3rd **Annual Forum 2024**

F.O.R.M.

21-24 October | Qatar

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Transforming Knowledge Into Action

Arabic Programme

يرجى مسح رمز الاستجابة السريعة أدناه للحصول على النسخة العربية من كتيب المؤتمر

To access an Arabic version of the Conference Booklet, please scan the QR code below.

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ACCESS ONLINE PANELS

FIND LINKS TO EVERY SESSION HERE

21-24 OCTOBER 2024

JOIN OUR SLACK COMMUNITY

Our Slack Community is a free forum for Open Science advocates to share ideas and build partnerships.

Join us during the Annual Forum to continue discussions, find potential collaborators, and share reflections and photos from the panels, roundtables and workshops!

HOW TO JOIN

- **Download the Slack app**

- **Scan our QR code**

- **Sign up to using your email**

After verification, you will be redirected to our Slack community. Just find the special channel for the Annual Forum (**3rd-annual-forum-2024**) and start sharing!

slack

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Welcome from the Organisers

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the organisers, it is a huge pleasure to welcome you all to the 3rd Annual Forum for Open Research at the Qatar National Library. I hope you will find this year's event engaging, thought-provoking and productive!

This has been a significant year for Open Science advocates across the world, with a range of developments and advancements - with new initiatives, infrastructures, policies, practises and funding bodies emerging to support the progression of Open Science activities in their myriad forms. FORM has been honoured to be able to participate in, and support, many of these advances – both globally and locally.

In addition, it has been a busy year for us as an initiative. We have expanded our membership, and are delighted to be able to formally welcome our new members at the Signing Ceremony held during the Annual Forum. We have also augmented our Community Development Activities to include a new workshop series, 'How to be Open', providing targeted capacity building opportunities for researchers, librarians and institutional administrators. These workshops are complemented by our recently launched resource series containing short guidelines and useful tips for our stakeholders. In addition, we have launched a new diamond open access journal, *Al Wusul: The Arab Journal of Open Science Policies and Practises*, and hope to launch the inaugural issue before the end of 2024. Finally, in addition to our monthly online events, we also convened a session at the 10th Science Summit, taking place alongside the 79th UN General Assembly this September, to discuss key challenges and opportunities for fostering equitable and sustainable research ecosystems within the Arab states, and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue concerning the visibility of Arab voices and research within the global scientific community.

And now we are delighted that it is time for the 3rd Annual Forum. The theme of 'Transforming Knowledge into Action' reflects the overarching priorities which emerged during the various roundtables and Q&A sessions which took place during last year's Annual Forum, and the real need seen by many of our stakeholders to move beyond discussion towards more proactive calls for action – and actual actions. Therefore, all the sessions for this year's event have been curated with this central purpose in mind, and I want to thank all of the presenters for agreeing to share their valuable insights and expertise with us over the next few days.

I also want to extend a particular thanks to the Qatar National Library, our Host Partner, and to Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, my Co-Organiser, for all their support and dedication over the last few months. This event has always been a collaborative effort, and they are truly fantastic partners. Moreover, given that community collaboration lies at the heart of the Open Science movement, it is a particular pleasure to be able to hold this year's event in a national public library, especially situated within the uniquely collaborative scholarly community of Education City.

I hope you will all enjoy this Annual Forum, and together we can work together towards a more open and knowledgable Arab world!

Dr. Emily Choynowski
Conference Chair (Annual Forum for Open Research)
Director of Operations (FORM)

Welcome from the Foundation

Dear Delegates

On behalf of the Knowledge E Foundation, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd Annual Forum in Doha, Qatar, under the theme "Transforming Knowledge Into Action" and in collaboration with the Qatar National Library.

Last year's Annual Forum offered a series of carefully tailored presentations and panels addressing key themes and topics related to the advancement of Open Science policies and practices in research institutions and research communities throughout the Arab world. We were honoured to have Khalifa University as our Host Partner for this event, and to have the support and endorsement of UNESCO. It was a huge success, with over 700 delegates attending in-person or online, from over 63 countries across the world. We also had presentations from over 60 leading global experts and key regional stakeholders, who joined us online and in-person to facilitate a truly thought-provoking programme around some of the Open communities most pressing issues. What started as online Open Access symposium in 2021 has now become a movement, a forum for discussion and collaboration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those which have supported us on this journey and all which are joining us for the first time.

Reducing barriers to accessibility has been a mission of the foundation from day one and we have been proud to support the FORUM for Open Research since its start and to see what it has become. The Foundation's initiatives have left a lasting positive impact on many countries around the world, including in Cambodia, Egypt, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, and the Arab region.

I hope you will find the next few days exciting and informative as we exchange ideas, explore opportunities, and build valuable cross-regional partnerships.

Yours Sincerely

Kamran Kardan
Founder, Knowledge E Foundation
CEO & Founder, Knowledge E

Welcome from Qatar National Library

On behalf of Qatar National Library and our partners Knowledge E Foundation, I am delighted to welcome you to the third edition of the Forum for Open Research in MENA (FORM).

In line with the event, which is being held under the theme "Transforming Knowledge Into Action", Qatar National Library stands in support of open science research ecosystems and communities in the region. From the first day of its foundation, the Library has been actively engaging with the local community, sharing Qatar's history and culture and working with international institutions to promote cooperation and the spread of knowledge. The research produced in Qatar is part of its heritage and we believe that open scholarship and open access to information help us preserve and share the nation's and the region's heritage. By removing barriers to information, we can help the people of Qatar positively influence society by creating an advanced environment for learning and discovery. Moreover, open licensing and open research support the Library's efforts to develop and advocate for the global flow of information and unrestricted access to information – both critical in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

By serving the community, as well as scientific institutions, researchers and scholars worldwide, the Library is taking firm steps toward fulfilling its mission and confidently achieving its vision at the national, regional and international levels. We also have a significant role to play at the global level toward achieving sustainable development goals in the Gulf, the Arab region and the wider Middle East.

I strongly believe this edition of FORM will spotlight open science topics and increase their visibility while creating equal opportunities for all stakeholders – innovators, scientists, policymakers, practitioners, clinicians and the general public – to be able to view, cite and share scientific work.

Welcome to FORM 2024.

Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari

Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library

With thanks to our Patron

HE DR HAMAD AL-KAWARI

**State Minister of Qatar & President of
Qatar National Library**

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Founder of Open Science Community Saudi Arabia and Research Project Manager for "AI for Multiple Long-Term Conditions", The Alan Turing Institute, London, UK

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Director of Operations, Forum for Open Research in MENA

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Library Director, Jordan University of Science & Technology

Victorien Dougnon
Head of the International Cooperation Department, Vice-Rectorate in charge of Inter-university Cooperation, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

About FORM

The **Forum for Open Research in MENA (FORM)** is a non-profit membership organisation supporting the advancement of Open Science policies and practices in research communities and institutions across the Arab region.

Our mission is to support the advancement of Open Science practices in research libraries and universities across the Arab world, by facilitating the exchange of actionable insights and the development of practical policies.

SUPPORT

The advancements of Open Science ecosystems in HEIs and RLs across Arab world

CREATE

Accessible and localized resources relating to the implementation of Open Science policies and practises

ENCOURAGE

Collaborative community partnerships and cooperation between members and partners of FORM

CHAMPION

The development of RTL functionality in key open source and open science technological solutions

A catalyst for positive action, we work with key stakeholders to develop and implement a pragmatic programme to facilitate the transition towards more accessible, inclusive and sustainable research and education models in the Arab region.

For more details, visit our website www.forumforopen.org

Join FORM!

FORM is an international alliance of higher education institutions, research libraries, and other research communities based within the Arab region. We are comprised of a diverse array of stakeholder groups involved in the academic research and scholarly communications ecosystems, including local research institutions based in the Arab States and global non-profit organisations working to support Open Science.

Becoming a member of FORM means becoming part of an international community of Arab researchers and research institutions, championing the advancement of Open Science policies and practices in your institution, and working in a shared direction for positive change and more sustainable and inclusive educational models.

Membership is free, and open to all research institutions and research communities based within the Arab region, as well as non-profit Open Science advocacy groups based anywhere in the world.

If your organisation has shown interest in FORM's activities, discourse, or mission to support the development of Open Science in the region, then become a member and work with us towards a more open Arab world!

Visit our website to learn more about our Membership

The Knowledge E Foundation

The Knowledge E Foundation is a community interest company that is constantly growing and intensifying its activities to contribute to more diverse causes and offer aid wherever possible. As the philanthropic arm of Knowledge E, the KnE Foundation tends to focus its efforts on funding education projects, building and renovating schools in remote areas around the world, contributing to disaster relief efforts, empowering research, and endorsing the movement towards Open Science.

The foundation's initiatives have left a lasting positive impact in many countries around the world, including in Cambodia, Egypt, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, and the region.

Recently, the foundation has been very active in the realm of Open Science, organising the Forum for Open Research in MENA. We take great pride in witnessing the coming together of numerous advocates for Open Science in support of this initiative.

