



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library



Qatar National Library

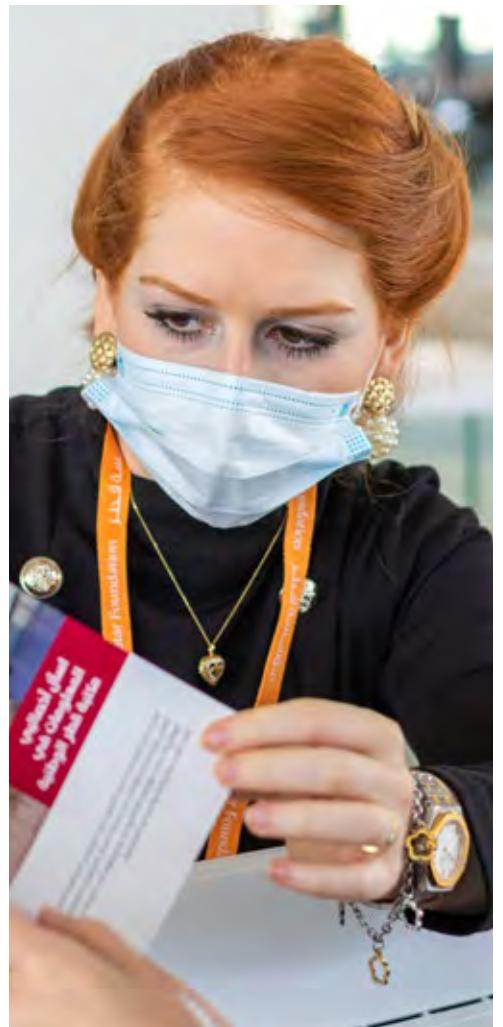


ANNUAL REPORT



2021

www.qnl.qa





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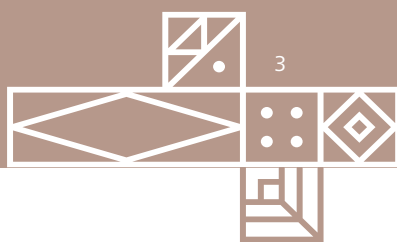
Foreword

Welcome to the Qatar National Library 2021 Annual Report. This year saw the Library again rise to the occasion to continue to serve as a beacon of knowledge for the people of Qatar during trying times. As the country emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library remained true to the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser when she announced its founding 10 years ago.

From the first day of its foundation, the Library has been active in continuously engaging with the local community, sharing Qatar's history and culture, and actively working with international institutions to promote cooperation and the spread of knowledge. The pandemic has not changed that—in fact, quite the opposite. As you will see in the following pages, we have used this opportunity to find new, innovative ways to carry out our mission to enable the people of Qatar to become their best possible selves.

One cannot help but look back at other momentous times in history as we try to understand our current world. Through the items in our own collections, we can trace the rise and fall of civilizations, catastrophes and discoveries, pandemics and prosperity. The one constant has been humanity's commitment to knowledge and the spread of ideas. We are proud to carry on that timeless tradition.

Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari
Minister of State
President, Qatar National Library





Introduction

From its conception, Qatar National Library has always been invested in leveraging technology to deliver our services to the public. As such, in 2021, in the face of the global pandemic and with restricted access to our physical site, the Library was able to pivot digitally to continue to serve our users without disruption.

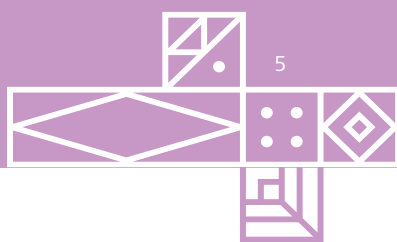
The Library has been steadily building up our digital collection over many years, which has enabled access to a diverse variety of materials for research, leisure and learning. In this report, you will discover the creative ways in which our librarians have ensured that the entire community could continue to learn, create and collaborate, regardless of what else was going on in the world.

Our commitment to our researchers and international responsibilities remained undiminished throughout 2021. We expanded our role as the regional leader in the fight to protect the region's documentary heritage, which is under increased danger in areas of conflict and instability. We redoubled our efforts to digitize critical historical information and make it accessible for researchers everywhere and continue to support open-access publishing for Qatar-based researchers. We are cultivating partnerships with libraries around the world to exchange expertise and grow the field of librarianship, an ongoing program that lets libraries learn from one another.

The last year has really defined what we can do as an institution, and we should be proud of how we have risen to the occasion. We will of course remember the challenges we faced during 2021, but those challenges will pale in comparison to how we responded to them. The advances we made and the lessons learned this year will guide us to serve the public even better in the future.

I would like to thank all our staff for the role they played in this transformational year, and to our supporters for their trust in us. I look forward to an even more exciting year ahead.

Tan Huism
Executive Director





Vision, Mission and Values





Vision

To be one of the world's preeminent centers of learning, research and culture; a guardian of the region's heritage; and an institution that promotes imagination, discovery and the nourishment of the human spirit.



Mission

The mission of Qatar National Library is to preserve the nation's and region's heritage and enable the people of Qatar to positively influence society by creating an exceptional environment for learning and discovery.

The Library will achieve its mission by creating and sustaining an intuitive and trusted information environment in a culturally and technologically exceptional setting and by developing innovative programs and services.



Values

Qatar National Library supports the core values of librarianship as a profession to include:

