



QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY TO HOST THE REGION'S FIRST METROPOLITAN LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

Call For Papers Opens For MetLib 2016 Qatar

Doha, 16 November 2015: Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will host the first Metropolitan Libraries (MetLib) conference to take place in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region from 23-28 April, 2016.

Held for the first time in the Middle East in the history of the conference's 47 years, MetLib is organized by the Metropolitan Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Organized under the theme 'Pearls in the desert: unleashing potential' MetLib 2016 Qatar supports Qatar Foundation's mission to unlock human potential and further boost Qatar's library and information sector which supports Qatar on its journey from a carbon based to a knowledge-based economy by providing the necessary information that contribute to the nation's development.

Engineer Saadi Al Said, Director of Administration and Planning and at QNL, said: "QNL is proud to be the first in the region to host this prestigious metropolitan and public libraries conference which gives us an opportunity to showcase the progress Qatar has made in the information services sector in recent years."

Academic researchers, librarians and industry professionals are invited to submit their English abstracts addressing one of three themes provided; how libraries support personal development, how libraries support training or how libraries develop their staff.

Topics can include partnerships or collaborative activities that extend services into the community, the impact of innovative library programs that develop literacy, lifelong learning, IT skills, employment skills, second language learning, creativity and imagination, programming and service to underserved populations, programming and service to patrons with disabilities, nurturing and developing library staff to deliver best library services, how libraries are managing changing user expectations through strategy, planning, process, training and recruitment and lastly using emerging technologies in effective delivery of services and communications.

The deadline for sending the paper proposals is 31st December, 2015. The paper submission guidelines and other important dates can be viewed on the MetLib 2016 Qatar website (www.metlib2016qatar.org).

There will also be an opportunity for attendees to participate in a 'PechuKucha'- a presentation technique where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds, in efforts to deliver presentations efficiently.

Corrado Di Tillio, Standing Committee Chair at IFLA, said: "The IFLA MetLib 2016 Qatar conference is a milestone in the development of public libraries and the information



services sector worldwide. Bringing the conference to the Middle East for the first time, cements Qatar's role within the public library global alliance."

Di Tillio added, "We are looking forward to welcome library leaders from public and metropolitan libraries and professionals from around the globe to Qatar in April 2016."

The annual conference is aimed at providing an ideal platform for metropolitan and public libraries to share progressive ideas for the enhancement of the worldwide information services sector to create an extensive and long-lasting knowledge-sharing network. Participants will be introduced to informative research findings in the field and have the opportunity to explore the impact of the development of human potential through libraries and attend industry-focused presentations throughout the conference.

Commenting on the conference, Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL, said: "Qatar is on its way to becoming a thriving knowledge-sharing hub. MetLib 2016 Qatar will present an ideal opportunity for metropolitan librarians from across the world to receive in-depth professional development and witness Qatar's emerging information services sector."

QNL is one-of-a-kind in that it encompasses characteristics of a National Library, University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age.

To learn more and register for the conference, please visit: <http://metlib2016qatar.org>

Visit QNL's website to learn more about the library: www.qnl.qa

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Qatar National Library – Bridging with knowledge Qatar's and the Arab and Islamic world's heritage and future.

Qatar National Library (QNL) is a non-profit organisation under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from a 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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