



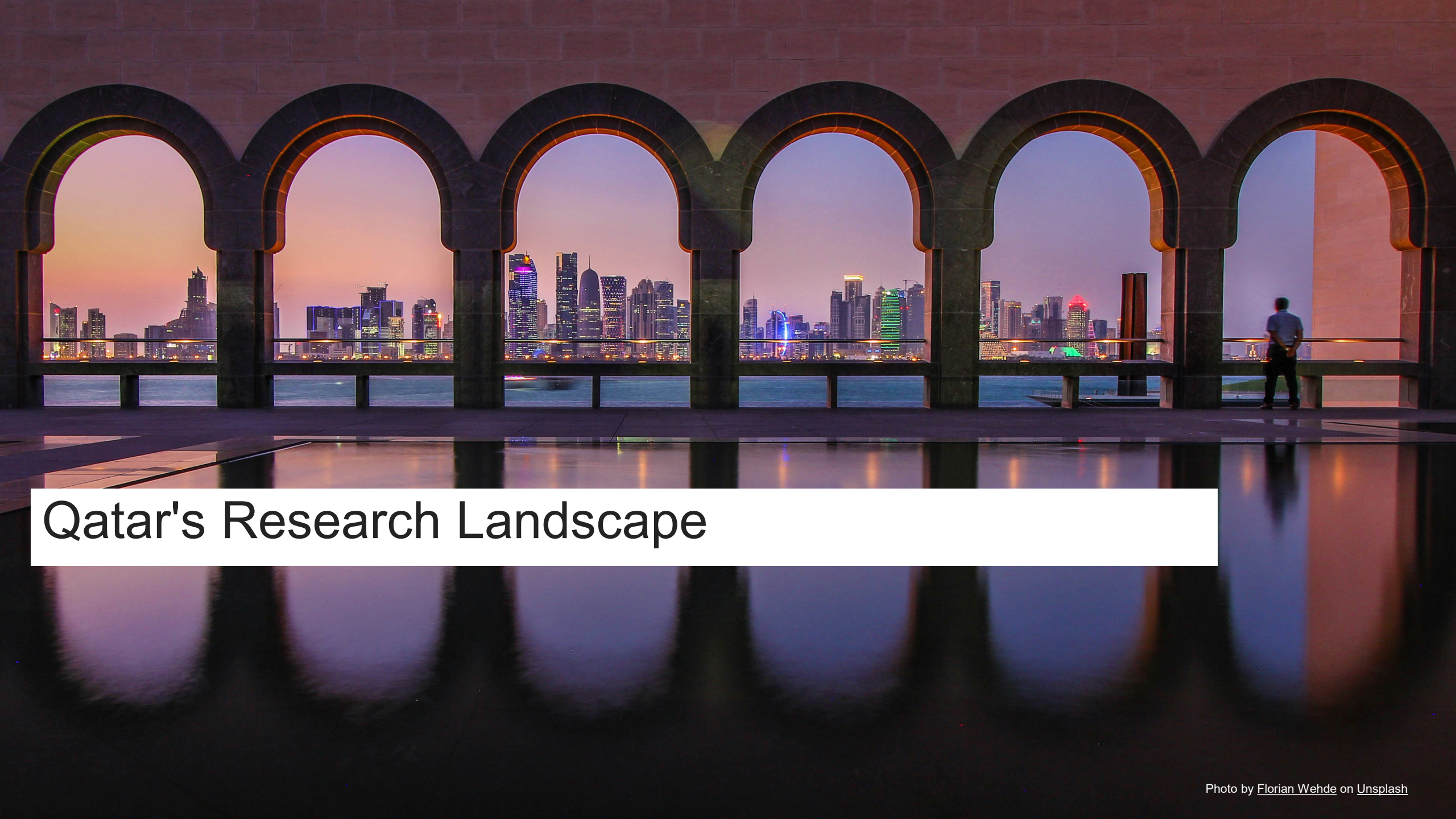
# Towards equitable open access - Qatar's Perspective

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مكتبة قطر الوطنية  
Qatar National Library

