



QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY CONTRIBUTES TO THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

*Partnership with the Council on Library and Information Resources to Foster Understanding of
the MENA Region's Cultural Heritage*

Doha, Qatar, August 22, 2017: Qatar National Library (QNL) and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to develop, enhance, and make available digitized cultural heritage content through the Digital Library of the Middle East (DLME).

The DLME is a collaborative effort that aspires to create a sustainable digital environment for the cultural heritage of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, while providing an array of applications, tools, and descriptions that enrich the content, facilitate sophisticated inquiry, and engage with the widest possible community of practice.

The QNL-CLIR MoU aims to foster future collaboration in the areas of raising awareness and fostering understanding of the MENA region's cultural heritage and safeguarding it by creating sustainable, long-term information environments for preservation of, and access to, cultural heritage. In addition, the MoU will support work to respond to the destruction of cultural heritage, educate a worldwide audience, and promote respect for the historical record. The organizations aim to achieve this through the activation of like-minded populations and outreach activities – locally, regionally, and internationally – alongside the development of partnerships with content-rich institutions and models for international cooperation.

Dr. Sohair Wastawy, Executive Director of QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), said: "We are delighted to be a founding member of the DLME and to be a partner with CLIR. The history of the Middle East is a cornerstone of the history of civilization and preserving it is not only a cultural mandate but also an obligation we have toward future generations."

Dr. Charles Henry, President of CLIR, said: "Our partnership with Qatar National Library marks a pivotal turn for the Digital Library of the Middle East. The technical expertise, content, and insight that QNL brings to this project are extraordinary and we are delighted to work in this shared vision with the library's distinguished staff and leadership who will contribute integrally to the success of the project."

Peter Herdrich, co-founder of The Antiquities Coalition, a core DLME founder, said: "Qatar National Library is an unrivaled international partner for the Digital Library of the Middle East. We share the goal of designing and implementing solutions and creating a cooperative community in the MENA region in service to the cultural record. This is an exciting development."

For more information about the Digital Library of the Middle East, please visit: <https://dlme.clir.org/>



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
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Qatar National Library

Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of the 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 collection, 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 Qatari 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, and the library will open its doors for the first time on November 7, 2017.

Website: www.qnl.qa

Twitter: @QNLib

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheQatarNationalLibrary

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The Council on Library and Information Resources

CLIR is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning. CLIR promotes forward-looking collaborative solutions that transcend disciplinary, institutional, professional, and geographic boundaries in support of the public good. Among CLIR's programs is the Digital Library Federation (DLF), an international network of member institutions and robust community of practice advancing research, learning, social justice, and the public good through digital library technologies.

CLIR website: www.clir.org **CLIR Twitter:** @CLIRNews

DLF website: www.diglib.org **DLF Twitter:** @CLIRDLF

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global research and development challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>