**History of Libraries in Qatar**
Moving from an oral tradition to modern libraries

- **BOOK COLLECTOR**
  Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, founder of the state of Qatar, was a book collector and encouraged education and reading amongst his people.

- **SMALL LIBRARIES**
  Several small libraries were opened inside the mosques and schools.

- **PUBLIC LIBRARY**
  The first public library in Qatar opened (Dar Al Kutub Al Qatariyya).

- **LIBRARIES IN UNIVERSITIES**
  Opening of several university libraries including Qatar University (1973), Virginia Commonwealth University-Q (1998), Weill Cornell Medical College-Q (2001), Texas A&M University at Qatar (2003), Georgetown University School of Foreign Service-Qatar (2005), Northwestern University in Qatar (2008), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (2010) and University College London UCL-Q (2011).

- **QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY**
  Qatar National Library – grand opening and it was granted the status of national library under the Emiri Decree No.11 of 20th March 2018

**Library Programs and Community Outreach**
MIA Library uses a range of library programs and exhibitions to increase

- **Islamic Art Club**
  provides a venue for makers, artists, collectors, and anyone who loves Islamic art, to explore ideas and learn more about Islamic artworks, their creation, display, and conservation.

- **Children’s Story-times**
  encourages children’s education and expression via books. Main services for children are the storytelling in English and Arabic.

- **Book Club**
  is a way to engage the art library visitors to have a dialogue about art and encourage a relationship between the library visitors and curators of the museum.

- **Exhibitions**
  the library has installed museum showcases in the reading room to exhibit rare books, museum objects, and works of art. The library changes its exhibitions every two months.

**Current Results & Future Projects**
Exhibitions and programs increase visitor to the library

**Number of library visitors from 2012-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,5114</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>13,051</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>13,803</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>15,146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exhibitions and programs increase visitor to the library**

- Hajj
- Marvellous Creatures
- Syria Matters

**MIA Library**
opened and is the first public library in the region to specialize in Islamic arts. It has a collection of over 20,000 books including rare books and manuscripts. The challenge was how to attract visitors to use this comprehensive collection of books on Islamic Art,

**Qatar National Library** – grand opening and it was granted the status of national library under the Emiri Decree No.11 of 20th March 2018

**Museum of Islamic Art Library**
Using programs to increase visitor numbers in Qatar

Susan Parker-Leavy, Head of MIA Library

**The most popular events in 2017 were Library exhibitions and Open Days**

**MIA events, audience and staff 2017-18**

**Fig.1. Mapping of user types and activities in MIA Library**

To find out more about MIA Library visit our website at: http://www.mia.org.qa/en/library