

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Qatar National Library Celebrates National Day with Exclusive Student Tour

Aspire Academy Students enjoyed a guided tour of the Library's prized Heritage Collection

Doha, 14 December 2013: The Qatar National Library (QNL) marked Qatar National Day with a special tour of its cherished Heritage Collection for Aspire Academy students. The visit offered the youths a unique opportunity to explore Qatar's rich history.

QNL's Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection is among the most important aspects of Qatar's cultural landscape aligned with its vision of 'bridging with knowledge Qatar's heritage and future'. The collection includes a treasure trove of rare books, manuscripts and artefacts that document the richness of the Arabic and Islamic civilisations.

During the tour at QNL's Heritage Collection Building, students gained first-hand insight into the rare archive, learning about the significant contributions Arab and Muslim scholars made, not only to world history but to human thought as well. One item that particularly interested the students was Ptolemy's *Geographia*, printed in Rome in 1478. It is the oldest printed map showing the name of Qatar, referred to in Latin as *Catara*.

Guided by Walid Abdulwahed, QNL's Library Research officer, the students were joined by Saadi Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning.

Commenting on the importance of the student tour, Saadi Al Said said, "Qatar National Library is proud to be celebrating Qatar National Day by offering the country's youth such a special opportunity to explore Arabic and Islamic history through our Heritage Collection. It is essentially a rich repository, holding hundreds of artefacts of immense value to Qatari history and to the history of humans as a whole."

The Heritage Collection was founded by Sheikh Hassan Bin Muhammad Al Thani in 1979 as part of an unprecedented initiative to showcase the wealth of historical sources about Qatar, including writings by travellers and explorers who visited the Arabian Gulf region.

Preparations are underway to relocate this collection to its own purpose-built site in QNL's new location in Education City, where it will hold the pride of the place that it deserves. The new spectacular library building was designed by renowned architect, Rem Koolhaas and is planned to open in 2015.

QNL's current Heritage Collection Building is open for public tours every Sunday and Tuesday from 10.00am to 11.30am. To register for a tour, please visit: www.qnl.qa/visit-request-form.

Additionally, QNL is currently offering free access to a vast collection of online resources including the latest bestsellers, classical works, concerts, top academic journals and documentaries. Registered QNL members can access a complete list of online resources by visiting www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources. Alternatively, anyone who lives in Qatar and has a valid Qatari ID/Residence Permit is eligible for free library registration. To register, please visit <https://library.qnl.qa/selfreg>.

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Qatar National Library – Bridging with knowledge Qatar's Heritage and Future

Qatar National Library (QNL) is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy by providing resources to students, researchers, and the community in Qatar. It was announced in November 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNL carries out its mission through three functions, National Library, University and Research Library and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. The National Library function collects and provides access to global knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region. It also collects, preserves and provides access to heritage content and materials about Qatar and the region. The University and Research

Library function supports education and research at all levels by providing printed and digital library materials for students and researchers. Metropolitan Public Library delivers library services and information for everyone to enjoy reading, meet people and become information literate.

Learn more about Qatar National Library online at www.qnl.qa

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MEDIA CONTACT

For more information about Qatar National Library please contact:

Gihan M. Baraka +974 44546034

gbaraka@qf.org.qa