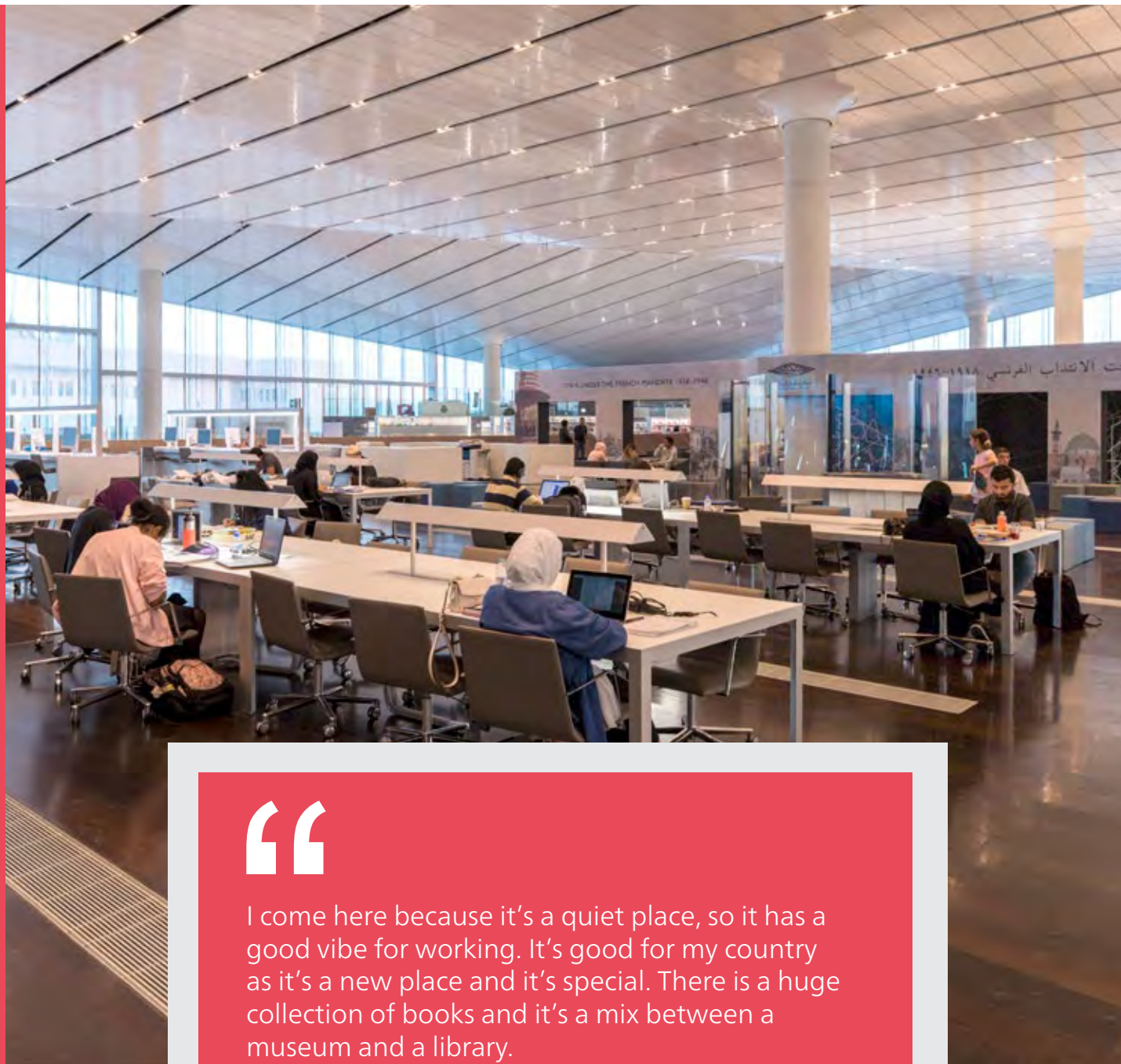
1. **Openness and Transparency** with all patrons and organizations we deal with, where privacy and confidentiality are observed.
2. **Education and Lifelong Learning**, where we strive to offer services that facilitate equitable learning.
3. **Open Access**, where we are committed to free, open, unrestricted access to our collections and services.
4. **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Respect and Fairness**, where our patrons are valued regardless of race, color, sex, gender, religion, disability, age, genetic information, socioeconomic status, or national or ethnic origin, and where their opinions, needs and viewpoints are considered in every decision we make.
5. **Growth and Innovation**, where we encourage creativity, continuous learning, experimentation and the generation of ideas.
6. **Stewardship** of all the resources with which we have been entrusted and are accountable for, ensuring the proper use of state funds and the preservation of the nation's heritage and intellectual output.
7. **Intellectual Freedom**, where we are committed to facilitating the free exchange of information and ideas.





Serving the Community: A Library for All





“

I come here because it's a quiet place, so it has a good vibe for working. It's good for my country as it's a new place and it's special. There is a huge collection of books and it's a mix between a museum and a library.

”

- Alreem Al Marri
Student



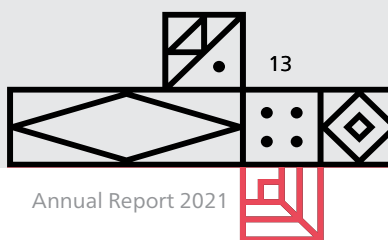
Arabic Storyweaver

To address a lack of availability of open-source Arabic children's books, the Library partnered with the Translating and Interpreting Institute, Education Above All, and Pratham Books to translate story books into Arabic. The books will be made available through

the Storyweaver platform, where children can download them to read offline—a critical tool for the Arab households without internet access. Our librarians are contributing by recording audiobooks, supporting the proofreading and adding diacritics to the text.

As the world entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library continued to expand how we provide resources and services in person and online. After many months of welcoming visitors on an appointment-only basis,

in October we were thrilled to fully open our doors to the public again. Though users and staff still had to follow heightened health and safety protocols, this re-opening was a major milestone in welcoming visitors back to the Library building.



Mini-Library Competition

In October, the Library hosted its first Mini Library Competition for children and young adults to enhance personal development and help cultivate reading habits. Young learners aged six to 14 were asked to explain why they should be awarded a mini-library and submitted a few sentences and a drawing to express themselves. More than 100 participants conveyed their thoughts beautifully through a blend of words and art, and the winners were announced in an Instagram Live event. Ahmad Tamer Yahia and



Amis Bibin were awarded with mini-libraries for their homes, with books hand-picked especially for them by our librarians. The 30 books chosen covered a variety of topics, including fiction and non-fiction, and winners also received a variety of games and crafts.

Community Reads: *Bitter Almonds*

The Library community came together in November for the first "Community Reads" event, in which users were invited to all read the same book, followed by a virtual session with the author. The selected book, *Bitter Almonds*, by **Lilas Taha**, is the story of two Palestinian refugee siblings living in Syria and coping with feelings of displacement, family duty, love and honor.



Members could check out either a print or ebook copy of the novel, and joined Taha for a lively discussion of her book.



