

# PAC Centre Annual Report 2019-2020

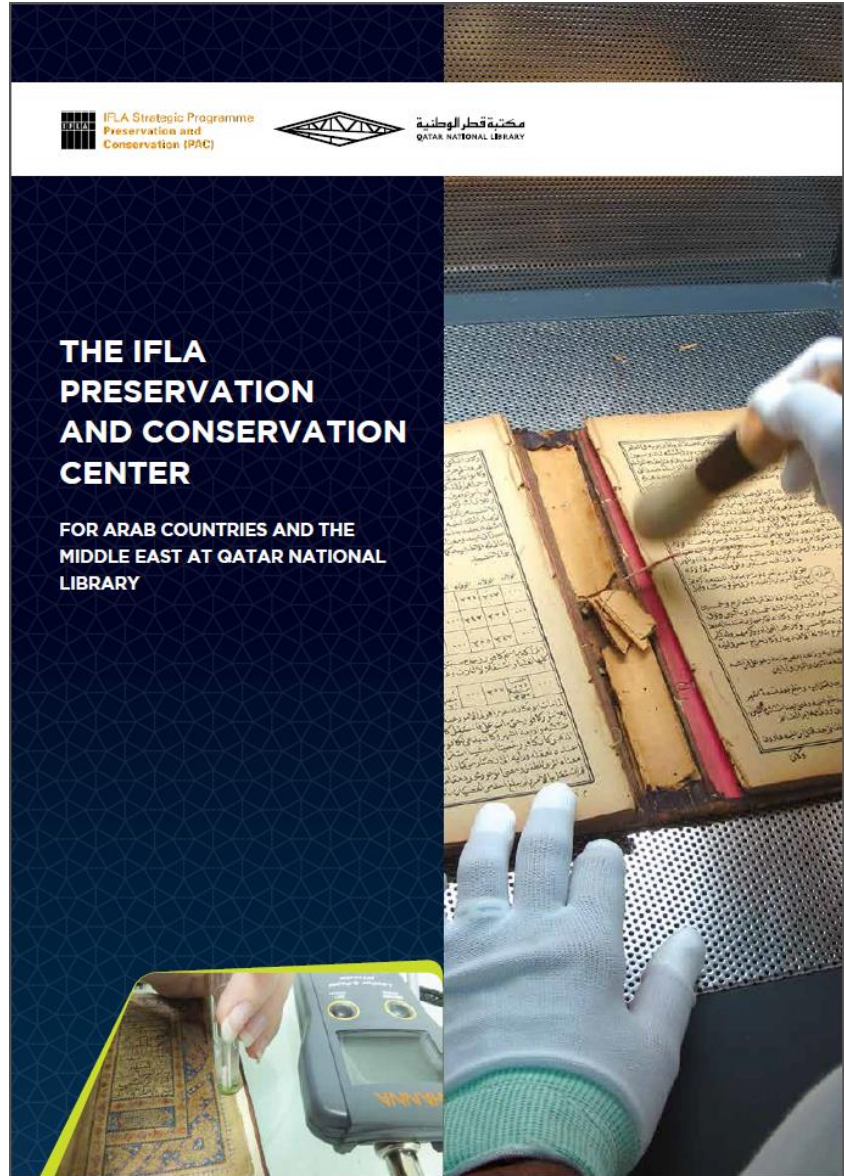
**PAC Centre** (hosting institution, country and contact information)

PAC Center  
Qatar National Library  
Qatar

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**International Cooperation and PROGRAMS** (highlight activities and work the PAC Centre has done in the international preservation and conservation network and where your PAC Centre has provided support on an international level)

## PROGRAMS

- ***Safeguarding the Arab world's audiovisual heritage***

In Cooperation with University College London - Qatar and the British Library-Qatar Foundation Partnership.

- ❖ Organize a seminar: ***Before It Is Too Late: Protecting and Preserving Arab Audiovisual Heritage*** to mark the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on 27 October 2019.

The seminar emphasized the urgency of efforts to preserve the unique audiovisual heritage of Qatar and the Middle East on a large scale by finding collaborative solutions and sharing expertise.