Manara - Qatar Research Repository

Manara is an open repository for Qatar-based researchers to upload and share their research. It collects, preserves and provides access to a variety of research outputs, including datasets, open access publications, pre-prints of research articles, and non-traditional academic outputs.

Visit **www.qnl.qa/en/manara-repository/about** to learn more about this repository and **manara.qnl.qa** to start browsing.

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Zendy is an AI-powered research library that provides access to a vast collection of academic and professional content, spanning various disciplines. Whether you're a student, researcher, or professional, Zendy offers resources to support your learning and research endeavors.

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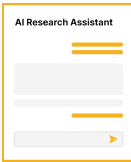
ZAIA - AI Assistant for Research

Chat with ZAIA to expand your knowledge

AI Summary

A
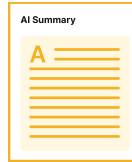
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A

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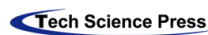
Agenda

Day 1 - 21 October

9:30-11:00	Parallel Sessions – A & B
11:00-11:30	~ Break ~
11:30-13:00	Parallel Sessions – C & D
13:00-14:00	~ Lunch ~
14:00-15:30	Parallel Sessions – E & F
16:00-17:30	Tours Of Education City Mosque (Arabic & English) – *Registration Required*
18:00-19:30	Welcome Reception & Early Registration – *Registration Required*

Day 2 - 22 October

8:00-9:15	Coffee & Registration
9:15-9:45	Welcome Ceremony & Keynote
9:45-10:30	Keynote
10:30-11:00	~ Coffee ~
11:00-11:40	Regional Advancements Roundtable
11:40-12:30	Qatar Leadership Roundtable
12:30-14:00	~ Lunch ~
13:20-14:00	Library Tour (Arabic & English) – *Registration Required*
14:00-15:30	Parallel Sessions – G & H
15:30-16:00	~ Coffee ~
16:00-17:30	Parallel Sessions – I & J
17.30-18.00	Bus From QNL To The Museum Of Islamic Arts
18:00-19:00	Tour Of The Museum Of Islamic Arts
19:00-22:00	Gala Dinner At The Museum Of Islamic Arts – *Registration Required*

Day 3 - 23 October

9:00-9:30	Coffee & Registration
9:30-10:00	Signing Ceremony for New FORM Members
10:00-10:15	Report On Advancement of Open Science Activities
10:00-11:00	Keynote
11:00-11:30	~ Coffee ~
11:30-13:00	Parallel Sessions – K & L
13:00-14:30	~ Lunch ~
13:30-14:30	Member Annual General Meeting (Invitation Only)
14:30-16:00	Parallel Sessions – M & N
16:00-16:30	~ Coffee ~
16:30-17:30	Libraries Roundtable – Taking Action: Fostering Research Visibility In GCC
17:30-18:00	Closing
18.30-21.30	Visit To Old City Via Tram – Free Time For Exploration

Day 4 - 24 October

|	
9:30-11:30	Workshop – *Registration Required*
11:30-12:00	~ Coffee ~
12:00-13:00	Workshop – *Registration Required*

2024 Host Partner: Qatar National Library

The 2024 Annual Forum will be hosted in Doha, Qatar, with the Qatar National Library as our host partner.

Reflecting our emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity, the Annual Forum will be hybrid and offer online access to delegates unable to join us in person (together with a full day of online-only panel sessions). Meanwhile the in-person (and hybrid) portions of the Annual Forum will be hosted in the beautiful Qatar National Library, located at the heart of Doha's flourishing Education City.

Qatar National Library acts as a steward of Qatar's national heritage by collecting, preserving, and making available the country's recorded history. The Library provides equal access to all types of information and services and aims to enable the people of Qatar to positively influence society by creating an exceptional learning and discovery environment.

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, officially inaugurated Qatar National Library on 16 April 2018. The Library was granted the status of national library under the Amiri Decree No.11 of 20 March 2018.

The programme will be comprised of keynote talks, panel sessions on key topics and valuable case studies outlining new developments relating to the development and implementation of Open Science policies and practices in research institutions and research communities across the Arab world. There will also be a series of expert-led workshops on core digital solutions relating to Open Science research.
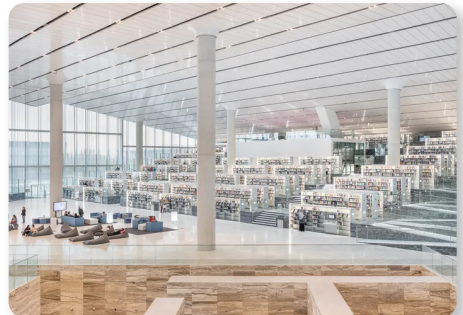
Venue Information

Day one of the 3rd Annual Forum (the 21st of October), will be completely online with no physical presence, so please do make sure to account for this when planning your trip.

The remainder of the conference days (22nd to the 24th of October) will be held inside the Qatar National Library in Doha, Qatar. The library is grand, has two main floors and is built circularly, so we've included a map of the premises to help get you where you need to be throughout the conference.

To reach Qatar National Library, we highly recommend that you use public transportation (such as buses, tram, or taxi) and avoid driving in yourself, as parking on site is extremely limited and could cause unnecessary delays throughout your experience.

When walking in, you will immediately be able to see the library's information desk, which is where you can always revert should you feel unsure about where you should go at any point in the programme. While we have partnered with Qatar National Library to use their space for the conference, it is important to note that the library will still be open to the public, and that not all areas of the library are reserved exclusively for the Annual Forum's delegates.

Please proceed to the conference registration desk to check yourself in and receive your name badge, which will be located in front of the special events area. The Welcome Ceremony and all major panels will be held in the Special Events Area, which can be accessed from the ground floor at the center of the library. Parallel panels will be simultaneously held in the Special Events Area and the Auditorium (which is located on the top floor). Please make sure to check the location of the panels you are interested in attending, and make sure to account for the time it may take to move from one space to the other. There are elevators and staircases that allow you to comfortably navigate between both spaces with ease.

The Annual General Meeting, which is an invitation only meeting, will be held in the Heritage Library in the basement floor, and all relevant attendees will be ushered there during lunch.

The coffee breaks and lunch will also be held in different locations, and it is important for you to note the different spaces for each. There will also be an exhibition space called Totems and it's located on the first floor where we encourage you to go and explore whenever you have time between sessions.

Prayer rooms are available on the premises and are marked on the map provided. If you ever get lost, please do use the map or ask for support from one of our ushers, the registration desk, or the information desk at the entrance of Qatar National Library.

Map
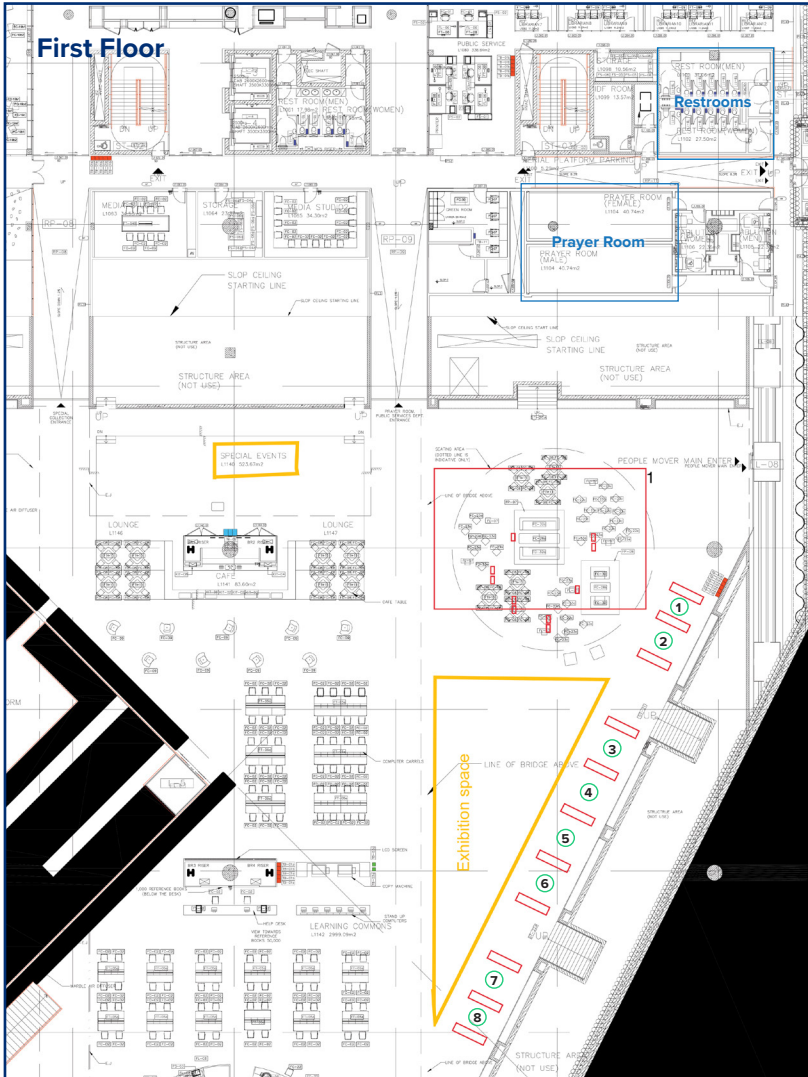
Please note the Auditorium is located on the 2nd floor

Transport

To find the location of Qatar National Library, please scan the following QR code to open Google Maps:

We're located in Education City. You can easily reach us by:

- The Metro's Green Line (Qatar National Library Station - Library side)

- Taxi or personal vehicle. Please note that parking spaces near the Library are limited. You can leave your vehicle at either Oxygen Park's underground car park or the Education City Mosque parking lots and take the free Education City tram to the Multaqa (Student Center) station, which also serves the Library.

