



Being of value in a VUCA world: Experiences from the Qatar National Library

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مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library

www.qnl.qa

V OLATILITY
U NCERTAINTY
C OMPLEXITY
A MBIGUITY





في ضوء التحديثات الأخيرة بشأن فيروس COVID 19 ومن أجل الحفاظ على سلامة روادنا وموظفينا، تم إغلاق المكتبة أمام الجمهور حتى إشعار آخر. نرجو منكم الاستمرار في الاستفادة من مصادرنا الإلكترونية.

In light of recent updates regarding the COVID-19 virus, and in the interests of the safety and wellbeing of our patrons and staff, Qatar National Library is closed to the public until further notice. Please continue to enjoy our online resources.



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american libraries


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ALA Executive Board Recommends Closing Libraries to Public

March 17, 2020

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The American Library Association (ALA) Executive Board released this statement March 17 in support of libraries and library workers during the COVID-19 pandemic:

The ALA Executive Board unequivocally stands in support of the safety and well-being of library workers and the communities we serve. To protect library workers and their communities from exposure to COVID-19 in these unprecedented times, we strongly recommend that academic, public, and school library leaders and their trustees and governing bodies evaluate closing libraries to the public and only reopening when guidance from public health officials indicates the risk from COVID-19 has significantly subsided.

AL Live

american libraries **LIVE**



Latest Library Links

58 On October 11, Booklist announced that 43 books have been selected for the longlist for the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction. The list, which includes 22 fiction and 21 nonfiction titles, can be viewed on the [awards website](#). The six-title shortlist—three each for the fiction and nonfiction medals—will be chosen from the longlist titles and announced on November 15. The two medal winners will be announced at the Reference and User Services

About Qatar

- A peninsula in the Gulf with a population of around 2.6 million (as of July 2022)
- 77% are between ages of 25-64 years.
- Archaeological finds date human habitation in the area to around 4,000 BCE.
- Before the discovery of oil and gas, Qatar's economy revolved around fishing, pearl diving and trading.



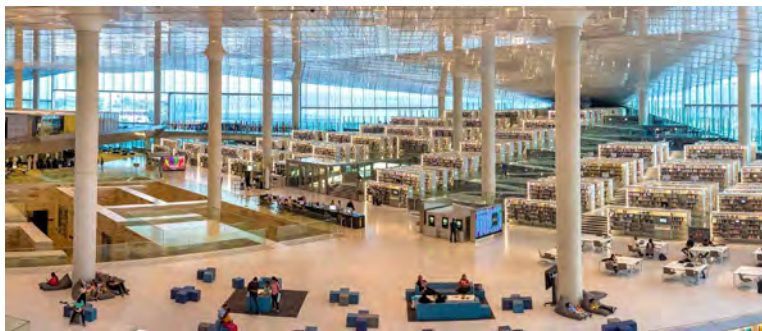
Qatar National Library's Vision and Mission

- **Vision:**
To be one of the world's preeminent centers of **learning, research, and culture**; a **guardian of the region's heritage**; and an institution that promotes imagination, discovery and the nourishment of the human spirit.
- **Mission:**
To preserve the nation's and region's heritage and enable the people of Qatar to positively influence society by creating an exceptional environment for learning and discovery.



Our Function

- **National Library:**
A steward of Qatar’s documentary heritage.
- **Public Library:**
Equal access for all people in Qatar to an environment that supports creativity and cultural development.
- **Research Library:**
Supporting and promoting research in and about Qatar.



45,000 square meters of building area

Collection around 1.3 million volumes and rich electronic resources and digitized materials

Over 280,000 physical visits in 2021.

Breastfeeding Support Sessions

- The Breastfeeding Support Group first emerged in early 2020 following a breastfeeding campaign that was hosted at the Library in 2018.
- To support pregnant and nursing mothers. Aside from library resources, QNL facilitated free access to lactation specialists.
- First sessions (which were on-site) – low attendance. With the pandemic, we went online – our attendance grew with Arabic speaking mothers from around the globe.
- Mothers everywhere were struggling to get access to lactation specialists due to the pandemic.
- Despite online fatigue, mothers working or not still preferred the virtual sessions over in-person sessions.
- Aside from breastfeeding support sessions we also have sessions for caring with children with special needs or ADHD targeting both parents and educators.