**The event includes:**

1. A lecture: "The Gulf and the Arab Audiovisual Heritage: The Urgency and the Possibilities of Preservation," by Hazem Jamjoum, British Library
2. A panel discussion: "Preserving Our Audiovisual Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities", with the participation of Shayya AlFadel, Abdul Salam Jadallah and Pamela Erskine-Loftus



The United Nations has designated 27 October as the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage aimed at building global awareness of the urgency and importance of preserving audiovisual materials such as sound recordings and moving images. These are among the most vulnerable types of heritage materials, due to the use of rapidly deteriorating materials in the construction of carriers and the impending obsolescence of playback machines, particularly for materials recorded on magnetic tape. A great deal of effort and care is required in order to preserve the marvelous 20th-century accomplishments of Arab cinema, television, radio and music industries for future generations.

❖ *Organize 2 Webinars: Protecting our sound and audiovisual heritage [23-24 June 2020]*

*(1): A brief history of audio recording*

The session discussed the history of audio recording formats, from the 1857 phonograph to 21st-century digital formats, and the most common audio carriers in the Middle East, with particular attention to the commercial music industry and radio in the region.

Date: **23 June 2020**

**Speakers:**

**Hazem Jamjoum**, Curator of the British Library's early twentieth century audio recordings of relevance to Arab and Gulf History

**Number of attendees:** 150 approximately



*(2): Introduction to preserving audio objects*

The workshop focused on the conservation risks associated with the main audio recording formats found in collections of Arab audio recordings, also included a brief introduction to audiovisual collection management, and particularly preservation and conservation planning.

Date: **24 June 2020**

**Speakers:**

**Hazem Jamjoum**, Curator of the British Library's early twentieth century audio recordings of relevance to Arab and Gulf History.

**Haitham Othman**, Multimedia and Photography Specialist at Qatar National Library

**Number of attendees:** 150 approximately





## • **Supporting Documentary Heritage Preservation in the Arab Region**

In collaboration with UNESCO (June 2018 – June 2020)

Representatives from libraries and cultural institutions from across the Middle East and North Africa joined international experts to discuss key issues relating to heritage preservation in the region at a high-level conference, which was jointly organized by Qatar National Library and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 1 and 2 December 2019.

- All conference sessions have been recorded and edited and will be available soon on our website in Arabic and English.
- The final report of the survey also will be available soon in both Arabic and English. (to get a copy contact us [qnlpac@qnl.qa](mailto:qnlpac@qnl.qa))



One of the highlights of the conference was the agreement of the participants to a "Declaration to Support Preservation of Documentary Heritage in the Arab region," calling for action on all levels to raise the standards of conservation and care of documentary heritage based on regional and global best practices.



❖ ***The training on, “Collection management and documentation technique” ,Jordan, 2 – 5 March 2020***

UNESCO and IFLA PAC – Qatar jointly organized a four-day capacity-building course to support documentary heritage institutions in the Arab region. The training on “Collection Management and Documentation Techniques”

Hosted by Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Amman, Jordan, the training took place from 2 – 5 March 2020, and was attended by 18 documentary heritage practitioners from Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan and Yemen.

The training on “Collection Management and Documentation Techniques” focused on best practices concerning documentation procedures such as entry, exit and loans procedures, labelling, cataloguing, and movement control. It included both theoretical and practical sessions, aiming to enhance the skills of the participants in managing documentation procedures manuals and setting up collection management plans to ensure safe, secure and effective management in heritage collections.

Teachers:

**Raya Dabbas**, Collection cataloguing expert

**Mahmoud Gomaa**, Manuscripts Librarian



## • *Libraries During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

The IFLA PAC Regional Center at the Qatar Library provides support to Arab libraries during the COVID-19 period, Through direct response to related technical questions, and through participation and organization of webinars on the most important preventive measures to be followed, work is also underway with the University College London - Qatar to issue a guide on the topic for use across the region and beyond.

### ❖ *Webinar With American Library Association (ALA)*

Participating in the webinar Series Titled: Libraries Reopening: A Perspective of Best Practices from Around the World in the Time of COVID-19.

