



Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019]

Name of Country : Qatar
Name of Library : Qatar National Library
Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director : Patrice Landry, Chief Librarian and Deputy Director
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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 177 FTE.
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	-901,044 books in the Main Collection. -Digitized items: 12,074 books, 3,102 newspapers, 1,330 image albums, 650 maps, 157 posters, 369 archive documents, 534 manuscripts (4,387,972 total pages)

d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i. 677,023 visitors ii. 11,745,663 website visits
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	557 articles and books provided through Interlending and Document Supply

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

- We acquired 22,877 Arabic books and 3,167 non-Arabic books in 2019, as well as 25,040 monographs. This contributed to a 29 percent increase in our Main Collection print circulation. Our members also downloaded 1,141,729 ebooks from our online collection.
- In 2019, we organized more than 800 events targeting all user groups, including children and young adults, researchers, students of all levels, parents and educators, people with disabilities, and the general public. Some of these are recurring events, such as the monthly book clubs and Qatar Philharmonic concert, the weekly Knitting and Crochet Circle, and the Science Book Forum. Others are developed based on monthly themes (e.g. space, animals) or events of wider importance, such as Qatar National Day and Ramadan. In total, more than 30,000 people attended Library events.
- We organized seven additional exhibitions and one special event exploring various aspects of local and regional cultural heritage: The World Through Picture Books, Syria Under the French Mandate (1918 – 1946), Qatar Through Private Collections, Healthcare in Qatar: Development and Milestones, The Holy Kaaba, the Gulf Architecture Project Conference and Exhibition, Qatar, India & the Gulf, and the Jaipur Literature Festival Doha.
- We launched dedicated web portals for our e-resources, events and exhibitions, bringing our total number to seven across all Library services. In 2019, more than 1.3 million users visited our sites, with a total of 11,745,663 page views.
- We launched several new systems and procedures aimed at increasing efficiency across our entire operations, including an automated study and meeting room booking system, a streamlined member registration module, and automated registration and processing for school visit requests.

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

- Our Open Access Author Fund pays for article processing fees on behalf of Qatari researchers for articles published in open access journals. In the open access vouchers option, the Library's partner publishers provide vouchers for eligible authors to publish their articles in one of these publishers' open access journals. In 2019, 455 such articles were funded, thus supporting 517 different authors from 38 institutions in Qatar in total since the Fund was launched.

- As the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East, we hosted several workshops and presentations for local conservators at institutions such as the Museum of Islamic Art, the National Museum of Qatar, the Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Museum, the Russian School Library in Doha and Qatar University.
- To advocate locally for increased access to Information, we commissioned a study on proposed revisions to Qatar copyright law. The study suggested statutory revisions to redefine the terms on which the Library and other institutions can fulfill our missions through effective library services. The proposals also include statutory language to serve the needs of persons with disabilities and the adoption of fair use to meet changing needs.
- To ensure services and resources are accessible to everyone, we partnered with several service-specific organizations in Qatar, including the Qatar Social and Cultural Center for Blind, the Arab Union for the Blind, the Qatar Institute for Speech and Hearing, Community Connect Doha, the Al Noor Center, and the Mada Center on programs throughout the year.

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

- This year, we signed Memoranda of Understanding with National Library and Archives of Iran, Springer Nature (USA), the Centre Français d'Archéologie et de Sciences Sociales (Kuwait) and the Società Dante Alighieri (Italy).
- In its role as the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East, our Preservation and Conservation Center is leading efforts across the region to share knowledge and resources, organize workshops and training, and provide support for libraries and cultural institutions. In 2019, the Center organized several workshops and presentations for conservators in the region, attracting participants from local institutions as well as 26 countries, as part of the ongoing "Supporting Documentary Heritage Preservation in the Arab Region" partnership initiative with UNESCO.
- We continue to contribute to information and knowledge sharing and accessibility through our participation in a number of international entities, including the Digital Library of the Middle East, the Digital Library Federation, the World Digital Library, the International Federation of Library Associations, the Conference of Directors of National Libraries, the Silk Road Library Alliance, the Coalition for Networked Information, the International Image Interoperability Framework, the Digital Preservation Coalition, and the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services.
- In January 2019, we commenced Phase 3 of the Qatar Digital Library (QDL), a partnership with the British Library and Qatar Foundation to digitize archival items from the British Library related to Qatar and the Gulf and make them available for free online to users worldwide. To date, more than 2 million pages and more than 17,000 objects have been digitized, and the QDL has been accessed by more than 330,000 users worldwide.