

QNL Snapshots - Issue (8) - January, February & March 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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## Thousands Visit Qatar National Library's Showcase at 25<sup>th</sup> Doha International Book Fair



**T**housands of people from across Qatar visited the Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, at its inaugural exhibit during the 25<sup>th</sup> Doha International Book Fair.

Among the visitors were His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir; Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Founder and Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Doha Film Institute and Reach Out to Asia; His Excellency Ahmed Bin Abdullah Bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for the Council of Ministers Affairs; and His Excellency Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Qatar's Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, as well as representatives of various embassies.



Throughout the Book Fair, which was held alongside the Doha Cultural Festival at the Qatar National Convention Centre, the QNL team ran interactive presentations about the library's state-of-the-art resources. The team also showcased QNL's advanced digital resources, engaged children and their families through traditional storytelling sessions, and assisted the registration of hundreds of visitors, who now have access to the library's wealth of digital resources free of charge at the touch of a button.

In keeping with its commitment to support Qatar Foundation's mission to foster a progressive society, while preserving the nation's heritage, QNL bridges Qatar's past and future through knowledge.

By sharing valuable information and cultivating creativity, QNL continues to support Qatar Foundation in protecting the nation's heritage for future generations. It does this by providing access to a wealth of resources through an exceptional selection of online databases, regular training programmes, and social engagement initiatives.

"We are simply delighted by the success of our inaugural participation at the Doha



International Book Fair and Qatar National Library remains committed to facilitating access to valuable information for the people of Qatar in the easiest possible way. The Library also works closely with its various local and international partners including the World Digital Library and the British Library, to make this happen, and we look forward to continuing our work to bridge Qatar's past and future through knowledge," said Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL.

Dr Claudia Lux, and Dr Joachim Gierlichs, Associate Director of Special Collections and Archives at QNL, led interactive discussion sessions about the library's latest initiatives and resources, including QNL's

landmark Heritage Collection, at the recent Book Fair.

"It is wonderful to see a growing interest in the resources Qatar National Library currently offers as we continue to pioneer the concept of accessing valuable information and knowledge free of charge for the residents of Qatar," Said Engineer Saadi Al Said, Associate Director for Administration and Planning at QNL. "The Book Fair was a brilliant opportunity for us to reach out to a large number of the population and we

look forward to our continued participation in years to come."

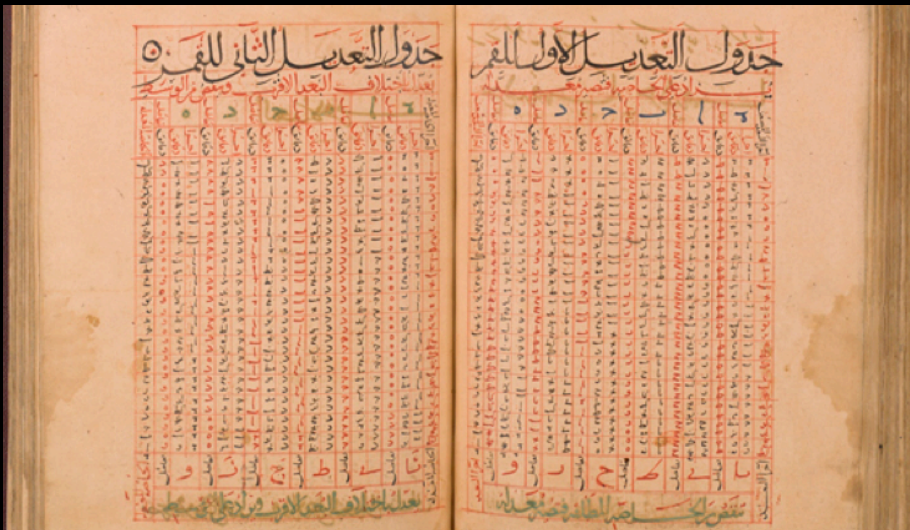
QNL's Qatar Digital Library (QDL) also attracted significant public interest at the Book Fair. The QDL is a bilingual online portal containing more than half a million digitized historical documents, manuscripts and information about the history of Qatar and the Gulf region, as well as a wide range of material pertaining to Arab and Islamic sciences.

