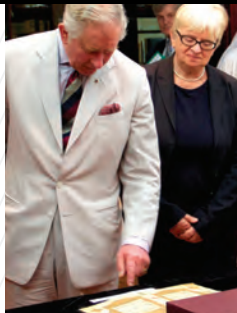


## QNL Snapshots - Issue (4) - January, February & March 2014

Kindly note that the two issues of Snapshots; the Arabic and English versions, may not be identical and this is due to the media coverage's differences during this period.



QNL Welcomes  
HRH The Prince  
of Wales to its  
Splendid Arab  
and Islamic  
Heritage  
Collection

3



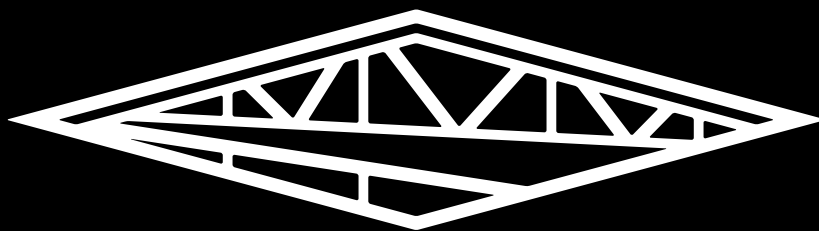
Qatar National  
Library's wins  
a prestigious IT  
award

4



Qatar National  
Library's  
Heritage  
Collection  
Attracts  
Intellectuals and  
Diplomats

8



مكتبة قطر الوطنية

QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY

عضو في مؤسسة قطر

Member of Qatar Foundation

## Qatar National Library's Brand Launch Heralds New Age of Knowledge Sharing

**Q**atar National Library (QNL) unveiled its innovative brand identity on Tuesday March 25th, 2014, inspired by the iconic architectural design of its new home, currently under construction in Education City.

QNL's dynamic, modernistic new logo is emblematic of the Library's state-of-the-art facilities and use of the latest technology to bridge the nation's past and future through knowledge sharing.

The logo symbolises the philosophy and rich heritage found in Qatar's unique and evolving culture, while the window-like feature conveys a sense of transparency, clarity and simplicity: always accessible and

supporting QNL's users to make new discoveries.

Over a week prior to the brand launch, QNL had been teasing the public with glimpses of its impressive new logo on social media platforms, without revealing its actual identity. Instead, the library captured the essence of its vision through a series of cryptic phrases and descriptions, leaving the public guessing and interest mounting. The teaser campaign was also

supported by leading Qatari organisations ranging from Qatar Foundation and Qatar Green Building Council to Silatech.

QNL's Project Director Dr Claudia Lux was thrilled with the organisation's rebrand and said: "Qatar National Library is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon-based economy to a knowledge-based economy by providing information resources to students, researchers and the community in Qatar. Resources

include a vast collection of online databases freely offered to all residents of Qatar. QNL's new logo is inspired by the unique architectural design of its new building, which symbolises the library's vision of Bridging with knowledge Qatar's Heritage and Future."

Dr Lux continued: "QNL's mission is to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's Heritage for the Future. Our growing online collection is already attracting large numbers of the community but our aim is to reach many more and be a font of knowledge for all."

The brand launch coincided with the 20th annual conference and exhibition of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) held in Qatar from 25 to 27 March, 2014. The event brought together some of the world's leading practitioners and experts in the field of librarianship.

During the participation experts from Qatar National Library highlighted work currently underway to improve access to historical items following its unique collaboration with The British Library.

Librarians, researchers and educators from around the world, who work in the fields of knowledge acquisition, organisation and dissemination, participated in the three day conference in Doha, sharing and exchanging ideas about the overall theme of 'Enhancing in Digital Knowledge Society's Information Needs'.

A senior delegation from QNL attended the event to reveal the ground-breaking work being carried out by the library to widen access to archive material and promote greater understanding of the Arab and Islamic cultural heritage and the history of the



Gulf region.

The partnership between QNL and The British Library involves digitising over 500,000 pages of archival items from the India Office Records, covering almost 200 years between 1763 - 1951. The project also covers 500 maps, charts, and plans of the Gulf, in addition to 300 sound recordings highlighting the evolution of traditional Arab music made available in electronic form.