Important: Please note that there is a 40kph speed limit and Education City is subject to the traffic and parking rules and fines established by the Ministry of Interior.

We suggest downloading the Qatar Rail Metro app, known as Qatar Rail, using the following QR code:

For taxis, there are several ride-hailing apps available, the most popular of which are:

Karwa Taxi & Limousine Service: Call 4458 8888 or scan the QR code to download the app:

Uber: Scan the QR code to download the app:

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Social and Cultural Activities

This year we have organised a range of social and cultural activities during the Annual Forum. Spaces are limited, so please make sure you register soon – so you don't miss out! If you are unable to reserve a spot but wish to be put one the waiting list, please email us or reach out to our staff on the registration desk.

Tour of the Education City Mosque (English & Arabic)

📅 21st October

🕐 16:00

📍 Meeting Point: The Minaretein Building main entrance.

Located in the Minaretein building as a part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University's College of Islamic Studies (CIS), the mosque's architecture offers a reflection on knowledge and faith. Designed by Iraqi architect and calligrapher Taha al-Hiti, the minarets feature vertical calligraphy that sweeps upward, taking the viewer's eye heavenward in a contemplation of faith and meaning. The mosque is supported by five pillars, each representing one of Islam's pillars: Shahada (profession of faith), Salah (prayer), Zakat (giving alms), Sawm (fasting) and Hajj (pilgrimage).

There will be two tours, one in English and one in Arabic. The tour will be hosted right after the closing of our online programme on the first day, and will finish before the welcome reception.

To join the tour, please register using the QR code:

Welcome Reception

📅 21st October

🕐 18:00-19:30

📍 The Premier Inn Doha Education City

We will be holding a Welcome Reception, with the opportunity for early registration, on the first evening of the event. This will take place after the online panels and the optional Mosque tour. We hope you will join us and get a chance to meet some of your fellow delegates and the FORM team. To join us, please register using the QR code:

Tour of the Qatar National Library (English & Arabic)

📅 22nd October,

🕐 13:20

📍 Meeting Point: Information Desk of the Library (ground level)

We are honoured to be hosting the 3rd Annual Forum in Qatar National Library, which is a national landmark admired by many.
This tour offers an opportunity for delegates to get to know more about its venue: the history and architecture of the library, as well as some of its hidden and more treasured gems.

There will be two tours, one in English and one in Arabic. The tours will take place during the lunchbreak, but you will have time to grab some food first. If you would like to register, please use the relevant QR code.

Gala Dinner and exploration of the Museum of Islamic Arts

📅 22nd October,

🕐 17:30-22:00

📍 Museum of Islamic Arts

On the evening of the 22nd, we will be holding our Gala Dinner at Qatar's magnificent Museum of Islamic Arts. Delegates also have the opportunity to explore the Museum before the dinner, and during the dinner we will distribute the Speaker awards.

We will be leaving the Qatar National Library at 17.30 and traveling by Tram to the Museum. The dinner will start at 19.00, finishing at 22.00. Delegates can explore the museum's exhibitions from 18.00-19.00, or travel independently and join us for the dinner.

To confirm attendance at the dinner, please us ethe QR code:

Explore the Old Town

On our final evening, we will be visiting Doha's beautiful Old Town, packed full of restaurants, art galleries, and shops. If you wish to join us and take the opportunity to explore the Old Town and enjoy dinner at one of the delightful restaurants, please register your interest.

Workshops

Workshop 1- Building an Institutional Repository

Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja
Qatar National Library

Dr. Arif Shaon
Qatar National Library

Description:

This workshop, organized by the Qatar National Library Digital Collections Department, is a deep dive into the comprehensive process of building an institutional repository, from selecting a platform to configuring it for local needs, establishing metadata standards, and automating workflows. Participants will explore the development of the Qatar Research Repository Manara as a case study. The workshop will also cover key strategies for identifying and maintaining quality content, enabling digital preservation, as well as extending repository services to other local entities. Drawing on the QNL team's experiences, this session offers practical insights and lessons learned that will benefit anyone involved in or considering developing an institutional repository. Join us for an engaging session filled with real-world examples and interactive discussions.

Workshop Facilitator:

Dr. Arif Shaon serves as the Head of Digital Curation, Preservation, and Access at Qatar National Library. In this role, he oversees all aspects of the long-term digital curation and preservation of the library's digital collections. His previous experience includes significant positions at UNSW Library, University of New South Wales, Australia, and the Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK. There, he led software development and research initiatives focused on digital preservation, curation, and research data management. Dr. Arif holds a Ph.D. in metadata curation with an emphasis on long-term digital preservation.

Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja is a distinguished professional with a rich and diverse career spanning intellectual property, academic publishing, and research. Currently serving as the Head of Open Access and Copyright at Qatar National Library, Alwaleed has been in this role since January 2023, demonstrating remarkable leadership in facilitating open access initiatives. In his role, Alwaleed oversees the Open Access Program operations and outreach; he is also part of the team that launched Manara – Qatar's Research Repository in 2023.

Workshop 2- Open Access Publishing Models: An Overview of Strengths and Weaknesses

Rick Anderson
Birgham Young University, USA

Description:

This workshop will provide an overview of open access publishing strategies and the business models that underly each one. Participants will learn:

- the differences and similarities between various OA models
- the strengths and weaknesses of each
- which ones are more sustainable and which ones less so.

We will review specific examples of these models in action and assess their success thus far and their prospects for the future.

Target Audience:

Librarians and publishers who are interested in either supporting OA or undertaking an OA publishing project will benefit from this analytical overview of OA publishing models

Workshop Facilitator:

Rick Anderson is University Librarian of Brigham Young University. He has worked previously as a bibliographer for YBP, Inc., as Head Acquisitions Librarian for the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, as Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada, Reno, and as Associate Dean for Collections & Scholarly Communication at the University of Utah. He serves on numerous editorial and advisory boards and is a regular contributor to the Scholarly Kitchen. Rick is the author of three books, including Scholarly Communication: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2018), which has been published in three languages.

If you are interested in attending one of our workshops, simply register your interest using the QR code.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Our Community Development Activities are a key part of our strategy, designed to provide insights and learning opportunities for all stakeholders looking to engage with Open Science at an institutional level, including funding groups and government ministries, libraries and universities, and all members of the region's wider research communities.

Our Community Development Activities include webinars, symposia, and our How to be Open workshop series.

To get involved or propose an idea for the Community Development Series, please send an email to:
contact@forumforopen.org

OUR 2025 PROGRAMME

Our 2025 programme of monthly Community Development Activities includes:

How to Be Open: Librarians (in Arabic)
Dr Alwaleed Alkhaja

How to Be Open: Researchers
Rick Anderson

How to Be Open: Journals
Dr Emily Choynowski, Ahmed Moustafa, Malavika Suresh

Open Science Funding Symposium
Panelists TBC

4th Annual Forum (2025)
United Arab Emirates

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Panorama

Monday, 21ˢᵗ October

📍 Online

09:30-11:00 – Parallel Sessions

Panel A - The Rise of Community-Owned and Community-Led Open Science Infrastructures and Publications
Moderator: Dr. Emily Choynowski, FORM

> **Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information**
> – Bianca Kramer, Sesame Open Science, Netherlands

> **Infra Finder: A New Tool to Enhance Transparency, Discoverability, and Trust in Open Infrastructure**
> – Jerry Sellanga, Invest in Open Infrastructure, Kenya

> **The Commercial Cash Cow Trap – Why We Should Redirect Infrastructure Investment Towards 'Open'.**
> – Danny Kingsley, Deakin University, Australia

Panel B - Infrastructure and Solutions Supporting Open Science
Moderator: Jacir Hilmi, FORM

> **The Research Nexus: Metadata and Beyond**
> – Ahmed Moustafa, Crossref, Egypt

> **Boosting MENA Research Visibility with Persistent Identifiers**
> – Mohamad Mostafa, DataCite, UAE

> **Qatar University Institutional Repository: Promoting Open Science in the Arab Region**
> – Aisha Hassan Al-Abdulla, Qatar University, Qatar

11:00-11:30 – Break
11:30-13:00 – Parallel Sessions

Panel C - Strategic Planning: National, Regional and Global Strategic Case Studies
Moderator: Nahil Nassar, FORM

