

The Cohesion Between Libraries and Historical Research; A Case of Libraries
Muslim's Historiography in Sub-continent (A Historical Analysis)

DR. SOHAIL AKHTAR SAKHANI
Department of History, Ghazi University D.G. Khan.
Email: sakhtar@gudgk.edu.pk

DR. RASHIDA QAZI
Department of Urdu, Ghazi University D.G. Khan.
Email: rashida_qazi@yahoo.com

DR. MAMUNA SUBHANI
Department of Urdu, GCUF.
Email: munasubhanni@gmail.com

Received on: 21-05-2022

Accepted on: 22-06-2022

Abstract

In the discipline of intelligentsia literature on various topic of research has been considered significant through ages while the best option to preserve the literature as a place of the documentary material i.e. books or other documents for research is library. In recent times, libraries have found a very high place in the field of historical research. This refers to a place where books are kept in an organized form by giving them a holistic form. By this we can also mean that the library is a collection of material that is helpful not only for study but also for research on various topics that can benefit everyone, including students, researchers and the general reader. The flourishing of knowledge is a reflection of full dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. Wherever knowledge is sought, blessings, blessings, good tidings and accomplishments are revealed. The establishment and existence of the library is very old in the history of the world, but from the time of Greece, the library gained a prominent place in the development of knowledge and literature. This research paper, in fact, clarifies and highlights the usefulness of libraries and historiography with books in the presence of modern scientific sources of innovation, as well as offers a historical analysis of the importance of books in this advanced age.

Keywords: Libraries, history, historiography, qualitative, Research, Muslims, Ind-o-Pakistan.

Introduction

This paper primarily deals with the importance of libraries in research. In history libraries found a basic tool in data collection and integral part for research. Therefore, the role and importance of library and its relationship with research and historiography is reciprocal. With the passage of time, in the world especially in Muslim's rule in India a network of libraries was promoted. The development of human civilization is largely a result of human love with knowledge and due to knowledge and literature man has reached on climax. In the process of literary development the books are to be considered the main sources of

knowledge in this world through ages. The protection of knowledge and art is hidden in books. The editing of books and their preservation was also necessary, so the existence of a library was born. Man's love to knowledge and as bibliophile he put the foundation of libraries. The historiography and library had great and reciprocal relationship not only from the early age to current age of information and technology. Writing and reading books not only led to knowledge friendship but also led to the establishment of libraries and the interest of the people. When Muslims became educators, the intellectual aspect of their scholarship and historiography spread the net of libraries. Historiography, research increased the location of the library during Muslim's rule in subcontinent.

Research Methodology

This paper is qualitative type of research, historic method of research has applied to compile it with the help of documentary sources as primary and secondary data containing books, articles, essays and newspapers.

Review of Literature

For this paper the most relevant literature of this subject and era was consulted as Islami Kutub Khany, Encyclopedia of Library & Information Sciences ,History of Leading Muslim Libraries Islami Kutub Khany, History of History, Tareekh Nigari, and many others remarkable books.

Discussion

Library is considered a physical place where books are kept.¹ While historiography is the record of human past, which man done. History has been considered an ancient subject of human activity, and so has the work of regularly preserving the work of historiography. The word history is derived from a Latin word "Historia" which means research, enquiry or investigation.² Historiography started from Greece and Herodotus a Greek is considered as the first regular historian of the world and he is called as the father of Historiography.³ The art and hobby of collecting books was also a feature of human nature. This interest led to the establishment of the library. We look several libraries in the ancient Greece as the Library of Plato.⁴ Thus an everlasting connection between historiography, research and the library was born in history. And this relationship became inseparable forever. The library is still an effective place and center for providing material for any research topic. Where the capital of science and literature has been safe for centuries and every possible scientific innovation and modern means of science could not eliminate the connection between the library and history and research. The evolution of historiography took place in Greece, where Hycuts and Herodotus laid the foundations for history. The same country also started the establishment of the library in Greece, an example of which is found in the library of Plato and Aristotle. Thucydides also worked on historiography and he had enough collection of books. ⁵ After the spread of Islam, when Muslim rulers became the educators of knowledge, this art flourished. In short, this research paper discusses the relationship between historiography and the library and its scientific usefulness during Muslim rule in the world. The formation off library is very ancient as we know Sameeri Library of Telloh had thirty thousand wooden tablets in 2300 BC, Barbarian Library Barsippa, Egyptian Library Ramises-II are very famous.⁶ In the