QNL and the British Library have announced the second phase of their ongoing partnership that will see the digitization of 1,125,000 pages of rare, historical documents from Britain's Indian Office Archive, including maps and medieval manuscripts relating to Gulf and Arab regional history.





# Second Phase of Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Library and British Library Partnership Launched



Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), Qatar National Library (QNL) and the British Library announced the second phase of their ongoing partnership. The next stage of this productive collaboration, which will last until December 2018, follows on from the initial partnership announced in 2012 which has raised awareness of Gulf and Middle Eastern history.

Phase two will see the digitization of 1,125,000 pages of rare, historical documents that will be shared with the public through QNL's online Qatar Digital Library (QDL) in a bid to significantly enhance current understanding of the Islamic world, Arab culture and the Gulf's regional history.

Qatar Foundation's mission is to foster a progressive, engaged society that is appreciative of its heritage and traditions, and interested in furthering learning and knowledge in support of the nation's priorities as set out in Qatar National Vision 2030.

As a member of QF, QNL's vision is bridging Qatar's past and future through knowledge, and it does this by sharing valuable information and cultivating creativity through an exceptional selection of printed

and digital resources, regular training programs, and social engagement initiatives.

This next phase will focus on digitizing historical documents from Britain's Indian Office Archive relating to Gulf and Arab regional history.

Building on the success of the first phase of this collaboration, the Qatar Digital Library will add an additional 970,000 pages from India Office Records dating from the beginning of the 17th century to mid-twentieth century. Further highlights will include 55,000 pages of Arab Islamic Science manuscripts, and approximately 100,000 pages from private papers.

Following digitization, the material will be added to the Qatar Digital Library which originated out of the first phase of the partnership and was launched in October 2014. The

QDL already provides students, researchers and the general public in any part of the world with free online access to over half a million pages of precious historic archive and manuscript material. The QDL's unveiling received an exceptional reaction from the online community with nearly 780,000 page views in the first month alone.

Commenting on phase two of the agreement, Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, President of Qatar Foundation, said: "This planned new material will preserve and add rich new insights into the history of Qatar, the Gulf region and Arab and Islamic history and culture.

This project is a testament to the commitment of QF to fostering greater understanding of Qatar's heritage, and to sharing this precious collection

of resources with the whole world. I am delighted that this extension to QF's partnership with the British Library both supports the nation's journey towards a knowledge-based economy as set out in the Qatar National Vision 2030, and opens up this precious material for local people's academic benefit and enjoyment."

The many digital images of historical documents related to this region, once completed, will provide an informative source for anyone seeking to learn more about the region. "The aim of this partnership is to explore, and raise awareness about the history of the Gulf and the wider region while creating one of the world's most ambitious and accessible resources for studies into Gulf History and Arab Islamic Sciences," said Dr

Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL. "The second phase of this partnership will add further value to QNL's existing databases and collections as we remain steadfast in our commitment and support of Qatar Foundation's mission to preserve and bridge Qatar's and the region's past and future through knowledge."

Commenting on the launch of the second phase, Mr Roly Keating, Chief Executive, of the British Library, said: One of the purposes of the British Library is to work with partners across the world to advance knowledge and mutual understanding. The goal of this collaborative project with the Qatar National Library is to create a 21st-Century online library to transform the study of both the modern history of the Gulf and Arabic science. Extending our relationship with

the Qatar Foundation and Qatar National Library now enables us to further really develop these themes, converting the huge wealth of stored knowledge at the British Library into shared knowledge that is accessible anywhere in the world.

Richard Gibby, Head of British Library - Qatar Foundation Partnership said: "Our goal in launching the Qatar Digital Library was to create a resource which will advance world knowledge and understanding of the Gulf region's cultural heritage. The second phase of our partnership, adding over a million extra pages in the next four years, will add depth and breadth, stimulating new research and enabling new discoveries."

