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 discovery and the nourishment of the human spirit.
MISSION

To spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation’s heritage for the future.

Qatar National Library (QNL) will achieve its mission by creating and sustaining an intuitive and trusted information environment in a culturally and technologically superior setting and by developing innovative programs and services.
ABOUT QNL

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, acts as a steward of Qatar’s national heritage by collecting, preserving and making available the country’s recorded history.

In its role as a research library with a preeminent heritage library, QNL fosters and promotes greater global insight into the history and culture of the Gulf region. As a public library, QNL provides equal access for all Qatar residents to an environment that supports creativity, independent decision-making and cultural development. Through all its functions, QNL provides leadership to the country’s library and cultural heritage sector.

QNL also supports Qatar’s transition from a reliance on natural resources to become a diversified and sustainable economy by providing support to students, researchers, and the public to promote life-long learning and empower individuals and communities for a better future.

The QNL project was announced on 19 November 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation.

A COMMUNITY SPACE

QNL is a third space for the community, where visitors of all ages can come together to learn, contemplate, engage, and be empowered.

Local community events, regional initiatives, international conferences and exhibitions are among the many exciting activities of which the community can be a part.
QNL has been engaged in key partnerships with leading institutions locally, such as the Museum of Islamic Art, and internationally, such as the British Library and the Vatican Apostolic Library. QNL is a member of the World Digital Library and a founding member of the Digital Library of the Middle East, both of which give researchers full and free access to primary resources of regional cultural significance, thus providing tools to shape our historical understanding of Qatar and the region.
Heritage Library Collection

The physical heart of QNL is the Heritage Library, comprising some of the rarest and most valuable manuscripts, early printed Arabic books, traveler’s instruments, globes, and maps.

The Heritage Library exhibition area features a space to display over 300 objects, giving visitors the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Qatar and the region.

Main Collection

With almost 1 million books, QNL’s main collection covers all areas of knowledge, from religion to cooking to literature to history, and everything in between.

The main collection is further supplemented with hundreds of thousands of journals, periodicals, magazines, ebooks and more, all available free of charge to all residents of Qatar.
Children’s and Teens Library Collections

Children under 12 can enjoy more than 100,000 print books, most of which are in Arabic and English. To cater for the multicultural residents of Qatar, the collection also offers learning materials in a number of other languages.

To foster a lifelong love of learning, the Children’s and Teens Library also offers educational toys, arts and crafts materials, innovative learning software, and even basic robotics and mechanics tools. Moreover, it has its own team of trained librarians to guide children and their parents.

Teenagers looking to expand their horizons will find more than 30,000 books, as well as magazines, computer labs, graphic novels, interactive learning tools and events specifically tailored to them.

To help teens take the next steps in their education, the section dedicated to teens includes school curriculum and college preparation textbooks.
Qatar Digital Library

QNL is the proud home of Qatar Digital Library, an online portal (www.qdl.qa) that provides users worldwide free access to an extensive collection of historical archival items related to Qatar, the Gulf region, and the Middle East, as well as manuscripts of Arab Islamic sciences.

QDL provides access to more than 800,000 pages from the British Library’s archival collections with descriptions in Arabic and English. This includes over 700,000 pages from the India Office Records and more than 25,000 pages of medieval Arabic manuscripts digitized and made accessible online for the first time.
Digital Repository

The QNL Digital Repository is home of all digitized and digital material produced by QNL and its partners. It offers millions of pages and items that are available to read, share, annotate, download and print. The repository presents each object with descriptive, technical and textual information that is easy to retrieve for the user.

Materials including old manuscripts and maps, original copies of Arabian Nights, newspapers, modern website archives, research data sets, and more, are all one click away at http://ediscovery.qnl.qa

Online Resources

Membership to QNL extends beyond the walls of the building. Members have free access to hundreds of thousands of ebooks, academic papers, audiobooks, newspaper articles, and magazines, as well as streaming music and videos covering a wide range of topics.
Digitization

QNL has fully equipped facilities with dedicated infrastructure that can handle any kind of digitization project. The QNL’s Digitization Center aims to make the unique items of the QNL’s Heritage Library available online for everyone. Digitized materials include rare books, photographs, maps, manuscripts, and more.

