

3rd Annual Forum for Open Research



Transforming Knowledge into Action

21-24 OCTOBER

DOHA



Our Partners



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library





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Highlights

We believe that open science is vital for the sociocultural and economic development of the Arab world, and we therefore want to place accessibility at the heart of the region's scientific and research ecosystems – and encourage the evolution of strong, sustainable open research infrastructures.

We quoted a noted philosopher from the region, Abu Bakr, in our call for papers for this year's Annual Forum: “Without knowledge action is useless, and knowledge without action is futile”. This ethos lies at the heart of the Annual Forum – which aims to bring together researchers, librarians, policy makers and university leaders, to support the exchange of actionable insights and practical experiences, and facilitate the development of new collaborative communities and partnerships.

This year's Annual Forum, our third, was held in Doha, at the Qatar National Library who generously agreed to be our host partners, and was undoubtedly the most productive and successful event we have organised so far.

With 21 sessions, 67 speakers, and 1457 delegates from 89 countries (representing 760 institutions) across the world – this was a truly rich event filled with valuable insights, allowing delegates to share ideas, discuss challenges and exchange solutions.

The event was further enriched with two outstanding workshops on the final day for in-person delegates, one for librarians offering an in-depth exploration of how to set up institutional repositories, and the other offering a valuable overview of best practises for engaging with open science in scholarly communications.





But in addition to the scientific programme, we also had a number of other additions to the schedule, including our first Annual General Meeting (to establish the community's objectives for the coming year and elect a temporary Executive Committee) and a Signing Ceremony (to welcome new member organisations joining FORM). We also included a tour of the strikingly beautiful Education City Mosque, and held our Gala Dinner at the fabulous Museum of Islamic Arts in central Doha.

The overarching message of this year's Annual Forum was the prioritisation of communication, collaboration and localisation to ensure the successful advancement of open science policies and practises in the Arab region's research communities and research institutions.

- The need to **communicate** clearly and effectively with each other and with our stakeholders, and the importance of ensuring the arab voice is visible and heard in global discussions.
- The need to **collaborate** as individuals, as institutions, as communities and countries – within our local environment and as a region.
- The paramount importance of **localising** discussions, activities, outputs, tools and solutions relating to open science, of encouraging innovation and adaptation to develop processes and policies for individual communities and the region as a whole.

These priorities have also informed our own objectives for the coming year, as we focus on how best to help empower local stakeholders to establish and address local priorities in a manner appropriate to the needs and priorities of their research communities; how we can facilitate the development and implementation of open science policies and practises in research institutions across the region; and what we can do to support the amplification of equitable production of, and equitable access to, research in and from the Arab States.







Key Statistics

Scientific Programme

4

Days

21

Sessions

61

Speakers

Delegate Demographics

1457

Registrants

760

Institutions

89

Countries

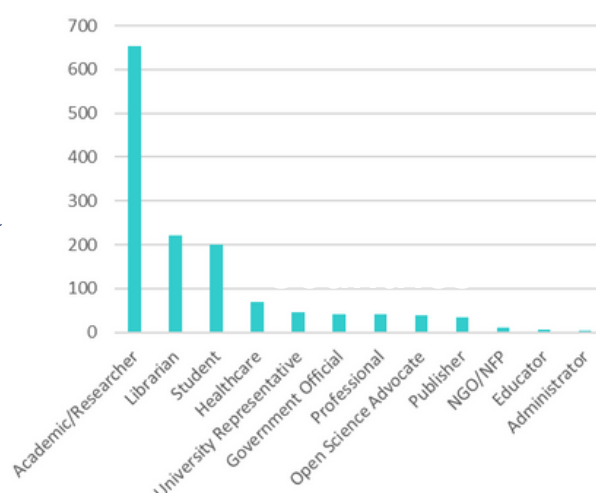
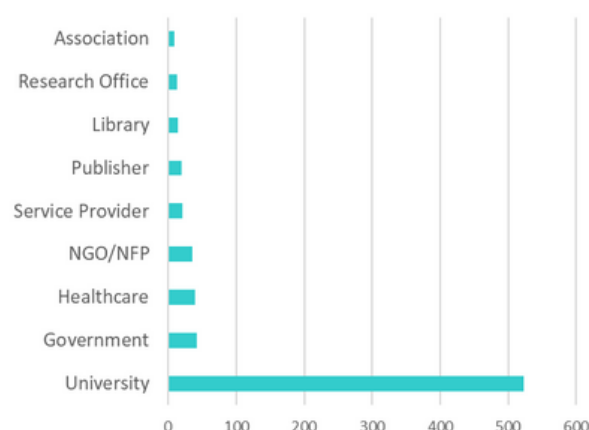
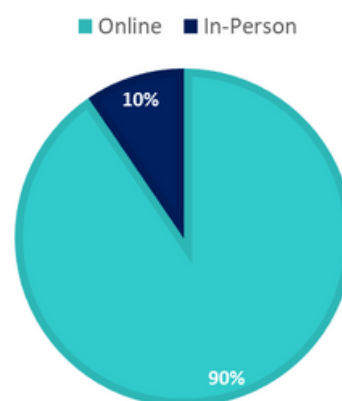


