

QNL Snapshots - Issue (7) - October, November & December 2014

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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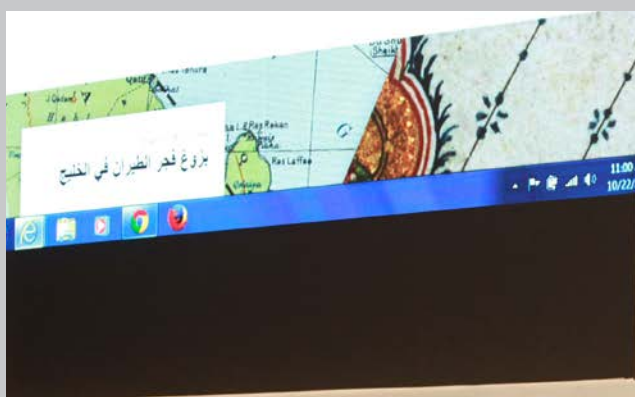


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New Qatar Digital Library Offers Readers Unrivalled Collection of Precious Heritage Material



أعلن عن إطلاق مكتبة قطر الرقمية
Announcing the Launch of Qatar Digital Lib
22.10.2014
www.qdl.qa



The Qatar Digital Library which provides new public access to over half a million pages of precious historic archive and manuscript material has been launched in 22 October 2014, thanks to the British Library-Qatar Foundation Partnership project. This incredible resource makes documents and other items relating to the modern history of Qatar, the Gulf region and beyond, fully accessible and free of charge to researchers and the general public through a state-of-the-art online portal.

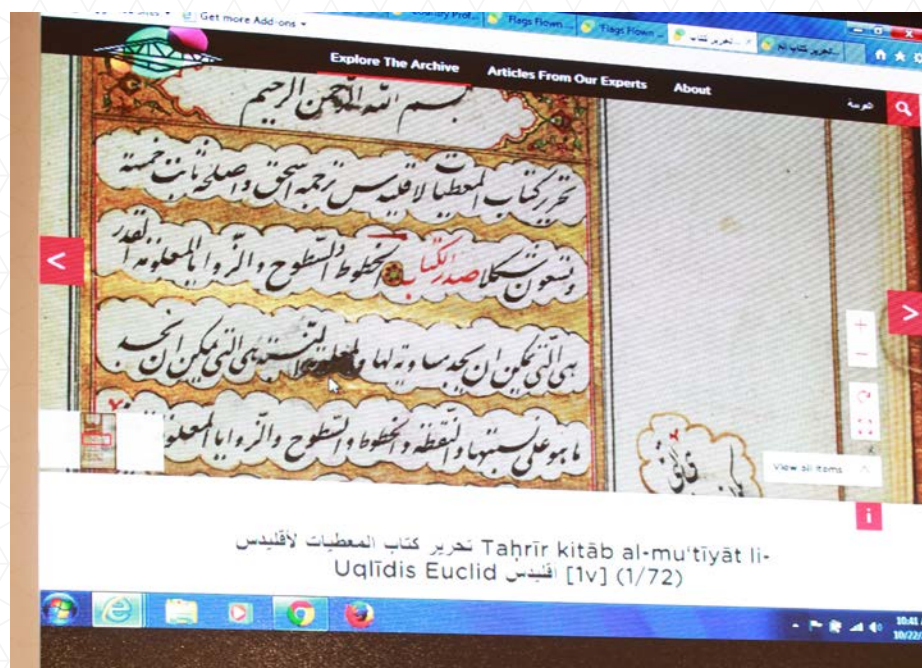
In line with the principles of the Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to preserve the nation's heritage and enhance Arab and Islamic values

and identity, the launch of the Qatar Digital Library supports QF's aim of unlocking human potential for the benefit of Qatar and the world.