Arab Cinema Posters: Art and Memory

The Library's first in-house digital exhibition remained open through the beginning of 2021. Visitors used the Library's interactive digital totems to explore the development of film posters, which were a major advertising tool for movies. Posters were displayed inside movie theaters or in outdoor public areas, giving a glimpse of the film's story. The posters in this exhibition address common themes among Arab countries, such as modernity, originality, social change and other matters related to humanitarian and national interests. They show the beginnings of filmmaking in the region and provide an account of the history of cinema and its development in the Arab world, as well as an overview of the beginnings of cinema in the Gulf. The posters were supplemented by video and audio clips, taking visitors on a true multimedia journey.

Between Science and Art: Early Photography in the Middle East

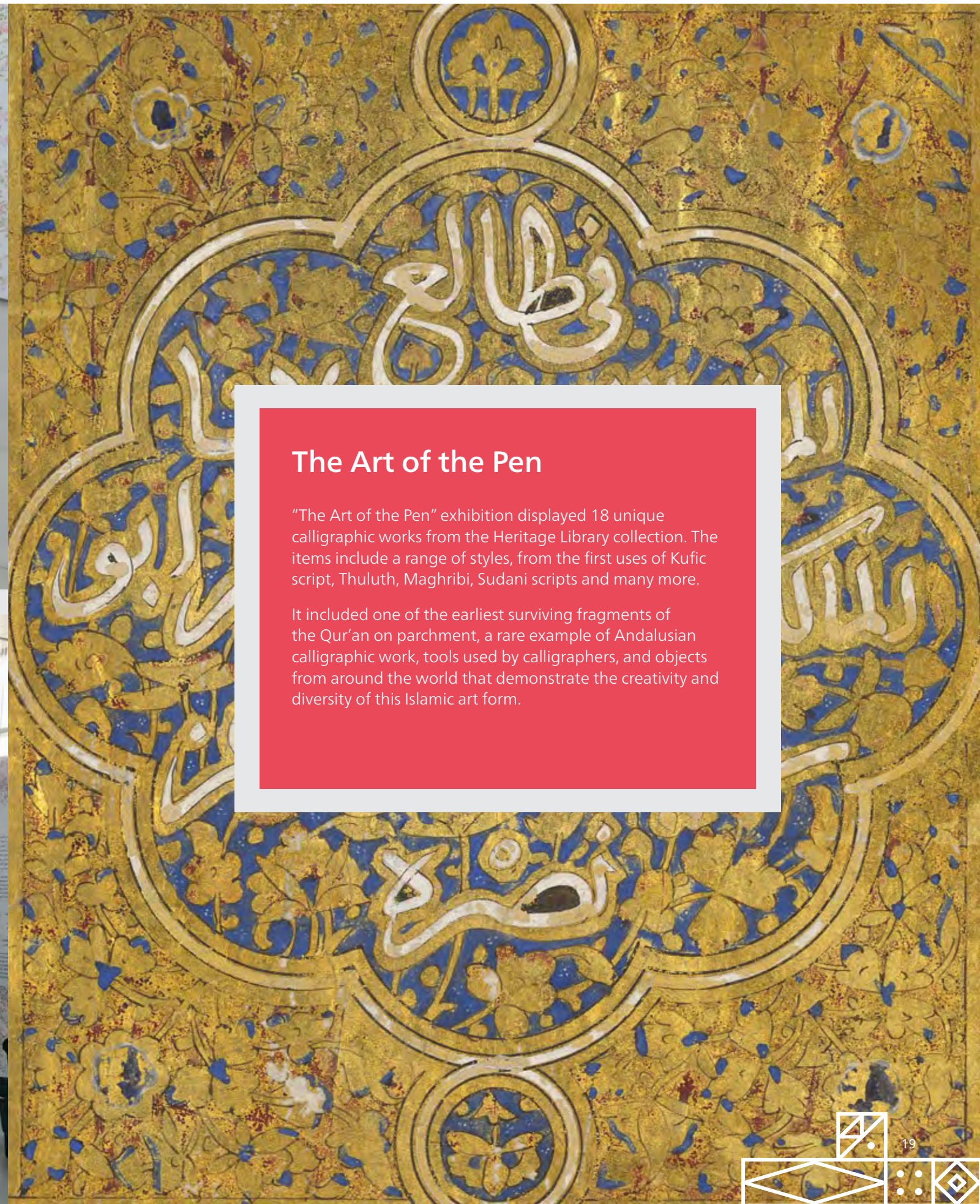
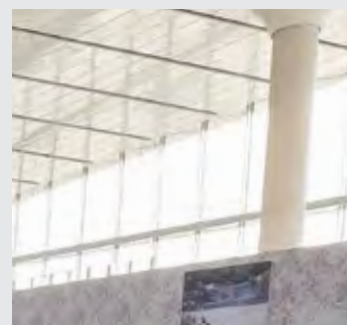
Some of the earliest surviving photographic images of the Middle East were on display during the Library's exhibition, which opened in September. We hosted objects from both Qatar National Library and Qatar Museums collections, including the Giroux daguerreotype camera, the world's oldest and most expensive camera. Visitors could also view one of the oldest images of the Middle East, taken in 1843 by the pioneering French daguerreotypist Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey. The Middle East and North Africa were popular destinations for early photographers, who traveled to the region for tourism, business and governmental reasons and produced remarkable images of people and places.





Arab Immigrants in the US: Pursuing the American Dream

To mark the Qatar-United States Year of Culture 2021, the Library organized an exhibition on the Arab-American diaspora. Arab-American society is vibrant and diverse, and Arab-American contributions can be seen in all levels of government, economy, culture and literature. The exhibition explored the history of Arab immigration to the US in four distinct waves from the late 19th century to now, with each wave stemming from different causes and impacting Arab immigrants and American society in new ways.



The Art of the Pen

"The Art of the Pen" exhibition displayed 18 unique calligraphic works from the Heritage Library collection. The items include a range of styles, from the first uses of Kufic script, Thuluth, Maghribi, Sudani scripts and many more.

It included one of the earliest surviving fragments of the Qur'an on parchment, a rare example of Andalusian calligraphic work, tools used by calligraphers, and objects from around the world that demonstrate the creativity and diversity of this Islamic art form.

Membership and Circulation

Membership to the Library is free and available to all residents of Qatar.



In 2021, we added

14,288

new members



and received

287,642

visits



who accessed

39,351,822

downloads & page views



We had

2,477,000

unique users of our digital platforms



Our users checked out

183,143

print items

“

It's the first time I've been here, and I'm overwhelmed. I'm happy in here, it is my place. I've been in a lot of libraries, but this is one of the best, everything is in here. I'm doing my final thesis and all the information I need is in here.

