

QNL Snapshots - Issue (10) - July, August & September 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.

**Qatar National Library Officially Announced As the Regional Arabic Speaking Preservation and Conservation Center**



**Qatar Digital Library Wins International Design Award**

4



**Qatar Highlights the Legacy of Ibn Al-Haytham at UNESCO Paris**

9



## Qatar National Library Represents Qatar at International IFLA World Library and Information Congress

**Q**atar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), recently participated in the 81<sup>st</sup> IFLA World Library and Information Congress in South Africa to showcase Qatar's array of state-of-the-art information services.



Hosted at the Cape Town International Convention Center (CTICC), the Congress is a flagship professional and trade event for the library and information services sector. It is organized by the International Federation of Library

Associations and Institutions (IFLA), which represents the global voice of the library and information profession. QNL was also recognized as the Regional Arabic Speaking Preservation and Conservation Center (PAC) at the Congress.

The QNL-PAC regional center will utilise state-of-the-art technologies at its laboratories aimed at preserving precious heritage and culture archive materials available in Qatar and the wider region. Through this announcement, QNL will represent the 25 Arabic speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Through its participation at this international event, QNL supports Qatar Foundation's commitment to protecting and preserving Qatar and the region's heritage and culture, making these accessible for future generations. Commenting on QNL's participation at the Congress, Dr Claudia Lux, QNL's Project Director, said: "The IFLA World Library and Information Congress provides our team with a unique opportunity to network with thousands of



seasoned experts from the global information services industry.

Members of our team exchanged ideas with experts from other countries and took part in numerous professional development sessions.” Dr Lux added, “QNL showcased the recent progress of Qatar’s libraries and information services sector to a global audience. Our booth welcomed hundreds of visitors who learnt about the various developments in Qatar’s information services, including the launch of Qatar Digital Library (QDL), the promotion of the concept of Open Access in Qatar through QNL’s online databases, QNL’s existing services and initiatives, and the library’s future plans.” The Qatar Digital Library (QDL), one of QNL’s landmark projects, is an online platform providing access to thousands of historical documents about the Gulf and

the wider region as a whole. It provides rare insights into centuries of Arab history and culture, as well as the valuable contributions made by various Islamic scholars in the fields of science, medicine, mathematics and geometry. Eng Saadi Al Said, QNL’s Director of Administration and Planning, said: “Our presentation on QDL was welcomed by the participants and visitors at the exhibition. QDL is at the forefront of Qatar and the region’s digital revolution.” Eng Al Said added: “QNL is collaborating with other stakeholders in Qatar and the region to preserve rare historical materials about the wider region. QNL’s announcement as the regional PAC center will enable the library to reach out the wider region and greatly assist in preserving precious historical resources available in the various libraries.”

Commenting on her experience at the Congress, Abeer Al-Kuwari, in charge of QNL’s Branches Affairs said: “IFLA is one of the world’s leading specialized libraries and information service conferences where I had the opportunity to meet seasoned practitioners from across the globe and hear their experiences.

I attended various workshops and discussions, gaining valuable insights in the latest developments and findings related to libraries and information services sector. These insights will help us to further develop libraries in Qatar in the coming future.”

Samia Hassan Al Shiba, Senior Project Coordinator at QNL, who presented an informative presentation on QDL, said: “This is my second time attending the IFLA World Library and Information Congress. Through a poster presentation, I had the honor of offering participants of the Congress an introduction to the QDL and its content. My attendance at the Congress was a success, not only was I able to enhance my professional development, but also expand my network of contacts with leading experts from around the world.”

Qatar National Library is currently offering free online access to a vast collection of online resources, including the latest bestsellers, classical works, top academic journals and documentaries. Anyone who lives in Qatar and has a valid Qatari ID/Residence Permit is eligible for free library registration. To register, please visit:

<https://library.qnl.qa/selfreg>.

