The site contains findings from a comprehensive study conducted by Northwestern University in Qatar in early 2013, to better understand the media of Qatar and provide a snapshot of media use in the Arab world. The survey was administered to around 10,000 respondents in Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates.

This study will contribute to a broader global effort by the World Internet Project that considers the growth and evolution of the Internet and various digital media in the context of publishing, broadcasting, other electronic media and interpersonal sources.

The survey assesses the extent to which people watch TV, listen to the radio, read newspapers, magazines and books, and use the Internet, as well as the extent to which they trust these sources of news and information. It looks at how and why people go online to communicate and conduct everyday transactions, as well as whether those habits supplant traditional media. It considers respondents’ appraisals of news reporting in the tailwind of the so-called Arab Spring, and how important various media outlets are in their lives. The survey reveals the extent to which people think media are truthful, reliable and trustworthy.

NU-Q collaborated on this project with Harris Interactive, one of the world’s most respected public opinion firms, to administer the study across the eight countries.

We created this interactive website with Column Five Media as part of an effort to make the data publicly available and easily accessible. Though we are initially presenting selected findings, we will make the full data set available in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we hope you take the opportunity to explore the extensive data that we have provided in the way that most interests you, as well as to access the key documents related to the questionnaire and methodology.

Among the key findings:

- Although Arab web users support the freedom to express opinions online, they also believe the internet should be more tightly regulated.
- Respondents in countries that recently underwent revolution trust media less than those living in monariches.
- Participants see an overall increase of quality in news reporting in the Arab world.
- 94% of social media users in the survey use Facebook, 47% Twitter and 40% Google Plus
- TV trumps the internet as the most important source of news, exept in Qatar and Bahrain, where the internet has taken top status.
We think you’ll find this site provides a wealth of information for better understanding of not only media, but also the implications for the political and cultural environment of this rapidly changing and important part of the world.