

OMA

OMA QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY FACT SHEET

Status

Completed

Location

Doha, Qatar

Site

Qatar Education City

Client

Qatar Foundation

Dates

Design development: 2008 - 2010

Start of construction: September 2012

Completion: September 2017

Occupancy: October 2017

Program

Collections: 21.000 m²

Reading space: 3500 m²

Exhibition space: 1500 m²

Administration and offices: 3.000 m²

Children's Library: 800 m²

Restaurant: 600 m²

Special Event Area: 600 m²

Dimensions

Gross floor area: 45.000 m²

Net floor area: 32.000 m²

Gross volume: 304.704 m³

Capacity

Capacity of displaying more than one million books

The Library currently hosts a little more than 800,000 volumes

Collections

There are many subject areas in humanities, social sciences and sciences included in the main collection, distributed among three tiers. The Library collection mainly comprises Arabic and English language texts, but also provides a wide selection of books in other languages. These include French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu, Tagalog, Sinhala, Malayalam, Bengali, Nepali, as well as Russian, Korean, and Chinese.

Technologies

- a custom-designed book circulation system, including an automatic book sorter and self-check-in/out machines
- 20 self-check-out stations and 8 check-in (return) stations with 7 onsite, and one drive-through outside the building
- the People Mover System – making the collection on the terraces accessible to everyone
- wide range of computer systems, tablets, interactive screens and audio/visual equipment
- assistive technology area including 16 computer stations with adjustable leveling, equipped with cutting-edge hardware and software technologies.
- fully equipped preservation library
- auditorium with raised podium and translation booths

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- multipurpose event space, fully equipped, with scenography technology for seminars, exhibitions, music concerts and performances

Children's and Teens Library Facts

- Children's Library: designed for children age 0-12
- 100,000 print books in its collection: majority of the collection is English and Arabic language
- access to many electronic resources, including e-books, e-magazines, and databases specifically designed for children
- Teens section: serves teenagers age 13-17
- more than 30,000 books, as well as magazines, computer labs, graphic novels, interactive learning tools and events
- school curriculum and college preparation textbooks, for subjects like ACT and SAT preparations
- six gaming kiosks with consoles such as PS4, Nintendo Switch and Xbox

Heritage Library Facts

- more than 4,000 manuscripts
- space to display approximately 300 items, giving visitors the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Islamic world and Qatar
- medical, pharmacological, and astronomical texts, along with famous works produced by Ibn Sinā and al-Rāzī
- one of the oldest manuscripts in the collection is a set of four parts of al-Bukhari's Al-Sahih, on parchment, which dates back to the 6th Century H. /12th Century A.D., written in Spain
- more than 26,000 printed books, 4,000 manuscripts, 70,000 photographs, and 1,200 maps, as well as numerous atlases, globes, traveler's instruments and extensive archival materials
- contains the Ptolemy map entitled "Sexta Asiae Tabula", printed in Rome in 1478. This is the first map to mention Qatar, printed in Latin as *Catara*

Library updates and Statistics: November 7, 2017 – February 26, 2018

- More than 45,000 new members have registered
- The library has seen more than 134, 000 visitors
- More than 252000 books have been checked out, which includes 158125 children books and 94829 books from the main collection