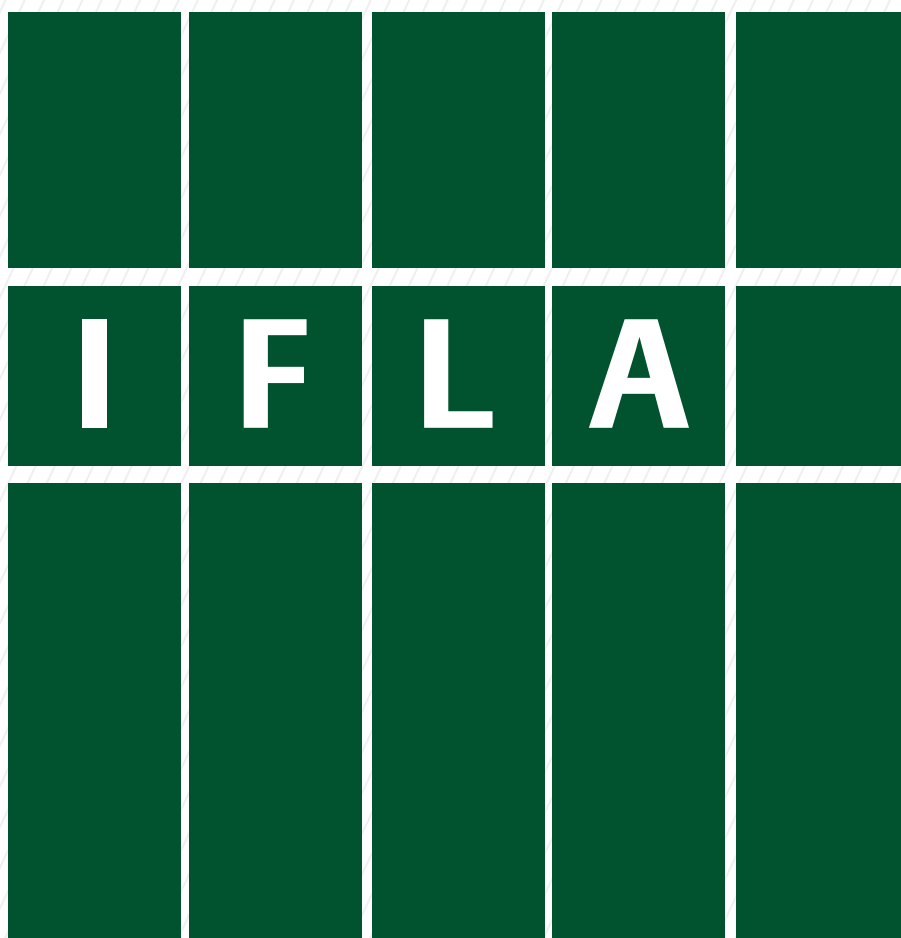


# **Qatar National Library Officially Announced As the Regional Arabic Speaking Preservation and Conservation Center**

**T**he International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) has officially selected Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), as the Regional Arabic Speaking Preservation and Conservation Center (PAC). The announcement came during the 81<sup>st</sup> IFLA General Conference and Assembly, held in Cape Town, South Africa.



IFLA currently has a network of 13 Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Centers worldwide. The goal of the PAC Strategic Programs is to ensure that library and archive materials, published and unpublished, in all formats will be preserved in accessible form for as long as possible according to IFLA PAC principles. As part of the appointment, QNL will represent the 25 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) where Arabic is one of the official languages. Therefore, by serving as the PAC, Qatar National Library is supporting QF's vision



of protecting and preserving the region's heritage and culture and making them accessible for future generations. More discussions with the IFLA headquarters are set to take place for the PAC project activities. Currently, these mainly include workshops in Arabic and English on preventive and active conservation, production of web pages on the QNL portal in Arabic

and English, and provision of free information (printed and digital format) in Arabic on preventive conservation, active conservation, digital preservation, and material providers. Dr Joachim Gierlichs, QNL's Associate Director for Special Collections and Archives, commented on the announcement, saying: "Qatar National Library is proud to

become the first Regional Arabic Speaking Preservation and Conversion Center. This comes as a result of its continuous efforts in preserving Qatar and the wide region's heritage."

Eng Saadi Al Said, QNL's Director of Administration and Planning, added: "We are proud that QNL has been selected as the Regional Arabic Speaking Preservation and Conservation Center in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The appointment is in-line with QNL's national function to collect and provide access to global knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region. This center will help QNL become a hub for the region's heritage, and establish strong relations with other libraries in the region and beyond."

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, said: "Being an IFLA PAC Center puts the hosting organization at the forefront of preservation and

conservation. It enables QNL to participate in a worldwide network and offers opportunities to participate in the wide preservation and conservation activities of IFLA, such as IFLA's work with international partners like UNESCO (Memory of the World and others) and the Blue Shield."

The QNL/PAC center is considered one of the prominent laboratories in the region. It is fully equipped with some of the most modern devices for book paper conservation treatment, including light tables, suction table, cutter, hydraulic press, leaf casting machine, drying racks, and fume hood for solvent treatment. The lab will also include a specific area devoted to biological risks in libraries and special microscopes for material analyses and identification.

QNL continues to collaborate with prominent institutions around the world such as the World Digital Library (WDL)

through organizing a highly informative symposium every year on the preservation of 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 also other libraries and information centers throughout the region. QNL is also the home of the Heritage Collection, which was founded in the early 1980s as part of HE 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 which contains some of the first Arabic books printed on presses in Shweir (Lebanon), Aleppo, Mosul, Bulaq, and in the Hijaz.

