

Session 4:

The Strategic Future of the WDL: Update on Future Plans of the WDL

Presentation to the 2016 World Digital Library Arab Peninsula Regional Group:

“Planning the Way Forward”

Hosted by the Qatar National Library

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Current State of the Project

Partners

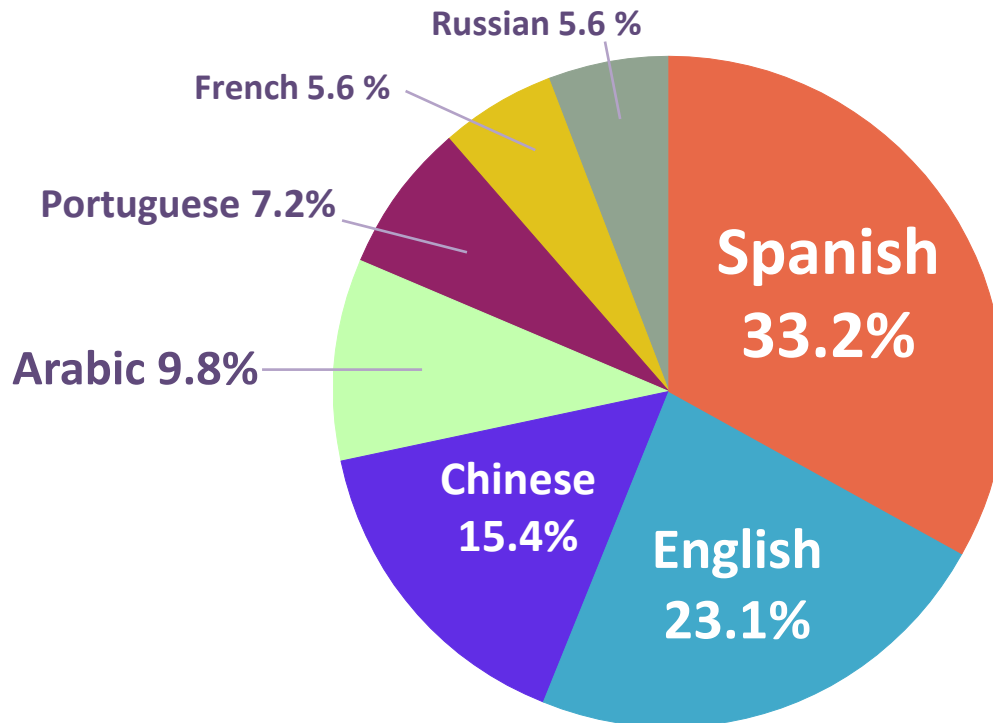
- Approximately **200** partner institutions in **81** countries
- Content contributed by **131** partners in **58** countries
- Digitization centers in Cairo, Baghdad, and Kampala
- Website in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish

Functionality

- List, Map, Gallery Views
- Six browse options: Time, Place, Institution, Format, Language, and Subject
- Full-text search for books and journals in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish
- PDF and PNG downloads for most items
- Text to speech conversion
- Zoom option for all items
- CDN and cloud usage for fast delivery, high performance worldwide

Users and User Engagement

- 41 million users to date
- Currently averaging 500,000 visitors/2.5 million page views per month
- Usage by interface language (2015)



Educational Features

- **Timelines and interactive maps**

 - Chinese Books, Manuscripts, Maps, and Prints

 - Illuminated Manuscripts from Europe

 - Imperial Russia

 - United States History

 - World History

- **Thematic sections**

 - Arabic and Islamic Science and Its Influence on the

 - Western Scientific Tradition

 - Meeting of Frontiers (in development)

Governance

- **Well-functioning WDL Charter**
- **Annual partner meetings since 2010**
- **New Executive Council elected in 2015 for 2016-2020**
- **EC members:**
 - Ismail Serageldin, chair, Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
 - Irina Bokova, ex officio, Director-General of UNESCO,
 - David S. Mao, ex officio, Acting Librarian of Congress, Library of Congress
 - Bruno Leopold Emile Sagna, Deputy, International Relations Department, Bibliothèque nationale de France
 - Renato Andrade Lessa, President, Brazilian National Library Foundation
 - Wei Dawei, Deputy Director, National Library of China
 - Claudia Lux, Project Director, Qatar National Library
- **Library of Congress reappointed institutional project manager for 2016-2020**

Financial Support

- **\$20 million in private financial support of the project**
- **Major contributors:**
 - Qatar National Library/Qatar Foundation
 - Carnegie Corporation of New York
 - Library of Congress National Digital Library Trust Fund

Future Plans and Objectives

Content

- Increase the overall volume of content
- Identify and fill gaps (national, cultural, linguistic, time period, format)
- Build on existing strengths to create world class digital collections

Participation

- Make progress toward universal participation
- Capacity building as an essential element of increasing participation
- Focus on un- and underrepresented regions of the world
- Activate working groups and other participatory mechanisms

Usage and user engagement

- Expand both the quantity and quality (engagement) of usage
- Achieve balanced growth across language interfaces

Educational and interpretive features

- Continue to develop new features
- Engage new actors in developing value-added features to exploit the content
 - Partners
 - Crowd-and huddle-sourcing

Secondary goals

- Additional interface languages (Hindi, German, Japanese)
- Expanded use of social media
- Assistance in securing at risk books, manuscripts, and other materials