QNL's Project Director Dr Claudia Lux said: "QNL is proud to be partnering with The British Library, and the benefits of this

collaboration are immeasurable. Historical items that were once only available to a limited number of people will be shared amongst nations and across continents." She further added: "Spreading knowledge is a key part of the library's mission, the goal of Qatar Foundation and the vision of the country, as Qatar journeys to become a knowledge-based economy. QNL's exceptional resources will promote greater understanding of Arab and Islamic cultural heritage and history of the Gulf region, and will be free for all students, the public and researchers all over the world."



# Qatar National Library Welcomes HRH The Prince of Wales to its Splendid Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection



**Q**atar National Library welcomed His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, to its Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection on Thursday, 20th February 2014, during his official visit to Qatar. HRH Prince Charles joined a growing number of high-profile guests and dignitaries from all over the World who had viewed the impressive Heritage Collection.

QNL Project Director Dr Claudia Lux accompanied Prince Charles on his visit and highlighted some of the Heritage Collection's most prized artefacts.

"We are honoured by the visit of Prince Charles to the Qatar National Library's Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection as it reinforces QNL's vision of bridging cultures with knowledge," she said. "This collection is one of the most important aspects of Qatar's cultural landscape as it showcases the depth and richness of Arab-Islamic civilisation. We were therefore delighted to showcase this valuable trove of heritage and cultural items." Amongst the items viewed by Prince Charles was the oldest map in the collection, and one of the oldest in existence to mention

Qatar. Dating from 1478, it is based on the work of 2nd century CE astronomer, mathematician and geographer Claudius Ptolemaeus. A New Testament Bible, printed in Aleppo, Syria in 1706 and the first in the region to have been written in Arabic, was also displayed.

Prince Charles was also shown an early script of the Holy Qur'an by Abraham Hinckelmann, published in Hamburg in 1694. Hinckelmann (1652-1695) was a German Protestant theologian and Orientalist, who first printed the Holy Qur'an by letterpress in the original Arabic.

# Qatar National Library's wins a prestigious IT award

**Q**atar National Library's (QNL) Associate Director for Information Technology (IT) Krishna Roy Chowdhury, won the 'Chief Information Officer (CIO) 50 Award 2014', as QNL was named among the top 50 organisations in the Middle East for its outstanding achievements in IT. The 'CIO 50 Awards' are presented by the Computer News Middle East Magazine (CNME), the Middle East's leading IT publication, to honour the many innovative ways that IT professionals deliver competitive advantage or accelerate business success.

The event was organised in Dubai by CNME and was attended by senior IT experts and chief information officers from across the Middle East to recognise organisations that have accomplished commendable work in the IT domain.

Krishna Roy Chowdhury was chosen for introducing advanced technologies and innovative initiatives aimed at improving QNL's business efficiency and optimising an efficient business process.

Commenting on this award, Krishna Roy Chowdhury, said: "This award further motivates the library's Information Technology's department to constantly challenge ourselves." She further added: "The innovation lies within the broad scope of technical library services that QNL has embarked upon. The holistic information and educational services QNL is offering, coupled with partnerships with international libraries, are technically vast.



We are exerting all efforts to introduce innovative and efficient ways of doing business in order to foster greater collaboration, whether internally or with the library's different partners and stakeholders."

"Receiving this prestigious award reflects Qatar National Library's commitment and focus on achieving excellence in Information Technology, which is a key business enabler in the library and information world," said Qatar National Library's Project Director Dr Claudia Lux. "We are delivering on our promises to serve the entire community by providing and introducing technologies that facilitate the experience of our many users' types. In addition to the valuable and vast collection

of online databases QNL is currently providing, the library will also introduce the Qatar Digital Portal which will be accessible remotely through a mobile phone or any other hand-held device."

CNME has been the number one link between regional IT players and their key target markets for over two decades. The magazine drives messages of local relevance, business benefit and technology into focus, along with news analysis and exclusive interviews with global IT players. It covers all the important IT sectors in depth, combining compelling features, best practice case studies, and analysis of market trends through focused sections.



# Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Qatar donates valuable books to QNL



The Qatar National Library (QNL) accepted a number of valuable books donated by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Qatar. The donations were made by His Excellency Chung Keejong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Qatar, during a visit to QNL's Heritage Collection Building on Wednesday 29th January 2014. The visit was part of the Korean Embassy's efforts to promote cultural relations with Qatar.

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, welcomed His Excellency Chung Keejong and expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Ambassador for the generous donation; the latest addition to the library's renowned and growing collection. She also stressed that QNL seeks to bridge cultures with knowledge.

