



مكتبة قطر الوطنية  
QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY  
عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation

## METLIB 2016 QATAR PROGRAMME TO HIGHLIGHT INNOVATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES

*Qatar National Library Set to Welcome International Delegates for Six Days of Informative Sessions and Cultural Awareness*

**Doha, 26 March 2016** – The Metropolitan Libraries (MetLib) 2016 Qatar conference, organised by Qatar National Library (QNL), will feature a host of insightful sessions centred on innovation within the information services sector, children’s services, and community and staff development.

This year’s Metlib conference is taking place in the MENA region for the first time, demonstrating the international renown of QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF).

The six-day programme aims to provide a professional development opportunity to librarians and information services professionals, and supports QF’s mission to build a progressive society as outlined in the Human Development Pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030).

Engineer Saadi Al Said, Director of Planning and Administration at QNL, said: “MetLib 2016 puts Qatar and the wider region on the international information services map, and will be a driving force for the development of metropolitan libraries in the region. We have carefully designed the programme in a way that allows participants from Qatar and abroad to not only initiate vital conversations, but also experience Qatar’s rich heritage, culture and hospitality.”

The conference will get underway with the ‘Innovation in Library Services’ session, where participants will explore how libraries respond to community needs by adapting their service philosophies, and highlight new best practices in the industry.

The ‘Community Learning’ session, to be held on the second day of the conference, will examine new ways that libraries can bring people together to acquire new skills in a shared space. Meanwhile, the ‘Developing the Future through Children and Teen Services’ discussion will encourage participants to explore innovative ways to stimulate the creativity and imagination of young people.

Additionally, vital topics focused on how libraries are developing their staff in order to create new modes of operations and new service paradigms will be discussed during the ‘Staff Development’ session.

Commenting on the unique opportunities that MetLib 2016 Qatar is set to offer, Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL, said: “Being selected to host MetLib 2016 Qatar is indicative of the region’s growing influence and ability to become a key player in the global information services sector. This conference is set to present unprecedented opportunities for the information services sector as it strives to embrace innovation.”

In addition to the sessions and presentations, participants will enjoy daily tours to various cultural and heritage sites in Qatar including Souq Waqif, Al Khor Dhow Harbour, and Al Zubarah, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Doha’s cultural hub, Katara, and the Museum of Islamic Art are also part of the tour programme.

Delegates will also have an opportunity to mingle with their local peers while touring a number of existing libraries across the country. However, the undoubted highlight of the itinerary, from the perspective of librarianship, is a visit to Qatar National Library’s future home. Currently under construction and located in Education City, the 45,000 square-metre building features state-of-the-art facilities designed by renowned architect Rem Koolhaas.

On the final day of the conference, a MetLib Committee Meeting will be held, followed by a closing ceremony at Al Shaqab where participants will enjoy a closing dinner and a spectacular equestrian show.

Mr Corrado Di Tillio, Standing Committee Chair of IFLA Section on Metropolitan Libraries, said: “This will be the 48th conference, and the first one in Middle East and North Africa region. For this reason it is a great occasion to focus on libraries and the library profession in this region, where precious cultural heritage and astonishing futuristic innovation live together.”

“Each year the MetLib conference brings a mix of inspiring presentations, library visits and social events. Our host, Qatar National Library, has prepared a great programme which, I am sure, will be fruitful and enjoyable for all the participants,” Mr Di Tillio added.

MetLib 2016 Qatar will take place in Doha from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April under the theme of ‘Pearls in the Desert: Unleashing Potential’. By registering online, members of the public will have the opportunity to attend alongside library professionals.

To register for the conference, please visit [www.metlib2016qatar.org/en/register](http://www.metlib2016qatar.org/en/register)  
Visit [www.qnl.qa](http://www.qnl.qa) to learn more about QNL.

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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](http://www.qnl.qa)

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