”

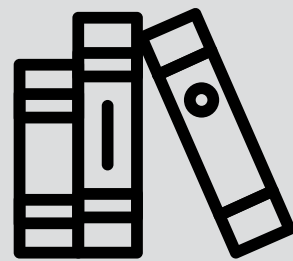
- Louise Lizaso
Master's student



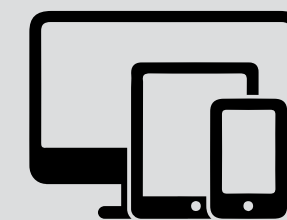
New members
since 2017
Total 180,123



Visits
since 2017
Total 2,006,306



Loans
since 2017
Total 1,975,748

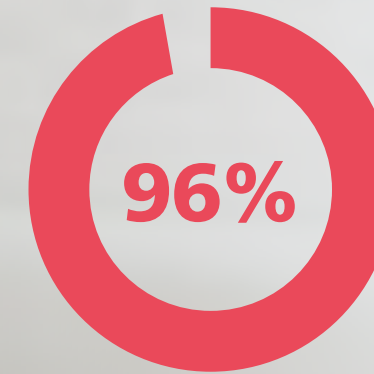


Digital platforms interactions
since 2017
More than 64 million

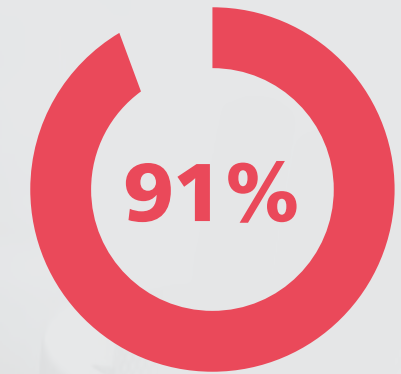


Events

The Library hosted **655 events** in 2021, of which **614** were online. These were attended by more than **28,000 participants**. Of those attendees responding to our survey:



learned something new



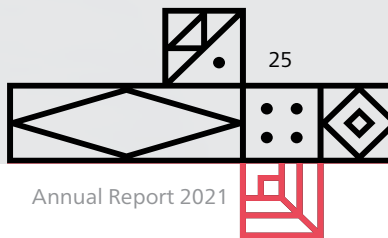
felt more confident using what they learned



intended to make a change because of what they learned



became more aware of the Library's services





Tours



His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar, and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, were given a tour of the Heritage Library.

Throughout 2021, we were happy to welcome members of the public and special groups on tours of the Library. Overall, we hosted **907 visitors** on tours throughout the year. In addition to regular public tours, the Library often hosts special guests. Though these visits were limited due to the pandemic, we welcomed several notable visitors, including:

- His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar, and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman
- His Excellency Armen Sarkissian, President of the Republic of Armenia, and Nouneh Sarkissian, First Lady of the Republic of Armenia

- His Excellency Mohamed al-Menfi, Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya
- Her Excellency Raquel Peña de Antuña, Vice President of the Dominican Republic
- His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Oman
- His Excellency Evarist Bartolo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta
- His Excellency Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Bin Saud Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Oman
- His Excellency General Sultan bin Mohammed al-Naamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Oman

- His Excellency Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, Foreign Minister, Oman
- His Excellency Sultan bin Salem bin Saeed al-Habsi, Minister of Finance, Oman
- His Excellency Dr. Mahad Said Ali Baawain, Minister of Labour, Oman
- Her Excellency Olena Zelenska, First Lady of Ukraine
- Her Excellency Agata Duda, First Lady of Poland



His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library and His Excellency Armen Sarkissian, President of the Republic of Armenia



Library tour for Her Excellency Agata Duda, First Lady of Poland



His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library and Her Excellency Raquel Pena de Antuna, Vice President of the Dominican Republic



His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library and Olena Zelenska, First Lady of Ukraine



During the pandemic, we also began offering virtual tours for school groups. We were pleased to host **70 such groups** in 2021.

**More than
80%**

**said the tour was helpful to
learn about the Library**



**More than
96%**

**said the Library has
meaningful resources**



Our collection has books in

16 languages



“

My eldest son loves reading. Before the Library opened, I was buying a lot of books but since then we can come here and he is borrowing five books at a time and I am saving a lot of money.

”

- Kristina Kosanova
Mother of two and a regular at the Children's Library

Our collections are curated to serve all of our audiences.
Our main collection includes



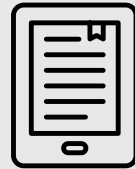
270,297

Arabic print items



649,265

non-Arabic print items



634,519

ebooks



127,114

Total titles in the children's collection

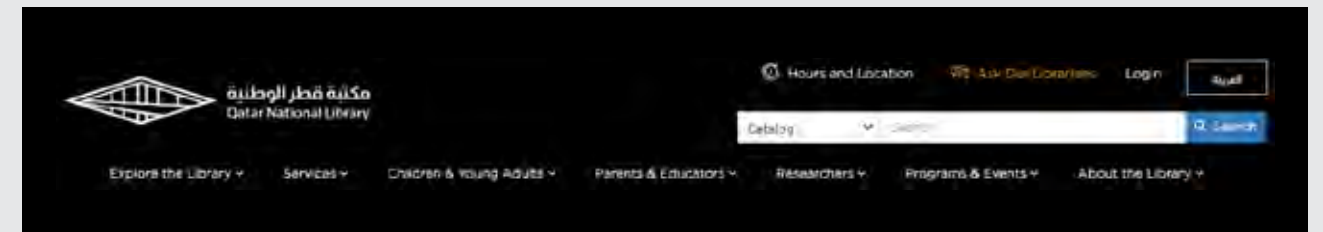


45,967

Total titles in the young adults' collection



Ask Our Librarians



The Ask Our Librarians service gives users the opportunity to consult with our specialized librarians on research questions and other issues. Users can either submit a question via web form

or chat live with a librarian online—both valuable resources when we were maintaining pandemic-related health measures and needed to support the community remotely.