> **Openness as a Tool for Achieving the SDGs**
> – Dr. Monica Granados, Creative Commons, Canada

Harnessing Open Science for Transformative Impact: AREN's Multifaceted Approach to Advancing Research Across Africa
– Lamis Yahia Mohamed Elkheir, African Reproducibility Network, UAE

Regional Case Studies of No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia
– Iryna Kuchma, eIFL.net

Panel D [Arabic] - Digital and Human Capacity Building
Moderator: Jacir Hilmi, FORM

Empowering Institutional Repositories to Become the Main Avenue for Disseminating Academic Grey Literature in Algerian Universities.
– Nadia Ismaili, Djilali Bounaama University, Algeria

Strengthening Health Research in Oman: The Role of Open Sources in Enhancing Collaboration and Innovation
– Sa'ada Amer AlDhuhli, Royal Hospital, Oman

Advancing Research Infrastructure and Solutions for Supporting Open Science in Iraq
– Salwan M. Abdulateef, Open Science Community Iraq, Iraq

13:00-14:00 – Lunch
14:00-15:30 – Parallel Session

Panel E - Using AI to Advance Engagement with Open Science Policies and Practises in The Arab World
Moderator: Jacir Hilmi, FORM

Awakening Institutional Repositories: Improving Metadata and Access with Generative AI
– Yrjo Lappalainen, Zayed University, UAE

Machine-Aided Translation and Post-Editing: The Need for Open Educational Infrastructure in the Arab World
– Alya Mohammed Hussein Ahmed Al-Rubai'i, University of Duhok, Iraq

Testing and Exploring How the Use of AI Tools and Technology Inventions Could Widen and Facilitate Open Access Arabic Research Collaboration in MENA Higher Education – Bahrain is an Example
– Dr. Rabab Isa Almuqahwi, RCSI Bahrain, Bahrain

Panel F - Infrastructure Supporting Scholarly Ecosystems
Moderator: Dr. Victorien Dougnon, University of Abomey-Calavi

Ecosystem for Next Generation Infrastructure (ENGIN)
– Sayeed Choudhury and Keith Webster, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh

Open a GLAM Lab Five Years Later: a Journey from Doha to a Global Impact
– Dr. Milena Dobreva, University of Strathclyde

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Enhance the Peer Review Process
– Sanaa Ashour, Qatar University

**16.00-17.30 – Tour of Education City Mosque (Arabic & English) –
          Registration Required**

18:00-19:30 – Welcome Reception and Early Registration

Tuesday, 22ⁿᵈ October

📍 Hybrid

08:00-09:15 – Coffee and Registration (Special Events Area – Plaza)

09:15-09:45 – Welcome Ceremony (Special Events Area)

- – Dr. Emily Choynowski, Director of Operations – FORM
- – Kamran Kardan, Founder – Knowledge E Foundation, UAE
- – His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari, State Minister of Qatar with the rank of Deputy Prime-Minister and President of Qatar National Library, Qatar

09:45-10:30 – Keynote (Special Events Area)
Keynote Speaker
Moderator: Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Qatar National Library

Rethinking MENA's Contribution to Open Science: A Call to Lead and Disrupt Innovation
- – Dr. Hilal A. Lashuel, Research, Development & Innovation Advisor to the Chair person & Executive Director of RDI at Chairperson's Office, Qatar Foundation and Professor of Neuroscience (EPFL, Switzerland).

10:30-11:00 – Coffee (Special Events Area – Plaza)

11:00-11:40 – Regional Advancements Roundtable (Special Events Area)

Confirmed Panelists
Moderator: Dr. Emily Choynowski, FORM

- – H.E. Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary-General – Association of Arab Universities, Egypt
- – Dr. Yousef Tourman, Managing Director – Arab States Research and Education Network, Jordan
- – Kamran Kardan, Founder – Knowledge E Foundation, UAE
- – Dr. Lamis Yahia Mohamed Elkheir, African Reproducibility Network, UAE
- – Dr. Hadeer Kamel, The Arab institution of Knowledge Management

11:40-12:30 – Qatar Leadership Roundtable (Special Events Area)

Confirmed Panelists

Moderator: Dr. Nouf Khashman, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

- Tan Huism, Executive Director – Qatar National Library, Qatar
- Dr. Aiman Erbad, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies – Qatar University, Qatar
- Dr. Khalid Fakhro, Chief Research Officer – Sidra Medicine, Qatar
- Rosena Nhlabatsi, Senior Intellectual Property Policy Expert – Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, Qatar

12:30-14:00 – Lunch and Library Tour (The Bridge)

14:00-15:30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel G (Special Events Area) - Overcoming Regional Challenges and Supporting Community Engagement

Moderator: Dr. Abdulla Al Hefeiti, Khalifa University

The Extent of Arab Countries' Engagement in the Open Science Movement
– Thuraya Slimani, National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research, Morocco

How Open Science Can Support the Decolonisation of Research in the Arab World
– Dr. Emily Choynowksi & Nahil Nassar, Forum for Open Science in MENA

Towards Fostering Access to Open and Inclusive Digital Education for All
– Dr. Mohamed Koutheair Khribi, Qatar Assistive Technology Center Mada, Qatar

Panel H (Auditorium) - Creating And Disseminating Open Resources

Moderator: Dr. Kamel Belhamel, Directory of Open Access Journals

Navigating the Transition to Open Science: Exploring the Impact of Publishing Partnerships
– Rebecca Hill, Taylor & Francis, UK

Driving Technology Innovation in the Middle East through Published Discoveries
– Andrew Popper, IEEE, USA

Unlocking Scientific Potential: The Rise of Open Access in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
– Abdulqadir J. Nashwan, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar

15.30-16.00 – Coffee (Auditorium Area)

16:00-17:30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel I (Special Events Area) - Countering the Commercialisation of Open Science

Moderator: Dr. Imad Bachir, American University of Iraq

> **Strengthening No-Fees Open-Access Publishing in the Arab World**
> – Kamel Belhamel, DOAJ, Algeria

> **Breaking the Curse: Can an End to Scopus-Worship Provide an Opportunity to Embrace More Open Access Practices?**
> – Dr. Mohamed Boufarss, Librifyer, UAE

> **Maximising Citation Impact: The Advantages of Hybrid and Green Open Access and Strategic Library Interventions**
> – Nikesh Narayanan, Zayed University, UAE

Panel J (Auditorium) - Case Studies from Qatar

Moderator: Dr. Rabab Almuqahwi, RCSI Bahrain

> **So You Want To Set Up Your Scholarly Communication and Research Division? Lessons Learned by Two Academic Librarians**
> – Kevin McCormick and Khadija Mahsud, University of Doha for Science and Technology, Qatar

> **Towards Common Publishing Standards for Arabic Humanities and Social Sciences Journals**
> – Sabine Saad,Qatar University, Qatar

> **Open Access Publishing Role of HBKU Press**
> – Dr. Salah Ajjur, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, Qatar

17.30-18.00 – Bus from QNL to the Museum of Islamic Arts

18.00-19.00 – Tour of the Museum of Islamic Arts

19.00-22.00 – Gala Dinner at the Museum of Islamic Arts

Wednesday, 23rd October

📍 Hybrid

09:00-09:30 – Coffee and Registration (Second Floor Pantry)

09:30-10:00 – Signing Ceremony for New FORM Members (Special Events Area)

10:00-11:00 – Keynote (Special Events Area)

Introduction

> **Report on Advancement of Open Science Activities**
> – Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Qatar National Library

Keynote Speaker

> **The Power of Words: How do declarations and manifestos make a difference**
> – Prof. Cameron Neylon, Professor of Research Communication at the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University

11:00-11:30 – Coffee (Second Floor Pantry)

11:30-13:00 – Parallel Sessions

Panel K (Special Events Area) - Regional Case Studies
Moderator: Kamran Kardan, Knowledge E Foundation

> **Open Science as One of The Pillars of The University's Strategy in Striving for Accessible and Transparent Results of Scientific Work – The Example Of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi**
> – Dr. Anna Walek, Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, UAE

> **Building Bridges in Open Science: Collaborative Ventures at Khalifa University Library**
> – Rani Anand, Khalifa University, UAE

> **Building Human Capacity in Open Science: Overcoming Challenges in Higher Education Institutions**
> – Sumayya Ansar, University of Calgary, Qatar
> – Lulu Jalal, University of Calgary, Qatar

Panel L (Auditorium) - Building and Using Institutional Repositories
Moderator: Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Qatar National Library

A National Research Repository for Qatar: Fostering A Sustainable Ecosystem for Open Research
– Dr. Arif Shaon,Qatar National Library, Qatar

Kuwait Institute For Scientific Research Digital Repository for Science & Technology
– Shatha Al-Oun, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait

Fostering Open Science Through Collaboration: The Case of Hamad Bin Khalifa University Library and Qatar National Library's Manara – Qatar Research Repository
– Fidelity Phiri, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar

13.00-14.30 – Lunch (Bridge)

