



VIRTUAL FORUM

In collaboration with

THEME: *Libraries and Librarians Meeting the Challenges in New Normal.*

The *Sharjah Virtual Library Forum*, November 10-12 is a three-day event with presentations from librarians from different types of libraries on how they have pivoted or how transformation needs to be taking place now and for beyond the pandemic.

Registration is **free** for librarians, library workers, and exhibitors for the Sharjah Virtual International Library Forum. The Forum presentations will be provided in English and Arabic language options. Certificates of participation will be provided. Registrants will also have access to recording of the Forum until December 31.

VIRTUAL FORUM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

19:00-21:00 Gulf Standard Time (+4 GMT)



Chairman
Sharjah Book Authority

Welcome—



Julius C. Jefferson Jr.
ALA President
Acting Director
Researcher and Reference
Services, Library of
Congress

Opening and Keynote—

“Meeting the Challenge in Times of Crisis”



**Shaikha Mohamed
Almehairi**

Director of the Libraries
Department, Abu Dhabi
Department for Culture and
Tourism, UAE

Leading Staff Responding to the Challenge: Flexibility, Creativity, Reorganization and Wellness Care

The initial days of lockdown caused chaos and confusion for every library. Learn lessons from Shaikha Al Muhairi how the Library Department and her large staff were able to reorganize and relaunch their programs, services and operation and how they have become one of the most responsive and active part of the Department of Culture and Tourism during the continuing crisis helping meet the needs of their community. How under empathetic leadership library employees exhibit agility, flexibility, teamwork means success for libraries.



Stuart Hamilton
Head of Libraries
Development at the Local
Government Management
Agency, Ireland

What happens when a strategy meets a crisis?

Ireland's five-year national strategy for public libraries, Our Public Libraries 2022, is at its halfway point. Ireland has seen great success as a result of local and central government combining to tackle library programmes, infrastructure, and workforce development. But now the strategy faces a challenge – how to reach its objectives in an environment greatly changed by the impact of COVID-19? What can the experience of Ireland teach other libraries in the 'New Normal'?

Q & A Session

An opportunity to ask presenters questions and address issues and challenges you are facing with the pandemic at your library.

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

19:00-21:00 Gulf Standard Time (+4 GMT)



Dr. Heba Mohamed Ismail
Libraries Technical Manager
Egypt's Society for Culture
Egypt

Staff Development in Time of COVID and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities

Over the last few months, librarians, especially in public library demonstrated their expertise and show their best examples of how to engage with their users, this could only have been achieved through the continuous professional development of staff, which is critical and needed for library professionals. With the high expectations of users and the new trends in information technology, continuing professional development has become a necessity, especially in light of COVID-19. This presentation will highlight the best practices in continuing professional development and the opportunities available for librarians to expand their career.



Emad Saleh
Professor, Information
Science Dept.
Helwan University, Cairo,
Egypt. Vice president of the
Arab Federation for Libraries
& Information
Egypt

Do's and Don'ts for Successful Risk Management in Libraries

The top priorities of any Library policies are the safety and welfare of people, preservation of collections, and continuity of services. But there is a probability for hazards or events that will have a negative impact on library values and objectives. Therefore, the library should take the procedures of addressing, and qualitatively and quantitatively interpreting all risks that may potentially arise. This presentation will give librarians the do's and don'ts of risk management by covering key points that need to be addressed in order to fully reap the tremendous rewards of effective library risk management.

Q & A Session

An opportunity to ask presenters questions and address issues and challenges you are facing with the pandemic at your library.

Thursday, November 12, 2020

19:00-21:00 Gulf Standard Time (+4 GMT)



Amanda Gintaut
Middle school Teacher-
Librarian
Dubai American Academy
UAE

How to Keep Students Engaged

School librarians need to be thinking of this time as an opportunity in which to provide much needed support to students in a variety of ways for their academic and mental well-being. Librarians need to be present and available letting students know they can help them. The presentation will provide ideas to connect as well as activities to keep the student's voice in the library. And to use our skills to enhance collaboration with teachers through lesson planning as well as being an advocate for resources one might have within their school.



Saeed Khalid
Librarian, Ibn Khuldoon
National School
Bahrain

Expanding School Librarians Role in Virtual Learning

School librarians must play a bigger role in virtual learning with more remote education going on. Three main areas are: provide more digital resources, support and train to teachers' and students' needs, and implement various applications for library virtual activities. The presenter will share how he is succeeding providing attendees with insightful strategies, tips, ideas, and resources.

Q & A Session

An opportunity to ask presenters questions and address issues and challenges you are facing with the pandemic at your library.