The donated books cover a wide range of knowledge fields and include books such as "A Concise History of Modern Korea from the Late Nineteenth Century to 2010" and "Masterpieces of Korean Art", as well as other books by the most important Korean writers and men-of-letters of different historical eras. Among the donated books is a replica of "Jikji," which was the first in the world to be printed using movable metal types in July 1377. The donated books also reflect different sources of knowledge and information in a variety of fields such as literature, history, and arts. Alongside QNL's vast collection, this donation will further enhance researchers' opportunities and provide library members with access to valuable,

rare, and historical information materials.

Speaking about the donation, His Excellency Mr Chung Keejong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Qatar, said: "I am very pleased and honoured to make this donation of books. This year is the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Qatar and Korea, and I hope that cultural cooperation between the two countries enhances further."

His Excellency further added: "All the books donated are important, especially the replica of "Jikji," also known as "Buljo Jikji simche yojeol," a Korean document, printed during the Goryeo Dynasty in 1377, it is the world's oldest existing book that was printed with movable metal type. The book was accepted as UNESCO World Record Inheritance and was recorded as a "Memory of the World" for its outstanding value on 4 September 2001. The donation of these books will hopefully provide a chance to introduce the Korean culture to Qatari citizens and help enhance their understanding of Korea."

"Such book donations play a great role in promoting cultural and historical exchanges between the Republic of Korea and the State of Qatar," said Dr Claudia Lux. "This book donation will support QNL's mission to spread knowledge. The books will enrich the Library's collection and further enhance the opportunities for library members to look at valuable cultural and historical information on Korean old and modern civilisation."



# Qatar National Library showcases its services at Qatar University



**Q**atar National Library (QNL) organized a briefing titled “Qatar National Library: an overview of the services and facilities”, in collaboration with the Qatar University (QU) College of Education. The event was held in the conference hall, College of Education, and was attended by a number of the QU College of Education students.

Jooza Al Marri, Head of QNL Reference Services Department, made a presentation about the online databases and other services provided by QNL, while a Gihan Barak, Head of Library Relations and Communications, gave a general overview of QNL and the way to register for the library services.

The presentations provided a brief introduction about QNL, including its Vision and Mission, as well as the events and online resources freely available to the public, how to register with QNL



to access these databases and make use of them. There was also a general overview of the future facilities, activities, and services to be offered by the library when it officially opens.

At the end of the briefing, there was a Q&A session in which Jooza Al-Marri answered

questions by participants, which mainly focused on the content currently made available by the library to the people in Qatar, the databases currently available for use and how to register to access these online databases and make use of them in the best possible way.



# Qatar National Library organises “Puppet Maker” event for children



**Q**atar National Library (QNL) organised the “Puppet Maker” event on Thursday 20th February 2014 in collaboration with Qatar Foundation Community Services and Qatar Museums Authority (QMA) Family Programmes. The event was held for children aged between 4 - 11 years old. The “Puppet Maker” event was part of the “Makers” program organised by QMA Family Programmes and included a series of workshops across Doha, in collaboration with a number of cultural and educational institutions in Qatar. The event was aimed at teaching the children the basic ways and

principles of puppet-making from simple materials to portray their fantasy story with their favourite characters and create their own puppet shows, allowing the children to push their creative and imaginative boundaries and experience immense pleasure and joyousness. The children were also given a “Thank you” letter at the end of the event acknowledging their creativity and participation in this event. Carol Mitchell, Head of Children’s Services at QNL, commented on the event saying: “Creativity and storytelling are important in developing and encouraging a love of reading in children, and Qatar National Library and

Qatar Foundation Community Services are excited to have provided a unique Makers Event in the Education City at the QF Recreation Centre.” She added: “Giving children the opportunity to make their own puppets and then create puppet shows is not only fun, it also builds their narrative skills.” Jessica Ludwig, Head of Families at QMA, said: “Puppets are a creative and hands-on way to tell stories.” She added: “The Makers Event offered children the chance to show their skills and imagination, crafting puppets and telling stories.”



# QNL's Heritage Collection Attracts Intellectuals and Diplomats



**Q**atar National Library's (QNL) Heritage Collection continues to attract interest from intellectuals and diplomats. On 2nd February 2014, the renowned French intellect Mr Jack Lang, President of the Institute du Monde Arab (Paris), and former Minister of Culture and Education of France, visited QNL's Heritage Collection Building during his visit to Qatar.