Session on **June 5, 2020**: Qatar National Library and IFLA | Perspectives on sanitization from the Arab Region, and on re-opening strategies at the Global Level, and Netherlands: A Comparative View



COVID-19 in Arab libraries

- Most libraries (and archives and museums) have been closed March-May 2020, and they start to reopen
- Staff were working from home
- Lebanon's libraries will start to open next week, Morocco's around June 10, more or less the same for Algeria and Tunisia, Gulf countries (no date, still high level of pandemic)
- Doesn't mean NO SERVICE
  - Lot of webinars, e-resources ... Toward the effective digital transformation of libraries

**Stephane Ipert**, Preservation Manager at Qatar National Library, Doha-Qatar

**Stephen Wyber**, Manager, Policy and Advocacy at IFLA, Netherlands

**Number of attendees : 170 approximately**

Listen to recording: <https://bit.ly/32xoVTz>

### ❖ *Webinar on Guidelines for Reopening Libraries During the COVID-19 Pandemic [22 June 2020] in Arabic*

The IFLA Preservation and Conservation Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East at Qatar National Library organized a webinar via Microsoft Teams, discussed the most important prevention procedures that must be followed in libraries and archives when they reopen to the public in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



#### **Speakers:**

**Stephane Ipert**, Preservation Manager at Qatar National Library (QNL)

**Maxim Nasra**, Book Conservation Specialist at QNL

**Motaz Shehada**, Facilities Coordinator at QNL

**Fareed AlShishani**, Conservation Technologist at QNL

**Number of attendees : 90 approximately**



## • A new project: *Himaya* – حماية

A practical project suggested by library professionals to support the efforts to counter the trafficking and illegal circulation of the documentary heritage in the Middle East and North Africa region and neighboring countries. (project document in English <https://bit.ly/32DDXqW>, in Arabic <https://bit.ly/2E8F2gd>)

**Main partners:** (IFLA - World Customs Organization (WCO) - INTERPOL - UNIDROIT )

Qatar National Library and the IFLA Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East will cooperate and partner with various organizations to counter the trafficking of manuscripts, books and archives in the MENA region.

An important goal of the project will also be to create strong engagement to protect the documentary heritage with broader international agencies and regional organizations to counter trafficking of items.

The project document is available in Arabic, English, Persian and Turkish.

The main goals of the project:

1. Professional meetings and cross-cooperation exchanges
2. Policy developments, capacity building and useful e-tools development
3. Training (in-person and e-learning; English and Arabic), workshops and professional awareness
4. Sharing services in MENA region
5. Targeted steps and actions to increase understanding of trafficking networks and how to deter them
6. Intelligence and Strategic Information scanning system
7. Cross-cooperation with other organizations
8. Outreach and communication campaign



حماية - *Himaya*<sup>1</sup>

A practical project suggested by library professionals to support the efforts to counter the trafficking and illegal circulation of the documentary heritage<sup>2</sup> in the Middle East and North Africa<sup>3</sup> region and neighboring countries<sup>4</sup>

## ❖ *Participate in the annual World Customs Organization (WCO) Enforcement Committee meeting*

Stephane Ipert, Director of the IFLA PAC Centre for Arab Countries and the Middle East, spoke at the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium, where he presented the activities of the IFLA PAC Centre in fighting the trafficking of manuscripts, books and archives in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Ipert's presentation, given during the annual WCO Enforcement Committee meeting held on 24 February 2020, highlighted the specific actions foreseen for the period 2020-2021, which the

IFLA PAC Centre at the library will undertake. These include launch of Himaya project, an international seminar, which will take place in the coming months at the library and collaboration with the WCO on a course for customs employees in Doha.



❖ **Webinar: Fighting the trafficking and illegal circulation of documentary heritage: [7 July 2020] in Arabic & English (simultaneous translation was provided)**

For several years, the trafficking and smuggling of heritage items from libraries and archives have been rising. In the MENA and West and Central Africa regions, this phenomenon is greater due to the number of nations suffering from conflict and upheaval. Moreover, trafficking may be linked to criminal and terrorist groups, which use it as a means to increase their income and launder money.



