

## 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

Doha, Qatar, May 10, 2016

Presentation by John Van Oudenaren

Director, WDL

## Current State of the Project

### Partners

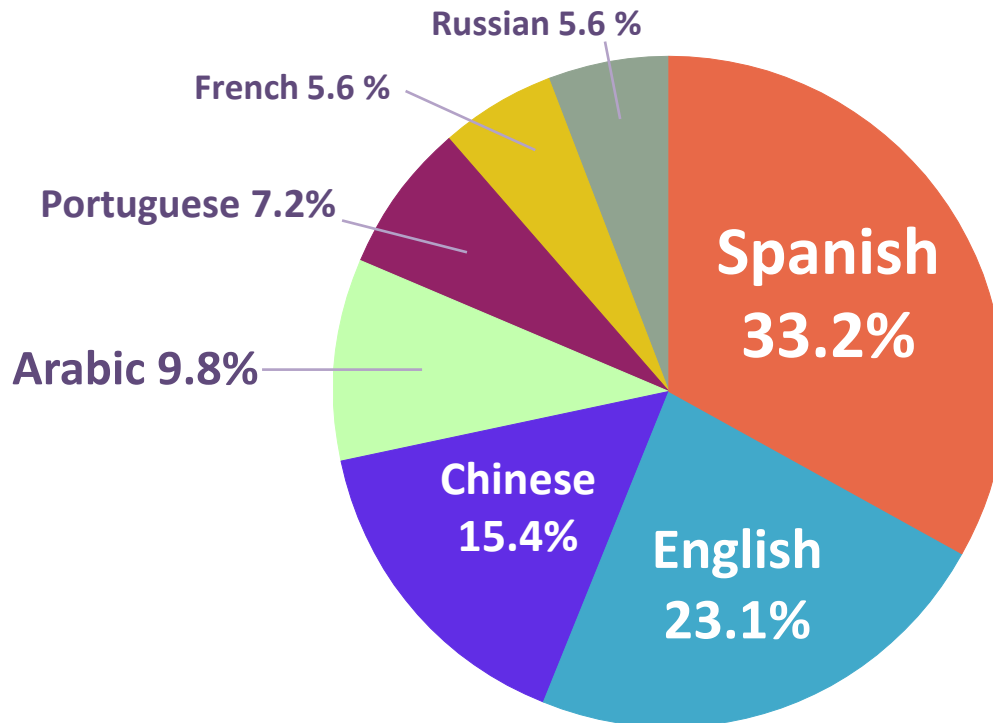
- Approximately **200** partner institutions in **81** countries
- Content contributed by **131** partners in **58** countries
- Digitization centers in Cairo, Baghdad, and Kampala
- Website in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish

## 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