The visit came in continuation of the cooperation with Qatar National Library (QNL) starting with an earlier visit by the French Ambassador to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Mr Jean-Christophe Peaucelle, to QNL's Heritage Collection Building in December 2013.

Mr Jack Lang and His Excellency Mr Peaucelle were accompanied by Dr Claudia Lux, QNL Project

Director, and Dr Joachim Gierlichs, QNL's Associate Director for Special Collections and Archives. The guests toured the different sections of the Heritage Collection and were introduced to the rare and valuable collection which demonstrates the huge contribution made by Arab and Muslim scholars to the world history of human thought. Commenting on these visits, Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, said: "We are honoured with these visits and see them as a huge support to QNL's role of bridging cultures with knowledge." She further added: "The Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection is among the most important aspects of Qatar's cultural landscape, expressing the depth and richness of Arab-Islamic civilisation. Therefore, this is a great chance to introduce this valuable trove of heritage

and cultural items to Mr Lang, the President of the Institute du Monde Arab (Paris), an organisation founded to research and disseminate information about the Arab world and its cultural and spiritual values." Mr Lang was the Former Minister of Culture and Education of France. He occupied many key positions in the French government including Member of Parliament (National Assembly) and President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. His contribution to the enrichment of culture took many forms and continues to this day. He was the Founder and Director of the Nancy International Theatre Festival, the Director of the Chaillot National Theatre, and currently the President of the "l'Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine" (IMEC) and the Centre Pompidou's Friends.



# **Qatar National Library organises three Book Discussions over the period January-March 2014**



**Q**atar National Library (QNL) organized three book discussions over the period January-March 2014. January's book discussion was of Jane Austen's *"Pride and Prejudice"*, February's was on the Arabic book *"A Life in Administration"*

by Dr. Ghaiz Al-Quseibi. While March book discussion was of *"The Book Thief"*, a worldwide best-selling novel, by Australian author Markus Zusak, which was recently released as a feature film.

The organization of these book

discussion events are part of the efforts to achieve QNL's mission "Spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's Heritage for the Future" through promoting a reading culture.

## **QNL Organises a Variety of Training Sessions in Arabic and English**

### **January-March 2014**

**Q**atar National Library (QNL) organised a number of training sessions during the period January-March 2014 for all residents of Qatar. The practical training sessions were organised to help residents familiarise themselves with the effective use of 'Al Manhal', 'SpringerLink', 'RefWork's', 'Pivot', 'CREDO Reference', 'E-Marefa', and 'IEEE/IET Electronic Library' online databases. The training sessions were offered in partnership with

these databases providers and were conducted in both Arabic and English.

Commenting on the training, Saadi Al-Said, QNL Associate Director for Administration and Planning, said: "These training sessions are in line with QNL's mission to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's Heritage for the Future". He further added: "The training sessions are the latest

in a long list of activities by Qatar National Library, which is already active locally, regionally, and internationally, although its new building is yet to open. QNL is already active in providing various services and programs, including book discussion and community events and training sessions on the effective use of the online databases which the library provides for free for all residents of Qatar through its website".



# Qatar National Library's Drive to Build a Network of Knowledge



A country that is moving from being a carbon-based economy into being a knowledge-based economy, such as is the case with Qatar, has an almost insatiable appetite for information. But not all information is equally useful, with authoritative sources being especially valuable in a world where venturing into search engines, such as Google, can bring forth a plethora of conflicting results.

In the past, libraries were a primary source for published and verified information, with rows of books and journals offering readers access that was limited to the physical constraints of the dimensions of the building within which each library was housed. There is still a place for libraries in the modern world, but a contemporary, forward-thinking library should be a combination of both as a physical hub for the

sharing of information as well as a virtual, digital resource.

This is the thinking behind Qatar National Library (QNL). Indeed, QNL is taking this idea one stage further and providing full access, for free via registration, to all members of Qatar's wide and varied community.

By going beyond the architecturally stunning physical library building currently under construction at Education City, and embracing the opportunities that can be gained by tapping into a virtual global network of pre-existing knowledge-disseminating organizations, QNL is offering an entire nation access to high-quality resources on an unprecedented level.