Roman empire the great ancient Roman Library of Cicero, Julius Ceasar Library, Octavfan Library, Vergil Library and Alpien Library are very famous. Similarly in Greek the famous libraries of Plato and Aristotle had thousands of books in Athens. While in Egypt Soter-I formed a big Library at Alexandria in 283 BC and his son Philadelphus promoted it gloriously. Later on in 240 BC there were more than five Lac books and it was the largest library of the age in the entire world.⁷

But with the arrival of Muslims in India, where their social and political conditions have changed, they also introduced their own scientific, research and cultural traditions. From Qutbuddin Aibak to Bahadur Shah, Muslims ruled here for about seven hundred and fifty years. The sciences and arts have acquired great art in the past. The education system and the extensive system of Madrassas, schools and mosques have been established for the development of scholarly activities. The rulers built magnificent buildings, seminaries, schools, hospitals and mosques in India. On the other hand, Muslims rulers were the great patronage of sciences and arts. In addition, he translated numerous literary and scholarly books of Hindus into Arabic and Persian. A large number of people came to the subcontinent who brought with them knowledge and experience and a reasonable number of books. A large number of books were collected in the royal libraries and books were used for their supply. He was very fond of collecting books of various sciences and arts in his libraries.

As the benefits of a library, there are three main aspects, the first of which is the collection of books. A library has standard, authoritative books so that students and researchers can benefit. The second aspect is also important to ensure the safety of the books and the third but most important aspect is the access of the readers to the books. Despite the first two issues, the third aspect is the usefulness and importance of the library and the main reason for the lack of interest.

Historical Perspective During Muslim's Era

During the early period of Islam no remarkable library was established but in 50 Hijrah Abdul Hakim Bin Umeru formed first Islamic Library, while Abdul Ullah Bin Umerr Bin Aas also established large library after 58 Hijrah. The Library of Khalid bin Yazid who was the first Chemist of Islamic era also established a vast library along with translation center, among other libraries, the Library of Imam Shabab Zahri, Library of Caliph Waleed bin Abdul Malik were famous.⁸ Libraries played a central role in the scientific and literary development of Muslims. Libraries in Egypt, Morocco, Baghdad and Cordoba and Damascus were prominent in the Islamic world. The House of Wisdom of Baghdad was a masterpiece of scientific progress. There was a collection. In Islamic India as in other parts of the world, it is considered commendable to compile, edit and preserve books and preserve them. In the Indian subcontinent, in the time of the Hindus in Pakistan and India, In the research and cultural fields, however, there is no significant presentation. After the advent of Islam, the Abbasid era was a golden age of scientific and literary development where a scientific, literary and research institute like Bait-ul-Hikma was established. He sent and wrote to the kings of the time that if they had a book, they should donate it to the court of Baghdad. He was a lover of Oriental sciences and philosophy. He spread a network of libraries all over Andalusia. He ordered that a library be established along with every Madrassa which should have high quality books.⁹ With Bait-ul-Hikma Library of Yahya Barmaki, Imam Muhammad Bin Hasan

Shebani,

The ruler of Muslim Spain Hakam-II, wrote a letter to the King of England and said that we had defeated you in wars and now competes with us in knowledge. Hakam was very fond of reading and he collected books from various places It is said that the number of books in his royal library was four hundred thousand. And there were seventy libraries in the city of Cordova to compare with him. The person who has written a book can meet me and he can reach the royal court without any hindrance. The author should be given a noble prize equal to the weight of his book, while as an author he would receive a monthly stipend from the state treasury. Thanks to these measures, the library became the largest industry in the city of Cordoba.¹⁰