In 2021, we answered

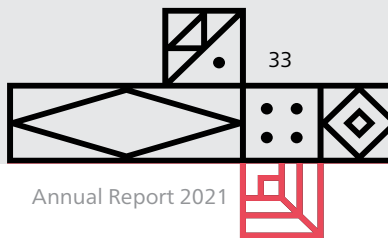
1,248

questions via the online LibAnswer service

and

1,225

questions through the LibChat live service





Services for People with Disabilities

The Library is committed to ensuring that all our resources are accessible to everyone. Our main collection includes materials produced for those with disabilities, including large-print books, audiobooks and books in braille.

More than **200 participants** attended our events in 2021 that focused on supporting children with disabilities and their parents and caregivers. These included workshops on speech and language delay, reading difficulties, and how to create eating habits for children with Down syndrome.

The Assistive Technology Services team also collaborated with several institutions to promote the Library's assistive services and to create a venue to discuss concerns on handling elderly visitors. In addition, the installation of the Inclusive Customer Service Desk was completed through a partnership with the MADA Assistive Technology Center in Qatar.



Book Match Service

Library users struggling to find their next read can now turn to the Library's Book Match Service. Based on each user's preference, our librarians will recommend items from our collections—books, ebooks and audiobooks across all genres and in English, Arabic or both.

From the launch of the service on 28 February 2021 to the end of the year, our librarians completed **310 book match requests**.



“

One of Qatar’s hidden gems, that only a few know about and use, is the [Innovation Stations’] photography room at QNL.

Back in 2020 - before the world changed - I found myself going to QNL to create videos. Using the photography room, I created more than ten videos for various brands and companies.

QNL is a hidden gem, that I hope less fortunate people can use to pivot themselves to greatness.

”

- Hamidu Williams
Director of Film and Photography at AOP Studios, Qatar

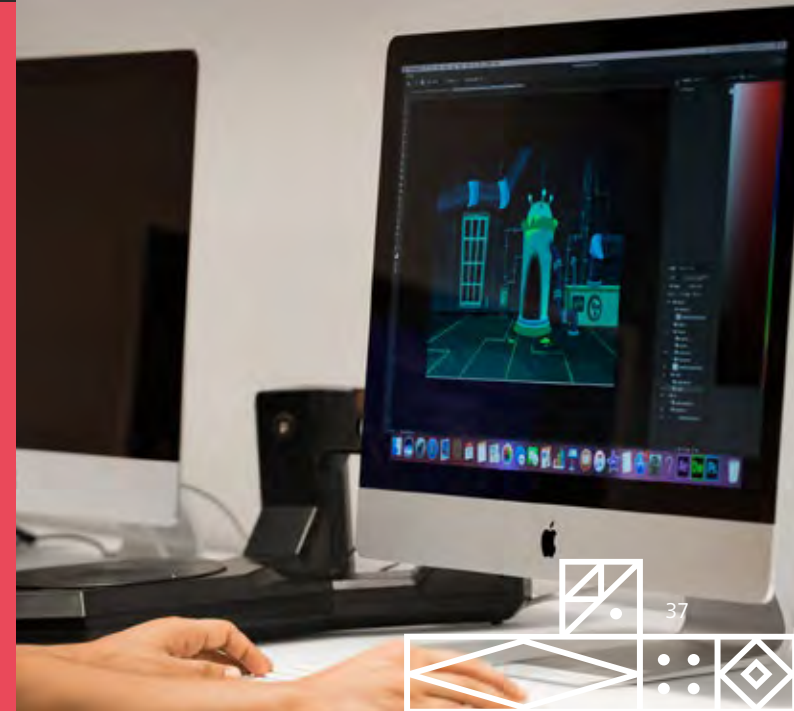


Innovation Stations

The Library’s four Innovation Stations provide users with the tools they need to bring their creative inspirations to life. The stations host 3D printers and maker tools; green, blue and black-screen photo equipment; and a fully equipped music studio with recording equipment. We also provide workshops and hands-on training to help users familiarize themselves with the equipment and the software that powers it.



In 2021, the Innovation Stations provided **21 programs for 222 participants**, including workshops on 3D modeling, photography, music and digital production. The highlight of the year was the online Spring Technology Camp, which aimed to help students enhance their technology and digital fabrication skills such as programming, robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning and others.



Writing and Communication Station



At the Writing and Communication Station, users can consult one-on-one with our English writing specialist, who offers support to students, researchers and hobbyists on projects such as

essays, dissertations, applications, proposals, creative writing and more. Though during the pandemic these sessions moved online, they still provided the community with a great resource.

Research Consultation



“

The Library is an amazing location to sit and work as there are lots of other like-minded people working here as well. I do come here looking for physical books, but mostly I look at the online resources. The system is amazing, it's really easy to find a book and it is very quick.

”

- Fahmida Naheen
Research assistant

The Library's research librarians are available for one-on-one virtual consultations with researchers around the world to help them find the information

they need in our collections. This service was particularly valuable during the pandemic, when in-person visits were limited.



History and Heritage: **Past, Present and Future**



“

There are many old things in the Heritage Library; I've seen ancient manuscripts of the Qur'an and a kiswa that was used to wrap the Kabaa. Objects have been preserved very nicely and I've been watching a movie about the pearling industry. I've learned a lot.

- Vaibhav Tripathi
Tourist

”



Qatar National Library is committed to preserving the history and heritage of Qatar, the Gulf, and the Arab and Islamic worlds. Our Heritage Library collection includes rare and valuable manuscripts, documents, books, journals and periodicals in Arabic and other languages, as well as maps, atlases, globes, historical photographs, and instruments and tools related to travel. Together, these items document the history of the region and its people, the evolution of ideas over centuries, and the interplay between the Middle East, the West and the East.