For many, a significant barrier to these types of resources is the cost of subscribing to multiple publications. QNL has entirely removed that obstacle for its users who don't have to pay or

deal with the hassle of signing up. The mission of QNL is "to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's 'Heritage for the Future'." Thanks to QNL's commitment to building carefully cultivated partnerships, full access to QNL's ever-growing collection includes the opportunity to connect with a breadth of resources, including such documentation as the Cambridge and Oxford University Press Journals, as well as to resources from within the archives of noted organizations such as the Springer, which is one of the world's largest collections of technical, scientific, and medical content.

"Springer is very happy to partner with the Qatar National Library and, through this agreement, will provide valuable information to the whole country," says Derk Haank, CEO of Springer.





“Our publishing portfolio provides cutting-edge research results, solid scientific foundations and professional knowledge in all fields of science and technology. The deal will help boost Qatar’s efforts in setting up its knowledge economy. “We are co-operating closely and are convinced that our content will help Qatar achieve its vision of progress and growth.”

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director, QNL, explains: “QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon-based economy to a knowledge-based economy by providing diversified resources and online databases free of charge to students, researchers, and the entire community in Qatar.”

Already, the entire Encyclopedia Britannica Academic Edition is now available online to all registered QNL users. Updated daily, the version includes full-text journal and magazine articles, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, e-books, and primary sources covering math, science, and social studies. The edition also includes an Arabic Translation Tool. High-level research in a variety of fields is already available online, including dozens of databases, research guides, periodicals, and science journals. Well-known publications such as Nature and The Economist, as well as industry-specific and highly technical materials, are currently

available as well.

Because of QNL’s digitization efforts, many documents that are not locally available in hard copy will be accessible online. QNL collaborated with the British Library to digitize over 500,000 pages of material relating to the Gulf region. Great Britain’s close historical ties with Qatar provide a rich archive for historians with 475,000 pages from the India Office of Records and 25,000 pages of medieval Arabic manuscripts. The aim is to create the world’s finest online resource of Gulf history by bringing to life aspects of the region’s historical advancements in science, geography, and politics.

Dr Lux says: “The partnership is essential in enabling the world to learn and be inspired by Gulf history and its relevance to the modern day. An important development as part of Qatar National Library’s vision of showcasing Qatar’s Heritage and Future, the digitized materials will also be available through QNL’s online portal in order to support researchers, students, and the community.” While Qatar is surely benefiting through access to existing knowledge resources, those institutions providing the source material also feel that they are gaining a great deal from the partnership opportunities.

Roly Keating, Chief Executive, British Library, explains:

“Considerable progress has been made by our partnership’s highly specialized curators, and digitisation and conservation experts.

“This partnership will enable our collection items to be shared on an international scale with academics, researchers and those who have an interest in the history of the Gulf region, and further demonstrates the shared vision between both organizations to contribute to the advancement of knowledge across the world.”

James Thomas, President of ASTM International, is pleased to have such an outlet as QNL for the information currently held by organization. “ASTM standards, and other technical information available from ASTM International, represent a collective, global bank of knowledge.

“This agreement facilitates the transfer of that knowledge in a convenient and efficient way,” he says.

When finished, QNL’s landmark building will be a major physical hub for the people in Qatar who share a thirst for knowledge.

Even before one visitor sets foot over the building’s threshold, the global partnerships that have already been, and continue to be, formed, enable online access to a vast array of information, meaning that QNL’s reputation for being a vital resource in Qatar will already have been cemented.



## Qatar National Library...

The National Library in any country is the repository for the intellectual heritage of that country, as it houses manuscripts, old and rare books, and important works. Therefore, the establishment of the National Library in Qatar is a nationalistic duty for which we thank the authorities concerned.

Many countries around the world, even developing countries, have made sure to establish a national library because of the importance of this institution and its role in the promotion of cultural heritage and preserving it. Some examples of national libraries around the world include the Library of Congress in Washington and Lenin Library in Moscow; and the libraries of Europe contribute together to the European Library.

Qatar is a fertile ground for the growth of culture and for nurturing scholars and intellectuals and it represents an extension of those times in the Islamic civilization when the Muslim Caliphs, throughout the ages, were keen on the acquisition of books and promoting science, reading, writing, and translation. In Andalusia, for example, libraries and books were in abundance all over the country, and that was because of the rulers, who were interested in acquiring books. The second ruler of Muslim Andalusia (Al-Mustanser bi Allah) sent envoys to Baghdad, Damascus, and various other cities, to buy books, no matter how expensive they were, until he was able to have in his library about four hundred thousand volumes. In the East, the Library of Baghdad was shining. This great library, one of the greatest ones in history, was founded by the Abbasid Caliph Harun Al-Rashid. Then, it flourished during the reign of Al-Ma'moon. The Abbasid Caliphs after these two Caliphs kept adding books to it until it became a "knowledge storehouse", containing millions of books.