Before the Muslim advent in India, the region was also considered the cradles of civilizations and there were also some libraries as mentioned by Fahian and Hevon Sang but Muslim rulers in Subcontinent were the custodian and patronage of literary development. They encouraged the historiography and Libraries in India and became the guardian of the intellectuals like Albaironi, Qazi Minhaj, Amir Khusrao and many others.¹¹

In this context, when we look, it is clear that books and libraries have a prominent place in Islamic historiography. The Umayyad period from 632 AD to 750 AD and the Abbasid period from 1258 AD, then the Fatimid period and so on in the subcontinent, whether it was the Sultanate period or the Mughal period. Were the patrons of, for example, the Delhi Sultans and each member of the slave family (1206-1290), the Khilji family (1290-1320), the Tughlaq family (1320-1412), the Lodhi family (1454-1526) and the Mughal family (1526-1761) had a high level of intellectual taste.¹² A library is an institution where human thoughts, experiences and observations are preserved in the form of books so that the thoughts of one person can be used not only by thousands of his descendants but also by the generations to come. The existence of libraries, that is, the arrangement of keeping books in a special place in such a way that they remain safe and can be obtained without any difficulty when needed, is in one form or another from the earliest times. Thus, libraries had been established in India, Iran, Greece, etc., even before the revelation of the Holy Prophet.¹³ It is also a historical fact that in the past we Muslims have been the owners of great libraries as a whole. Libraries are a mirror of a nation's intellectual greatness and intellectual insight. We have a wonderful history in this regard. Whenever the opposing nations invaded the Muslims, not only our bodies but our libraries also came under attack. The Tartars also built towers over the heads of the Muslims, but with that, our precious libraries were drowned in the rivers. He also did so that Muslims would remain bankrupt intellectually, scientifically and literary. In this regard, the poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal says;

مگر وہ علم کے موتی، کتابیں اپنے آباء کی
جو دیکھیں اُن کو یورپ میں تو دل ہوتا ہے سی پارا

Libraries are a constructive source of mental entertainment. In the world of books, man not only forgets his troubles but also expands his thinking. His footsteps are filled with pearls of knowledge as well as virtue because within him a consciousness of piety arises. The people of a nation who are endowed with a wealth of knowledge and grace are the first to preserve in the libraries the works of their forefathers which are endangered by the passage of time.

Is the one who knows how to protect his intellectual capital.

Every human being has his own preferences and tastes. Some like history books. Some are interested in literature, some in political literature. Some are fond of religious books. A library has books on various topics and that collection of knowledge is colorful. There are many books on the same subject and one can use all kinds of ideas on the same subject at the same time.

In this age of inflation, it has become difficult for the majority to buy new books. It is becoming increasingly impossible for a person to set up a personal library. In this regard, the importance of libraries is increasing. And then not one human being but hundreds of human beings, year after year, can quench their intellectual thirst with those fountains of knowledge. It is as if handling books, protecting them and storing them in libraries are an excellent charity. That is why people donate their personal libraries to national level libraries as donations so that after their death, these books will continue to spread their light and illuminate the paths of thought.