The Heritage Library added
2,307
 items to its collections
 in 2021

bringing the total number
 of heritage items to


215,201

Breakdown of newly added heritage items in 2021


790
 printed books


180
 serials


23
 manuscripts


854
 photographs

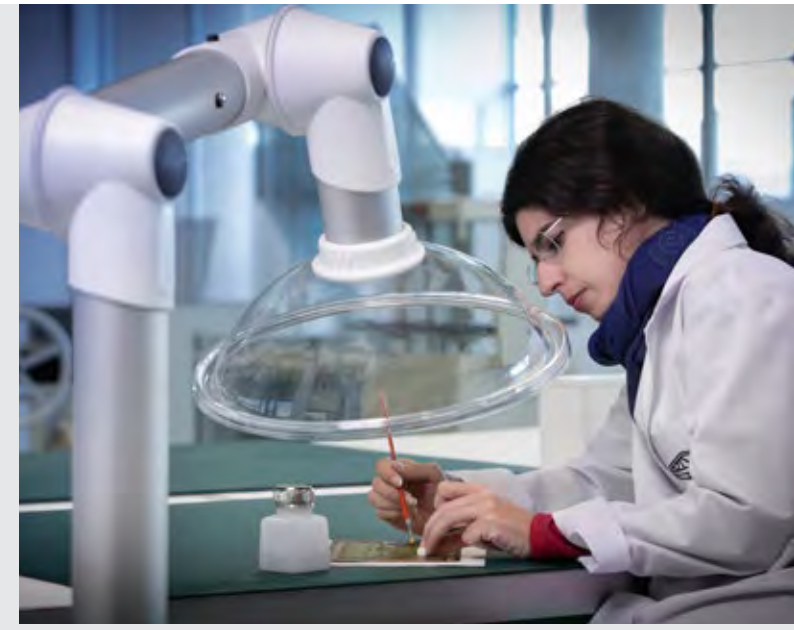

294
 archive items


161
 posters

Preserving Islamic Cultural Heritage

In September, the Library, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Islamic World Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO), held the virtual session "The Role of Libraries in Preserving Islamic Cultural Heritage." Inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library, the webinar was organized as part of the Doha Capital of Culture in the Islamic World 2021 celebrations. The session's speakers from the Library, the Museum of Islamic Art and IESCO discussed how libraries can support heritage preservation.





Celebrating Nizami Ganjavi

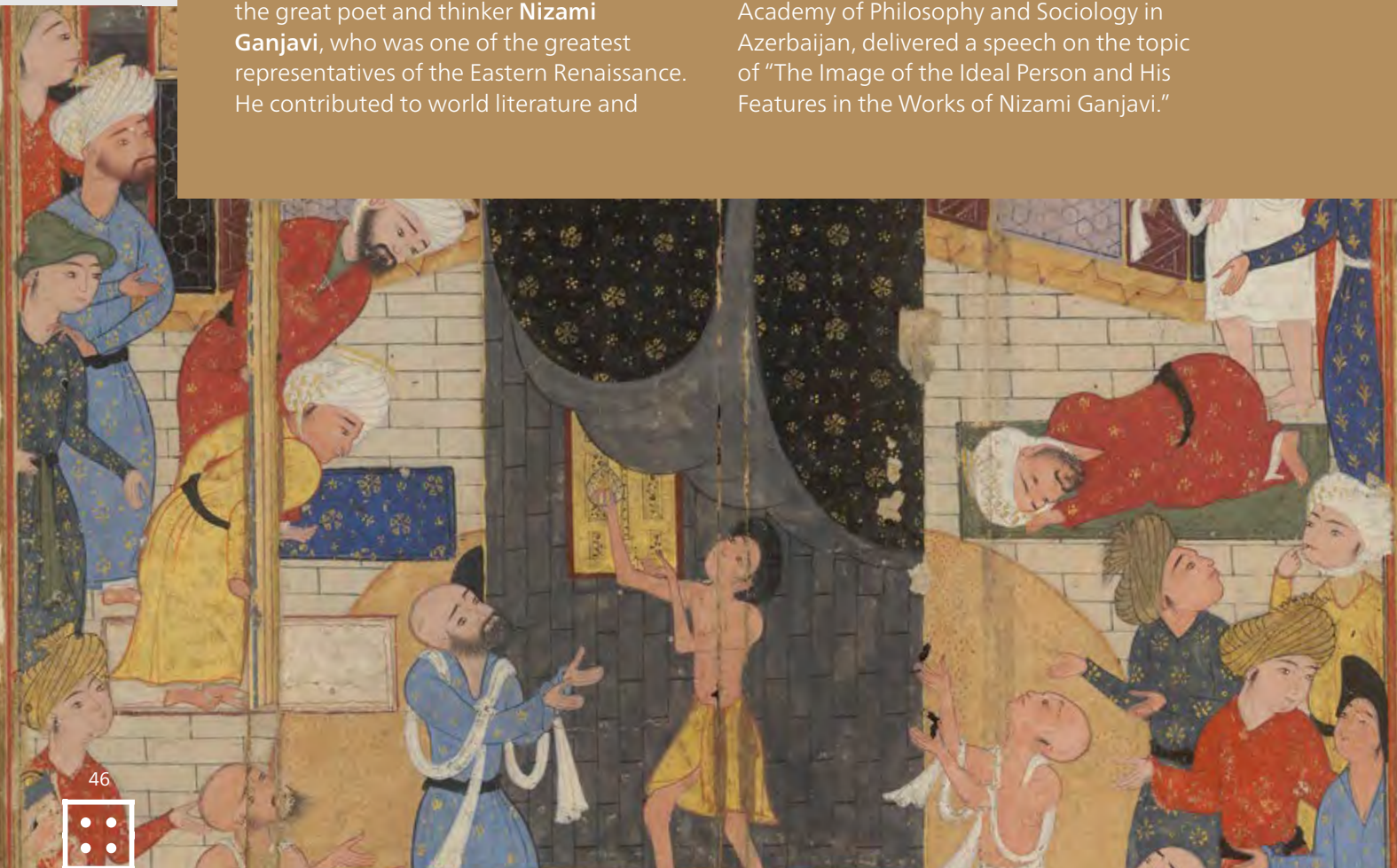
In November, the Library joined the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Qatar in celebrating the 880th anniversary of the great poet and thinker **Nizami Ganjavi**, who was one of the greatest representatives of the Eastern Renaissance. He contributed to world literature and

philosophy with his immortal work *Khamsa* [Five], showing the aesthetic power of his art. Dr. Mael Yagub, founder of the Academy of Philosophy and Sociology in Azerbaijan, delivered a speech on the topic of "The Image of the Ideal Person and His Features in the Works of Nizami Ganjavi."

IFLA Preservation and Conservation Regional Center

The Library was named the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Preservation and Conservation Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East in 2015. In the years since, we have led the way in coordinating preservation and conservation activities among Arabic-speaking countries in the region. In 2021, the Preservation and Conservation Center hosted online

webinars, workshops and training courses that drew conservators and researchers from regional and international libraries, archives and heritage institutions. Topics included the importance of watermarks, dating and studying manuscripts, protecting documentary heritage, and fighting antiquities trafficking.