## Qatar Digital Library Wins International Design Award

Qatar Digital Library (QDL) won 3<sup>rd</sup> place award for the best website of the year 2015.

The award is part of the fifth edition of the International Design and Communication Awards (IDCA), which celebrates excellent design and creativity within the arts and museum sphere.

The winners were selected from a pool of 84 excellent entries from 20 countries and 63 cultural organizations and design agencies. The award was received by Engineer Saadi Al-Said, QNL's Director of Administration and Planning during the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Communicating the Museum conference that was held in Istanbul, on 9 September, 2015.

Qatar Digital Library which was launched in October 2014, is the result of the Qatar National Library, Qatar Foundation and the British Library Partnership. QDL makes documents and other items relating to the modern history of Qatar, the Gulf region and beyond as well the Arab and Islamic Sciences, fully accessible and free of charge to researchers and the general public through a state-of-the-art online portal.

For more information, please visit QDL's website: [www.qdl.qa](http://www.qdl.qa)







## A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Collection Open Day of QNL attracted VIPs, families, and students, all of whom were drawn to the opportunity of delving into the artifacts that shaped the history of Qatar*

The Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), exists as a bridge to connect Qatar's and the region's past and future through knowledge. In service of this goal, QNL is dedicated to community engagement, ensuring the public is both aware and appreciative of the treasures of its past.

The success of this focus area was evident from 21-23 April 2015, when more than 500 visitors flocked to QNL's 3<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Collection Open Day to catch a glimpse of a stunning collection of some of the most rare and valuable texts and

manuscripts related to Arab-Islamic civilization.

The Open Day presented a unique opportunity for QNL to engage with the community about how the QF member plans to retell the story of the country through its vast assembly of cultural artifacts. Speaking to The Foundation at the launch of the Open Day, Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director, QNL, stated: "Is Qatar Foundation really doing enough for heritage?, it is a very important question to the local community of Qatar, I think days such as this are part of the answer to that question because

opening up the QNL Heritage Collection, which preserves national history by acquiring and housing some of the most valuable precious items, allows the public to view rare and priceless manuscripts, maps, and books".

Held under the theme 'Wagten Geda' – meaning 'times gone by' – the event provided Qatar's community with the opportunity to glimpse rare historical collections related to Arab-Islamic civilization, and to witness the unveiling of QNL's newly-acquired Arabic Cinema Collection. The newly acquired items showcased the



progression of Arab cinema through a collection of film posters and photos. "It's a very special collection and it shows that viewing heritage alone is not merely an intellectual exercise, but can spur emotions too," said Dr Lux. "We had a female Qatari visitor earlier who upon viewing the Heritage Collection, said it was something that showcased for her the journey of Qatar.

"This point in history right now will be heritage in 20, 50, 100 years from now and QNL is working for these future generations, to preserve memories and to bridge the gap between heritage and the future."

By sharing valuable information and cultivating creativity, QNL continues to support QF in protecting the nation's heritage for future generations. Acquired by QF in 2006, the Heritage Collection is now an integral part of QNL.

### Historic collection

Founded in the early 1980s 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. The collection is home to more than 2,400 manuscripts including Qur'anic manuscripts and other texts dealing with religious topics, manuscripts on the Arabic language, medicine, pharmacology, and astronomy. It also holds a large number of books written in foreign languages, including writings by European travelers and explorers who visited the Arabian Gulf region and its surroundings. The collection has attracted intellectuals and diplomats from



**This has been a very inspiring exhibition which shows in a positive way Qatar's role in the region and the prospects for the country's development in the future.**

across the world and this year welcomed many high profile visitors, including His Excellency Dr Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, who was among the many VIPs, dignitaries, diplomats, and members of the public to attend the annual event.

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#### His Excellency Dr Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari

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.

"On this occasion I would like to invite the community to visit the Heritage Collection Building to enjoy what it shows and to feel proud of Qatar's achievements as they see how Qatar has changed over the years."

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Another esteemed visitor to the Open Day was His Excellency Nicholas Hopton, UK Ambassador to Qatar, who remarked: "It is a wonderful collection of manuscripts and various materials from way back in history detailing how Islamic culture, religious thought,

and philosophy have 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 the country's development in the future." For Dr Lux, however, the key benefit to opening up QNL's Heritage Collection to the public is to ensure a multi-generational interest in heritage. If the visitors of today might become the researchers of tomorrow, a bright future for the QF member is assured.

"Opening this collection is fully aligned with how QF has totally opened up Education City to visitors," stated Dr Lux.