Books are the best companion. Man deceives man, but the book never deceives. Every single page of the book is clear, open and true. The book adds sweetness to the bitterness of life. But they can only get it from polite books, not from books that promote pornography that include lyric poems. The book is an excellent mentor, a kind friend and a trustworthy guide. The book is a beautiful expression of the greatness of the light of knowledge and the pen, and those who associate themselves with this source of knowledge and pen never go astray. Purpose Libraries are a national necessity, a blessing of solitude, a treasure of literature and art,

Libraries of the Sultans of Delhi (1200-1526 AD)

Libraries were also established during the reign of various Muslim rulers before the Mughal rule. The famous scholars, Sheikhs and sultans of that time used to spend a considerable amount of money to build libraries and provide opportunities for people to study. There was a large library in the monastery of the famous saint of Delhi; Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. His monastery was in Ghiaspur, a neighborhood in Delhi. His library was dedicated to everyone and every scholar could benefit from it without any discrimination. The Sultans of Delhi established a large number of educational institutions called Maktabas in various parts of India. Most of these institutions had libraries along with institutions of higher learning. The beginnings were made as some eminent scholars and writers came to India with him and engaged in scientific, research and preaching activities. There were more and more, including Al-Tutmish (1211-1236) who built a Madrassa in Delhi Serve till the time of the Sultans. This tradition was also continued by the Tughlaq family, especially under the patronage of Muhammad Tughlaq (1351-1388).

Nasir-ud-Din Mahmood (1246-1266 AD).

It is worth mentioning that the city of "Nasiriah College" founded by Sultan Nasir-ud-Din was spread beyond India. There was also a large library adjacent to this college. (1296-1326 AD) expanded the usefulness of the royal library by adding some rare texts, and the famous scholar, poet and musician Amir Khosrow (1253-1325 AD) was appointed superintendent of the royal library. A great historian, poet and writer as well as a musician, he set up six large libraries.¹⁴

Mohammad Tughluq's Library:

Sultan Mohammad Shah Tughlaq Kadarbar was a center of scholars, poets and writers. There were books on various sciences and arts. The king used to invite scholars and help them.

Feroz Shahi Library:

Feroz Shah Tughlaq during his reign initiated various projects for the welfare and public interest of the people. He established mosques, madrassas, schools and libraries. He was himself a scholar and writer. Feroz Shah was fond of books. He took a keen interest in the development and expansion of libraries. He established a standardized translation in his library, where translations from various Eastern languages into Persian and Arabic were done day and night. He opened the largest number of madrassas during the Sultan's reign. When he left, he declared the establishment of libraries with them mandatory.¹⁵

Library of Sikandar Lodhi (1489-1517):

Alexander Lodhi is considered the most capable, understanding and pious king in the Lodhi family. The Qasar-e-Shahi Library at that time had a large collection of rare and excellent books.¹⁶

Libraries of the Mughal emperors (1526-1761)

Babar's Library:

In India, Mughal kings, emperors and scholars established numerous libraries, so that from the founder of the Mughal Empire, Zaheer-ud-Din Babar (1526-1530 AD) to the last Mughal ruler, Siraj-ul-Din Muhammad Bahadur Shah Zafar (1837-1858 AD), all Mughal rulers had high intellectual tastes. He took a personal interest in the promotion and development of sciences and arts and the establishment of libraries. He took full part in their formation and construction. According to Tuzk-e-Babri, "Books used to stay with him even during travel. During the expeditions, Babar sent a collection of books to the royal library which he found. All these libraries of the Mughal period, the royal library of the Mughal emperors has been of historical significance. In addition to the royal library, which contained philosophy, mysticism and theology, he also had a personal library where he kept selected books of his own taste.¹⁷

Humayun's Library:

As well as being the son of a great conqueror, Humayun was not far behind his father in his superior intellectual jokes. Despite his political engagements, he was not unaware of his academic and literary pursuits. He was highly educated and an expert in various sciences and arts. He himself was the inventor of Astrallab Humayun, so on the upper floor of the library An observatory was set up. In his spare time, he used to recite poems and use the pseudonym Humayun. His Persian Diwan was present in Akbar's royal library. Humayun set up his library on the third floor of a three-storey building called Shahar Mandal in Shahi Qila, Delhi. This building also served as an observatory due to its height. Tazak Jahangiri) This library of Humayun is said to be rare because it contained rare and selected books on mathematics,

astronomy and astronomy.¹⁸

Akbar's Library:

