AMA-GI Qishla Library

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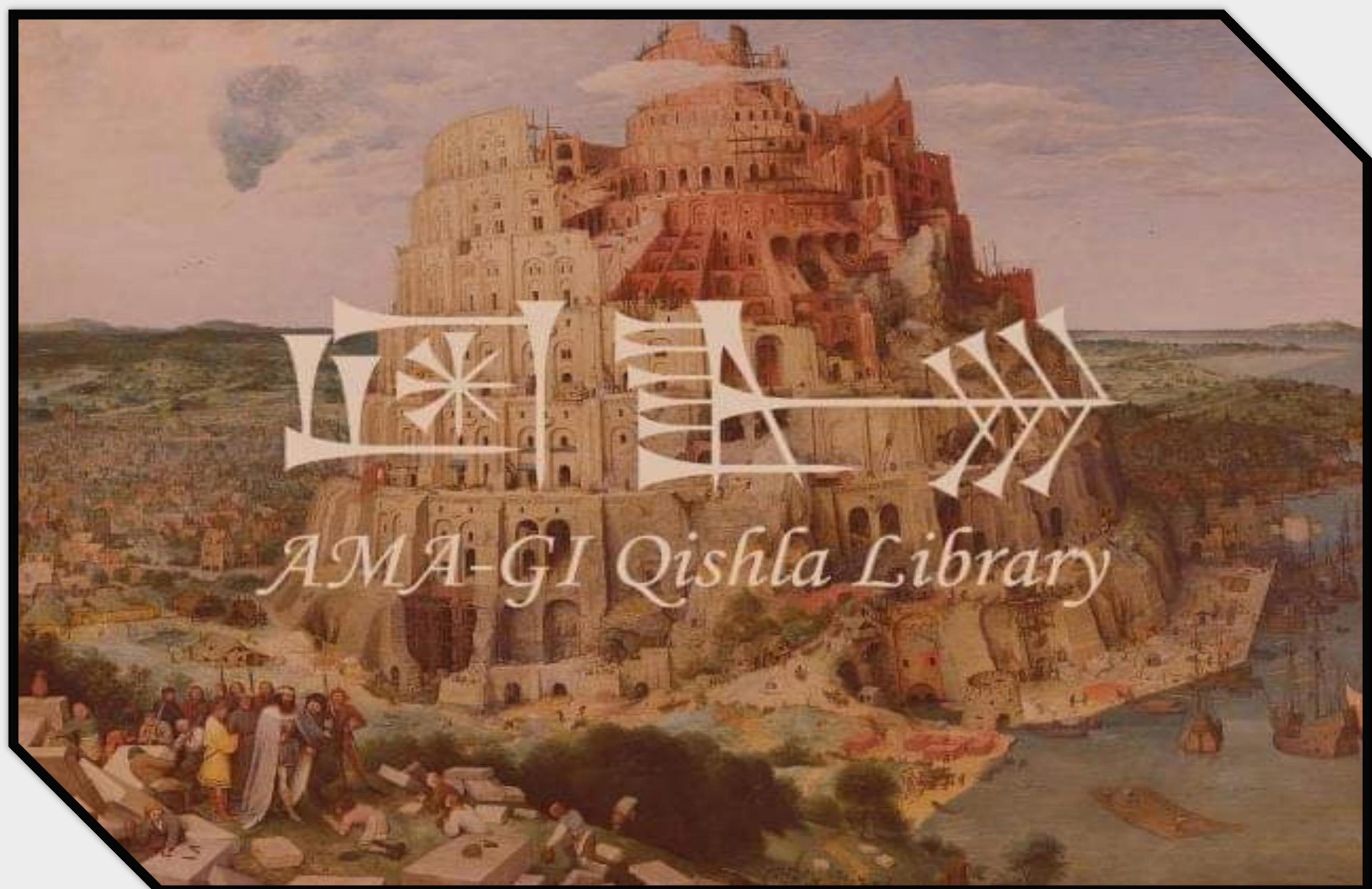
Broadly speaking, the paradigm of the project is to open up a Public Library in the Qishla quarter space, with several departments that will cater to the special needs of the local/state community. The aim is to increase interaction and engage the community to open up and share their creative ideas, and, simultaneously, to build a strong and supportive network that will inspire the younger generation to learn more about their cultural identity and history and to develop a sense of love for their cultural heritage and country. It is to inspire a progressive movement that will instill an attitude change towards reading.