"Researchers are our regular visitors here, but we have had schools visiting and discovering the importance of heritage and the history of Qatar in the region. So perhaps we can stimulate the interest of students, who might visit and see the value of library studies, before returning years from now as the next researchers, we at QNL are now coming to a stage where we have collected a lot, assembled a vast collection of heritage, and we're coming ever-closer to showcasing the full library in our new building."



# Qatar National Library Organizes 'Back to School' Event



**Q**atar National Library (QNL), member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) has organized an open event for children aged 4 to 11 years and their families to mark the beginning of the academic year.

The 'Back to School' event took place on 27 August at the Education City Clubhouse included many activities designed to develop the children's abilities and unleash their creativity through storytelling, arts, crafts, and much more.

"By sharing valuable information and cultivating creativity, QNL continues to support Qatar Foundation's commitment to unlock human potential for future generations," said Gihan Mohsen Baraka, Head of Library Relations and Communications at QNL. "It does this by providing access to a wealth of resources through its exceptional selection of online databases, regular training programs, and social engagement initiatives." "The aim of this 'Back to School'

event is to bring together the children of Qatar and give them an opportunity to develop their creative abilities and skills with their families," said Carol Mitchell, Head of Children's Services at QNL. "They got to learn new arts and crafts, including creating their own personalized pencil cases, and listened to exciting stories and songs. We believe education should be fun and that is what this event is about."

The event was the QNL's first 'Back to School' event and one of many other social events taking place at Education City that QNL organizes and participates in year-round to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future. In addition to organizing and

partnering in local community events, QNL also participates in regional initiatives, programs, and international exhibitions and conferences. The local community events include monthly book discussion events, online databases trainings, lectures, and children's events. QNL recognizes that children are the leaders of the future. They need to be equipped with the necessary resources, knowledge, and skills to preserve the nation's heritage, while driving their community into the future. Therefore, QNL provides access to a wealth of digital resources for young people through its children and teen collections. Free access is available by registering at: <https://library.qnl.qa/selfreg>





Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized an interactive edutainment event for children and their families to mark 'Eid Al-Adha'. Held at the Education City

Recreation Center, the event brought together children and families for a fun and engaging afternoon of storytelling, crafts and art-making. The 'Eid Al Adha' event builds on QNL's continued initiatives and programs in nurturing creativity and imaginative

thinking among youth.  
Events targeting the younger generation form the core of the library's approach, encouraging them to become future leaders within their community.  
For more information on upcoming events, please visit:  
<http://bit.ly/1MfLd9f>

## Training Sessions on Selected Health Online Resources

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized successful training sessions for the public throughout September. The interactive and practical training sessions helped residents familiarize themselves with selected health online resources: OVID, ProQuest health and medical resources, SAGE Journals, and RefWorks. For information on these resources, please visit QNL's website: [www.qnl.qa](http://www.qnl.qa)





# Qatar Highlights the Legacy of Ibn Al-Haytham at UNESCO Paris



A new exhibition part of the UN's International Year of Light highlighted the Islamic world's rich history and its contribution to modern day science at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The exhibition was launched as part of an international conference on "The Islamic Golden Age of Science for today's knowledge-based society: The Ibn Al-Haytham example" from 14 to 15 September 2015.

The exhibition is a joint initiative between Qatar National Library (QNL), Qatar National Commission to UNESCO and UNESCO Doha Office and is organized with the kind support of the Al Faisal Without Borders Foundation, founded and chaired by HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani.

Commenting on the exhibition, HE Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani said "it is very important to highlight the achievements of Muslim scientists such as Ibn Al-Haytham during the Golden Islamic era, to understand the role they played and the stones they set for all the coming scientific breakthroughs we all enjoy right now."

HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani, has inaugurated the exhibition together with UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, and the permanent delegate of the State of Qatar to

UNESCO, HE Mr. Ali Zainal.

The exhibition included a short film on QNL's efforts to preserve Islamic archives and manuscripts relating to the history of Qatar and the Arab and Islamic world. The exhibition also presented selections of important texts authored by Ibn Al-Haytham displayed on interactive touch-screens such as 'Discourse on Light', 'The Light of Planets', and 'The Light of the Moon' as well as manuscripts highlighting the influence of Ibn Al-Haytham in Europe, including an Arabic treatise on a geometrical topic copied in Leiden and a printed book on Ibn Al-Haytham's Optics Printed in Basle in 1572. Ibn Al-Haytham was a notable 11<sup>th</sup>-century Muslim scientist and scholar. He was born in Iraq during the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization and is known as the father of optics. Ibn Al-Haytham made extraordinary

inventions in the fields of vision, optics and light.