The various international organizations in charge of countering the trafficking of artifacts have been focused on the illegal circulation of archaeological and artistic items. Little has been done until now with respect to documentary heritage, which is even more at risk because it is less protected by national legislation and is easier to move illegally. In this webinar we discussed and presented these specific issues and challenges, in addition to the "Himaya" project suggested by Qatar National Library to support efforts to counter the trafficking and illegal circulation of the documentary heritage.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Hamda Al-Sulaiti**, Secretary General of Qatari National Committee For Education, Culture and Science

**Dr. Rajaa Ben Salamah**, General Director of the National Library of Tunisia

**Dr. Alsharqi Dahmali**, Member of the Advisory Council of the International Council of Museums, Morocco

**Stephane J. Ipert**, Director of the IFLA PAC at Qatar National Library

**Moderator:**

Maxim Nasra, Book Conservation Specialist at Qatar National Library

**Number of attendees:** 200 approximately

❖ **Actin plan, Professional meetings and cross-cooperation exchanges**

Work with main institutional partners to build the project and making it efficient on the ground and in MENA region



**Local Cooperation** (highlight activities and work your PAC Centre has done in the local preservation and conservation network and where your PAC Centre has provided support on a local level)

- **The Qatari committee for MoW program (UNESCO)**

Work with the Qatari National Committee for Education, Culture and Science to activate the Memory of the World program in Qatar, and the PAC center staff are members in the first established National committee of MoU program.

The Qatari Committee for Education, Culture and Science is in charge of the organization this committee. A first e-meeting has been organized the 17-05-2020, with the general secretary of the Qatari Committee for Education, Culture and Science, some representatives of the MoCS and the team of the QNL IFLA PAC center. This group of professionals and experts forms the composition of this MoW committee.

Roles of the committee:

This committee has the following missions:

- Advocating for the preservation and the valorization of documentary heritage in Qatar
- Relations with the MoW national committees in the MENA region and especially in the Gulf region; relations with the regional committees and with Unesco office in Paris headquarter in charge of MoW program
- Management of all the actions related to the Qatari National register for MoW.

- Support the local community through the “Ask for technical advice” service on our website, which gives technical advice and allows us to reply to questions related to preservation and conservation of local heritage collections.
- Support local institutions (museums, libraries, etc.) and give them free attendance to our workshops and training courses.
- Offer tours for schools and university students in the Preservation and Conservation Laboratories and Heritage Library.
- Promote our PAC center activities through media, newspapers locally and regionally, social media and TV channels to highlight the importance of preservation and conservation.



<https://twitter.com/i/status/1280558243195035650>

**Workshops/trainings/events** (what workshops/trainings/events has the PAC Centre organised? Which workshops/trainings/events did the PAC Centre participate in? both on international and national level)

- ***Training Program for Conservation Experts from Iraq at QNL [28-30 October 2019]***

Qatar National Library, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, concluded an intensive training program for a delegation of conservation specialists from the Republic of Iraq.



Experts from the Library shared best practices during a series of practical sessions focusing on the science of conserving and preserving the manuscripts and collections of heritage libraries. Participants also got the chance to experiment with the latest equipment and technologies in the Library's Conservation Lab, which are used in the restoration, conservation and study of such collections.

The training program also included some theoretical lectures on the importance of preserving Islamic manuscripts and the digitization of heritage collections; a detailed explanation of digitization processes conducted at the Library; risk management and evaluation in libraries; and the key elements that should be available in the evaluation and response plans.

## **QNL hosts training program for conservation experts from Iraq**

THE PENINSULA  
ECHO

Qatar National Library in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, recently concluded an intensive training program for a delegation of conservation specialists from the Republic of Iraq. The sessions focused on preserving documentary heritage in libraries and cultural institutions in the Middle East.

The training, which was also attended by library specialists from the Ministry of Culture and Sports, was hosted by the Library in its role as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Regional Preservation and Conservation Center (PAC) for Arab Countries and the Middle East.

Experts from the Library shared best practices during a series of practical sessions focusing on the science of conserving and preserving the manuscripts and collections of heritage libraries. Participants also got the chance to experiment with



The sessions focused on preserving documentary heritage in libraries and cultural institutions in the Middle East.

the latest equipment and technologies in the Library's Conservation Lab, which are used in the restoration, maintenance and study of such collections.