Delegate Overview

90% of registrants and attendees were online, and 10% in person. 35% of online registrants attended the majority of the event, while 94% of in person delegates attended (this latter drop-off was predominantly due to ongoing political issues in the region impacting travel routes).

Of the 760 institutions which were represented at the event, the majority (68%) were from universities. However, there is evidence of growing interest from healthcare organisations and government policymaking organisations - and both categories saw a significant increase this year.

Of the 1457 delegates and speakers, the majority (43%) were academics and researchers. A further 14% were librarians, and 12% were students (the latter highlights a substantial expansion of interest in open science activities in student populations). The presence of individual open science advocates is also rising.



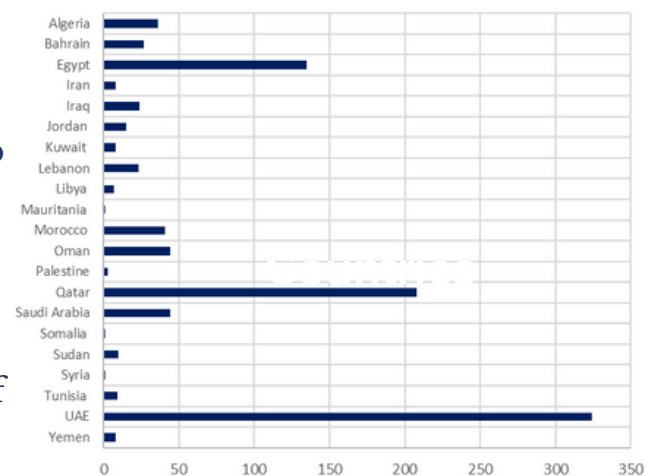
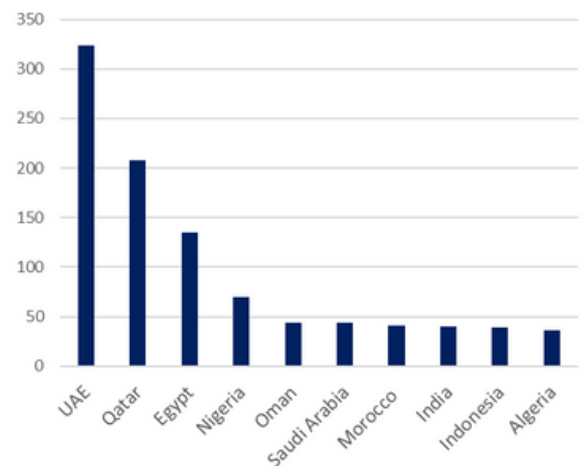
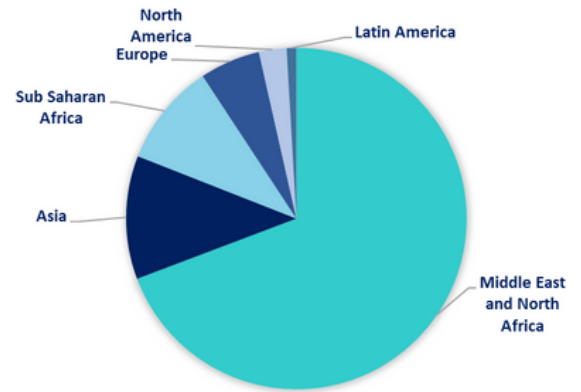


Countries Overview

The MENA states account for a comfortable majority (67%) of delegates, with the various Asian states also accounting for a further 11% of delegates. Sub Saharan African delegates accounted for 9%, and Europe a further 5%.