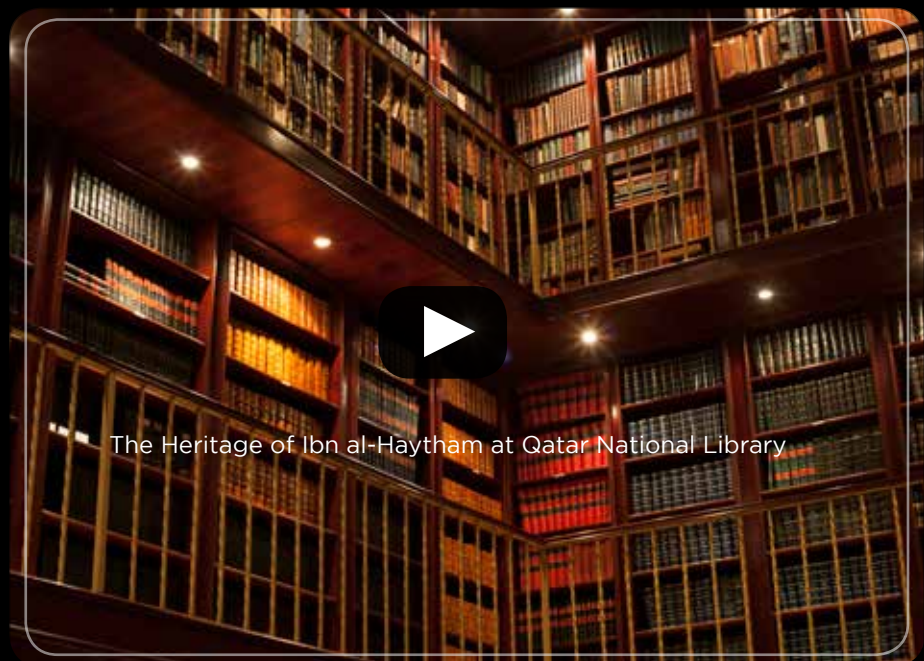
UNESCO Doha Office Director, Anna Paolini said: "The exhibition was an opportunity to showcase at the international level the efforts deployed by Qatar-based cultural institutions to preserve the rich heritage of the Islamic world, It is important for the younger generations to have access to this immense knowledge in their own country so they can be inspired and positively contribute to their societies as doctors, inventors, researchers and scientists."

Qatar National Commission to UNESCO Secretary General, Dr Hamda Al Sulaiti, said: "We are pleased to organize this important exhibition at UNESCO headquarters which not only reflects the contribution of the Islamic world to today's knowledge-based economies but also illustrate the efforts

made by the State of Qatar to improve access to knowledge and preserve the region's rich scientific heritage. We hope the exhibition will encourage students in Qatar to pursue careers in the field of science, research and cultural heritage preservation”.

QNL Project Director, Dr Claudia Lux, explained that “Through partnerships, QNL aims to explore and raise awareness about the history of the Gulf region while creating one of the world's most ambitious and accessible resources for studies into Islamic Sciences. These efforts go in line with QNL's vision of bridging with knowledge Qatar's and the Arab and Islamic world's heritage and future.”

Dr Joachim Gierlich, QNL's Associate Director for Special Collections and Archives, said: “Through the exhibition, we are highlighting selected digitized items of the famous scholar



The Heritage of Ibn al-Haytham at Qatar National Library

Ibn Al-Haytham from QNL's heritage collection. The first item is a 16<sup>th</sup> century version of Ibn Al-Haytham Book of optics (Kitab Al Manazer) which is also available at QNL's Heritage Collection. The other items are available at the Qatar Digital Library portal, which resulted from the partnership project between Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Library and the British Library, aiming to provide a free public access to the world's most significant resources for studies into Gulf History and Arab Islamic Sciences.”

Saba Al Kuwari, responsible for the manuscripts collection at QNL, stressed that “The exhibition shows the most important work of Ibn Al-Haytham. From such work, one can see that his way of thinking and criticizing is scientifically based. In fact, knowledge about Ibn Al-Haytham and his inventions can change our understanding of the openness nature of Islam in the encouragement of human intellect to question the world and to learn from God's creation.”





# QNL Explores the Wonders of Life through Arab Youth Literature

**Q**atar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), recently held a book discussion on 'You See, Life is Strange!' written by young Kuwaiti author Yousef Al Hajiri.

Written in Gulf Arabic dialect in a simple yet engaging style, 'You See, Life is Strange!' is a journal of sorts offering insight into Al Hajiri's beliefs whilst positively reflecting on his own life.