Qatar National Library, a member of Qatar Foundation, has a firm commitment to preserving and showcasing Qatar's heritage and promoting



education and community development by sharing knowledge and providing resources to students, researchers, and the wider community. With Qatar Foundation's support, an expert technical team has been preserving and digitising materials from the UK's India Office Records archives over the past two years in order to be shared publicly on the portal owned and managed by Qatar National Library. The Qatar Digital Library provides online access to over 475,000 pages from the India Office Records that date from the mid-18th century to 1951, and relate to modern historic events in Qatar, the Gulf and the Middle East region. In addition, the Qatar Digital Library shares 25,000 pages of medieval Arab Islamic sciences manuscripts, historical maps, photographs and sound recordings.



These precious materials are being made available online for the first time. The Qatar Digital Library provides clear descriptions of the digitised materials in Arabic and English, and can be accessed for personal and research use from anywhere free of charge. Illuminating centuries of fascinating Arab history

and culture and the significant influence of Islamic scholars in the fields of science, medicine, mathematics and geometry, the Qatar Digital Library plays a crucial role in raising awareness and knowledge about the modern history of Qatar and the Gulf region, as well as Arab Islamic heritage. Highlights of the Qatar Digital

Library include a file regarding descriptions and sketches of various flags in the region between 1929 and 1938, including a specimen of fabric demonstrating the colour of the flag flown by the Sheikh of Qatar, Abdullah bin Jasim Al Thani, who ruled Qatar from 1913 to 1949. The digitised pages also depict other key moments in Qatar's history including the earliest recorded mention in 1782 of the historic walled coastal town of Al-Zubarah which was the most important trading hub in the region at that time. Elsewhere in the collection, there are records detailing the first survey of Qatar's coastline which was undertaken in 1823 using modern surveying methods. Amongst the 25,000 pages of Arab Islamic science manuscripts contributed by Muslim scholars, is an Arabic version of the Data, Kitaab-ul-mu'Tayat, by Euclid, the famous mathematician of Alexandria. The text was translated by Ishaq ibn Hunayn in the 10th century A.D, revised by Thabit ibn Qurrah and is presented on the portal in the edition of Nasir al-Din al-Tusi. About the launch, QF President, Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, said: "The Qatar Digital Library is a valuable resource that unlocks human potential and assists learning and development by promoting a better understanding of heritage. It is a shining example of Qatar Foundation's dedication to sharing knowledge with people across Qatar, the Gulf region and beyond to benefit all our futures." He continued: "Qatar Foundation and Qatar National Library are supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon-based to a knowledge-based economy. In line with the goals of the



Qatar National Vision 2030, QF is proud that this partnership with the British Library will benefit learning and research across many different disciplines, and encourage innovation and creativity."

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, said: "The Qatar Digital Library embodies QNL's vision of bridging with knowledge Qatar's heritage and future. QNL is proud to partner with QF and the British Library, and the outcome of this joint project will inspire future generations by creating one of the world's most significant and easily accessible resources for studies into Gulf History and Arab Islamic Sciences."

Mr Saadi Al Said, Associate Director of Qatar National Library, said: "The Qatar Digital Library has a wealth of fascinating material that will be