Moreover, this will allow for more people within the Iraqi society to contribute to the development of their country. The specific target includes mostly children, as well as teenagers, adults, students, professors, families, and the local community as a whole.

This idea also addresses the working class of Iraqi society, as they will have all a specific role to contribute towards building a public library, as every one of them has something unique to offer.

The main goals of the project are:

- To provide a valuable education, through a fun and interactive way of learning, i.e. a creative way of using technology/social media and other resource materials to teach an array of learning systems.
- To cater to the special needs of the community, by instilling an attitude change towards reading, and also implementing a self-development strategy, where one can learn to navigate and think independently.
- To distribute and develop leadership/entrepreneurial skills and qualities, for the younger generations/students.
- To preserve and exhibit a variety of special and exclusive literary and artistic collections.
- To provide valuable services (education, research, workshops, tech support etc) at a low cost, thereby abolishing financial constraint, which has become one of the major concerns that threatens all our ideas.
- To increase job opportunities as the opening of the library will require a collaborative effort, from individuals with various career objectives and skills, ranging from social media programmers, electrical engineers, architects, interior designers, professors and teachers of various backgrounds, experts in cultural heritage.

Each department will be meticulously designed to provide and sustain an academically and interactive learning space which will be divided into:

- Children's Department
- Study Room
- Excursion/ Workshop Department
- Arts Department
- Conference Room
- Bathroom Facility
- Café/Cafeteria (Outside the library)
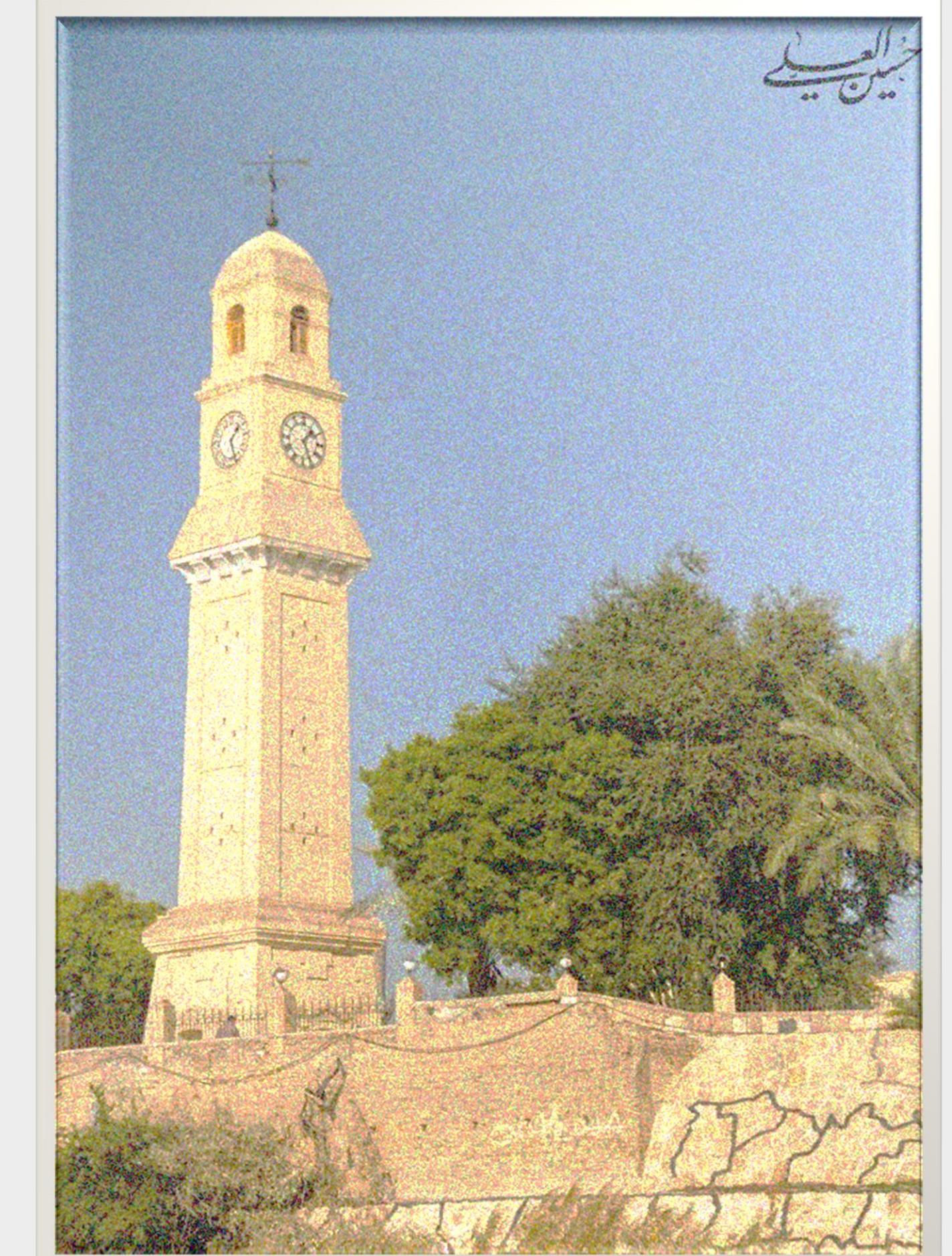
Promotion of the Project