Although a substantial amount of youth literature exploring themes of self-reflection exists, 'You See, Life is Strange!' has a distinctive tone and voice which youth in the Gulf can identify with.

In an article published in Emirati newspaper, Al Roaia, the journalist, Marwa Al-Sanhoury, commends the book for being "youthful, highly enjoyable with a large dose of optimism and positive affirmations presented in a smooth and smart style, reflecting the mindset of youth in the Gulf."

In her review, Al-Sanhoury says the book is unique in its approach which calls for youth to view life as a 'naughty friend' rather than a 'fierce enemy' in order to ease the burden of challenges faced. Al-Hajiri, as Al-Sanhoury notes, "implores youth to adopt a positive attitude that will better enable them to cope with the challenges and hardships of life." In the book Al Hajiri's emphasizes the importance of setting goals to achieve success in life. The belief that God can help us surmount all difficulties, and that the wonder of life lies in the hardships encountered, is a reoccurring theme throughout the book.

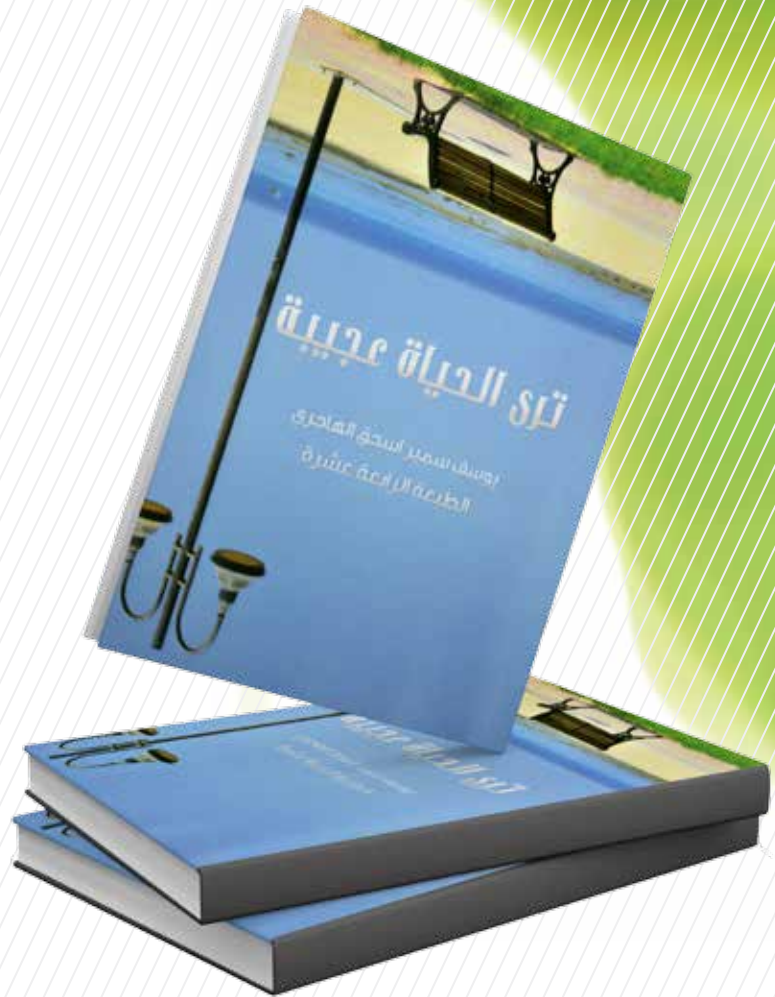
Featured by QNL's series of monthly book discussions, 'You

See, Life is Strange!' aligns with QF mission of unlocking human potential while assisting youth in overcoming challenges.

