



THOUSANDS VISIT QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY DURING FIRST FEW WEEKS OF OPENING

More than 18,000 books already checked out

Doha, Qatar, November 22 2017: Thousands of visitors flocked to Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), during the first few weeks of its opening, an auspicious start for the new hub of learning and culture at Education City. Visitors to the state-of-the-art building registered for membership, checked out books, enjoyed the many reading and study areas, and used QNL's creative and collaborative facilities, including the Writing Center and Innovation Stations. More than 11,000 new users have registered to become QNL members.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of QF, and Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni took a tour of QNL in the lead up to its opening earlier this month.

Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO, QF; Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, Iraq's Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Former Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage; Mr. Ajay Sharma, British Ambassador to Qatar; Adrian Norfolk, Canadian Ambassador to Qatar; a group of representatives from the Indian Parliament, and representatives of various institutions, are among the thousands who have already visited QNL.

More than 18,000 books have been checked out from QNL's collection to date, indicating an overwhelming interest in reading and learning among residents. The building is open to all members of the public, and membership to the library is free to anyone with a Qatari ID.

"In just a few days, we have seen the power of QNL to bring together the community to learn, create, and engage with each other. We were eager to open QNL to the public, and seeing our visitors' excitement shows just how important QNL is to the country and its people," said Dr. Sohair F. Wastawy, Executive Director, QNL. "We encourage people to return, as they will always find something new at QNL to educate and entertain."

QNL's new website also debuted this month at www.qnl.qa, enabling users to register for membership, search the library's collection, reserve meeting and event spaces in the building, and access the dozens of online digital resources available to members.

QNL's Children's Library attracted particular attention. It includes more than 100,000 picture books, chapter books, information books, easy readers, magazines, DVDs, databases for children, audiobooks, e-books, and e-magazines in Arabic and English.

Visitors can also take tours of the Heritage Library, which houses rare and valuable texts, manuscripts, maps, and other important objects related to Arabic and Islamic history and culture.

Designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, the building is fully accessible to visitors with special needs. It features numerous custom-designed innovations, including an automatic book sorting system, several interactive media walls, and self-check-in and check-out machines that make borrowing books easier for members.



Additionally, QNL will soon launch numerous activities for the public, including early literacy workshops, storytime, yoga, science exploration, and dozens more. A full schedule can be found on QNL's website.

Image Captions

Image 1: Qatar National Library leadership welcomes Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, Iraq's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to its building at Education City.

Image 2: Residents, including students, teachers, researchers, and representatives of various institutions, were among the thousands who have visited the Qatar National Library.

Image 3: A group of students interact with Qatar National Library staff during a tour of the library's facilities.

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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

QNL's e-newsletter: <http://qnl.qa/programs-and-services/subscribe-qnl-newsletter>

QNL's Twitter: @QNLlib

QNL's Instagram: QatarNationalLibrary

QNL's Snapchat: Qnlib

QNL's Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheQatarNationalLibrary

QNL's YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/QNLibrary>

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>