After Humayun, Akbar (1556-1605 AD) ascended the throne, during which time there was a great development of knowledge. According to Jahangir, although Akbar was a scholar, he himself spoke like a scholar. Outside, there were books on various topics. Akbar's intellectual taste he was no less than his predecessors. He also set up a translation department, through which Sanskrit books were translated into Persian and a series of permanent writings and compositions also began, in which books were written on every art except history. Akbar himself was very keen on books. When he found a new book, he would ask for it from the librarian and in one night he would mark it wherever he heard. The next day I would start from the same place, until the book was finished. He had a large library inherited from his elders. In addition, during the conquests of Gujarat, Jaunpur, Bihar, Kashmir, Bengal and Deccan, he entered into his library a large number of books which became available to him from the libraries here. Thus Akbar's library became an invaluable treasure trove of rare books.¹⁹

Establishment of Libraries Department:

Emperor Akbar was so obsessed with the establishment of libraries that he set up a separate department for the organization and formation of libraries, headed by the Nazim, who was directly accountable to the emperor. Who was also responsible for the selection and purchase of books, their compilation and editing. In addition to library experts in this department, several translators, transcribers, scribes, painters, and volume makers and beds were also assigned to this department. An important task was also the responsibility of looking after the royal library and the public libraries of Delhi. It is written in *Akbar Nama* that "whenever a new book was found, he would ask for it from the librarian and listen to it. Akbar had divided the royal library into two places, one inside the Qasar-e-Shahi and the other outside the fort of Agra.²⁰

Library organization:

The royal library was initially run by Mullah Pir Muhammad, but for a long time it remained under the administration of Malik al-Shu'ara Faizi. The library was classified according to regular subjects. All books were divided into three sections: Poet, Medicine, Astrology and There were books on music, linguistics, philosophy, mysticism and geometry in the second part, and commentary, hadith and jurisprudence in the third part. Science and art books and journals are included in different categories according to the value and importance of arts and books in Hindi, Persian, Greek, Kashmiri and Arabic languages will be presented in terms of differences in poetry and prose. Smith has estimated the value of the library's stock at Rs 6.5 million.²¹

Jahangir's Library:

In the Mughal Empire, Emperor Jahangir (1605-1628 AD) is known for his humorous and scholarly tastes. In addition to the library, he also set up his own library. He used to take a small library with him when he went on a trip. Apart from this, Jahangir also expressed keen

interest in the expansion and development of royal books. This service was performed by Abdul Rehman Sheidai. After that, Mir Saleh son of Abdullah Mushkin Raqq was appointed to this post. The custodian of the books was Muhammad Shafi, An art gallery was also established along with the royal library in which famous and rare works of art were preserved. The number of books, pictures and antiques in this royal library was 60,000. The library is a priceless treasure of art, painting and books.²²

Shah Jahan Library:

Although Shah Jahan (1628-1658) was interested not only in architecture but also in fine arts such as poetry and music. Build mosques on a large scale and make regular waqfs with them to pay teachers' salaries and student scholarships. During the reign of the Shah, the royal library flourished and books on various subjects were added in addition to the history books. In 1662, the director of this library for a few days was Syed Ali, now Syed Jalaluddin Maqsood Alam bin Syed Muhammad Maqbool Alam. Shah Jahan's library had 24,000 books in a high quality volume. Experts like Etemad Khan and Syed Ali were appointed as moderators for the compilation and organization of these books.²³

Universal Library:

Aurangzeb Alamgir (1658-1707 AD) was himself the greatest scholar of the Mughal emperors. He was a pen-king himself and an expert in science, commentary, hadith and jurisprudence. I write only about one city, Thatta, where there were four hundred madrassas of various sciences and arts. From there, excellent, rare and valuable books have been transferred to the royal library, which also included 35,000 books by the famous scholar Sarwar Wazir Mahmood Gawan of the Mehmani family. Muhammad Saleh was the curator of the library and Mahabat Khan's grandsons Muhammad Mansoor and Syed Ali Al-Husseini were the superintendents of the library.²⁴

