Libraries Fostering Tolerance in Their Community.

Sharjah Public Libraries

Eman Bushulaibi
Director, Sharjah Public Libraries
Overview
First founded in 1925, in Al Hisn—Sharjah Fort by H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Saqer Al Qasimi.
It was known to be “Al Qasimia Library.”
In 2011, his highness ruler of Sharjah inaugurated the new library building in the Culture Square under the name of “Sharjah public library.”

Vision
“Creating a cultural hub for the community to cultivate the human mind and intellect, fostering generations of knowledge pursuers who will further enhance society.”
Sharjah public library has five branches in different parts of the emirate.
“Culture is the key to building human dialogue and creating understanding and harmony among all people of the world, regardless of race, religion or geography.”

— H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi.
Tolerance in Sharjah Public Libraries

“Tolerance is harmony in difference.”

Values
Respect, Acceptance and Appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures.
Fighting Intolerance
Through:

**Education:**
SPL believes greater efforts need to be made to teach children about tolerance.

**Knights of Tolerance**
- Knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience and belief.
- Help young generations develop capacities for independent judgement.
- Demonstrated empathy and compassion through words and actions.
- Share stories of how perspective has grown and changed.
Fighting Intolerance
Through:

Access to Information: “The most efficient way to limit the influence of hatemongers is to develop activities that creates a sense of safety and pluralism, in order to allow the public to differentiate between facts and opinions.”

Cultural Pluralism
♦ Unique cultural identities, and their values and practices are accepted by the wider culture.
♦ Less prejudice and discrimination.
♦ Preserve the unique traditions, identities and languages of the many cultures within a society.
Cultural Pluralism

In an exclusive event, **Urdu** speakers and lovers enjoyed enthralling poetry by *Atif Tauqeer* and mesmerizing live singing by *Syed Mehran* in Sharjah Public Library.

*Music*  
*Poetry,*  
*And Conversation.*
Social Pattern
An age marked by rapidly increasing mobility, communication, integration and interdependence, urbanization and changing social patterns, Sharjah Public Libraries opens Smart Membership Platform.

What is it?
A platform which enables users to access a wealth of information and resources found in Sharjah Library databases.
Fighting Intolerance

Smart Membership Platform

Why a Smart Membership?

- **Improve the individual’s Experience**
  - Raise the level of Trust

- **Services**
  - Easy, least effort and fast.

- **Outreach**
  - Expanding the geographical coverage.

---

**eServices!**
Click here to access the Library Membership Registration

**eServices!**
Click here to Search the Library Catalog
Social Pattern

Community Partners, Businesses, And Government Offices.
“Pop Up Library is an example illustrating the power that technology has to promote and improve literacy.”

— Amandeep. Kochar, Executive Vice President of Baker & Taylor

If you wish to experience our initiative, you are welcome at Sharjah Public Library corner at the SIBF ALA Stand.
Fighting Intolerance
Through:

**Local solutions:**
“We must not wait for certain institutions to act alone. We are all part of the solution. We should not feel powerless for we actually posses an enormous capacity to wield power.”

**Correctional Facilities:**
*Reform before Penalty.*
♦ Happiness Library.
♦ Awareness Campaigns.
♦ Distinctive Community Service.
Positive Impact

“Libraries are places of learning, new discoveries and enlightenment. SPL, in line with the vision of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, is keen on extending its efforts to engage all 200 nationalities across age groups residing in our country in cultural events and activities they will benefit from.”
Thank you.

shjlib@shjlib.gov.ae
spl.gov.ae