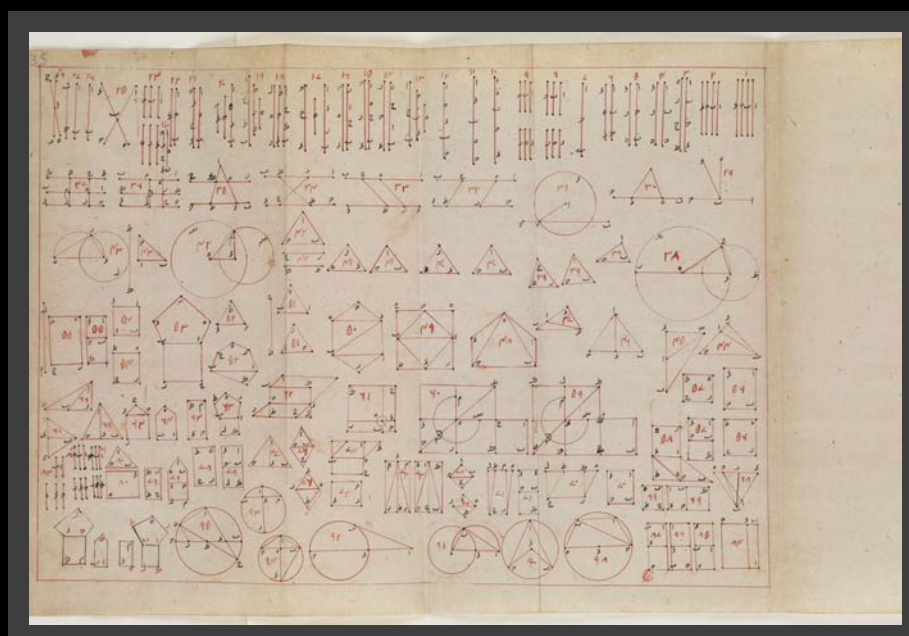
of interest to people of all ages in Qatar. From manuscripts of Arab Islamic sciences to new insights into our nation's history, there really is something for everyone." Roly Keating, Chief Executive of the British Library, said: "One of the greatest barriers to furthering research of Arabic cultural heritage and British history in the Gulf has been physical. Previously, you had to go to the British Library to retrieve an archive item. Now, in one click of a button, that barrier has been lifted and global research on the topic will progress with greater urgency than ever before. We now have free and open access to hundreds of thousands of manuscripts, archives, maps, sound recordings and photographs from the region - all digitised in the highest quality. It converts stored knowledge at the Library to shared knowledge, globally."

How 1,000 years of Arabic scholarship advanced scientific debate – in pictures

From the 9th to the 19th centuries, scholars and scribes used Arabic as a lingua franca to debate scientific ideas. Arabic-speaking scholars translated classical Greek, Persian and even Sanskrit texts on topics such as medicine,

mathematics and astronomy. These scholars went far beyond translation and preservation and fostered a unique and vibrant scientific culture within the Arabic-speaking world. The British Library and Qatar Foundation have joined forces

to launch a new bilingual online portal, the Qatar Digital Library, providing free access to 25,000 pages of fascinating medieval Arabic manuscript. Here's a selection of some of the most influential scientific texts in history





Qatar National Library Celebrates the Qatar National Day 2014



Qatar National Library (QNL) participated in the Qatar Foundation (QF) celebrations of the Qatar National Day. QNL's activities were held at the QF tent at Darb El-Saai national celebration ground on the 14th, 15th and 16th of December 2014, which included story-telling activities for Children.

In addition to the children's activities QNL offered free on-site registration in the Library and engaged members of the public by showcasing samples of its vast array of online databases and resources.

The QF tent at Darb El-Saai featured activities organized by a variety of QF centers, to highlight the foundation's commitment to education, research, community development and the preservation of Qatar's culture.

QF presented a series of live demonstrations that included pearl extraction to art, Ototo and Robotics, Greenhouse activities, and plenty of fun activities for the children. QNL carries out its core mission and shares information pertaining to the rich culture and history of Qatar through three functions: National Library, University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. Qatar National Library is

currently offering free online access to a vast collection of online resources including the latest bestsellers, classical works, concerts, 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 www.qnl.qa and to access the complete list of online resources, please visit <http://www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources>.

Qatar Foundation and Qatar National Library Focus on Cross Cultural Learning at Event Celebrating Qatar Brazil Festival



In line with the social development goals of Qatar National Vision (QNV2030) to preserve Qatar's heritage and culture, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and its member Qatar National Library (QNL) jointly hosted an event to celebrate the 'Qatar - Brazil 2014' Year of Culture.

The interactive event was part of a continuous series of cultural and educational activities organised by QNL to educate young people about Qatar's culture and traditions.

More than 50 families participated in activities showcasing mainstream traditions of Qatar and Brazil, including storytelling, arts and crafts, and traditional games.

Qatar-Brazil 2014 is a year-long cultural exchange programme, which aims to strengthen relations between both nations through a series of cultural, community, and sporting events.

Through hosting educational events that promote learning amongst young people, Qatar National Library supports Qatar Foundation's commitment to foster a progressive and engaged society by sharing knowledge and resources with the wider community.