The last period of the Mughal emperors:

The invasions of European nations, the British, Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali (1748-1754) also caused irreparable damage to the royal libraries. Allah Dehlavi's famous Darul Uloom was indebted to him for his scholarly generosity. Similarly, the last Mughal crown prince Bahadur Shah Zafar (1837-1858) was also a fanatic of knowledge and literature. Later, the library was reorganized by the last rulers of the Mughal dynasty. The famous scholars Hazrat Shah Abdul Aziz and Mian Nazir Hussain Muhaddith Dehlavi used to use this royal library. William Meyer often referred to the Royal Library's supply of ruined books, which were distributed in various locations. Such books are still available in various libraries in India. The only source of our knowledge about the seals of the Mughal emperors and Nazim-e-Khana is the list which was published from London in 1809. The following are the number of books from Quran (44), Mathematics (75), Hadith (42), Sufism (56), Hindi Poetry (23), Arts (19), Astrology (20), There is also evidence that the Sultan made special arrangements for the supply of books for his library, and that he used to order books from as far as Europe, so on December 29, 1786, he wrote: Here is the information about the temperature in the Persian translation of this book. The author of "History of the Kingdom of God" to be presented in his presence says that he also had a special idea about the binding, writing and

painting of books. In this regard, he used to issue equal instructions.²⁵ To compile the best volumes for the pleasure of the Sultan, the volume makers wrote the names of Allah, Muhammad, Ali, Fatima, Hassan and Hussain to enhance the beauty and prestige of the books. After the martyrdom of the Sultan, when the royal palaces were searched, some books were found whose covers were made of diamonds and jewels. Sultan Tipu had spent ninety thousand rupees on decorating a copy of the Holy Qur'an.

(1) Babar, the founder of the Mughal Empire, was not only an expert in Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages, but also a poet. When he came to the subcontinent, he brought with him many excuses from the libraries of his ancestors.

(2) The Imperial Library received unprecedented momentum and development during the Mughal period, so that during the reign of Jahangir, the Royal Library had 60,000 books and rare paintings, as well as a gallery to display rare works of art.²⁶

Conclusion

The study provides positive news in that the library is revealed as playing a significant role in research. However, it will

be important for the library to anticipate shifts in researcher information seeking and sharing behaviour. International

experience suggests that researchers will use the library less and less for information discovery but will rely on its

expertise in organizing and archiving their research output.

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The above discussion concludes with this summary that libraries have always played a significant role in research. However, it will be important for the library to anticipate shifts in researcher information seeking and sharing behavior. Library is like a green and lush resort and flower garden like flowers and fruits. It is a river from which every person can quench his thirst for knowledge. Book has been playing a very important role in the training of humanity since ancient times. Today the book needs to revive the spirit of love, but the question is how much attention is being paid to highlighting the usefulness of the library in modern times. The usefulness of modern means cannot be denied, but the book is an effective source of knowledge and has been called the best companion of loneliness. In order to nurture the new generation, it is necessary to make a practical effort to save them from certain unconscious evils and bring them back to the book. In this regard, the role of teachers is key and they can attract students to the book. There is a need for a little interest in this regard. If students are encouraged to read a book instead of taking notes and are given a choice of research topic when giving assignments, they should be guided that at least these assignments should not be copied from the notes. If prepared with the help of at least five books, the demand for knowledge will definitely return to the book. In this way, it will become a habit to search for materials from the library, which will not only bring students back to the library but also revive the libraries. Settlement will begin. Similarly, the library staff should look after the interests of the students and ensure the supply of books instead of imposing their own will. Book protection can be ensured by placing a library card and placing students' bags on the counter outside, but access to books is essential. There is a need for us to revive the spirit of love for books because if we return to books, libraries will be populated and the population of libraries will be a proof of the spread of knowledge.

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