

QNL Snapshots - Issue (9) - April, May & June 2015

Kindly note that the Arabic and English versions may not be identical and this is due to the media coverage differences during this period.

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More Than 500 People Visit 3rd Qatar Heritage Collection Open Day



More than 500 visitors flocked to the 3rd Heritage Collection Open Day hosted by Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF).

Held in line with its vision of bridging with knowledge Qatar's and the Arab and Islamic world's heritage and future, and celebrating World Heritage Day, the two-day public event celebrated Qatar's cultural heritage, highlighting precious items housed in the Heritage

Collection Building. Held under the theme 'Wagten Geda' – times gone by – the event also provided Qatar's community with the opportunity to glimpse rare historical collections related to Arab-Islamic civilization, and witness the unveiling of the

newly-acquired Arabic Cinema Collection. In keeping with its commitment to support QF's mission to foster a progressive society, while preserving and protecting the nation's heritage for future generations, QNL shares valuable information and



cultivates creativity within the community.

Acquired by QF in 2006, the Collection is now an integral part of QNL. The Collection attracts intellectuals and diplomats from across the world and has welcomed many high profile visitors, among them HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, who visited the Collection in February 2014.

Having received extraordinary support from VIPs, diplomats, dignitaries and the public, the annual event engaged the community through regular guided tours of the Heritage Collection, which houses some of the rarest and most valuable

texts and manuscripts, including traveller's instruments, globes and maps.

"Qatar Heritage Collection is a unique destination for the people of Qatar, and the surrounding region, as it allows them to glimpse rare pieces of Arab-Islamic history as part of our mission to support Qatar's journey towards a knowledge-based economy," said Eng. Saadi A. Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning, "Since the Heritage Collection is an integral part of the Qatar National Library, the 'Open Day 2015' is equally as important for us, and we are simply delighted by the

public's enthusiasm towards the historical treasures housed within it."

Founded in the early 1980s as part of H.E. Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed bin Ali Al-Thani's vision to create, and make accessible, a landmark repository of Qatar and regional history in the heart of Doha, the Heritage Collection is a unique contribution to Qatar's cultural landscape. Specifically, the Collection's Early Arabic printing section contains some of the first Arabic books printed on presses in Shweir (Lebanon), Aleppo (Syria), Mosul (Iraq), Bulaq (Egypt) and in the Hijaz (Saudi Arabia).

His Excellency Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage said: "I am happy with the idea of the Heritage Collection Open Day and the way it has been organized. QNL hosting this event demonstrates the leading role that will be played by the library in the future, not only for Qatar, but also in Arab countries and around the world."

The Collection is home to more than 2,400 manuscripts, including Qur'ānic manuscripts and other texts dealing with religious topics, manuscripts on the Arabic language, medicine, pharmacology, and astronomy. The Collection also holds a large number of books written in foreign languages including writings by European travellers and explorers who visited the Arabia Gulf Region and its surrounding.

"It has been a great pleasure to visit the Heritage Collection celebrating World Heritage Day. It is a wonderful collection



of manuscripts and various materials from way back in history detailing how Islamic culture, religious thought and philosophy has moved through the centuries, which is very relevant to today. This has been a very inspiring exhibition which shows in a positive way Qatar's role in the region and the prospects for Qatar's development in the future." said H.E. Nicholas Hopton Her Majesty's UK Ambassador to

Qatar.

"The Heritage Collection here in Doha is very important and I'm proud that the British Library in London is working in partnership with QNL to help augment and create a world class unique collection of manuscripts and other material for those researching Islamic culture and thought, and those who want to know more about the region and its history," he added.



Top Regional Libraries Meet in Doha to Discuss Ways of Heritage Preservation and Sharing



Participants in the World Digital Library (WDL) Arab Peninsula Regional Group Symposium 2015 commended the efforts Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is making to bring regional libraries together to work on heritage preservation and sharing.