Commenting on QNL's role in fostering cultural education in Qatar, Saadi Al Said, Associate Director of Administration and Planning at QNL, said: "Qatar National Library is committed to educating the upcoming generation in Qatar about the significance of preserving cultural heritage through holding workshops, events and reading sessions in collaboration with key stakeholders."

"Qatar National Library is proud to collaborate with Qatar Foundation to celebrate

the 'Qatar-Brazil 2014' Year of Culture. Through participation in events like these, we hope to increase young people's knowledge about countries Qatar shares cultural links with, such as Brazil, through educating them on the ancient culture and traditions of these fascinating countries," added Mr. Al Said.

The event also featured an outdoor special screening of the popular Hollywood movie, 'Rio 2', which features the journey of a parrot in the Amazon rainforest. The film aimed to create interest among the children about Brazil's diverse eco-system and reinforce the importance of concepts like sustainability which is integral for Qatar and QNL.

Carol Mitchell, Head of Children's Services at QNL, said: "It is wonderful to see so many families turn out to join the

fun-filled activities. The children relished learning about Qatar and Brazil's culture and heritage. I hope this will inspire the children to develop a passion for reading to learn more."

Faraj Al Nuaimi, a participant at the event, said: "This event is an opportunity for children and their families to learn about the cultures and local traditions of Qatar and Brazil. The event was very well-organised." Meghna Singh, whose children took part in the activities, said: "The Qatar-Brazil 2014 event has been very well put together by Qatar National Library and Qatar Foundation. There are a number of educational activities here. My daughter participated in the flag making activity, and was excited about the story telling activity and other arts and crafts."





Qatar National Library Participates in Annual Research Conference 2014

Qatar National Library (QNL), participated in the Annual Research Conference (ARC'14) offering visitors a host of unique and valuable services at a specially-designated booth in Qatar National Convention Centre's exhibition hall.

The QNL team helped conference participants register on-site and provided them with information about the valuable science and research online databases available through the QNL website. Visitors also took benefit from a number of research handouts, and brochures that shed light on QNL's leading role in the dissemination of culture and knowledge.

The conference, which was held at QNCC on 18 and 19 November under the theme 'Towards World-Class Research and Innovation,' brought together renowned national and international experts, as well as distinguished researchers and scientists from key entities in Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D).

ARC'14 builds on nationwide efforts to advance Qatar's ambitious research agenda across cyber and water security, solar and renewable energy solutions, health management systems, as well as social challenges, by providing a platform to activate multidisciplinary knowledge sharing and collaboration.

The annual conference, which was organised by QF R&D, supports QF's mission to cultivate life-long learning and interest in science and research. It is also inline with Qatar National Library's commitment and sustained efforts to support Qatar as an international centre for research and development excellence, and innovation.

Saadi Al Said, Associate Director of Administration and Planning at QNL, explained the importance of Qatar National Library's contribution to the nation's premier scientific research conference: "The Annual Research Conference plays a crucial role in developing the capabilities of Qatar's students and researchers. Participants at the conference had the chance to learn about the Library's latest databases that provide easy

access to high-quality referenced materials."

Over the course of two days, the Qatar National Library team facilitated the on-site registration of conference participants and engaged with members of the public by outlining the vast array of online databases and resources. The national library regularly organises community events and training sessions to introduce researchers, students and residents to its vast collection of digital content including research and science online databases. Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director at Qatar National Library, said: "The University and Research Library function supports education and research at all levels by providing the community with exceptional resources, and all the assistance they need to innovate and excel in their chosen field. In keeping with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, we are committed to supporting the nation in its journey towards a knowledge-based economy. As a member of Qatar Foundation, our aim is to enhance the lives of students, educators, researchers, and members of the community by encouraging them to seek knowledge and unlock their human potential, in order to develop their full capabilities." QNL is engaged in forging high-level national, regional and international partnerships. Moreover, it takes a leading role in organising and partnering in local community events, regional initiatives, as well as international exhibitions and conferences.