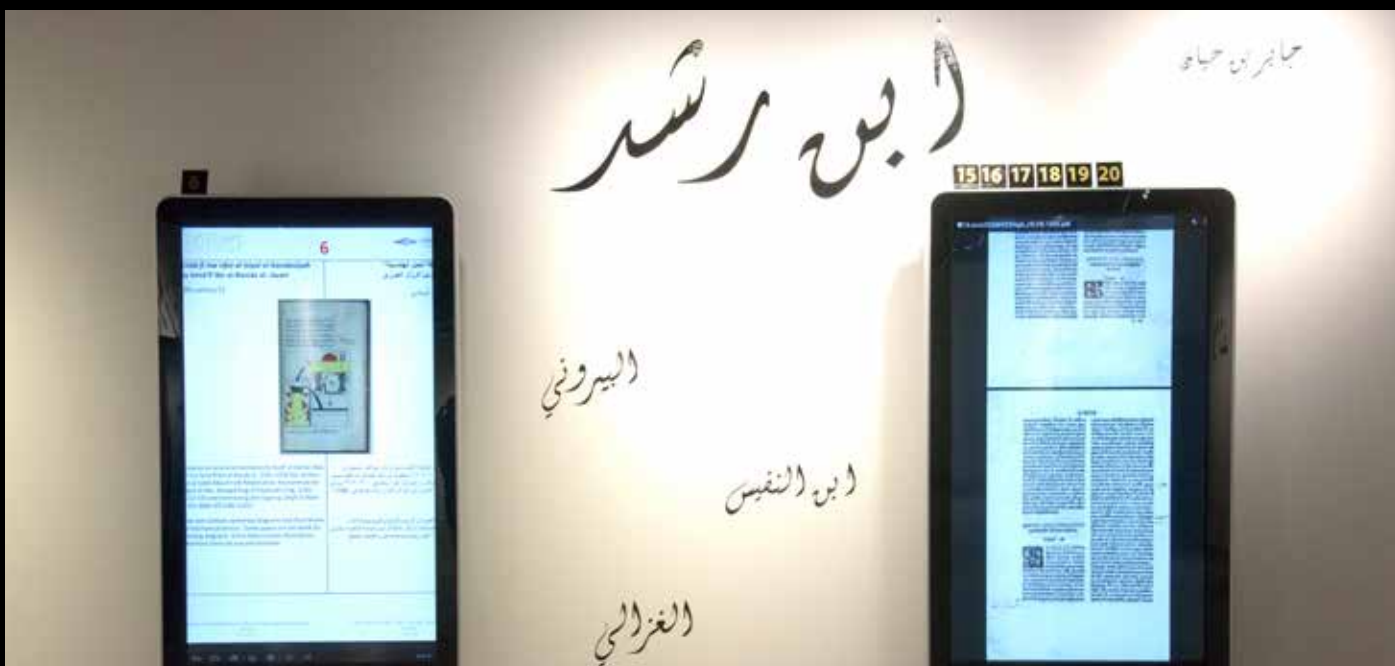
QNL believes the real value of a library is in its ability to make a lasting impact on the community it serves by bringing about positive change through knowledge.

Not only does QNL give access to online knowledge resources through its numerous content databases, but it also celebrates

literature from Qatar, the region and the world through a monthly book discussion that highlights notable books such 'The Corsair' novel by Abdulaziz Al Mahmoud, Qatari Voices featuring 25 short stories written by young Qatari writers, The Hidden Light of Objects by Kuwaiti author Mai Al-Nakib, Married to a Bedouin, by Marguerite van Geldermalsen, and Islam between East and West, by Ali Izetbegović.



# Interactive e-Book Exhibition



Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized an interactive e-Book exhibition as part of Katara's Ramadan Festival held from June 22 to July 18, 2015 under the theme 'Miracles and Inventions'.

Through the e-Book exhibition, QNL featured the significant contributions Arab and Muslim scholars made towards developing human knowledge by presenting some of QNL's digital copies of Arabic scientific manuscripts and Latin translations of Arabic scientific works printed in Europe, mainly

in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. QNL provided and operated large touch-sensitives screens with books on them, by which visitors could browse 150 books on about Islamic inventors. When visitors entered the gallery, they could go through the index and search for the books that they wanted to read and got

directions to the screen that has the book on it. Visitors could read excerpts of the books right there in the gallery by quickly swiping through the pages. The visitors could screen the history about the inventors and the description of the books on them.



# Forty more Arabic scientific manuscripts go live in Qatar Digital Library



In November 2014 we announced the first forty Arabic scientific manuscripts to go live in the Qatar Digital Library. We are now pleased to let you know that a further forty Arabic manuscripts have been uploaded.

The thinking behind our selection can be found in our previous blog. Of particular note is the fact that all our copies of the *Almagest* of Ptolemy have now been digitised (Add MS 7474, Add MS 7475, Add MS 7476 and Royal MS 16 A VIII), as well as other representative manuscripts containing Arabic translations of Greek scientific texts, for example, Galen's *Ars*

*medica* (Arundel Or 52) and Hippocrates' *Aphorisms* (Or 9452).

Masterpieces of Islamic book arts in this second group of forty include Ibn Butlān's book on dietetic medicine, *Taqwīm al-sihhah* (Or 1347); an anonymous bestiary compiled from the writings of Aristotle and Ibn Bakhtīshū', *Kitāb na't al-hayawān* (Or 2784); a richly illuminated copy of Avicenna's *Canon* (Or 5033); al-Qazwīnī's *Wonders of creation* (Or 14140 and see *The London Qazwini* goes live) and a fourteenth-century Mamluk Manuscript on Horsemanship (Add MS 18866).