The WDL Arab Peninsula Regional Group Symposium 2015 was organized by QNL in collaboration with the WDL. The two-day symposium, which builds on the great success of the training workshops in 2013 and 2014, this year focused on Arab Authority Control - how library catalogue and bibliographic information can be organized in Arabic. The symposium took place at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Student Center within Qatar Foundation's Education City, and attracted more than 40 attendees.

By sharing valuable information and cultivating creativity within the regional community at the symposium, QNL continues to support Qatar Foundation in its mission to foster a progressive society, while preserving and protecting the nation's heritage for future generations. Delegates included senior

representatives, professors and librarians from a number of libraries, heritage centers and universities including Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Bahrain, Yemen and the USA. The symposium provided the participants with information, tools and resources that can be used for cataloguing in their respective libraries, as well as to develop a common understanding of the concepts and tools among the contributors to the WDL so that the records they contribute are better and useful for all. Speaking about the symposium, Eng. Saadi Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning, said: "QNL is proud to once again collaborate with the WDL to organize a highly informative symposium on the preservation of our heritage.

Such symposiums and meetings provide the opportunity for sharing the best practices in the area of heritage preservation and sharing, and will benefit not just QNL but other libraries and information centers throughout the region."

Commenting about the symposium, Mr Jason Yasner, Operations Manager at the WDL, the Library of Congress, said: "The symposium on the Arabic Authority Control this year is very timely because this is a big and wide topic that faces libraries and a serious challenge that stands in the way of sharing heritage material among the different libraries and with the WDL."

"The collaboration between QNL and the WDL should be seen as a model throughout the world. I would like to see other regions replicate this, with regional partners working together to

tackle issues and topics that are important and relevant to them,” he added.

Speaking on the content of the symposium and the cooperation between the libraries in the region, Mr Saleh bin Suleiman Al Zuhimi of ‘Thakirat Oman’ (The Memory of Oman), said: “This is the third time I have participated in this annual symposium organized by QNL and it is clear that each year, the topics chosen for discussion are important and relevant to our work in libraries and information centers.”

Commenting on the importance and relevance of the symposium

to the libraries in the region, Dr Ali bin Saad Al Ali of the Saudi Digital History Center of King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives, said: “We would like to thank Qatar National Library for teaming up with the WDL to organize this useful symposium, which raised a very crucial topic for all of us - ‘Arabic Authority Control’. The topics and issues we discussed during this symposium are extremely relevant and important to our libraries and information centers and should contribute to a better cooperation between

Arab libraries.”

WDL was created by the Library of Congress, and reinforced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Libraries and cultural institutions from around the world contribute to WDL, led by the Library of Congress, by sharing their cultural treasures to create a digital fountain of knowledge. Information contained within WDL is available in seven languages, including Arabic.

Qatar National Library Participates in ‘Garangao’ Festival Organized by Qatar Foundation

Qatar National Library (QNL) participated in the Garangao festival organized by Qatar Foundation to celebrate the traditional mid-Ramadan children’s festival “Garangao”. The festival held in July, at Al Shaqab, aimed to help preserve Qatar’s heritage for the future generations.

During the wonderful event, more than 4000 children and their families participated in a variety of traditional activities that have been passed down throughout the generations. Apart from receiving the traditional Garangao gifts and sweets, the children were also given complimentary books. The joyous event also featured a number of entertaining activities, including arts and crafts, storytelling, games, pony rides, time-honored folk songs, and amusing puppet



shows for children.

‘Garangao’ is a middle of Ramadan tradition that is widely celebrated by children across the Gulf region. On this night, children walk around their neighborhoods singing traditional songs that mark the occasion and

receive gifts and bags of sweets from their elders. This year, the QNL event was a great success and the National Library enjoyed bringing families together in a traditional festive atmosphere to celebrate Ramadan and Garangao day.



Qatar National Library Organizes Early Literacy Workshop

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized a workshop entitled 'Early Literacy 101'. The session was designed to provide educators and care-givers with a platform to discuss and exchange ideas about the importance of early literacy in childhood from birth to age 4.