Exciting Activities Organised by Qatar National Library in November



Qatar National Library (QNL), organised a successful series of events and training sessions for members of the public throughout November.

The series of programmes was designed to further knowledge and learning, core to Qatar Foundation's mission to engage the local community.

QNL's film screening, of "The Love of Books: A Sarajevo Story", a thrilling tale of how a group of passionate book lovers risked their lives to save more than 10,000 Islamic manuscripts in the Gazi Husrav Beg Library during the Bosnian war. The film shows the importance of books to the identity of people and how libraries are the heart of peoples' cultural identity and repositories for history and memory.

The event that was held at HBKU Student Centre Cinema, Education City, also featured an informal talk by Dr. Mustafa Jahic who is the Director of the Gazi Husrav Beg Library in Sarajevo, and a member of the brave group that saved the library's manuscripts.

Amjad Nasser's the "Land of No Rain" book discussion, highlighted the story of Younis al-Khattat, a fictional character,

who has lived in exile for 20 years, and then returns to Hamiya, his fictional Arab country. On his return to his homeland, Younis al-Khattat reconnects with his family and friends he left behind, but mostly he struggles with his old self, the self he left behind 20 years before.

A series of interactive and practical training sessions also helped residents familiarise themselves with selected online resources in Humanities: 'OverDrive', 'JSTOR', 'OneClickDigital', 'Zinio' and 'Cengage Collection'.

The 'OverDrive' online resource provides popular eBooks for most devices available. The 'JSTOR' database includes more than 1,500 leading academic journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Training sessions also focused on the 'OneClickDigital' database,

an English digital audio-book database that allows users to download audio-books and 'Zinio' database which provides access to the full version of several hundred popular magazines.

Commenting on these events and trainings, Saadi A. Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning, said: "These activities and cultural events witnessed an increasing popularity among all segments of society. Participants were so impressed with organising such events, and wish to be a part in any future activities and events that combine entertainment and education."

"These events goes in line with the QNL mission to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future," he added.

Hamad Al-Shamari



1. Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a Qatari; holding a bachelor degree from Qatar University, Department of Libraries and Information Sciences. I joined the QNL family in 2010 as Digitisation Support Officer.

2. What do you do as a Digitisation Support Officer?

As a Digitisation Support Officer, one of the most important duties that I do is maintaining high quality control over the digitised items, which are inspired from the modern history of Qatar and the Gulf area.

3. Describe your experience working at QNL?

My work at QNL mainly focuses on conservation of the heritage content, including Books, Manuscripts, Newspapers, Maps, Photos, Audio Visual materials and converts it into digital images.

At the Library we focus on the Arabic texts, aiming to facilitate the search process for users whether they are students or researchers or anyone interested. These texts go through several phases during the digitisation process, to be easily accessible for the public.

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

In my opinion one of the most important achievements was my participation in the digitisation process of the heritage books and manuscripts, As well I have also digitised a number of images and movies for a selected beautiful Arabian horse's book collection in addition to my participation in many other digitisation processes at QNL.

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

One of the most important things that I have learned through working at Qatar National Library is to give great attention to the heritage and history collection related to my country Qatar and the Gulf region. The other thing is the team work spirit and how to work as a team. Lastly I have had the experience on how to handle the historical manuscripts aiming to preserve it for the future generations.

6. What inspires you and why?

The Heritage Collection inspires me. It was founded in 1979 by His Excellency Sheikh Hassan bin Muhammad Al Thani, and includes writings by travelers and explorers who visited the Arabian Gulf region over the centuries, it also includes Arab manuscripts, historical maps and globes, as well as scientific instruments and early photography.

7. What is your favourite book?

'The Corsair' novel, which is considered a thrilling and engaging novel set in the early nineteenth century during one of the most important periods of history in the Arabian Gulf. The groundbreaking story unfolds against the backdrop of the brutal struggle between the British Empire and the Arab tribes of the Gulf for control of the area. It is based on the tale of Erhama bin Jaber, a historical character feared and hunted as a brigand by the British, and yet remembered today in the Gulf as a folk hero.