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



# Qatar's Research Landscape



# Qatar's Research Landscape

- **3,080,804** total population Qatar (May 2024)
- **5,628** (incl. 3,478 researchers) R&D personnel (2021)\*
- **1,222M USD (0.68% of GDP)** Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (2021)\*
- **30+** Universities and Research Centers
- **6,558** publications in 2023, 54% open access (Scopus)
- **4** Open Repositories (OpenDOAR)
- **13** Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI-C) is the main research funding agency







# Main Library





# Heritage Library





# Children's Library





# Conferences

المكتبات في الصدارة  
LIBRARIES LEAD

QNL Annual Forum  
for Library Professionals



مكتبة قطر الوطنية  
Qatar National Library

## الدور الدبلوماسي للمؤسسات الثقافية GLAMs and Cultural Diplomacy

٢٠ - ١٩ مارس ٢٠٢٣  
19-20 March 2023

المكتبات في الصدارة  
LIBRARIES LEAD

منتدى مكتبة قطر الوطنية السنوي  
للخصائيين المكتبات  
QNL Annual Forum  
for Library Professionals

مكتبة قطر الوطنية  
Qatar National Library



# Exhibitions





# Special Events







*The mission of Qatar National Library is 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.*



How can we make  
Qatar's research  
accessible and instantly  
available?







**Qatar National Library  
Open Access Program**





# Objectives of the program

- To cover open access publishing costs for Qatar-based researchers
- To create and contribute to the permanent archive of Qatar-based research at the QNL.





# Why have a fund?

- Qatar based researchers want their articles to be open access
- The choice of publishing open access is dependent on availability of funds
- There is a lack of institutional support in Qatar for open access
- There is a lack of sufficient funding support from research grant agencies





# How we process payments?

Central payment through agreements

Two types of agreements:

Agreements for fully open access publications

Agreements that combine reading and publishing

Payment of individual requests through QF Procurement (OAAF)

Two types of payments

Purchase order (PO)

Credit Card Payment

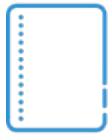




We are doing this as a  
consortium



# The QNL Consortium



## SHIFTS COSTS

Leverages Read and Publish agreements to shift cost from subscription to publishing. Qatar first in the region to have such agreements on a national level



## CONSORTIUM LED

Agreements through QNL Consortium consisting of 10 institutional libraries in Qatar



## SUPPORTS QATAR BASED AUTHORS

Addresses absence of institutional funds and mandates for open access



## MAKES AN IMPACT

Higher open access adoption leads to wider global reach and increases in citations of Qatari research. Positions Qatar a regional leader in open access





# OA Program in Numbers

- Since the Open Access Program's launch in 2016, QNL has received a remarkable **10,000 funding requests** in Qatar, underscoring the popularity and need for additional funding resources. The program has supported **5,869 articles** by **2,249 different authors in Qatar**, representing **44 institutions**.
- In 2024, the OA program has seen a significant increase in demand, receiving 2,016 requests, which is 11% more than the number of requests in 2023 (1,814).

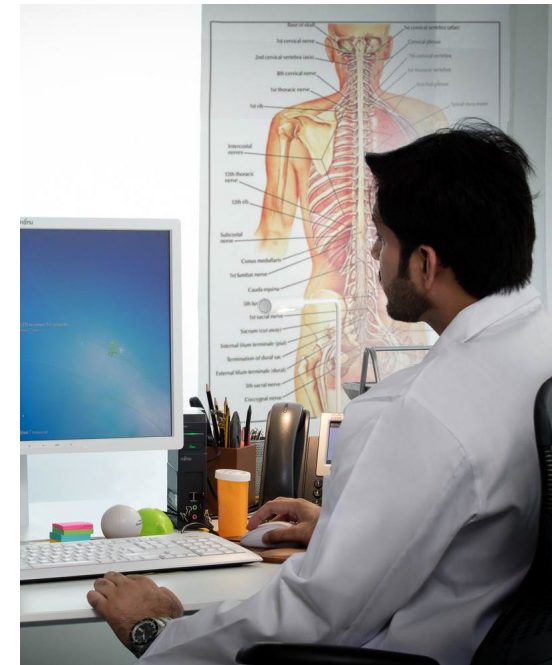
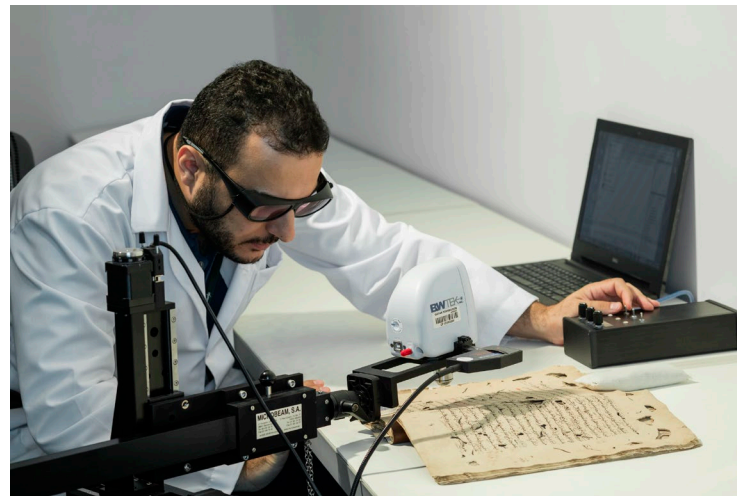


