British Library/
Qatar National Library Partnership

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Who are we?: Background

- A 10-year partnership between the British Library and the Qatar Foundation
- Partnership so far consists of a digitisation project
- Phase 1 began mid-2012 and Phase 3 started in January 2019
- To date over 1.8 million images of digitised BL content added to Qatar Digital Library
### What do we do?: Scope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
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<td>500,000 images consisting of</td>
<td>1,125,000 images consisting of</td>
<td>900,000 images consisting of</td>
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<td>• India Office Records</td>
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India Office Record

• East India Company and Colonial-era documents, early 1600s to 1950s

• Residency records, departmental papers, ships’ logs, private papers, and reference material

• A wide range of subjects with a geographic focus on the Gulf region
Arabic Manuscripts

• 205 mss digitized, containing over 600 texts (estimated 150 more mss in Phase 3)

• Dating from 9th to 19th centuries AD

• Mostly in Arabic, but a few in Persian, Ottoman Turkish, and Latin

• Produced all across the Islamicate world and covering a range of subjects relating to the sciences
Visual Arts, Maps, and Sounds

- Maps taken from the India Office Record Maps Collection

- Photograph albums and artwork taken from India Office Record and other parts of the collection

- Music recordings from Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and the UAE

- Possibility of oral history recordings in Phase 3
How do we do it?: Process

Nice and Simple: The Initial Workflow Chart

1. Scoping
2. Retrieval
3. Conservation
4. Foliation
5. Cataloguing
6. Imaging
7. Quality Assurance
8. Translation
9. qSIP Generation
10. Upload
11. Return to Basement

www.bl.uk
Process: the workflow 4 years ago…
Process: ...the workflow today