The top ten source countries for delegates were predominantly Arab States (most notably the UAE, Qatar, and Egypt - accounting for 22%, 14% and 9% of delegates respectively). However there were also sizeable contingents from Nigeria (5%), India (3%) and Indonesia (3%). Overall the top 10 countries accounted for 67% of the delegates

20 of the 22 Arab states were represented at the conference. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries accounted for 32% of Arab State delegates, Levant Arab nations accounted for a further 26% as did North African Arab nations, while Sub-Saharan Arab nations accounted for just under 16% of Arab state delegates.

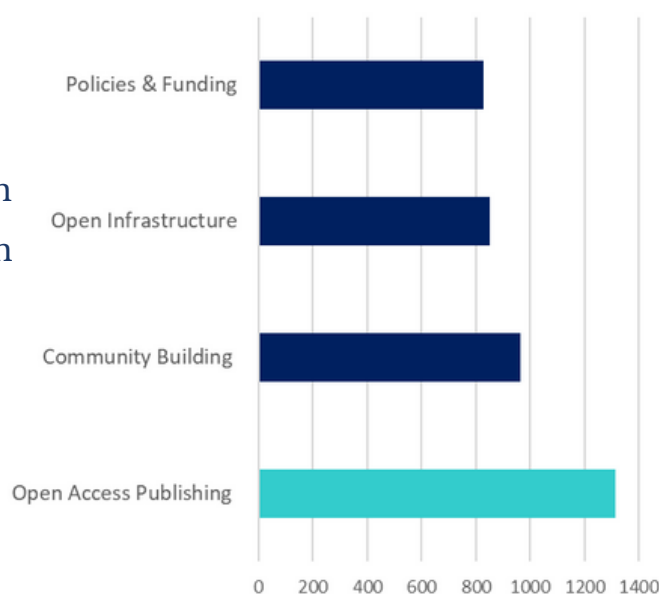




Content Overview

Of the 61 speakers, 25 were online (from 17 countries and 22 institutions) and 36 in person (from 9 countries and 27 institutions). Overall, 18 countries and 45 institutions were represented in the scientific programme, providing a broad array of insights and case studies from different regions and perspectives.

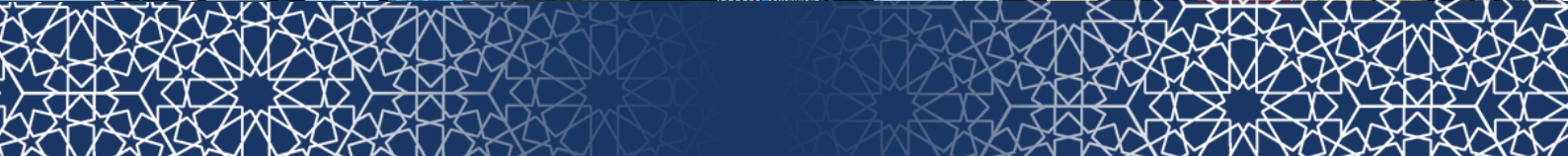
The presentations were grouped according to the key priorities of our stakeholders and network: policies and funding; open access publishing and open resources; community building; and open infrastructure (and infrastructures supporting openness). The most popular topic was open access publishing, which saw the highest attendance rates throughout the programme.



The most popular overall sessions

**Panel A: The Rise of
Community-Owned and
Community-Led Open
Science Infrastructures and
Publications**

**Qatar Leadership
Roundtable**





Delegate Feedback



97%

Conference format was successful and appropriate for delegates



100%

Conference content was useful and valuable for delegates



97%

Conference sessions and insights will support professional goals of delegates





Delegate Testimonials

I want to thank you all for a really insightful and inspiring conference. I was really impressed at the intraregional and international collaboration on display, the commitment to open science, and the inclusion of people from countries that have been through some very difficult times in recent years.

Thank you for the wonderful conference and being able to attend virtually.

Both informative and inspiring, paving the way for a stronger presence of the Arab world.

From my point of view, the Forum is an interesting organization, it is extraordinary. The discussions introduced necessary topics to help us understand and be convinced that Open Access is important for libraries in higher education. Congratulations, thank you, and I hope to participate in other Forums as well.