National libraries have a different role from that of public libraries. A national library, in order to preserve its treasures, does not allow its patrons to borrow books, as is the case with public libraries. It rather collects and preserves copies of all the works published inside and outside the country. It also collects everything that is written on the country, to which that library belongs, in various World languages and in various fields of knowledge. It preserves and organizes that and carries out



other functions and tasks that are related to books and libraries. However, the most important characteristic of a national library is collecting and preserving manuscripts and rare books from the Islamic intellectual heritage. Many countries around the world have surpassed us in acquiring such valuable manuscripts and preserving them. Many of the libraries have rare manuscripts that contain a lot about science. In Istanbul alone, for example, there are more than one hundred and twenty-four thousand of these rare manuscripts, most of which have not been studied before, not to mention what is available in the libraries of the World, in the East and the West, and the treasures found in the private libraries of individuals.

**I am looking forward to the opening of Qatar National Library and I am sure that this cultural edifice will include hundreds and thousands of rare titles that attract knowledge seekers...**



# Qatar

## in the Writings of Travellers



The Qatar Heritage and Identity Center organized an international symposium titled "The image of Qatar in the Writings of Foreign travellers" on 24 & 25 February in Sharq Hotel, with the participation of travellers, experts, and historians from Qatar, Arab countries, and Europe.

The symposium aimed at shedding light on the writings of travellers, sailors, and political residents who visited Qatar during the past two hundred years and looked at the results of their

observations and travelogues which were published in books, periodicals, or newspapers.

"The symposium was organized under the patronage of Her Excellency Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Qatar Museums Authority, and was with contribution from the Documents and Research Department at the Amiri Diwan", Dr Khalid Al Mulla, Director of the Qatar Heritage and Identity Center, mentioned during a press conference held yesterday at the

Centre. He further added: **"the symposium is part of the ongoing renaissance in the country in the field of documentation and libraries represented in the Qatar National Library Project of Qatar Foundation and the outstanding efforts exerted to document the history of Qatar in all fields.** The center, in organizing this symposium, has taken some help from the efforts and works of researchers and specialists in the French and British archives."



# Thufail Mohamed Iqbal



## MEET THE TEAM

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I am Thufail Iqbal, a Sri Lankan national holding two bachelor Degrees, a General Degree with Geography as the major subject, and another Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies. I joined the QF family on 8th June 2008 and worked at the Heritage Library fulfilling various duties especially concentrating on Administration & Safety tasks until I moved to QNL-Technical Services team on 5th January 2014. I am now working as an Acquisitions Officer.

### **What do you do as an Acquisitions Officer?**

Actually it is all teamwork. QNL Acquisitions Department has a nice team. I am happy to be a member of this team, and as an Acquisitions Officer I do support all the operations that the team does, such as researching titles and placing orders for materials e.g. Books, Serials, DVDs, CDs, etc... We also support other activities such as book vendor selection, claiming open orders, monitoring standing orders, and so on. We need to ensure that QNL receives all the materials

and check them physically and confirm them. We also support our colleagues in some other tasks like cataloguing.

### **Describe your experience working in the library sector**

I started my career as a Library Development Officer in my home country and after a certain period I got the opportunity to join the Heritage Library in Qatar. I continued working until it was merged into the Qatar National Library and I have learned lots of things and gained valuable experience during this period working in the library sector.

### **What's the most important thing you've learned through working in the Acquisitions field?**

The most important thing I have learned through working in the Acquisitions field is that "teamwork" results in achieving the objectives easily and in a proper manner. This is a strength that brings the best results.

### **What inspires you and why?**

I am inspired by challenges because they are the best judge

and they help one discover his/her potential and strengths, as well as show one the way to improve oneself and others. They also help keep one moving forward.

### **What is your favourite book?**

My favourite book that I have read and still I hope to read many more times is the Arabic Book "Ar-Raheeq Al Makhtoom" (الرحيق المختوم). It is a biography of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). The book explains how the Prophet took on many roles in his lifetime, yet he perfected them all. He was an exemplary leader, husband, father, and friend. He led a balanced life; one role did not overshadow or diminish the others. It is no wonder that he was proclaimed as the most influential man in history by Michael Hart in his book The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History.