

HBKU Press sponsors Special Libraries Association – Arabian Gulf Chapter conference for fourth year

Doha, Qatar: This year marks the fourth consecutive year where Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press) proudly sponsors the Special Libraries Association – Arabian Gulf Chapter’s (SLA/AGC) conference being held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from March 7 – 9, 2017.

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a specialized global organization founded in 1909 with their head office in the United States of America. The Arabian Gulf Chapter (AGC) was established in 1992 to adopt the innovations of specialists and professionals in the field of information and libraries and to provide a forum in which these professionals can network. Membership to the chapter is extended to the Gulf countries, but participants from all over the world meet at the conference in an effort to open the dialogue internationally, as opposed to simply focusing on regional discourse.

This year, the 23rd annual conference and exhibition of the SLA/AGC will focus on “Quality of Library and Information Training and Educational Programs: The Way Map Towards Accreditation”.

As an academic publisher, HBKU Press has a longstanding relationship with the SLA/AGC and is committed to supporting their efforts through sponsorship and through the dissemination of the conference’s proceedings on their online, open access platform, QScience.com.

“Not only are we sponsoring the conference this year for the fourth year in a row,” explains Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Senior Editor at HBKU Press. “HBKU Press will be publishing this year’s conference proceedings online in a special issue of *QScience Proceedings* and we will also be publishing a select few, high – level accepted research articles in full in a special issue of *QScience Connect*: HBKU Press’s open access journals.

“We look forward to supporting the SLA/AGC further by showcasing the important research output from their conference this year and in the years to come.”

By making these conference proceedings and the accepted research articles available online, HBKU Press allows for the dissemination of information as there is an expectation that conference proceedings have a high rate of downloads. This ultimately means that the information will be made widely available to researchers and academics around the world.



Mohamed Ghali Mubarak, the vice-conference chair of the SLA/AGC conference and the Senior Librarian at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies Library (QFIS), echoes the importance of open access literature in relation to the successful participation in the knowledge economy.

“HBKU Press has been a great partner to the SLA/AGC conference in the past four years,” says Mubarak. “I consider this a very important partnership as it’s giving the users access to research that is going on in the Gulf through open access channels. Open access is a big, international scholarly movement that is gaining more support every year from users, authors, researchers and publishers. It is the future of international research publishing and HBKU Press, by choosing open to have an open access academic research publishing platform, is showcasing and highlighting the research in the region on a global level, which is great.”

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ABOUT HBKU PRESS

Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press), formerly known as Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP), launched its program in 2010 as a world-class publishing house founded on international best practices, excellence and innovation. HBKU Press strives to be a cornerstone of Qatar’s knowledge-based economy by providing a unique local and international platform for literature, literacy, scholarship, discovery and learning. Headquartered in Doha, Qatar, HBKU Press publishes peer reviewed journals, monographs, reference books, fiction and non-fiction titles for adults and for children. Aiming to promote the love of reading and writing, HBKU Press is helping to establish a vibrant scholarly and literary culture in Qatar and the Middle East.

About QScience.com

Launched in September 2011, QScience.com is a peer-reviewed online publishing platform that offers a unique and collaborative research environment for academics, scientists in Qatar and the rest of the world. QScience.com adopts the open access publishing model and hosts scholarly journals, conference proceedings and ebooks. This new platform publishes a range of peer reviewed, high quality, open access journals, databases and repositories which adhere to international publishing standards. www.QScience.com

