



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
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QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING TO OPEN IN NOVEMBER

State-of-the-art facility offers public a wide range of services

Doha, Qatar, October 9, 2017: Qatar National Library (QNL) will officially open its new state-of-the-art building to the public on November 7, giving residents access to nearly one million books, periodicals, and special collections, including its famed Heritage Collection.

QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), is destined to become one of the world's preeminent centers of learning, research, and culture, and also a guardian of the region's heritage, as an institution promoting discovery and human development in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals.

The QNL building, designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and located in Education City, is the first new national library to open anywhere in the world in this millennium. The new QNL facility has been five years in the planning, having been founded in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of QF.

"We are very pleased to open our doors to the Qatar community. The QNL building is intended to be a public space where people of all ages can come to learn, reflect, engage, and be inspired," said Dr. Sohair F. Wastawy, Executive Director, QNL. "In addition, we are pleased to offer a permanent home for the Heritage Collection, which is a valuable repository of the history and heritage of Qatar, the Gulf region, and the larger Arab and Islamic worlds."

The Heritage Collection, located in the center of the QNL building, includes rare and valuable texts and manuscripts related to Arabic and Islamic civilization. In addition to Arabic manuscripts, historical maps and globes, scientific instruments and early photography, the collection also contains writings by travelers who explored the Arabian Gulf region over the centuries.

QNL also features a dedicated Children's Library containing more than 150,000 books, in English, Arabic, French, German, and other languages, and is offering early literacy programs and workshops for families to develop reading skills from an early age. The Children's Library also houses educational toys, arts and crafts materials, and innovative learning software, as well as its own team of dedicated children's librarians.

Meanwhile, the Teen Collection, aimed at visitors aged 13 to 18, includes more than 30,000 books, as well as magazines, computer labs, graphic novels, interactive learning tools, and a specially-designed events space. It also includes school curriculum and college textbooks for students preparing for exams including ACT and SAT.



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Young visitors can utilize individual and group study spaces, computer labs, a writing center, and an Innovation Station offering a wide variety of creative tools such as 3D printers, sound recording and editing, and musical instruments.

The 45,000-square-meter QNL building, which is fully accessible to visitors with special needs, features numerous custom-designed innovations, including an automatic book sorting system, a people mover system, several interactive media walls, and self-check in/out machines that make borrowing books easier for visitors.

Once the building opens, existing QNL members can pick up a membership card, while those not yet registered can do so by presenting their Qatar ID.

Dr. Wastawy added: “The Qatar National Library building offers something for everyone, and we are really looking forward to welcoming the entire community to this wonderful institution.”

QNL will launch a full range of exhibitions and services at the facility’s official inauguration ceremony in 2018.

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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.

Website: www.qnl.qa



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