Protecting regional documentary heritage

- In 2015 the QNL Preservation and Conservation Center was selected to be the IFLA PAC Regional Center for Arab countries and the Middle East.
- As a PAC Center, QNL offers the expertise of highly professional international team and world-class conservation facilities.
- We support and assist Arab libraries with conservation issues.
- Produce and publish materials related to preservation and conservation (in Arabic and English) or translate IFLA guidelines
- Guide the development of disaster plans
- Organise courses, workshops and meetings

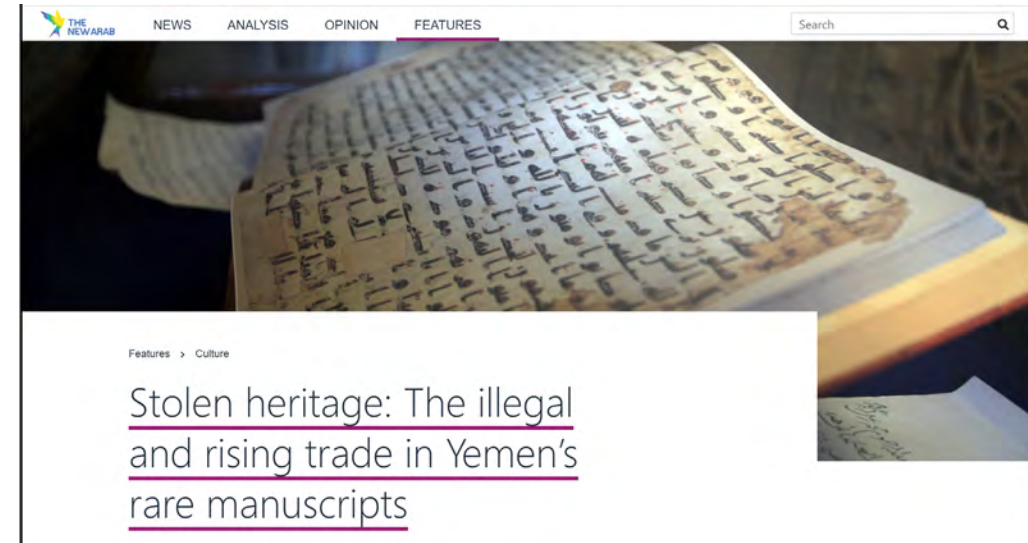


حماية

means protection, care, safekeeping

Himaya Project

- Initiated to counter trafficking of documentary heritage in Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.
- In collaboration with Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science and international agencies like INTERPOL, inter-governmental UNESCO, NGOs like ICA14 -(EGATTT); ministries and law enforcement agencies and officers in the region.



Main areas for this project:

- Advocate for improved laws for documentary heritage protection and for cultural institutions to update the INTERPOL database of stolen works of art.
- Advocate for better cataloguing and description of collections
- Capacity building – organising workshops and events and importantly a database of contacts and enhancing the network of experts.
- Develop an automatic monitoring and scanning system for illicit sales in auction catalogues and social media and so on.

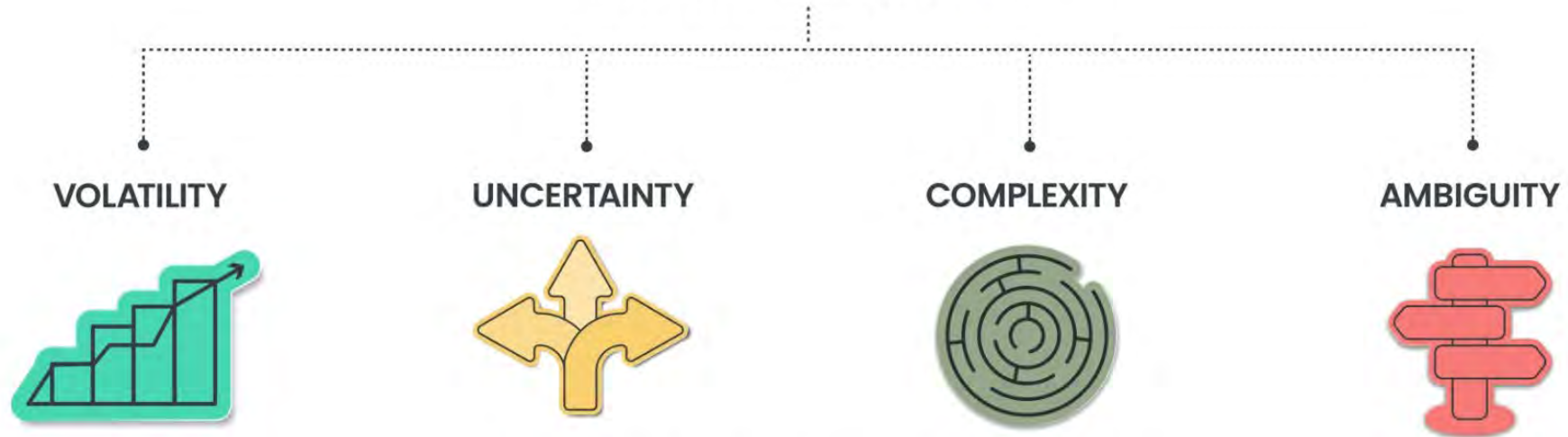
Stolen Afghan manuscripts have been coming up for sale at major auction houses, according to research group

The Himaya project based in Qatar has been working with Interpol to identify artefacts trafficked to London, Paris and Amsterdam



VUCA

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH A VUCA WORLD?



HOW TO SURVIVING A VUCA WORLD WITH THE SAME ACRONYM



شكراً

Thank you

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