Supporting Documentary Heritage Preservation in the Arab Region

Mapping needs, understanding priorities and supporting capacities



The Himaya Project

In its role as the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Regional Center, the Library launched the Himaya project in 2020 to combat the trafficking and illegal circulation of documentary heritage in the Middle East, North Africa and neighboring countries. We are working with various international organizations to increase efforts to protect documentary heritage, a largely overlooked area in the larger realm of illegal trafficking. This is particularly important given the high number of countries in conflict in the region, which makes them especially susceptible to trafficking.

We also hosted numerous events throughout 2021 to help build capacity, raise awareness and train institutions throughout the region on ways to combat illegal trafficking. To mark the International Day Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property, we hosted a high-level panel discussion of international library experts to talk about the efforts to counter the trafficking and illegal circulation of antiquities and documentary heritage.

Helping Beirut

The Library continues to support the rebuilding of Lebanon's cultural capacity that was damaged by the 2020 explosion in Beirut's port. Along with the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), UNESCO and other partners, the Library will help key cultural organizations and school libraries across Lebanon reconstruct their premises and restore their archives. The Library and ALIPH supported on-the-ground efforts by the Prince Claus Fund, L'Œuvre d'Orient and Monumenta Orientalia, who,

in collaboration with local operators and contractors, will revive the Lebanese National Library, the Bibliothèque Orientale and several other cultural institutions, contributing to their vital role in safeguarding the country's knowledge base and shaping the future of their communities.



inwards you may have -
 True translated Substance
 Signed/ A. B. Hamball
 Asist. Resident Persian Gulf
 (True copy)

Persian Gulf dated 4th Zilkaod (21st)
 November 1843.

Al. I write to inform you
 that I was honored by the receipt
 of your kind and friendly letter,

Two Million Images

The Qatar Digital Library (QDL), a partnership between the Library, the British Library and Qatar Foundation, reached a major milestone in May with the upload of the two millionth digital image to the platform. The landmark image is of particular significance for Qatar: a letter from the British Library's collection, written by 'Isa bin Tārīf, the Sheikh of the Āl Bin 'Alī tribe in 1843, to Captain Samuel Hennell, the Gulf Resident stationed at Bushehr (Bushire) on the Iranian coast.

The QDL's contribution to research about the region has been invaluable. Just one of the dozens of sub-series in the India Office Records on the QDL has seen its number of citations in academic articles jump from just three in 2015 to 21 in 2020—a **700% increase**.

QDL has become one of the region's most used digital libraries, with **297,373 unique users** in 2021, bringing the total to more than two million unique users from over **165 countries and 18 territories** across the globe since it was launched in 2014. With travel restricted, the QDL became a lifeline for scholars.

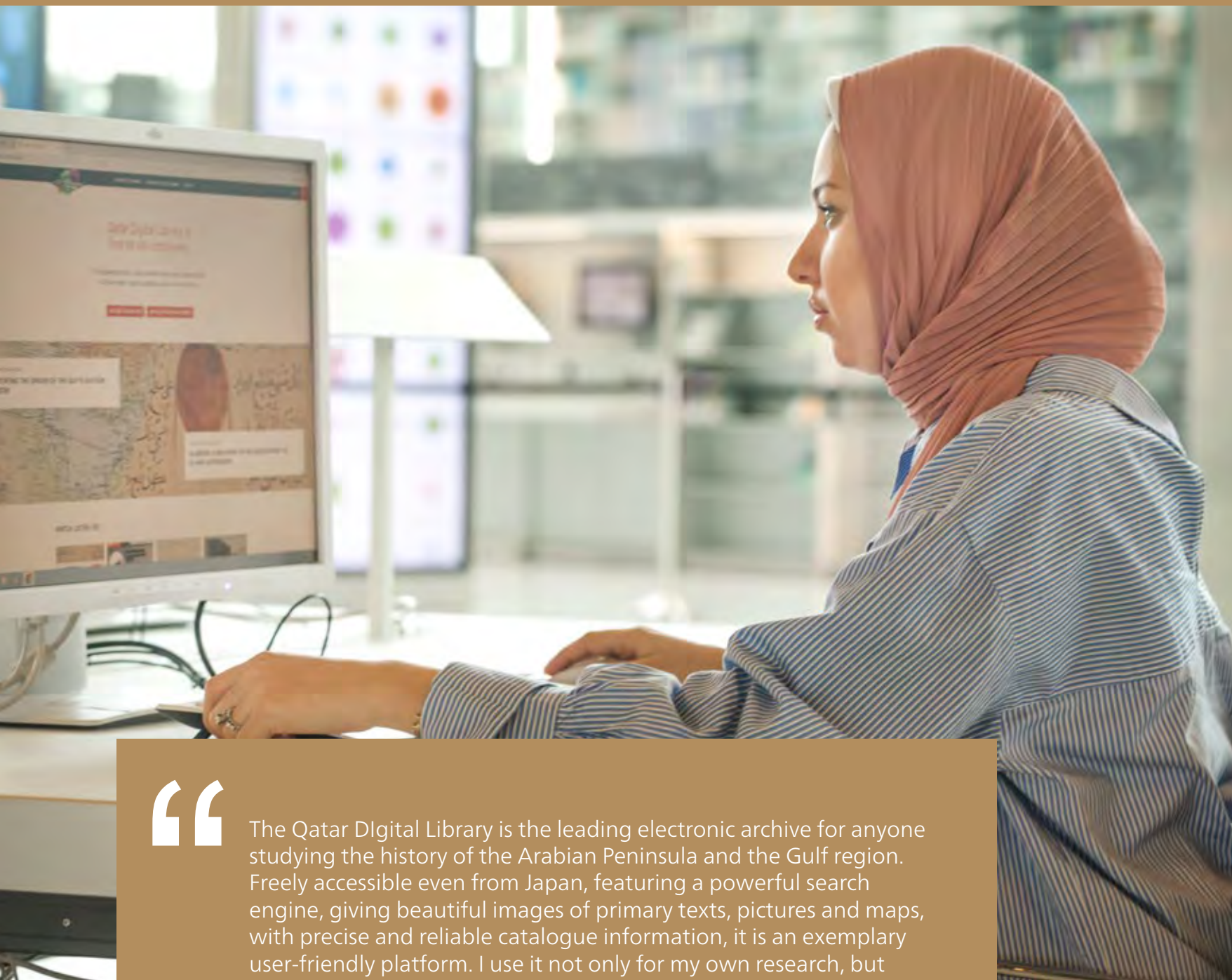
“

The QDL allows me to search hundreds of thousands of documents (many handwritten) for place names, personal names, events and topics, compressing weeks of research time into a few seconds. The ability to do this remotely, without having to visit the India Office Records in the British Library, is invaluable, especially in times of global epidemic.