Stephane Ipert, Preservation and Conservation Manager at the Library, said "We continue to

provide experts from the wider region with the latest skills and knowledge to preserve valuable heritage material in their institutions. It was a pleasure to work with Qatar's Ministry of Culture and Sports to deliver this training program for our colleagues from a number of cul-

tural institutions in Iraq."

"In our role as IFLA's Regional Preservation and Conservation Center for the Arab region, we welcome collaboration with institutions in Qatar and beyond to work with us to find sustainable solutions for preserving the rich documentary heritage of this region," added Ipert.

The training program also included theoretical lectures on the importance of preserving Islamic manuscripts and the digitization of heritage collections, a detailed explanation of digitization processes conducted at the Library, risk management and evaluation in libraries, and the key elements that should be available in the evaluation and response plans.

The Library hosted a training program for experts from Jordan in June this year in collaboration with UNESCO Office in Amman, and a training program for a group of Tunisian experts is currently underway in cooperation with Qatar's Ministry of Culture and Sports.



- *The training program, “Practical Methods for the Scientific Examination of Library Objects”, Lebanon, [3-6 February 2020]*



Experts from libraries, cultural institutions and museums from across the Levant participated in a four-day training program, held **from 3 to 6 February 2020**, organized by Qatar National Library in Jounieh, Lebanon, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and the Beit Gazo Center.

The primary focus of the first two days was technical photography. Conservators take a collection of images using a modified digital camera and different lighting sources and filters, with each image providing unique information about the object under examination.

The identification of pigments in manuscripts and paintings with a portable device that uses reflectance spectroscopy technology engaged participants on day three, and the program concluded on day four with practical training on technical photography and reflectance spectroscopy using heritage manuscripts held in the building's archives.





- ***Online workshop via Microsoft Teams titled Preservation and Conservation of Manuscripts: Founding Introductions, [8-9 June 2020]***

The lecturers in this course are experts from the Manuscript Restoration Center at the Al-Abbas Holy Shrine Library in Iraq.

This event is part of the continuing efforts of the IFLA PAC regional center at Qatar National Library to create a professional network of collaborative assistance to exchange knowledge and learn about successful experiences toward the preservation of documentary heritage throughout the region.

Date: **8 and 9 June 2020**

Number of attendees: 85 approximately



- **PAC Qatar Participation in international events, trainings and conferences**

Conference title	date	location	Participant from IFLA PAC Qatar
An interdisciplinary scientific and practical conference "Book Monuments in the aspect of preservation"	15-17 October 2019	Russia	Fareed Al Shishani
Ink Corrosion Conference – ICC	24-25 October 2019	Austria	Anna Amandorla
Oriental Turkish paper analysis	23 November 2019	Istanbul	Stephane Ipert
Practical seminar using of most modern scientific technique for the analyses of heritage objects	9-13 December 2019	Italy	Maxim Nasra
History of Islamic Decorated Papers	27 December 2019	St Petersburg	Stephane Ipert
Seminar at the Turkey Manuscript Institute	February 2020	Istanbul	Chanaka Perera

### **Involvement of the PAC Centre with the IFLA Initiatives (i.e. the Risk Register/FAQ )**

- Participate in the Preservation and Conservation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) project  
Topic: How to apply efficient preventive conservation strategies in your climate  
<https://www.ifla.org/node/93085>
- Participating in the committee at IFLA working in reviewing its guidelines (IFLA preservation guidelines –
- Participating in the working group with IFLA rare book section, and ILAB on the “fight against trafficking”

**Suggestions to IFLA HQ on improvements to the PAC Centre network** (e.g. gaps in expertise covered by the current PAC Centre network, communication issues, support requests (non-financial) etc.)

- Introducing the IFLA PAC Centers globally, by holding joint webinars and promoting our services.
- Holding some joint projects - training and capacity building programs, Through the IFLA Center at the Qatar National Library, we can provide an online platform for webinars with the advantage of simultaneous interpretation

### **New standards/guidelines/best practices which should be shared with the community**

- We are working on disaster plan template and tool kit in Arabic for libraries in MENA region with a special focus on conflicts. It will be ready in 2021

### **Any other comments**

Links to our news:

<https://bit.ly/32B4jda>

<https://bit.ly/2Cx0k6L>

<https://www.ifla.org/node/93171>