## Thai Embassy Presents Valuable Books to Qatar National Library



The Embassy of Thailand in Qatar has presented Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar

Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, with a number of valuable books

as part of a diplomatic visit aimed at promoting cultural relations and exchange.

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, accompanied by number of QNL team welcomed His Excellency Mr Piroon Laismit and received the valuable books. Dr Lux also, expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Ambassador for the generous donation.

Furthermore, QNL previously welcomed a number of high profile Thai officials and diplomats to its Heritage Collection Building.

The delegation included HE Dr Tej Bunnag, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs in





Thailand, and HE Mr Piroon Laismit, Ambassador of Thailand to Qatar.

QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning, Engineer Saadi A. Al Said, and Dr Joachim Gierlichs, QNL's Associate Director for Special Collections and Archives, accompanied the delegation on their visits and highlighted the rare and valuable materials and manuscripts related to the Arab-Islamic civilization and some of the Heritage Collection's most valuable items.

As a member of Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Library and its Heritage Collection support QF's mission to foster greater understanding and appreciation of Qatar's heritage in support of the Qatar National Vision 2030's goals to promote a harmonious and well-educated community aware of its history.

QNL's Heritage Collection has witnessed previous high profile

visits including Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in January 2012. Furthermore, Thailand's former ambassador, HE Mr Panyarak Poolthup, gifted a 200 year-old copy of the Holy Qur'an to QNL in September 2013 which has since benefited local researchers' studies.

Commenting on the donation, HE Mr Piroon Laismit, the Ambassador of Thailand in Qatar said: "Book is a reflecting medium of philosophy, ways of thinking and civilization of each country. Donating books about Thainess is one of the ways of shaping the corrected idea about Thailand among foreigners and also as a medium of promoting better understanding between Thai and Qatari who have different culture and way of life. With this educational cooperation, the people-to-people tie and understanding especially among younger generation can be

strengthened."

In response, Dr Lux said: "The cultural ties between Qatar and Thailand are strong, distinguished and play a great role in promoting cultural and historical exchanges between the two countries."

"The donated books will enrich the Library's collection and enhance researchers' opportunities for study and awareness of Thai culture." She added.

As part of its activities, the Library organizes cultural and educational events including the QNL Heritage Collection Open Day which is held annually in April to celebrate the UNESCO's International Day for Monuments and Sites. The Library also stages community events and training sessions on the use of the online resources offered to researchers, students and residents of Qatar.





## Over 700 People Attend Qatar National Library's 'Monster Makers Lab' Event

**Q**atar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, attracted more than 700 children and their families for a 'Monster Makers Laboratory' in which they learnt the basic art of monster making using rudimentary materials and geometrical shapes.

Held at the Recreation Centre in Qatar Foundation, in collaboration with Qatar Museums, the 'Monster Makers Laboratory' saw children aged (3 to 11) unleash their creativity as part of the citywide 'Makers Event 2015', organized by the Qatar Museums Family Programmes.

By cultivating creativity, sharing valuable information and knowledge, QNL continues to support Qatar Foundation's mission to unlock the potential of people of all ages. It does this by providing access to a

wealth of resources through its outstanding selection of online databases, regular training programmes, community events, and social engagement initiatives.

"To achieve its goal of bridging Qatar's past and present through knowledge, the Qatar National Library remains mindful of the fact that today's children are the future of this nation, which makes them one of our prime audiences," said Carol Mitchell, Head of Children's Services, at QNL. "We therefore seek to engage the youth in

various ways, one of which is the 'Monster Makers Laboratory', which succeeded in being the fun-filled family event, with an underlying educational element, that we had envisioned and we are delighted with the turnout to our inaugural participation in the 'Makers Event'."

Fahd bin Mohammed Al Kuwari, who accompanied his three daughters to the 'Monster Makers Lab', said, "I'm delighted that my girls have been able to express their creativity through this beautiful event. I hope that the Qatar National







Library organizes more of these activities regularly, in a bigger place.”

Sheikha Al-Ghanim, a five-year-old Qatari, added: “I was very excited to come to the ‘Monster Makers Lab’ and have enjoyed it because I’ve learned how to make creatures using colored paper.”