”

- Robert Carter

Professor of archaeology and a researcher of pearling in the Gulf



“

The Qatar Digital Library is the leading electronic archive for anyone studying the history of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region. Freely accessible even from Japan, featuring a powerful search engine, giving beautiful images of primary texts, pictures and maps, with precise and reliable catalogue information, it is an exemplary user-friendly platform. I use it not only for my own research, but also in my classroom in Tokyo.

I regularly recommend it to my students who are looking for interesting materials on the history of the Middle East or on the interconnectedness of the modern world more broadly.

”

– **Dr. Shohei Sato**
Associate Professor of Gulf History, Waseda University,
Tokyo, Japan



Digitization Center

The Digitization Center continued to provide custom digitization projects for government institutions, citizens, museums and international cultural institutions.

The Library is an official partner of the **Arabic Collections Online project** at New York University (NYU), one of the largest digital libraries of public-domain Arabic content.

The Center has digitized a total **12,961,081 pages** of Arabic and non-Arabic books, manuscripts, newspapers, maps, archival documents, photos, slides, and posters.

Digital Repository

The Library's Digital Repository offers users worldwide free access to digitized items from our Heritage Library collection, as well as some selections from our local partners. The database allows researchers to browse primary source materials online,

providing a valuable resource for scholars of the Middle East and Islam.

There were **197,484 unique users** of our Digital Repository in 2021. Out of this over **19 thousand** were new users.

As of the end of December 2021, our Digital Repository offers:



22,580
books



2,505
image albums



1,642
manuscripts



138
periodicals



3,116
newspapers



1,295
maps



401
posters



13.1 million
digitized pages



National Collection

As the national library, the Library maintains the national collection, a comprehensive compendium of Qatar's national output that meets legal deposit criteria.

This process includes cataloging the collection using bibliographic data that conforms to international standards in all formats and in a wide variety of languages, and making items available to users through the catalog.

“ I'm here to study as I find the library very inspirational; people are around you and doing their own thing and it's the kind of place that encourages you to keep going.

The building is amazing, the interior is very attractive and the facilities are also amazing.

”

- Sumaya Baksh
Teacher



Reaching
Out:
**Connecting
at Home
and
Worldwide**



As a national library, we represent Qatar on the international stage as well as locally and regionally. We have ongoing partnerships with other national libraries and archives around the world that enable us to exchange knowledge

and resources to our mutual benefit. We also support local organizations and institutions that work with every community in Qatar, including children and families, people with disabilities, cultural groups, and government entities.

Nation's Library of the Republic of Turkey

In October, the Library signed a strategic Memorandum of Cooperation with the Nation's Library of the Republic of Turkey to expand knowledge in the fields of education, science and culture, and promote the development of librarianship. The memorandum was signed by

His Excellency Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library, and His Excellency Dr. Metin Kıratlı, Ambassador, Director of Administrative Affairs of Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

SPIEF 2021

The Library's participation in the 24th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in June was a milestone in our international outreach efforts, complete with high-level strategic meetings, panel discussions on critical topics, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key entities, book donations, and visits to local museums and libraries. A key highlight at the forum was the panel discussion "Transformation of Libraries and Books in the Digital Era," which featured speakers from the Library who discussed the changing technological environment of libraries around the world and the transformation of libraries in a digital-first world. We also signed two significant MoUs during the forum, with the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (known as the *Kunstkamera*) and the St. Petersburg Museum of Islamic Culture.



Open Access

The Library is committed to supporting the spread of, and unrestricted access to, Qatar-based research through open access. Each year, the Library organizes Open Access Week, an opportunity for the academic and research communities to learn about the potential benefits of open access, share their experiences with colleagues and help inspire wider participation to make open access a new norm in scholarship and research in Qatar. The annual Open Initiative Awards honor those who have made outstanding contributions to open access in Qatar. In 2021, Dr. Essam M. Abdelalim of Hamad Bin Khalifa University won the Individual Award, while Hamad Medical Corporation won the Institutional Award.



From left: Marcin Werla, Director of Digital Content and Engagement at QNL, and Tan Huism, Executive Director of QNL, with Open Initiative Awards winners Professor Michael Frenneaux on behalf of Hamad Medical Corporation, and Dr Essam M. Abdelalim of Hamad Bin Khalifa University

In 2021, we supported

972
articles

by

610
authors

from

21
institutions
in Qatar

whose research can now be freely accessed by the global audience. This positioned Qatar as a regional leader in open access; **ranking first** in the region, and 8th globally, in the percentage of publications in open access.

The Qatar National Library Consortium

The Library leads a consortium of 10 institutional libraries in Qatar to successfully cost-share subscription and open access publishing costs. The Library provides professional and financial support to all consortium members.

Interlending and Document Supply

The Interlending and Document Supply (ILDS) team provides Library users with articles, chapters, reports and books that cannot be found in the Library. The ILDS department also supports other libraries worldwide by offering articles through open access, an initiative that was developed as an urgent answer to the needs of researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic.


In 2021, the Library completed **786 ILDS requests** for members and supplied **218 articles** to international libraries.


In the news

The Library actively promotes its events, services and resources on print and online media, social media as well as through its e-newsletter. Our main social media channels for the Library are Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. An e-newsletter consisting of news and upcoming events is sent to **more than 15,000 subscribers** every other week, as well as on special occasions.

In 2021, we had **39,567,019 digital interactions** with our users across our digital platforms and social media channels.

 **47,014** followers

 **40,976** followers

 **48,046** followers

“

I read a book one day and my
whole life was changed.

”

- Orhan Pamuk

Turkish author and winner of the 2006
Nobel Prize in Literature





مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library