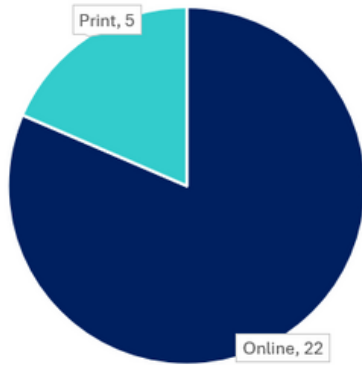
Thanks for your great efforts

It was a fantastic conference

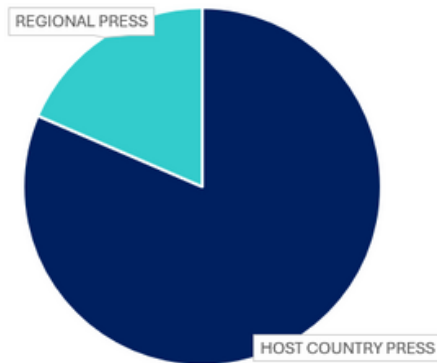


Press Coverage

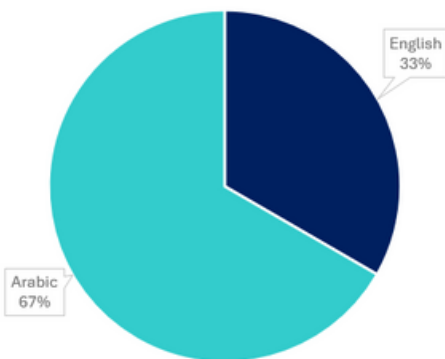
Articles Published



Article Source



Article Languages



QNL hosts third annual forum for open research in Mena

Qatar National Library, in partnership with the Knowledge E Foundation, hosted the third Annual Forum for Open Research (FORM) in Mena. The three-day conference, held in Doha, yielded tangible, impactful results. The library has spared no effort in supporting the growth and prosperity of open science ecosystems, both in Qatar and across the region.

the Manara - Qatar Research Repository, our Open Access Fund, and events like today's, we pursue our objective of promoting open access that increases the impact and visibility of published works, which ultimately advances research.

بمشراكة نخبة من أبرز الباحثين والمبتكرين

المكتبة الوطنية تطلق منتدى البحوث المفتوحة



دوحة - افتتحت مكتبة قطر الوطنية أمس فعاليات النسخة الثالثة من المنتدى السنوي للبحوث المفتوحة في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا (FORM)، بالتعاون مع مؤسسة المعرفة للإلكترونية وبمشاركة نخبة من أبرز الباحثين وصانعي السياسات والمبتكرين، لاستكشاف ممارسات البحوث المفتوحة وتعزيزها.

والمراد سماعة الدكتور حمد بن عبد العزيز الكواري، وزير الدولة ورئيس مكتبة قطر الوطنية، في كلمته لافتتاح المنتدى، أن المكتبة تحرص على التواصل مع الجمهور المحلي والعالمي، الأمر الذي كان نتيجة تعاون عدد زارها في عام 2023 إلى 1.2 مليون زائر، بعدما كان في عام 2022، قرابة 600 ألف زائر، ما يعكس الحرص على أن تكون المكتبة مفتوحة في مشارق البحري، وهو ما يوفر بدوره بيئة لاكتشاف والتعاون، وقال سماعة، إن المنتدى يركز هذا العام على تعزيز البحوث

المكتبة الوطنية تستضيف المنتدى الثالث للبحوث المفتوحة... د. حمد الكواري:

ملتزمون بالتعاون الدولي لنشر المعرفة

على أوسع نطاق

محمد عابد



المعرفة على أوسع نطاق. كما أكدت السيدة هوسم تان، المدير التنفيذي لمكتبة قطر الوطنية، أن المكتبة ستواصل جهودها القابعة للبحوث والمعرفة للوصول إليها في إطار مبادراتها الرامية لنشر ممارسات البحوث المفتوحة

نظمت مكتبة قطر الوطنية، بالشراكة مع مؤسسة المعرفة للإلكترونية، النسخة الثالثة من المنتدى السنوي للبحوث المفتوحة في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا بمشاركة نخبة من أبرز الباحثين وصانعي السياسات والمبتكرين من جميع أنحاء المنطقة لاستكشاف ممارسات البحوث المفتوحة وتعزيزها.

وهدف المنتدى الذي أطلقت مؤسسة المعرفة الإلكترونية في عام 2022 بصفتها مبادرة مستقلة غير ربحية، إلى دعم الباحثين والشبكات البحثية بالبحوث العلمية في رحلتهم نحو عالم أكثر إتاحة.



F.O.R.M.

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