

29th General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
1st November 2023, Wednesday
State of Qatar

Country Report
[Period Coverage: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022]

Name of Country : Qatar
Name of Library : Qatar National Library
Name(s) of National Librarian, Director-General and/or Director : Tan Huism, Executive Director of QNL
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1 Facts and Figures

Sn	Item Description	Figures
a	Operating Budget i. Government ii. External Sources	Confidential information.
b	Total Staff (FTE) i. Graduate or Post-Graduate with library qualifications ii. Other Qualifications	i. 30 ii. 135
c	Collection Size i. Physical collection ii. Digital collection preserved	i) 1,045,286 physical collections in 2022 ii) Over 726,120 digital collections in 2022
d	Visitorship (Annual) i. Physical visits to reading rooms ii. Digital visits to websites	i) 568,727 physical library visits in 2022 ii) 5.5 million digital visits in 2022
e	Inter Library Loans provided (Annual)	600 loans in 2022

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

- a) **QNL mobile app:** Launched in Nov 2022, QNLs mobile app has achieved 34,961 downloads and 1.5 hours average engagement time. The mobile app is able to search through all the collection of QNL including e-resources. We have also worked on enabling self-checkout for physical books in the library.

- b) **QNL's Manara project** Launched in Nov 2022, Manara is QNL's research repository specifically for the State of Qatar. This platform aims to capture, curate, preserve, and provide open access to Qatar-based research outputs (incl. non-traditional research outputs). Manara allows individual researchers to self-archive their work and can also be used as a platform to run institutional repository for any Qatar-based organization. The Manara repository presently houses over 1,500 items from over 30 institutions and has achieved over 65k downloads in less than three months.
- c) **Qatar Digital Library (QDL)**: QNL has been working with the British Library for over 12 years to digitize archives of the India office records. This forms the bulk of the content of our Qatar Digital Library or (QDL). QDL is also the largest digital archive on the Middle East with over 2.4 million pages on the Middle East region that have received over 22 million views.
- To constantly develop and enlarge our digitization collections, we have partnered with various other institutions, namely: The National collection of ariel photography, National archives of the United Kingdom, Bibliotheque Nationale France, Digital Library of the Middle East partnership with CLIR and Stanford Libraries, and the National archive of Netherlands.
- For the preservation and access to QNL's heritage collection, we have digitized over 1.5 million heritage pages digitized in 2022 alone, and a total of over 15 million pages since inception.
- d) To document the FIFA World Cup that took place in Qatar in November – December 2022, QNL organized a crowd sourcing movement by collecting memories of the FIFA World Cup from the public.
- e) In 2022, 444 community events and programs were organized in 2022, attracting over 18,582 participants. Some of the programs organized as part of QNL's role as IFLA's Preservation and Conservation Regional Center – where QNL hosted online webinars and training courses for regional and international institutions on different topics like watermarks, dating manuscripts, protecting documentary heritage, and fighting against the illegal trafficking of documentary heritage.

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

- a) QNL collaborated locally with QCRI (Qatar Computing Research Institute) and Athar project to monitor and archive social media posts on sales of stolen materials.
- b) The year 2022 also saw extensive collaboration of QNL with multiple national stakeholders in support of the FIFA world cup, namely conducting trainings for 1000s of volunteers and organizing VIP tours for global delegations and international visitors.
- c) QNL hosted the IFLA Inter Library Delivery Service conference in 2022 with significant participation from the IFLA member libraries to share best practices and the application of UN SDGs in the field of libraries.

- d) QNL has supported over 40 institutions in Open Access initiatives. Our Open Access program covers around 20% of the country's OA research publications.
- e) QNL collaborates with the Qatar Museums (QM) on a yearly basis to support with the "Year of Culture" activities. 2022 being Year of Culture for [Qatar- Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia (MENASA)], QNL organized various exhibitions and events in collaboration with the participating countries.

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

- a) 2022 saw QNL continuing its partnership with the British Library for digitizing collections from BL's India Office Record collections and making them available on the Qatar Digital Library, for use by all -free of charge.
- b) QNL is a member of The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) and has a representation on the SCOSS Board.