“This kind of event reinforces the importance of nurturing creativity in children,” said parent, Bettina Bader. “Each child lives in their own world, and it is our role as parents and a society to enable them to express their creativity.”

Busy putting the final touches on his Spider-Man inspired creation, nine-year-old Saif Al-Momani, said: “I’ve had lots of fun at the ‘Monster Makers Lab’ and made some new friends too. I’ve also created my favorite cartoon and will put it up in my room.”

Aimed at educating children through art and creative design, the ‘Makers Event 2015’ saw a partnership of Doha’s cultural and educational institutions host a

variety of programs that allowed families to choose from several opportunities to get creative.

Under the theme of geometric shapes and patterns, the ‘Makers Event 2015’ sought to encourage diverse approaches and interpretations geared towards nurturing and showcasing the community’s creativity.

“In its second year, the ‘Makers Event’ was a great success. We were so pleased to be able to offer families many different and unique workshops over the weekend, organized by outstanding organizations such as the Qatar National Library,” said Jessica Ludwig, Head of Families at Qatar Museums. “At Qatar Museums Family Programs, we aim to provide local families the opportunity to explore, learn and play together through creative experiences, and the weekend saw families learn about geometric shapes and patterns through monster-making, scribbling machines, mosaic-making with clay, geometric

pop-up books, colourful spin tops, storytelling and much more.

Therefore, the ‘Makers Event’ is unique in that it pools together the many creative minds in Qatar to offer one great weekend of events for families to enjoy.”

Additionally, QNL’s children section regularly organizes a variety of activities for the whole family, the most recent of which was the ‘Qatar–Brazil 2014’ that garnered large interest from children and their families. Another activity was the launch of ‘The Blue Jackal’ book which was a great success with the country’s youth.

QNL acknowledges that children are the future leaders of the nation, who need to be provided and equipped with the necessary resources to carry on the efforts to preserve the nation’s heritage, while driving it into the future.

For this reason, QNL provides access to a wealth of digital resources to the country’s youth through its children and teen collections.

## Qatar National Library Launches its New Branch at the HBKU Student Center

Qatar National Library (QNL), has launched its new branch in the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Student Center in Education City; further spreading knowledge, nurturing imagination, cultivating creativity, and preserving the nation’s heritage for the future. The QNL team is on-site, Sunday through Thursday from

10:00am to 6:00pm, to offer free registration to a vast collection of the library’s online resources, showcase the advanced digital resources, and feature the new Qatar Digital Library, that provides unrivalled collection of precious heritage material. By sharing valuable information QNL continues to support QF in

protecting the nation’s heritage for future generations. It does this by providing access to a wealth of resources through its exceptional selection of online databases, regular training programmes, community events, and social engagement initiatives.

# Qatar National Library Organizes Series of Book Discussions



**Q**atar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized a successful series of book discussions included Arabic book discussion of 'Sazeran Treasure', written by the Qatari writer Essa Abdullah, 'Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus' by Dr. John Gray's, and Malala Yousafzai's book 'I Am Malala'.

Arabic book discussion of 'Sazeran Treasure' novel is about a Qatari family that discovers a piece of paper with Ottoman script in their house in the city of Wakra. Presuming the old paper is about the Sazeran Treasure the father had always spoken about, the family set on a journey across different Qatari forts to look for the treasure.

During the treasure hunt journey, the family goes through entertaining, yet experimental and sometimes dangerous adventures, allowing Abu Derham's family to know their friends from their enemies. The treasure turned out to be a legend existing only in myths. Dr John Gray's book 'Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus', asserts the notion that men and women are as different as beings from other planets. However, the author gives expert suggestions for improving relationships between men and women. He presents these suggestions in a simple language and takes the reader on a journey to explore potential mistakes that could affect

couples relationships and how to tackle them. The book represents a practical guide for improving communication between couples and their understanding of the emotional needs of each other for a healthy relationship.