13.30-14.30 – Members Annual General Meeting (Invitation Only)

14.30-16.00 – Parallel Sessions

Panel M [Arabic] (Auditorium) - Case Studies from Libraries
Moderator: Raed Al Zoubi, Jordan University of Science & Technology

Familiarity of Library and Information Specialists in Academic Libraries with Open Science Initiatives
– Dr. Khaled Al-Halabi, University of Cairo, Egypt
– Dr. Hadeer Kamel, Al Wasl University, UAE

Examining the Open Science Activities of Leading Arab University Libraries and their Progress in using Open Access Databases
– Imad Bachir, American University Baghdad, Iraq

Exploring The Journey of Qatar University's College of Sharia And Islamic Studies Journal in Open Access Publishing: Challenges and Solutions
– Prof. Abdallah El Khatib, Qatar University, Qatar

Panel N (Special Events Area) - Supporting the Arab World's Journey to Openness
Moderator: Dr. Emily Choynowski, FORM

The Importance of Open Infrastructures for Open Research in the Arab World and the Role of the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services
– Alwaleed Alkhaja, Qatar National Library, Qatar

Building Open Community Health Data Infrastructure: Leveraging Universities for Open Science in the Arab World
– Dr. Nafeesa Abdul Kareem, Gulf Medical University, UAE

Empowering Open Science Capacity in Arabic-Speaking Countries: The Open Innovation Platform
– Batool Almarzouq, The Alan Turing Institute, UK

16.00-16.30 – Coffee (Second Floor Pantry)

16.30-17.30 – Libraries Roundtable (Special Events Area)

Libraries Roundtable - Taking Action: Fostering Research Visibility in the GCC
Tatiana Usova, Carnegie Mellon in Qatar (CMU-Q)

- – Milan Vasiljević, Qatar National Library, Qatar
- – Dr. Batool Almarzouq, Alan Turing Institute, UK and KAIMRC, Saudi Arabia
- – Ameneiha Itani, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), UAE
- – Shatha Al-Oun, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait
- – Jamal Matar Al Salmi, University of Nizwa, Oman

17.30-18.00 – Closing Ceremony (Special Events Area)
   Closing Remarks
   – Dr. Emily Choynowski, Director of Operations FORM

18.30-21.30 – Visit to Old City via Tram, Free Time for Dinner and Exploration

21.30 – Tram Back to Hotel

Thursday, 24th October

📍 In-Person Workshops

09:30-11:30 in Qatar National Library

Workshop 1- Building an Institutional Repository

- – Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Qatar National Library
- – Dr. Arif Shaon, Qatar National Library

11:30-12:00- Coffee Break

12:00-01:00- in Qatar National Library

Workshop 2- Open Access Publishing Models: An Overview of Strengths and Weaknesses

- – Rick Anderson, Birgham Young University, USA

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His Excellency Dr. Hamad Al-Kawari

State Minister of Qatar with the rank of Deputy Prime-Minister and President, Qatar National Library, Qatar

HE Dr. Al-Kawari is State Minister of Qatar with the rank of Deputy Prime-Minister, President of Qatar National Library, and was formerly the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar (2008-2016). He was previously the Ambassador of Qatar to France, the United States, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the UN. He is a diplomat, statesman, and intellectual, and is passionate about the development of culture, language, and knowledge in the Arab region and beyond.

Keynote

Dr. Hilal A. Lashuel

Research, Development & Innovation Advisor to the Chairperson & Executive Director of RDI at Chairperson's Office, Qatar Foundation and Professor of Neuroscience (EPFL, Switzerland)

Prof. Hilal A. Lashuel is a prominent neuroscientist and research leader, serving as the Research Development and Innovation Advisor to the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation and Executive Director of RDI. He also directs the Laboratory of Chemical Biology of Neurodegeneration at EPFL and is the founder of ND BioSciences SA, focusing on neurodegenerative disease therapies. Prof. Lashuel has published over 225 papers, holds nine patents, and has an h-index of 92 with over 29,000 citations. He has received multiple awards, including from the Takreem Foundation and the Kuwait Prize. His research is supported by global foundations and partnerships with biotech and pharmaceutical firms.

Prof. Cameron Neylon

Professor of Research Communication, Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University

Cameron Neylon is Professor of Research Communication at the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University and well known agitator for opening up the process of research. His current work focusses on how the cultures of research affect and effect change in research communications. He speaks regularly on issues of Open Science including Open Access publication, Open Data, and Open Source as well as the wider technical and social issues of applying the opportunities the internet brings to the practice of science. He was named as a SPARC Innovator in July 2010 for work on the Panton Principles and was a co-author of the Altmetrics manifesto and the Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructures. He is a proud recipient of the Blue Obelisk for contributions to open data. He writes regularly at his blog, Science in the Open.

Regional Panel

H.E. Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama

Secretary-General, Association of Arab Universities, Egypt

Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama is the Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities and a Professor of Structural Engineering at Helwan University in Egypt. He previously served as Counselor at The American University in Cairo (AUC), acting as the key liaison between Egyptian authorities and AUC administration. During his tenure, he fostered strong relationships with various ministries, Egyptian universities, and the Supreme Council of Universities, playing a pivotal role in the accreditation process for AUC's academic programs. Dr. Salama is recognized for his leadership in higher education and university relations.

Dr. Emily Choynowksi

Director of Operations, Forum for Open Science in MENA

Dr. Paterson-Morgan is a distinguished literary scholar with a PhD in Religion and Nineteenth-Century Literature from the University of Bristol. She has presented papers at international conferences and delivered public lectures on poetry and 19th-century culture at universities, schools, and museums. As Head of Publishing at Knowledge E, she provides editorial guidance, strategic oversight, and develops publishing services. She also serves as Director of The Byron Society, Digital Editor for the British Association for Romantic Studies, and sits on editorial boards for Liverpool University Press and Anthem Press. She has over eight years of experience in the commercial publishing sector.

Dr. Hadeer Kamel

Head of the Library Department, Al Wasl University, Dubai

Dr. Hadeer Kamel is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science and the Head of the Library Department at Al Wasl University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She also serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Arab Knowledge Management Organization.

Kamran Kardan

Founder, Knowledge E Foundation, UAE

Kamran Kardan is the Founder and CEO of Knowledge E and plays an active role in the Knowledge E Foundation. He founded Knowledge E in 2012, with the aim of providing unique, professional, and high-quality services to information professionals in the MENA region and beyond. Kamran has 20 years of experience working in the publishing industry on both the publisher and agency front. Working closely with some of the top consortia, libraries, ministries, hospitals and corporations within research and education in the region, he has experienced the birth and growth of many digital libraries. Driven by his interest in learning societies, he has initiated and participated in the completion of various special development. Kamran has also launched Zendy.io, a new flagship massive online library platform enabling enhanced discovery, collaboration possibilities, and analytical tools that serve the global research community by removing the barriers to access research.

Lamis Yahia Mohamed Elkheir

Co-Director and Training Lead, African Reproducibility Network, UAE

Lamis Yahia Mohamed Elkheir is a Lecturer at the University of Khartoum and the Co-Director and Training Lead of the African Reproducibility Network (AREN). Currently finalising her PhD in Medicinal Chemistry, Lamis also holds a Master of Science in Molecular Medicine and a Bachelor of Pharmacy. She is a dedicated Research Assistant at the Mycetoma Research Center, focusing on pioneering drug discoveries for Neglected Tropical Diseases that heavily impact her community. Lamis's academic and professional endeavours are driven by her profound commitment to advancing open science and enhancing science communication. She tirelessly works towards bridging the global equity gap in scientific knowledge and fostering an inclusive, accessible scientific community across Africa.

Dr. Yousef Tourman

Managing Director, Arab States Research and Education Network, Jordan

For approximately thirty years, he has worked as an ICT specialist in higher education and scientific research, focusing on enhancing the use of technology to support research and education. He served as the Director of the Computer Center at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, and later established and became the Executive Director of the Jordanian Universities Network, Jordan's National Research and Education Network. Since 2011, he has been the Managing Director of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), prioritizing the promotion of science cooperation through advanced e-infrastructures, aligned with UN-SDGs and UNESCO's Open Science Recommendations.

Leadership Panel

Dr. Aiman Erbad

Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Qatar University, Qatar

Dr. Erbad is Full Professor of Computer Engineering and the VP of Research and Graduate Studies in Qatar University. Dr. Erbad obtained a PhD in Computer Science from the University of British Columbia, MSc in Embedded Systems and Robotics from the University of Essex, and a master in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Warwick. Dr. Erbad served as the Head of the Information and Computing Technology Division at the College of Science and Engineering in HBKU from 2021 to 2024.

Dr. Khalid Fakhro

Chief Research Officer, Sidra Medicine, Qatar

Prof. Fakhro joined Sidra Medicine as a Principal Investigator in July 2014, and became Director of the Human Genetics department, where he built a robust genomic medicine research pipeline for the hospital. In 2018, he became the inaugural Director of Precision Medicine at Sidra, heading an ambitious program where research in genomics and personalized medicine are embedded in the heart of Sidra Medicine's academic medical enterprise. Prior to joining Sidra Medicine, Prof. Fakhro was part of the Department of Genetic Medicine at Weill-Cornell Medicine in Qatar.

