3rd Annual Forum 2024
F.O.R.M.
21-23 October | Qatar

Transforming Knowledge into Action

It has been noted that "without knowledge action is useless, and knowledge without action is futile". This ethos lies at the heart of the **Forum for Open Research in MENA** (FORM) and underpins our mission to support the development and implementation of Open Science policies and practises in higher education institutions and research communities across the Arab states.

The goal of this conference is to bring together researchers, librarians, policy makers and university leaders, to support the exchange of ideas, and facilitate the development of new collaborative communities and partnerships. In our previous Annual Forums, we focused on sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and building communities.

This year we will focus on **Transforming Knowledge into Action**. We are therefore especially delighted to be partnering with the Qatar National Library for the 2024 Annual Forum, reflecting the Library's mission to empower the people of Qatar in their research and learning journeys.

This year, the Annual Forum will offer a mixture of individual presentations, moderated round table discussions, and workshops. As accessibility lies at the hearts of everything we do, this will be a fully hybrid event, with all in-person activities live streamed, in English and Arabic. The programme will include a full day of online presentations, two days of in-person presentations, and a half day of high-impact workshops.

We therefore invite proposals for presentations, round table discussions, and workshops (in **English** and **Arabic**) linked with any aspect of the themes and topics listed above. Particular preference will be given to regional case studies relating to the challenged and solutions within our thematic areas, offering new and innovative examples of transforming Open Science knowledge into policies and practises in the Arab region.

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Open Science in higher education institutions and research communities is a highly complex and rapidly evolving landscape, and there are many ways of transforming knowledge into practical action. We have therefore identified 4 thematic areas for this year's Annual Forum, reflecting the priorities of our members and wider network across the Arab states:

Policies and funding

o Open access and research assessment policies
o Funding sources and allocations
o developing policies and determining best practises to support sustainability in Arab scholarly communications ecosystems
o Incorporating SDGs in research and education strategic planning

Open Access publishing and Open Education Resources

o Preprints, transparent peer review, and open access publishing
o Creating and disseminating open resources
o The commercialisation of Open Science
o Building and using Institutional repositories

Capacity building and community engagement

o Adapting practises and resources for the Arab region
o Building and Sustaining Communities of Practices (CoP) in Arabic speaking countries
o Digital and human capacity building

Infrastructure and solutions supporting Open Science

o The rise of community-owned and community-led Open Science infrastructures and publications
o Implementing reproducible, open and interoperable infrastructure in the Arab region
o Using AI to advance engagement with open science policies and practises in the Arab world

Proposals will be submitted via an online form <<HERE>>. When submitting, you will be asked to provide the following information:

- Specify whether you wish to present online or in person, and whether you wish to present in English or in Arabic
- Specify which thematic area your proposal sits within.
- Provide the proposal title, and a 300 word summary of the presentation you wish to give.
- Provide presenter name, institutional affiliation, email address and a short 100 word professional biography. (NB if you are submitting a workshop proposal or a round table discussion proposal – please include these details for all presenters involved).

The **submission deadline is the 1st of June**. The proposals will be reviewed by the Advisory Board, and acceptance notifications sent out in early July.

Please note: all presenters will be required to cover any travel and accommodation costs, together with the conference fee. There is a special discounted rate for presenters attending the event in person of $130, and presenters who are not attending in person do not have to pay a fee.

If you have any questions, please contact our Team via email: contact@theforumforopenresearch.com