Malala Yousafzai's book 'I Am Malala', tells a remarkable story of how a young education activist miraculously survived a bullet that went through her head. Not many expected her to survive, but her recovery took her on an extraordinary and phenomenal journey from northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. The book captivatingly reveals how Malala fought for her right to an education and how her brave parents encouraged and helped her to realize this mission. The book makes you believe that a single voice can change the world.

QNL regularly organizes cultural and educational activities, in addition to community events and training sessions on the use of the online resources the library offers to researchers, students and residents of Qatar.

Essa Abdullah author of the

'Sazeran Treasure' novel said, "These programs and book discussions organized by Qatar National Library should further contribute to enhance communication, discuss different viewpoints, and considered the ideal gathering to introduce the author's thoughts," he added "the upcoming issue of 'Sazeran Treasure' will address further details that concerned the readers in the first issue." Commenting on these events and trainings, Engineer Saadi A. Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning, said: "We are pleased at Qatar National Library to host the creative Qatari writer, Essa Abdullah. This will open new communications channels and will contribute to offer interactive book discussions," he added "Through these programs, QNL aims to spread knowledge among different groups within society, in line with its mission to share information, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future."





# Qatar National Library Organizes Practical Training Sessions of Online Databases

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized interactive and practical training sessions of its online resources. This training sessions helped residents familiarize themselves with general science and health sciences online databases, ProQuest collection of online databases, and selected music online resources.

The general science and health sciences online databases included the 'Taylor & Francis' Medicine, which provides a broad multidisciplinary collection with access to over 1500 titles covering 19 broad subjects in Science & Technology, Humanities, Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Built Environment and Law books collection. The 'SpringerLink' online database represents a primary resource destination for all academic researchers and students

interested in scientific, technical and medical eBooks and journals.

The general science training sessions also focussed on the 'OVID - Wolter Kluwer' database, that provides access to a large collection of full-text peer-reviewed journals and multimedia on behavioral and social sciences, and medical sciences. Other sessions looked at the 'Nature' electronic resource presenting scientific journals that publishes peer-reviewed research in all fields of

science and technology.

The 'ProQuest collection' practical training included the online databases of: ProQuest Central, RefWorks, and Index Islamicus which contain thousands of periodical titles and millions of full-text articles. Training on music online resources included: Alexander Street Press, Oxford, and Naxos products, and demonstrated effective use of these online databases.



## MEET THE TEAM



# Maha Mohamed Al Naimi

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

My name is Maha Mohamed Al Naimi. I hold a bachelor degree in History of Islamic Civilization from University of Sharjah. On the professional level, I hope I can change the perception of the history amongst people, and promote the idea that of history being a major changing tool if used properly. My personal hobbies are reading and cooking.

### 2. What do you do as Information Services Librarian, History and Philosophy?

My main responsibilities include, collecting books that are related to history and philosophy, plan for future activities, communicate with researchers and others interested people in my major field, organize book discussions, and promote the online databases that Qatar National Library offers.

### 3. Describe your experience working at QNL?

Working at Qatar National Library is a unique experience by itself. My major responsibility is to encourage the culture of reading among the youngsters, which is one of QNL's main objectives, moreover contributing to widen the QNL's registered users, in order to reach all researchers, students and others interested in Qatar.

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

I consider it the beginnings of future achievements, as participating in the Sharja and Doha book fairs.

Facilitating the Book Discussion of 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus' with Abdulrahman Al Harami was another one. Moreover, I see my recent work with a group of pioneer ambitious Qatari girls is a great achievement.

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

In the library's field, I have learned that it's very important to keep abreast with the latest developments, and adopt the advancements that suit our traditions and customs.

### 6. What inspires you and why?

Historical legends who succeeded to lead their people. The most important person who inspired me is the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) the final Prophet, who was able to lead diverse groups of people by wisdom, patience and faith. Another important person, is Khalid-bin-Waleed, the great military leader, who has never lost a battle.

### 7. What is your favorite book?

Since I love reading, I cannot choose a particular book. But there are many worthy books, such as 'Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus', literature works of Naguib Mahfouz, and the masterpieces of Khalil Gibran and Paulo Coelho.