Dr. Nouf Khashman

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Dr. Nouf is currently the Library Director at the Doha Institute (DI) for Graduate Studies. She obtained her master's and PhD degrees in Information Studies from McGill University in Canada. Before joining DI, she was the Outreach and Community Engagement Manager at Qatar National Library, where she was responsible for developing new services for the community such as the Adaptive Technology Center, the Innovation Station, and the Open Access Author Fund. Her teaching and research experience lay in Human-Information Interaction including information retrieval, information seeking behavior, and Design, User Experience, and Usability (DUXU).

Rosena Nhlabatsi

Senior Intellectual Property Policy Expert, Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council

Rosena Nhlabatsi is the Senior Intellectual Property Policy Expert at Qatar's Research, Development, and Innovation Council (QRDI), with over a decade of experience in IP management and policy development. She leads strategic initiatives that strengthen Qatar's IP ecosystem, collaborating with government, research institutions, and industry to influence national IP policies. Rosena's work has earned her multiple awards, including Best Author in IP (Middle East) and the LexisNexis Legal Innovator Award. She is also a Recognized Technology Transfer Professional (RTTP), emphasizing her global expertise in IP and innovation.

Tan Huism

Executive Director – Qatar National Library, Qatar

Huism joined Qatar National Library (QNL) in September 2021. During her tenure, QNL had seen the highest visitorship since its opening, the launch of library's mobile application and Qatar's research repository and the library's first forays into contemporary collecting. Prior to joining QNL, Huism was the Senior Director of the Archives and Libraries Group at Singapore's National Library Board. She was also concurrently the Director of the National Library of Singapore. Before joining the library sector, Huism worked in the museum sector for over 18 years at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. She is secretary of IFLA's National Libraries Section.

Panelist

Prof. Abdallah El-Khatib

Director of International Relations in the Journal of College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Qatar University, Qatar

Professor Abdallah El-Khatib is the Director of International Relations at the Journal of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Qatar University. He holds a Ph.D. in Quranic Studies and Exegesis from Manchester University (1993) and has been a Professor of Quranic Studies at Qatar University since 2017. He has taught at various universities, including Manchester Metropolitan University, Beirut Islamic University, and Northern Border University in Saudi Arabia. El-Khatib has held leadership roles, such as Dean at the University of Sharjah, and has published two books and over 25 articles in academic journals.

Abdulqadir J. Nashwan

Assistant Executive Director of Nursing & Midwifery Research, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar

As the Assistant Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery for Research at Hamad Medical Corporation, Mr. Nashwan has over 500 publications in reputable medical and public health journals. He is pursuing a PhD in Health Sciences at Qatar University and serving in editorial roles for several healthcare journals, focusing on advancing research integrity. His research integrates AI in healthcare and spans topics like the nursing workforce and public health challenges, aiming to influence global evidence-based practice and policy.

Ahmed Moustafa

Ambassador, Crossref, Egypt

Ahmed is an academic publishing professional with a wide expertise in scholarly publishing. He holds a B.Sc. in Chemistry/Geology from Cairo University in Egypt. He is passionate about the openness and integrity of research, as well as integration and collaboration between the different stakeholders in the publishing community. Ahmed is the Production Manager at Knowledge E. Moreover, he is a member of the Creative Commons Global Network and the Industry Partnership Committee of the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors, and one of the regional Crossref Ambassadors!

Aisha Hassan Al-Abdulla

Section Head of Digital Repository and Archives, Qatar University Library, Qatar

Mrs. Aisha Al-Abdulla is the Section Head of Digital Repository and Archives at Qatar University Library. She holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from University College London, Qatar, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Qatar University. In 2019, she played a significant role in the booksprint that produced the inaugural book on innovation labs in the cultural and scientific heritage sectors, titled 'Open a GLAM Lab'. Her areas of research include institutional repositories and user experiences.

Alwaleed Alkhaja

Head of Open Access & Copyright, Qatar National Library, Qatar

Alwaleed Alkhaja is the copyright librarian at Qatar National Library and leading the Library's open access program team. Before joining the Library, Alwaleed worked in open access publishing with QScience.com / HBKU Press. He holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Göttingen / International Max Planck Research School and an MBA from the Alliance Manchester Business School. Alwaleed is passionate about a world where there are no barriers to research. When not thinking or talking about open access, Alwaleed enjoys photography.

Alya Mohammed Hussein Ahmed Al-Rubai'I

Professor of Linguistics and Translation, University of Duhok, Iraq

 A Professor with a Ph.D. in Linguistics and Translation, specializing in translation, interpreting, and English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teaching. Her MA thesis focused on simultaneous interpreting between English and Arabic, while her 2005 Ph.D. dissertation, published by Durham Modern Languages Series, addressed translation criticism of narrative fictional texts. She has published widely in Iraq and abroad, participated in numerous academic events, and supervised many M.A. and Ph.D. theses. Notable works include co-translating *Modern Iraqi Short Stories* (2009) and a recent publication on Quranic dialogue in translation (2023). She currently teaches at the University of Duhok.

Ameneiha Itani

E-Resources, Research Services expert, United Arab Emirates University

Amina Itani is an E-Resources, Research Services expert at United Arab Emirates University. She holds a Bachelor's in Information Management and a Master's in Knowledge Management and has a multifaceted career. After 15 years of work on library automation projects with the Australian government, she transitioned to a consultancy role and promoted eLearning across Australia and New Zealand. In 2019 Amina joined UAEU Libraries, where she leverages her expertise and leads strategic initiatives including repository and research information system implementations. She serves on the board of Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations and actively contributes to professional library associations.

Andrew Popper

Senior Director of Global Products & Marketing IEEE, USA

Andrew L. Popper is senior director of Global Products & Marketing at IEEE, where he oversees product development, product management, product marketing, and strategic analysis at the world's largest professional non-profit in engineering and technology sciences. Having worked in product and business development, strategy, and publishing functions at global organizations throughout his career, including at Wolters Kluwer and Thomson Reuters previously, Andrew has managed software and content products for the legal, intellectual property, tax & accounting, financial services, medical research, clinical solutions, brand protection, and engineering research/practice market sectors. He is located in the New York City area.

Dr. Anna Walek

Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Anna Wałek is the President of IATUL (International Association of University Libraries) and Head of the Library Department at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. A seasoned library manager and Open Science expert, she conducts research on data management across disciplines, metadata for research data, and support services. She previously led libraries at Wroclaw and Gdańsk University of Technology and served as a specialist at CYFRONET. Dr. Wałek is active in multiple professional organizations, including EOSC, GO-FAIR, and SPARC Europe. She is a published author and organizer of national and international scientific conferences.

Dr. Arif Shaon

Head of Digital Curation, Preservation, and Access, Qatar National Library, Qatar

Dr. Arif Shaon serves as the Head of Digital Curation, Preservation, and Access at Qatar National Library. In this role, he oversees all aspects of the long-term digital curation and preservation of the library's digital collections. His previous experience includes significant positions at UNSW Library, University of New South Wales, Australia, and the Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK. There, he led software development and research initiatives focused on digital preservation, curation, and research data management. Dr. Arif holds a Ph.D. in metadata curation with an emphasis on long-term digital preservation.

Batool Almarzouq

Research Project Manager, Turing Institute, UK

Dr. Batool Almarzouq is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool and a Research Project Manager at the Alan Turing Institute. She represents Arab countries in the International Association of Universities' Open Science expert group and leads the Open Science community in Saudi Arabia (OSCSA), which introduces and contextualizes Open Science practices in Arabic-speaking countries. Dr. Almarzouq is a subject matter expert at NASA's Transform to Open Science initiative and co-organizes the FAIR Digital Object Implementation Summit. With a background in pharmacology and computational biology, she promotes Open Science practices in data science contributing significantly to global research initiatives.

Bianca Kramer

Independent consulting/research analyst, Sesame Open Science, Netherlands

Bianca Kramer, after 15 years as a scholarly communication librarian at Utrecht University Library, transitioned to an independent consulting role at Sesame Open Science in 2022. Her work focuses on open science, metadata, and infrastructure. Kramer has researched innovations in scholarly communication, organized workshops on open science, and co-developed courses on scientometrics. She co-authored reports on topics like Plan S, diamond open access, and metadata quality. Kramer is a founding member of the Initiative for Open Abstracts (I4OA) and is part of various advisory boards, including Crossref's Preprint Advisory Group and EMBL-EBI's Europe PMC board.