The workshop, which was held at Hamad bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) Student Center at Education City, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of focusing on early literacy. Highlighting the best practices in the early childhood education field, it presented a variety of different opinions and showcased the training and resources available from the Qatar National Library. Furthermore, by serving as a vehicle to cultivate creativity and share valuable information and knowledge, QNL demonstrated its dedication to supporting Qatar Foundation's mission to unlock the potential of people of all ages. The event brought together over 40 attendees from a variety of organizations serving families and children in Qatar, including the Supreme Education Council,

Qatar Museums, Qatar Academy, Maktaba, Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, Dar Al-Kutub, and the Childhood Cultural Center.

Commenting on the workshop and QNL's other related activities, Eng. Saadi A. Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning, said: "Through organizing this workshop, and other events for children, QNL aims to share information among different groups within society, which is in-line with its mission to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future."

Carol Mitchell, Head of Children Services at QNL, said: "This workshop provided attendees with the opportunity to learn more about the importance of early literacy and its impact on children from birth to age 4, and

to discuss how each institution can help families better prepare their children to learn."

"Parents, care-givers, and organizations who work with children from birth to age 4 help to build the basis of skills that enable children to succeed as students and learners. Building a knowledge economy for the Qatar National Vision 2030 does not start at university or secondary school. It starts at birth," Ms Mitchell added.

Commenting on the importance of the workshop, and the content, Ms Abeer Al Kuwari, one of the participants, said: "The workshop was very interesting and useful. The presenters were experts in this field and they discussed new and very interesting information, as well provided examples and models of knowledge development in early childhood."

Qatar National Library Organizes Exciting Programs for Children and Teens

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized a set of exciting programs for children and teens to promote and encourage reading among young people and unlock their potential. This goes in line with the QNL's mission to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future.



'CreaTeens Event'

Aiming to further advance skills, logical thinking, and unleash teens creativity. Qatar National Library organized in April 2015 the 'CreaTeens' special event, which included exciting educational and entertaining activities such as electronic games, team games, crafts and puzzles. Teens between 12 and 18 years old, and their families enjoyed themselves by participating in this fun-filled event.



'Down by the Sea' Children's Event

The sea-themed event, which was held in collaboration with Occidental Petroleum of Qatar, at the Education City Clubhouse, brought together more than 500 children and their families. It included exciting educational and entertaining activities such as storytelling, fun games, and sea crafts. Through these activities, children between 4 and 11 years of age learned about the vast flora and fauna under the sea and ways of protecting the marine environment.



'Summer Fun Stories' Children's Event

Qatar National Library and Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development organized a special event titled 'Summer Fun Stories', in June, 2015. Held at the Education City, Recreation Center, the event included various activities such as storytelling, puppet shows, dramatization, songs, rhymes, and much more. Parents and their children enjoyed and participated in the fun-filled event.

Hazine lists Qatar Digital Library as one of the 11 essential digitized collections for Middle East historians

Hazine, an electronic website guide to researching the Middle East and beyond, listed Qatar Digital Library (QDL) as one of the 11 essential digitized collections for Middle East historians. QDL appeared as number 8 on the list that contains 11 digital collections. The website mentions also

that QDL provides hundreds of thousands of digitized items from the British India Office Records which cover the period from the mid-18th century to 1951 and covers the historical events of this period in the Gulf region and the Middle East. The website also mentioned that QDL allows users to browse its content by

subject, place or people and organizations and that they can download the digitized items to their devices.

The list published by Hazine also included, in addition to QDL, Shamela library, Waqfiya library, Al Aqsa Mosque library, Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran and others.

Qatar National Library Organizes Training Sessions on the Use of Online Resources

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized a successful series of training sessions on the use of online resources offered by the library for the public. The training sessions come in line with the QNL's mission to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's Heritage for the Future.