Up to now we have focussed our efforts on digitising copies of the Arabic scientific classics. In the next phase, while continuing to expand the range of digitised scientific classics, we will also be moving on to trace the development of the sciences in the less well-charted territories of Ottoman- and Mughal-period scientific literature. We aim to provide valuable resources for understanding the long and varied history of the sciences in the Arabic-speaking world beyond the Classical Period. To view the added items, please visit the below link:

<http://bit.ly/1k6OGAI>





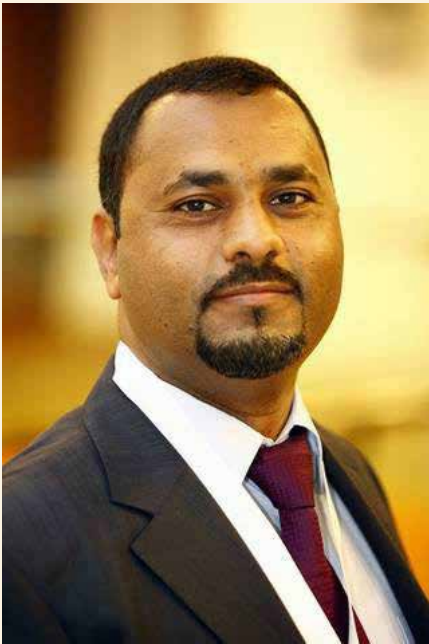
## **Qatar National Library Organizes Suhoor for Its Team Members**

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), organized a special Suhoor event for its team members at the St. Regis Hotel on 14 July, 2015, to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. This gathering comes as part of the QNL's continuous efforts to create social and recreational events that promote the spirit of teamwork, and enhance the communication and socialization among its team members.





## MEET THE TEAM



**Abed Al-Sameai**

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

My name is Abed Al-Sameai and I am from Yemen. I work as a senior translator with the QNL Communications team. Before I came to Qatar, I used to work as a university professor of English language and linguistics at Taiz University, Yemen. I am married with four children.

### **2. What do you do as a Senior Translator?**

As a translator, I naturally translate various types of documents and texts (Arabic-English and English-Arabic). I also develop content for various communications purposes, especially for publication through the QNL different communication channels. Sometimes, I do consecutive or simultaneous translation for the senior QNL management in meetings. As a member of the QNL communications team, I participate in the execution of various events and activities carried out by QNL, which means that sometimes I need to assume the role of a marketing or public relations specialist.

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

My work at QNL has been fulfilling and exciting. I am very happy with my work and I enjoy the many roles I need to take up sometimes. I have also learnt a lot about libraries during the last two years of my work at QNL. I became so interested in this field that I joined the MA in Library and Information Studies at UCL Qatar. The team at QNL is amazing, with so much diversity in terms of culture, specialization, expertise and experience. This makes the work environment at QNL very stimulating and informative. It is an honor to work with such an exceptional team.

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

The interest I developed in libraries which led me to join the MA in Library and Information Studies at UCL Qatar has been my greatest achievement during the last two years of my work at QNL. This course has taught me a lot about libraries and has significantly affected my translation/content development work. I can now translate library

related materials as an insider; that is with the eye and understanding of a librarian.

In terms of translation work, my biggest achievement has been contributing to creating an excellent image of QNL by working closely with the QNL Communications team and by providing the best quality translation and content of communication materials.

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

The most important thing I have learnt through my work at QNL is that libraries are the backbone of a knowledge economy. They are not simply a building where books are kept and people can go for leisure reading. They have a more serious role to play in the country's economy and social development.

The economy of the modern world is not anymore about natural resources but about the human resources; how well these human resources are educated and trained and the information resources that provide them the support they need to contribute to the knowledge economy of their countries. Wherever you find a strong economy you can bet that its country has a strong academic and research sector and such academic and research

sectors cannot really yield their fruit unless they have access to the latest and most authoritative information resources. This is where libraries come into play and prove that they are the backbone of this knowledge economy.

I am very proud of being part of the QNL team, an institution that is very vital in lending support to Qatar towards achieving its National Vision 2030, an important pillar of which is creating a knowledge-based economy.

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

The amazing development of the State of Qatar and the role it plays in the world events inspire me a lot. The balance this country has struck between modernization and preserving its Arab and Islamic identity also inspires me. The experience of the State of Qatar shows that a country can do wonders and can have a big role to play in the world events if its leadership has the vision and the political will to do so, as is the case with State of Qatar.

#### **7. What is your favorite book?**

I don't have a particular book which I can call 'my favorite book'. However, I have a favorite genre of books so to say. I like reading 'social novels' and books on thought and international relations.