Dr. Danny Kingsley

Director of Library Services (Information), Deakin University, Australia

Dr. Danny Kingsley is an Australian-based thought leader in the international scholarly communication space. She is Director of Library Services (Information) at Deakin University and an Ambassador for the OAPEN Library of open access books. She has consulted for multiple Australian universities since returning from the UK where she was Deputy Director of Cambridge University Libraries from 2015-2019. Her research centres on scholarly communication including the academic reward structure, scholarly infrastructure and open access advocacy. She established Open Access Australasia in 2013. She sits on multiple committees, including the Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Data in Science and the FORCE11 Board of Directors.

Nahil Nassar

Forum for Open Science in MENA

Nahil Nassar is the Community Engagement Manager at FORM. An experienced marketing and communications professional, Nahil holds a Bachelor's in International Relations from King's College London and a Master's of Science in Development Studies from SOAS, University of London, where she sharpened her expertise in understanding hierarchical disparities between the Global North and South. She is passionate about decolonizing social, cultural, and research ecosystems in the Arab region.

Fidelity Phiri

Cataloguer Librarian, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Library in Education City, Doha, Qatar

Fidelity Phiri is an information professional currently serving as a Cataloguer Librarian at Hamad Bin Khalifa University Library in Doha, Qatar. He earned a master's degree in library and information studies from University College London Qatar in 2018. Prior to joining HBKU Library in 2019, he spent 18 years working in Zambian museums, transitioning to library work in 2015. His responsibilities include managing HBKU's Institutional Repository on Manara, ensuring the accessibility of research outputs, and collaborating on library literacy programs. He also specializes in cataloging and classifying newly acquired resources for the university library.

Dr. Imad Bachir

Dean of Libraries, American University Baghdad, Iraq

Currently Dean of Libraries at the American University of Iraq Baghdad (AUIB) since March 2021. Formerly, was director of the Faculty of Information at the Lebanese University, Director of Libraries at Qatar University, and was the Chair of the first IFLA MENA Committee. Dr. Bachir obtained his B.A. in Library and Information Studies from the Lebanese University in 1985, and his master's and PhD from University of London (UCL)consecutively in 1989 and 1995. He worked for Al-Hayat Arabic daily in London from 1988 until 1999. Dr. Bachir taught at the Lebanese university from 1996 to 2024, and supervised masters' and PhD students since 2012. He has research publications in both Arabic and English.

Iryna Kuchma

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Dr. Jamal Matar Al-Salmi

Director of the Main Library, University of Nizwa

Dr. Jamal Matar Yousef Al-Salmi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Information Systems at the University of Nizwa, where he also directs the Main Library. Previously, he led the Information Studies Department at Sultan Qaboos University. Dr. Al-Salmi holds a PhD in Knowledge Management from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and a Master's in Information Management from Curtin University, Australia. His research focuses on digital libraries, digital repositories, and e-learning. He has published extensively and received awards, including the Glorious Teacher Award (2016) and Glorious Researcher Award (2021) from Sultan Qaboos University.

Jerry Sellanga

Engagement and Communications Coordinator, Invest in Open Infrastructure (IOI), Kenya

Jerry currently works on the IOI team as Engagement Coordinator, Networks where he is responsible for community engagement and ensuring IOI is responsive to the needs of the communities we serve especially in Africa and Latin America. Jerry holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies (Community Development) from Kenyatta University and is currently undertaking a master's degree in Development Communication from Daystar University. Prior to joining IOI, Jerry held senior roles in communication and marketing in the wildlife conversation, agriculture, and social impact sectors.

Kamel Belhamel

Managing Editor, DOAJ, Algeria

Kamel Belhamel is Professor of Chemistry at the University of Bejaia in Algeria and Editor in chief of Algerian Journal of Natural Products. He is author/co-author of several scientific papers in International Scientific Journals (ORCID ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9099-8040). His scientific activities are focused on Open Access, Open Science and the chemistry of Natural Products. Actually, he is the Ambassador and Managing Editor of DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) for the MENA region.

Kevin McCormick

Head of Scholarly Communications and Research and Khadija Mahsud, Research Services Librarian, University of Doha for Science and Technology, Qatar

Kevin is the Head of Scholarly Communications and Research at the UDST Library. He has over ten years of experience working in libraries and archives in corporate finance, non-profits, academia, and political-military organizations. Before coming to Qatar, Kevin worked in libraries and information management in Canada, Belgium, and Austria.

Prof. Khaled Elhalaby

Professor of Libraries and Information Science, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University

Prof. Khaled Elhalaby holds a PhD in Environmental Information Systems and an MA in Press Information Centers from Cairo University. He is a Professor of Libraries and Information Science at the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University, and serves as Library Chairman at Qatar's Police Academy, Ministry of Interior. Prof. Elhalaby is the founder and head of the Arab Institution of Knowledge Management (AIKM) and a former two-term President of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (2013–2019). He has authored over 30 research papers, is the Editor-in-Chief of the Arab International Journal of Information Technology and Data, and serves as a reviewer for numerous academic journals.

Milan Vasiljević

Manager of Electronic Resources and Licensing Department, Qatar National Library

Milan Vasiljević holds Master's degrees in Library and Information Science from UCL, Qatar, and the University of Belgrade, Serbia. With over 18 years of professional experience across various library settings, his primary focus over the past decade has been on managing electronic resources. A passionate advocate for Open Access and sustainable subscription models, he currently works at Qatar National Library as Manager of Electronic Resources and Licensing Department.

Dr. Milena Dobreva

Senior Lecturer in Information Behaviour, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Dr. Milena Dobreva is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Information Behaviour, University of Strathclyde. Her main research interest is exploring innovation diffusion processes within the cultural and scientific heritage sectors. The success of innovation always depends on the timely upskilling of professionals and on the refreshing and expanding of the information skills of the users. Within this domain, She contributed to EC-commissioned technology watch reports and coordinated research exploring user needs and behaviours within the digital heritage domain. In 2019, while at UCL Qatar, she co-organised the booksprint which delivered the "Open a GLAM Lab" book, a pioneering book on innovation labs in libraries, museums, galleries and archives.

Mohamad Mostafa

Regional Engagement Specialist, Middle East and Asia, DataCite, UAE

Mohamad Mostafa collaborates with the community to foster a more open, equitable, and trusted research ecosystem. In his role at DataCite, he supports institutions and communities across Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, implementing Open Research principles. Mohamad contributed to launching the ORCID Arabic interface in the Arab world and served as a volunteer Crossref Ambassador for the MENA region, advocating for Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) adoption and open infrastructure. Passionate about Open Science, he has extensive experience in scholarly publishing, focusing on Open Access journals and books.

Dr. Mohamed Boufarss

Founder, Librifyer, UAE

Mohamed Boufarss is the founder of Librifyer, a library consultancy, services, training and products company in Dubai. Prior to this position he has worked in libraries both in Morocco and the UAE including the House of Wisdom, the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, Khalifa university (Petroleum Institute), etc. His library career span over 24 years in different capacities. Mohamed holds a Ph.D. from Tampere University in Finland with research on scholarly communication landscape in the UAE and a focus on science policy and Open Access. He holds also a Master of Applied Science in library and information management and a postgraduate degree in translation.

Dr. Mohamed Koutheair Khribi

Acting Director of Digital Accessibility Services Department, Qatar Assistive Technology Center, Mada, Qatar

Dr. Mohamed Koutheair Khribi is an expert in inclusive ICT and education, with over 22 years of experience in promoting access to technology and expanding learning opportunities. Currently, he is the Acting Director of Digital Accessibility Services at Mada, Qatar's assistive technology center. He has collaborated extensively with organizations like ALECSO and UNESCO and has led numerous national and international projects. A Fulbright Alumnus with a Ph.D. in Computer Science, Dr. Khribi specializes in educational recommender systems, personalized learning, AI in education, and ICT accessibility. He has published widely and serves as an editor, reviewer, and program chair in academic circles.

Dr. Monica Granados

Director of Open Science, Creative Commons, Canada

Dr. Monica Granados has a PhD in ecology from McGill University. While working on her PhD, Monica discovered incentives in academia promote practices that make knowledge less accessible and has since devoted her career to working in the open science space in pursuit of making knowledge more equitable and accessible. She has worked on open knowledge initiatives with Mozilla, PREreview and the Government of Canada. Monica is now Director of Open Science at Creative Commons working on promoting open access of scientific research.

Prof. Nadia Smaili

Lecturer in Library Science and Documentation, Djilali Bounaama University Algeria

Prof. Smaili Nadia is a lecturer in Library Science and Documentation at Djilali Bounaama University in Algeria. She serves as the Head of the Information Technology and Documentation specialty and manages the repository of scientific production at the University of Algiers 2. Her research interests focus on grey literature and informal publishing in the context of open access, open science, and open archives. Prof. Smaili has made significant contributions through research and participation in forums on open access and academic grey literature, furthering discussions in these critical areas of library science.

Dr. Nafeesa Abdul Kareem

Alumni of Public Health (MPH), Gulf Medical University, Ajman

Dr. Nafeesa Abdul Kareem is a public health researcher and current trainee at the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC). She holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Arizona, completed in collaboration with Gulf Medical University, Ajman. Her research has focused on healthcare utilization among laborers, addressing the facilitators and barriers in access to essential healthcare services in the UAE. Passionate about open research, Dr. Nafeesa is dedicated to fostering transparency and collaboration in public health research. With a background in general dentistry and multiple scientific publications, she is committed to driving impactful change through evidence-based practices.

