

Qatar National Library offers country-wide access to online global bank of knowledge

Doha, 3, October 2013 – Qatar National Library (QNL) has teamed up with ASTM International in a unique and groundbreaking agreement to provide online access to ASTM standards and technical information across the whole State of Qatar.

Running since May 2013, this is the first countrywide license agreement between QNL and ASTM International, the globally recognised leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards.

Now that QNL has integrated and migrated previous ASTM paying subscribers into the new Qatar National Library’s national licence, access is freely provided to the ASTM Standards & Engineering Digital Library (SEDL) for employees of all government departments, to the students and teaching staff of all academic institutions, and to the staff of all State-owned and private corporations working in Qatar. There is no limit to the number of simultaneous users or to the number of documents that can be downloaded. Anyone who lives in Qatar and has a valid Qatari ID/Residence Permit is eligible for a free library registration and can then access the ASTM standards.

Access to ASTM’s vast collection of technical information will help meet the commitments of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Qatar Foundation’s dedicated mission of ‘Unlocking Human Potential’ through education, science and research.

Dr. Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, said, “QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon-based economy to a knowledge-based economy by providing diversified resources and online databases free of charge to students, researchers, and the entire community in Qatar. We are glad to expand our service offerings by partnering with ASTM to offer everyone in Qatar full access to their digital library. This partnership comes as part of the Qatar National Library’s efforts to reinforce and facilitate the development of skills that will enable residents to participate in the global knowledge economy.”

James A. Thomas, President of ASTM International, said, “ASTM International is pleased to embark on this relationship with the State of Qatar. ASTM standards, and other technical information available from ASTM International, represent a collective, global bank of knowledge. This agreement facilitates the transfer of that knowledge to government departments, corporations of all sizes, and to universities throughout the State of Qatar in a convenient and efficient way.”

Available online and updated weekly, the ASTM Standards & Engineering Digital Library (SEDL), contains all 13,000+ ASTM standards, 114,000 pages of peer-reviewed journal papers, over 1,500 ebooks (STP’s) and other technical information such as manuals and videos. So far, more than 160 companies in Qatar have registered; gaining access to the technical information.

ASTM standards are used extensively in Qatar; within the carbon industry, widely cited in the Qatar Construction Specification (QCS), and commonly referred to in academic institutions. ASTM is also helping to develop national standards in Qatar following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Laboratories and Standardization Affairs (QS), part of the Qatar Ministry of Environment. The ASTM MOU program supports open dialogue with national standards bodies worldwide, facilitates standards development, and where possible, it helps to avoid duplication of work.

QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is currently offering free online access to a vast collection of online resources, including the latest bestsellers, classical works, concerts, top academic journals and documentaries.

Qatar National Library’s registered members can currently access a complete list of online resources through: <http://www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources>. 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.

MEDIA CONTACT

For more information about Qatar National Library please contact:

Gihan M. Baraka +974 44546034

gbaraka@qf.org.qa

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

Twitter: @QNLib

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheQatarNationalLibrary

About ASTM International:

For more information on national license agreements to the ASTM Standards & Engineering Digital Library (SEDL), contact Nick Ecart, ASTM director, business development , Europe, Middle East and Africa (phone: +44 7932 103758, email: necart@astm.org).

ASTM International is one of the largest international standards development and delivery systems in the world. ASTM International meets the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles for the development of international standards: coherence, consensus, development dimension, effectiveness, impartiality, openness, relevance and transparency. ASTM standards are accepted and used in research and development, product testing, quality systems and commercial transactions around the globe.

ASTM Staff Contact: Nick Ecart, Phone: +44 7932 103758, email: necart@astm.org