource-sharing opportunities, and our ILMS now hosts 426,970 item records and 1,564 patron records for these institutions.
- b) To raise awareness of our resources people with disabilities, we held talks for the Qatar Social and Cultural Center for the Blind and the Qatar Institute for Speech and Hearing, and the Step by Step Center for Special Needs. In partnership with the MADA Assistive Technology Center, we also set up an agreement with Bookshare to provide people with print disabilities in Qatar access to more than 600,000 books in accessible digital formats.

- c) To attract students and educators, we participated in science festivals, fairs and conferences, including the Qatar Sports Club Youth Festival, the Qatar STEAM Fair, and Qatar Foundation's Teaching and Learning Forum.
- d) Throughout 2018, we collaborated with entities such as Qatar Development Bank, Qatar Business Incubation Center, Qatar Central Bank, Joaan Bin Jassim Military College, Qatar Football Association, Aspetar, Ras Laffan Emergency and Safety College, Stenden University-Qatar, Qatar Community College, and many more colleges and universities to provide tours, resources, research support and information sessions.
- e) To support the development of librarianship in government schools, we provided training specifically to librarians working under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. During 2018, librarians from our Children's and Young Adults' Library trained more than 130 librarians from 130 different government schools.

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

- a) In 2018, we signed work agreements with the British Library, Ottoman State Archives, and the University of Liverpool that helped make available hundreds of thousands of digital records relating to Qatar and increased awareness of the country's cultural heritage through the Qatar Digital Library (QDL). We also signed Memoranda of Understanding with the national libraries of France, the Netherlands, China, Azerbaijan and Turkey, along with the National Archives of the Netherlands, the French Diplomatic Archives, and the Presidential Library in Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- b) We completed Phase Two of the Qatar Digital Library partnership project with the British Library and Qatar Foundation in 2018 and surpassed one million users and more than ten million total page views. In this context, we signed a new work package agreement in April 2018 to extend the British Library partnership by another three years, to 2021. The bulk of the material to be digitized in Phase Three, which began in January 2019, has not seen the light of day since the 19th century and promises to shed new light on the history of Qatar and the Gulf.
- c) In 2018, we worked with the government of Qatar to support the accession of Qatar to the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Council of Ministers agreed to support our request, and in September, His Highness the Amir signed the instrument of ratification. The Treaty came into force in January 2019.
- d) Our Preservation and Conservation Center is the IFLA PAC Centre for Arab countries, and in 2018, we organized four advanced courses to train more than 40 conservators from the Arab region. These courses, along with our frequent sharing of up-to-date technical information, led to more than 300 requests for training and technical assistance from MENA countries.

- e) To support the preservation of cultural heritage, we signed an agreement with UNESCO to implement a joint 18-month project entitled "Supporting Documentary Heritage Libraries in the Arab Region." The project will strengthen the preservation of the rich cultural heritage present in libraries across the Arab region.