Nikesh Narayanan

Information Technology Librarian, Zayed University, Dubai

Nikesh is an Information Technology Librarian at Zayed University, Dubai, specializing in Web-scale Discovery solutions, LSP/ILS implementations, remote access, repositories, and ORCID API integrations. With an MTech in Information Systems from the University of Mysore, he also holds master's degrees in Library Science and Business Studies. Previously, he was a Systems Librarian at Khalifa University, where he unified systems across multiple institutes. At EBSCO, he implemented over 100 discovery profiles across South Asia. Proficient in ILS systems, digital library software, and citation databases, Nikesh has led numerous technical projects, including ILS migrations, repository digitization, and union catalog development.

Dr. Rabab Isa Almuqahwi

Arabic Language Programmes Coordinator & Lecturer, RCSI Bahrain, Bahrain

Dr. Rabab Almuqahwi is an Arabic Language Programmes Coordinator and English Lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-Bahrain). She holds a Doctorate in Higher Education from the University of Liverpool, specializing in Professional Education and Curriculum Development. Dr. Rabab leads research in language communication and professional language teaching in both Arabic and English. Her work focuses on aligning GCC higher education policies with global standards. She is an advocate for Arabic language research, integrating AI into sustainable projects, and has presented at international forums. Dr. Rabab also mentors students and collaborates on research with various institutions.

Rani Anand

Information Literacy Instructor, Khalifa University, UAE

A seasoned library and information management professional, has a rich 18-year career spanning domains such as E-resources, open science, instructional teaching, workshop facilitation, research, community outreach and service design. A proud holder of an M.Sc. in Information and Library Management from Robert Gordon University, Scotland, she's currently the E-resources and Instruction Librarian at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Her role involves the comprehensive management of electronic resources, development and execution of information literacy classes, and conducting workshops for faculty, researchers, and students. Rani's academic and research interests lie in scholarly databases, library technologies, patents and standards, research data management and visualization.

Rebecca Hill

Head of Open Research, Taylor & Francis, UK

Becky Hill has worked in academic publishing since 2011, with roles spanning Editorial, Business Development and Open Research. Her role as Head of Open Research at Taylor & Francis, focusses on building open research publishing partnerships with research communities across Europe and the Middle East (spanning open access journals, books, and F1000). Prior to her role at T&F, Becky spent several years at the innovative open research publisher, F1000. Given the rapidly evolving environment of open research, Becky's work lies in understanding the intersection of publishing practices with policy developments, as well as the implementation of open research globally.

Rick Anderson

University Librarian, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Rick Anderson is University Librarian of Brigham Young University. He has worked previously as a bibliographer for YBP, Inc., as Head Acquisitions Librarian for the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, as Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada, Reno, and as Associate Dean for Collections & Scholarly Communication at the University of Utah. He serves on numerous editorial and advisory boards and is a regular contributor to the Scholarly Kitchen. Rick is the author of three books, including Scholarly Communication: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2018), which has been published in three languages.

Sa'ada Bint Amer Al-Dhuhli

Head of the Medical Library, Royal Hospital, Oman

Sa'ada Amer Yaqoub Al-Dhuhli is from The Sultanate of Oman. she is the Head of the Medical Library at the Royal Hospital, under the Ministry of Health. She holds a Master degree in the libraries and information sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, 2018. She is interested in research, information dissemination and open sources tools for researchers. She actively contributed with research papers in conferences related to libraries and information sciences in the Arab region, reflecting a deep commitment to advancing knowledge in the field.

Sabine Saad

Senior Acquisitions Editor, in Charge of Academic Journals publishing, Qatar University Press

Sabine is the Senior Acquisitions Editor for Academic Journals at Qatar University Press, a role she has held since 2018. With over 17 years of experience in business administration and project management in Qatar and the UAE, she played a key role in establishing Qatar University Press. Sabine holds an MBA in Total Quality Management from the University of Leicester and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Marketing. She has received multiple awards, including the Administrative Employee Excellence Award in 2024, and is actively involved in supporting regional non-profit initiatives.

Dr. Salah Ajjur

Head of Academic & Journals Publishing, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press

Dr. Salah B. Ajjur is the Head of Academic & Journals Publishing at Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, with over 16 years of experience in academic publishing. He holds a Ph.D. from Hamad Bin Khalifa University and has authored more than 36 publications. Dr. Salah specializes in peer-review management, editorial processes, and digital publishing. Under his leadership, HBKU Press has adopted innovative strategies to enhance research visibility. An active speaker at industry events, he is committed to advancing knowledge dissemination and mentoring future professionals in the publishing field.

Dr. Salwan M. Abdulateef

Founder, Open Science Community Iraq, Iraq

Associate Professor Dr. Salwan M. Abdulateef is a distinguished academic and researcher specializing in animal production and agricultural sciences. He holds several prominent positions, including Assistant Professor at the University of Anbar, President of the Open Science Community Iraq (OSCI), and Managing Editor of the Anbar Journal of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Abdulateef's work is widely recognized for its impact on improving agricultural productivity and promoting open science principles. His research interests include behavioral endocrinology and the application of advanced technologies in agriculture. He has significantly contributed to the visibility of Iraqi research on the global stage.

Prof. Sanaa Ashour

Professor of Gulf Studies, Center of Gulf Studies, Qatar University

Prof. Dr. Sanaa Ashour is a Professor of Gulf Studies at Qatar University, with previous roles at Al Ain University and as a visiting professor in Germany. She holds a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Bonn and a master's in Social Policy from LSE. Her research, widely published in international journals, focuses on higher education policy in the Gulf region, particularly the effects of globalization. She explores the internationalization of Gulf higher education and its implications for institutions and policymakers. Additionally, she has authored a book on ethnic politics and the policy-making process.

Sayeed Choudhury

Associate Dean for Digital Infrastructure and Director of the Open Source Programs Office (OSPO), Carnegie Mellon Libraries

G. Sayeed Choudhury is the Associate Dean for Digital Infrastructure and Director of the Open Source Programs Office at Carnegie Mellon Libraries and an affiliated faculty member of the Block Center for Technology and Society. Choudhury is the Executive Director for the Open Forum for AI, member of the Open Source Initiative Board and Human AI Collective Advisory Board - BGV & EAIGG. Choudhury was a President Obama appointee to the National Museum and Library Services Board. He has served as principal investigator for projects funded through the US National Science Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Microsoft Research, and Omidyar Network.

Shatha Al-Oun

DM scientific Resources and Indexing at the National Scientific and Technical Information Center (NSTIC), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait

Currently serving as the DM of Scientific Resources and Indexing at Kuwait's National Scientific and Technical Information Center (NSTIC) within the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), this professional leads major projects such as the Kuwait Digital Repository for Science & Technology. With a Master's in Information Resources Management from Syracuse University (1989) and a B.Sc. in Computer Science from Kuwait University (1983), they bring decades of expertise in strategic planning, systems management, and information technology. Key responsibilities include developing operational plans, managing IT infrastructure, leading business process improvements, and coordinating high-profile IT projects across sectors, including education and government.

Sumayya Ansar

Technology and Instruction Librarian, University of Calgary in Qatar

Sumayya Ansar is a Technology and Instruction Librarian at the University of Calgary in Qatar, where she leads key initiatives in research services, technology management, and public services. She collaborates closely with faculty and students to streamline research processes, providing expertise in scholarly communication and information literacy. Her professional interests include information literacy, educational technologies, and open science. A passionate advocate for technology-driven education, she is committed to promoting innovation and collaboration in research and learning environments.

Thuraya Slimani

Head of the Electronic Resources Collaboration Department, National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research, Morocco

Thouraya Slimani, distinguished information specialist, holds a master's degree in international studies and diplomacy from Mohammed V University, obtained in 2018, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Public Law from Mohammed I University, earned in 2011. She possesses substantial expertise in library management, having held various positions, including that of Head of Document Series at the Moroccan Institute for Scientific and Technical Information. As a founding member of the Arab Group for Open Access, Mrs. Slimani is instrumental in advancing open access initiatives and actively engages in strategic planning and training programs designed to enhance information access for Moroccan researchers.

Yrjo Lappalainen

Assistant Professor and Data Services Librarian, Zayed University Library and Learning Commons (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

Yrjo Lappalainen is an Assistant Professor and Data Services Librarian at Zayed University Library and Learning Commons in Dubai, UAE. With a Master's in Information Studies and Interactive Media from Tampere University, Finland, he has expertise in research information systems, repositories, scholarly communication, open science, and research data management. Yrjo leads data initiatives, promotes open research practices, and manages the university's institutional repository. He has also pioneered AI integration in academic libraries, including developing "Aisha," a library chatbot powered by OpenAI, and spearheading AI training initiatives at Zayed University.

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F.O.R.M.

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