



WORLD
DIGITAL LIBRARY

**Presentation by Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director,
Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Chairman, WDL Executive Council**

Roundtable on

**“Digitization as a tool for national
and international cooperation”**

**CDNL Annual Meeting
19 August 2014
Lyon, France**

The World Digital Library: Mission and Objectives

Mission:

Digitize and make freely available over the Internet, in multilingual format, primary source materials that tell the stories and highlight the achievements of all countries

Objectives:

- Promote international and intercultural understanding and awareness
- Expand multilingual and culturally diverse content on the internet
Provide resources to educators and contribute to scholarly research
- Build knowledge and capacity in the developing world; help narrow the digital divide

Basic Facts

- Interface languages: **7**
- Languages of content on the site: **114**
- Partners: **183** from **81** countries
- Items and Images: **10,555** items; approximately **500,000** images
- Visitors since launch: **30 million**

Governance structure:

Executive Council

Annual Partner Meeting

Specialized Committees

Supported by UNESCO

Library of Congress serves as Project Manager

Financial support from corporations, foundations, individuals, and other organizations

Special partnership between the Library of Congress and the Qatar National Library for the WDL

Countries Whose National Libraries Have Contributed Content to the WDL

- Argentina
- Armenia
- Austria
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- France
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Iraq
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Korea, Republic of
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Peru
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi)
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Vietnam

Introducing beta.wdl.org

- Responsive design for mobiles and tablets
- Numerous incremental improvements in search, browse, display
- Introduction of *Timelines, Interactive Maps, Themes*
- These new sections increase educational value added
- But they also highlight content gaps
- **We need your feedback and help!**

NEW SITE

LIVE PRESENTATION

Follow Up

- National libraries that have not yet joined WDL are invited to do so
- National libraries that have joined are urged to contribute additional content, with a focus on filling obvious gaps
- Feedback on beta.wdl.org is welcome
- Partners and prospective partners are invited to attend the WDL Annual Partner Meeting, Rome, October 29-30.
 - Recommend changes and improvements
 - Establish, as needed, selection and review committees



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