



# WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Cornell University Library Head to Give Lecture on an Information World without Borders**

**Doha, Qatar**

**March 7, 2005**

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) welcomes this week the head of Cornell University's Library, Sarah E. Thomas, Ph.D. During her visit, Dr. Thomas will meet librarians and information service providers from Education City institutions, the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Qatar University and Qatar National Library, and deliver a lecture to an invited audience at the Medical College.

In her lecture, entitled "The Transformational Library in the Transnational University," Dr. Thomas will examine how revolutionary trends in academic libraries, brought about by the advent of digital collections, are changing the way librarians and readers interact, and the way libraries are organized.

Director of the Distributed eLibrary at WCMC-Q, Jane Ann Lindley, commented: "We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Thomas, and we look forward with excitement to hearing and learning from her experience of this really challenging revolution in libraries and information services."

A scholar in the field of German language and literature, Dr. Thomas has worked in academic librarianship for almost thirty years. She has held posts at Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities, and at two U.S. national libraries, the Library of Congress and the National Agricultural Library. In 1996, Dr. Thomas was appointed to the position of Carl A. Kroch University Librarian of Cornell University.

She is a national, and international, figure in the field, and the current president of the Association of Research Libraries.

As head of the Cornell University library, Dr. Thomas oversees one of the world's great academic research library systems. It comprises 21 libraries including the newest member, the Distributed eLibrary at WCMC-Q. This huge resource, running to over 7 million volumes, is both transnational and encyclopaedic in content, with comprehensive collections of resources from scholars across the globe.

With an active program of digitization, it is also increasingly accessible around the world. The Distributed eLibrary at WCMC-Q, with its focus on electronic access of resources, is a notable example of the way ahead for academic libraries in the twenty-first century.

---

**Office of Public Affairs**  
**WCMC-Q**  
**Education City**  
P.O. Box 24144  
Doha, Qatar

**Michael Vertigans**  
Director  
Phone: +974 492 8650  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [miv2008@med.cornell.edu](mailto:miv2008@med.cornell.edu)

**Sylvia Ismail**  
Associate Editor / Writer  
Phone: +974 492 8651  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [smi2001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:smi2001@med.cornell.edu)

contd./-

As a pioneer in the development of digital collections, Dr. Thomas will draw on a wealth of experience in Monday's lecture. She commented: "Libraries need to adapt quickly to ensure that scholars and researchers receive the best information service possible."

Jane Lindley said: "That libraries – and library services – are experiencing a revolution is beyond doubt. Gone are the days when the reference librarian sat behind a desk and responded to enquiries by searching an index and directing a student or researcher to a volume or journal on a shelf.

"Now, the user has a variety of ways to ask the librarian for assistance, including instant messaging via a cell phone or an Internet chat room, or sitting side by side at a computer workstation. The guidance that is given ranges from Internet search techniques to how to sift through potentially thousands of references to find and evaluate the most relevant information sources.

"And it follows that libraries are no longer confined to the physical space in which print materials are stored. Like the Distributed eLibrary, they are to be found in cyberspace as much as in buildings, and they may be accessed wherever there is a computer and a connection to the Internet – whether this is a reading room, classroom, college dorm or home."

During her visit, Dr. Thomas will meet senior figures in library services in Qatar to discuss ways of building bridges with Cornell University's system. Links with the Health Sciences Library at HMC, with which the Medical College is affiliated, are being developed with services such as inter-library loans now available and full electronic connections to come soon.

*For more information, please contact Michael Vertigans, phone 4928650*

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Established in partnership with the Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q** is a branch of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty.

There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York.

Website: [www.qatar-med.cornell.edu](http://www.qatar-med.cornell.edu)

**The Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development** is a private, nonprofit, chartered organization founded in 1995 aiming to develop and utilize human potential through a network of centers and campuses. In 1997 the foundation set out on a strategic plan to create an Education City that is composed of a number of research centers, branch campuses of world-class educational institutions and a Science Park that acts as an incubator for research, responds to the immediate needs of industry and anticipates future necessities for development. In October 2003, Education City was officially inaugurated and it is now home to branches of some of the world's leading universities and research centers.

Website: [www.qf.edu.qa/](http://www.qf.edu.qa/)

---

**Office of Public Affairs**  
**WCMC-Q**  
**Education City**  
P.O. Box 24144  
Doha, Qatar

**Michael Vertigans**  
Director  
Phone: +974 492 8650  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [miv2008@med.cornell.edu](mailto:miv2008@med.cornell.edu)

**Sylvia Ismail**  
Associate Editor / Writer  
Phone: +974 492 8651  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [smi2001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:smi2001@med.cornell.edu)