Social media has become a ubiquitous network channel that can support and help in building one's business prospect. By using social media platforms, we can engage a larger audience and reach out to prominent Iraqi media influencers, who in turn, can act as our sponsors, or community stakeholders. With this foundation we can establish a local or state partnership with the community, schools, universities and other organizations that can help in building the community and promoting a positive attitude towards reading and Iraqi history and culture.

The geographical location of the public library represents an ideal community juncture; here a vast majority of Iraq's community gathers together on weekdays. It sits adjacent to the Tigris river, and the ferry rides, and is at close walking distance from the Mutanabi Street, where most salesmen sell a variety of novels, books, language learning material, arts craft and more.

Selection Criteria of the Project

The elaboration of the strategic plan largely depends on the approval by A) the Government and B) the Ministry of Cultural Arts. The public library (we hope) will obtain an annual grant-in-aid by the state or federal government. The fund can then be allocated into two separate divisions: the capital budget and the operational budget.

Capital Budget
(Irregular activities)
This budget will be utilised for prospective activities that include expansion of the project, renovations, maintenance etc.

Operational Budget
(Regular activities)
This budget will be utilised for day to day activities that include staff salary, tech support, cleaning and maintenance, heating and cooling etc.

If, for some reason, the government will rejects the proposal, an another option, however doubtful, may be to request funds from the state schools and universities to financially support and contribute to the building of the public library. This hypothesis is doubtful due to the socio-economic stability of Iraq's system, whereby the institutes themselves barely have enough economic resources.

Here we can provide a succinct summary of the criteria needed for the project. Firstly, the customers or local pupils can choose to issue a library card which give them an official membership. This process can be done by filling in a simple application form either in person or by phone; it will cost no more than $5 (8 dinar). This card will give them access to the following services:

- Free access to Wi-Fi.
- The loan of books for a 3-weeks period. If the book is unavailable, it can be ordered by the interlibrary loan procedure. The genre, language and subject of the books will be assorted to attract and meet the various interests of the members.
- The free use of desktops, and the use of printers/copiers and fax machines for a low charge.
- The special access to interactive learning material, websites, online research sources, language learning and tutorial apps, and other digital resources.
- The participations in workshops, study group classes (such as ILEPTS and TOFL), learning labs, interactive creative classes (online and in presence). During the summer holidays specific programs such as computer IT programs, writing workshops, photography and digital media workshops, book fair/festivals, painting and art classes etc.
- The help with homework and school/college projects.
- The speeches and lessons of guest speakers, either nationally or internationally, on health, life skills, computer programming, start-up business prospects etc.
- Technical support.

More services can be added, or changed depending on the community's needs. At the end of the day the Ama-Gi Qishla public library can become an ideal, friendly work space, ensuring a collaborative atmosphere and providing students, children, entrepreneurs, freelancers and business professionals with an array of services that will help in forging a supportive and strong community.