Interactive and practical sessions were included in the training

on the effective use of selected engineering and technology online resources: ASTM Standards and Engineering Digital Library, IEEE Xplore Digital Library, ScienceDirect, Scopus, and ASME Digital Collection. These online resources contain scientific journal articles, ebooks and reviews in various areas of engineering and technology. Training sessions also focused on the Social Sciences online resources which included E-Marefa, Dar Almandumah

Collection and The Economist Intelligence Unit. Other training sessions highlighted the 'Edutechnoz' database, which helps children learn Arabic in a fun way through games. QNL also hosted two webinars on how to best search the OECD iLibrary and Taylor & Francis online databases in partnership with their providers. Participants in both webinars were able to join the training online using their own computers from wherever they were.

Qatar National Library Organizes Training Program for the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies Library Staff

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), held a training program, for the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) Library staff on the Sierra system in May, 2015.



The training program comes as part of QNL's support to Qatar in its journey to a knowledge-based economy and in line with the QNL leading role in supporting libraries and librarianship in Qatar through conducting various training programs and providing advanced technical solutions to create an enhanced infrastructure for knowledge sharing. QNL carries out its mission through three functions: National Library, University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. In addition to cultural and educational activities QNL is currently offering free online access to a vast collection of online resources, including the latest top academic journals, classical works, bestsellers, concerts, and documentaries.

Book Discussion of 'The Shock of the Fall'

Qatar National Library a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, organized a book discussion of Nathan Filer's 'The Shock



of the Fall' in May, 2015. The novel describes the dramatic life of a young man suffering from schizophrenia, and shows his family grief for him. Through this novel, the writer is trying to change the people's perception about the schizophrenia. He is also trying to show that this disease is not associated with violent acts, as commonly believed. The novel also reveals the schizophrenia hidden aspects, and promotes the ways of living with the disease without medical guidance.

Past, Present, and Future, Standing Together in Harmony



Dr Claudia Lux,
Project Director, Qatar National Library, a member of Qatar Foundation, speaks about the vital role of knowledge as a bridge between Qatar's past, present, and future

The commitment of Qatar Foundation (QF) to unlocking human potential, by supporting and operating programs within the core areas of its mission – education, science and research, and community development – is embodied throughout Education City.

To achieve the goals of this mission, to provide students and researchers with access to the material and knowledge they require to reach their potential, and to serve the people of Qatar, such a city requires a library.

The understanding of the pivotal role that a library holds in a knowledge-based society led to the launch of Qatar National Library (QNL) by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. Under her wise leadership, QF is pushing the boundaries in various fields, including arts, education and science and building knowledge not only empowers society, but also allows its members to become critical thinkers and leaders of tomorrow. QNL plays a key role in building such a society.

QNL's mission is to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future. In support of the nation's journey towards becoming a knowledge-based economy, QNL continues to make unparalleled research and educational resources available to the people of Qatar.

This mission is carried out through three functions: the National Library, the University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. The National Library function collects and provides access to global

knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region, and collects published material in all formats from across Qatar. It also collects, preserves, and provides access to heritage content and materials about Qatar and the region.

Education and research at all levels is supported by the University and Research Library function that provides library materials, in printed and digital format, for students and researchers. And the Metropolitan Public Library delivers library services and information for everyone to enjoy reading, meet and engage with people, and become information literate.

A great deal of planning and effort goes into compiling the collections of printed and digital material that are available at QNL. Our strategic approach to the compilation of this material entails conducting a thorough assessment of each item, based on the criteria of its relevance to the local population, and the value it holds for students and researchers in Qatar.

This aligns with our goal of ensuring that developing knowledge and nurturing creativity go hand in hand.

It is important for the youth of today to use their imagination, and to develop their caliber in academics and the arts, and that means they must be equipped with the tools and knowledge to make a positive impact on society. QNL adopts a unique approach to nurturing Qatar's literary culture, by engaging schools and parents to work together in making reading fun for children.

At QNL, we also aim to become a bridge between Qatar's heritage and its future. Our Heritage Collection is one of the most renowned stores of regional history that is available for public consumption.

We also participate in numerous events, as well as organizing others, to showcase Qatar's culture and heritage through activities including the Heritage Collection Open Day, The International Symposium of 'The Image of Qatar in the Writings of Foreign Travellers', and the project that we are undertaking, in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, to digitize Qatar's heritage and culture and make it available in a digital format to local and international audiences.