**Manara**

Qatar Research  
Repository



# Manara – a service by QNL for Qatar-based researchers



Manara = *lighthouse* in Arabic





# What are the goals of Manara?



**To capture and  
digitally preserve  
all research  
created outputs  
in Qatar**

**To provide open  
access to research  
outputs and promote  
them online**



# What are the goals of Manara?

- Allows researchers to deposit their research outputs, including traditional academic works and non-traditional academic outputs such as datasets, conference posters, and presentations.
- Home for research outputs in Arabic
- Legacy Archiving (changing landscape of universities in Qatar)



# Manara as an infrastructure solution

In 2024, QNL signed agreements with Hamad bin Khalifa University and the University of Doha Science and Technology for Manara to be used as their research repository.





## Manara stats (2023-2024)

**7,332**

Total number of items  
deposited on Manara

**184,624**

Total online views

**115,963**

Total downloads



# Open Access and Benefits to Qatar



Image by [Hong Zhang](#) from [Pixabay](#)



R<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>

J<sub>8</sub> U<sub>1</sub> S<sub>1</sub> T<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

X<sub>10</sub>

V<sub>4</sub>

S<sub>1</sub>

Image by [CQF-avocat](#) from [Pixabay](#)





Some challenges ....





# Issues with open access agreements

- Expensive
- Complicated
- Terms not always equitable
- Licensing terms complicated
- Lack of transparency from publishers





# Limited budgets

- Demand exceeds supply of available budget/vouchers
- Limited cost-sharing between institutions for higher demand



# Limited budgets

- More budgets needed to address gaps in read and publish agreement
- Read and publish agreements **vs** Fully gold publishing agreements
- Less budget now available for fully gold publishing agreements





## “Misuse” of CC-BY NC and CC BY NC-ND licenses

We are not happy with how some publishers use non-CC BY licenses, where authors no longer retain commercial rights

We are moving from  
**a subscription access problem**  
to  
**an open access publishing problem**



**The problem with sustainable business models for “Diamond” - the experience in Qatar**



**More support needed for open infrastructure**



فالنصف الذي يقع عليها ابصارنا

الذي يقع عليه النور

اشترك

بينهما نصف دائرة

يكون لعينه

وقد

**More support needed for publications in Arabic**

هذا

والص

على هذا كان في الاصل

الارض

ان يكون نصف مستدير

الشمس والبصر

عنه

A black and white aerial photograph of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The Kaaba is visible in the lower center, surrounded by the Grand Mosque. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the surrounding landscape is hilly. A yellow text box is overlaid on the image.

**For us, open access also means  
open cultural heritage**

Zweite Ansicht der Stadt Mekka über die nordwestliche (rechts) und die südwestliche Seite (links) der Moschee hinaus', British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers, X463/3, in Qatar Digital Library



A low-angle, perspective shot of a paved road with a yellow double line in the center. The road curves slightly to the right and recedes into the distance. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a wooded area or a night scene. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

**Open access is not a destination,  
It is a guiding principle**



Thank you  
and hope to see you in Qatar!







# Thank you



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