Other projects of the Digitization Center include digitizing a large collection of Arabian horse-related photographs with Al Shaqab Center, digitizing items from the rarest books and manuscripts at the Museum of Islamic Art and a pilot project to digitize a number of the Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Museum’s manuscripts.

Preservation and Conservation

Because books and manuscripts are inherently fragile, QNL is committed to preserving these items of important cultural heritage. The Preservation and Conservation Center has a highly trained international team and state-of-the-art equipment that enables QNL to perform preventative conservation measures, re-bind books, perform analysis on deterioration of materials, and in general ensure that future generations of scholars have access to this valuable collection.

Since 2015, the QNL’s Preservation and Conservation Center is the IFLA Regional Center for the Arabic Speaking Countries and the Middle East for the preservation and conservation of heritage materials.
THE BUILDING

With a total built area of 45,000 square meters, the state-of-the-art QNL building is designed to allow visitors to intuitively explore the Library’s offerings of materials and services.

Designed by world-renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and located in the heart of Education City, QNL’s new building is a community space for Qatar’s residents and a place for learning, contemplation and exchange of ideas.

The building’s design is inspired by a folded piece of paper and seeks to achieve balance between content availability and accessibility on the one hand, and content preservation and security on the other.

TECHNOLOGY AT QNL

To create a completely user-friendly experience for visitors, the QNL building is packed wall-to-wall with innovative technologies. These state-of-the-art features include self-check in and self-check out services using radio frequency identification (RFID), an automated book sorter, a ‘people mover’, and a wide-range of computer machines, tablets, interactive screens, and audio and visual equipment, all of which make for a rewarding experience from start to finish.
Membership

QNL’s building is open to the public. To make the most of the Library’s services, Qatar residents are encouraged to register as members of QNL.

To become a member, you can register on QNL website and then visit the User Services Desk along with your valid Qatari ID/RP to collect your membership card.

Alternatively, you can register in person at the User Services Desk, but please remember to bring your valid Qatari ID/RP.

Being a member of QNL allows free access to all of the Library’s collections and services, in addition to workshops and events. Members can also:

• Reserve individual and group study rooms
• Visit the Writing Center for help on projects such as school reports and CVs
• Use available public computers
• Take advantage of the Innovation Station, which offers free access to 3D printing and scanning, a recording studio, a videography and photography room with equipment for digital design, music instruments, virtual reality accessories, do-it-yourself (DIY) electronics, and much more.
Assistive Services
QNL is committed to making the entire Library and all its services accessible to everyone. Therefore, QNL has partnered with a number of organizations in Qatar, including Shafallah Center and Mada, to ensure that all visitors with special needs and disabilities can use the Library’s services.

In this regards, QNL provides a wide range of programs, activities, and technology that cater for people with special needs, whether it is for research, studies, reading, or hobbies.

Events and Programs
QNL hosts events for every audience, such as workshops for parents, training sessions on how to use online resources, and cultural programs, to name just a few. A full list of events can be found on QNL website, and all events are free for all. To keep up-to-date with the events at QNL, subscribe to our e-newsletter or follow us on our social media platforms.
Ask QNL Librarians

This is a national reference service which is offered through QNL website. It connects people who have questions with the appropriate resources. To use this service, please visit the ‘Ask QNL Librarians’ page on QNL website. QNL users can also approach the Reference Desk in the Library building for onsite help.

Document Delivery Service

QNL provides its members with materials, in electronic or print format, for items that are not available in its resources and collections. This service includes borrowing from, and lending to, other libraries. If after searching the QNL Catalog and Online Resources you could not find the material you are looking for, you may use this service.

Materials that can be sourced include articles from journals, book chapters or sections, conference proceedings, and reports.
Research Resources and Services

In addition to online resources, QNL offers researchers free access to the following:

- Qatar Digital Library
- The QNL Digital Repository
- Subject Guides and Research Tools (available through QNL website)
- Open Access Author Fund
- Open Access Vouchers

Qatar Research Portal

The Qatar Research Portal is a collaboration between QNL and the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The portal provides access to the outcomes of QNRF-funded research, and reflects the wealth of research carried out in Qatar. Access is free for all QNL members.