Our teams work with regional news organizations and publishers to ensure that we are developing a repository of information that can be viewed as history in years to come. QNL has one of the most highly skilled digitization teams in the region, working with content - including newspapers, magazines, and multimedia projects such as documentaries or audio content - to preserve it for the future. We believe that

multimedia will play a key role in telling the story of today's world, and, as such, QNL places as much emphasis on multimedia material as on text material. Collaboration is at the core of QNL's mission, and we have cultivated a number of important relationships and partnerships. Through our work with leading database providers from across the world, we are able to provide access to diversified eResources through QNL's website to all of Qatar's residents.

QNL's focus on collaborative working in order to serve the needs of Qatar, and support the realization of its vision, is exemplified through our partnership with the British Library, that has led to the creation and launch of the Qatar Digital Library. This is making a vast archive of material, featuring the cultural and historical heritage of the Gulf and the wider region, freely available online for the first time. It includes archives, maps, manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs and much more, complete with contextualized explanatory notes and links, in both English and Arabic.

As QNL seeks to provide benefit for all of Qatar through enabling access to, and the dissemination of, knowledge, the fruits of our work can also be seen throughout the QF community. Within QF, we assist staff with their documentation and digitization needs, and we are working with QF's Communication Directorate regarding the potential for QF publication be placed into the Qatar Digital Library, with a view to establishing a comprehensive, accessible, digitized chronicle of QF's achievements and its story.

We are working with Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D) to develop a strong and effective knowledge management system, where QNL supports the preservation of scientific and research data owned by QF R&D. We are also co-operating with Hamad bin Khalifa University, and its partner universities, to build inter-library relationships of mutual benefit: providing students and staff with an array of valuable resources, available in cohesive and user-friendly fashion, while also enriching QNL's collections. The prominent community role of QNL reflects the importance we place on raising awareness about how libraries can serve the population. Our team visit schools, universities and other organizations, and participate in various book fairs in Qatar and internationally, to educate people on the benefit of engaging with our resources. Our mission will be elevated to a new level once the new QNL building opens, as we will be able to cater to the needs of a larger section of the population. We will be organizing various educational programs for people of all ages including more book clubs and second language learning programs for adults, and science and craft activities for children.

This building will only enhance the facilities and services that QNL provides to the community in Qatar. It will represent the commitment of QNL to providing the population of Qatar with lifelong learning and research opportunities, and to facilitating the development of skills that will enable the people of this nation to participate in the global knowledge economy.

MEET THE TEAM

Maryam Abdulaziz Maarafeya



1. Tell us a bit about yourself

Maryam Abdulaziz Maarafeya, I hold bachelor's degree in Geography - urban planning from Qatar University. I joined Qatar Foundation since three and half years ago as a Project Engineer (trainee), then recently I joined the Qatar National Library's team.

2. What do you do as Library Relations Officer?

I supervise the events implementation to make sure that these events are accomplished to the fullest. In addition, my duties in the future will include regular guided tours for QNL's visitors to raise their awareness about the library's services and collections, such as the Heritage Collection, which houses some of the rarest and most valuable texts and manuscripts related to Qatar history, and the Arab and Islamic civilization.

3. Describe your experience working at QNL?

Working in Qatar National Library is a unique experience. QNL's vision in bridging with knowledge Qatar's and the Arab and Islamic world's heritage and future made me so enthusiastic to join QNL's team.

4. What has been your greatest achievement so far at this job?

I consider it the beginnings of future achievements.

I have future plans in mind that I would like to do in order to contribute in raising the community awareness about QNL's services.

5. What's the most important thing you've learned through working in the Library's field?

In the library's field, I learned how to deal with the public and how to access the best technologies that benefit readers, researchers and anyone interested in this field.

6. What inspires you and why?

The most important character that inspired me is Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Through Her Highness wise vision I became motivated to achieve success.

7. What is your favorite book?

I cannot choose a particular book, but I prefer Fashion books and Geography books in particular Urban Planning books.