



## HISTORY OF ANCIENT LIBRARIES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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**Abstract:** *This article provides information on the organization of libraries in Central Asia, their activities, the collection and storage of works in libraries, and the work done by librarians in libraries.*

**Keywords:** *print, book, information, literature, service, demand, opportunity.*

The library is a cultural, educational and scientific institution that provides public use of printed and some manuscripts, which regularly collects, preserves, promotes and delivers printed works to readers, as well as informational and bibliographic work. . Reader service is the main activity of the library, and all other activities (accumulation, organization, replenishment of the book fund, etc.) serve the main activity. The main purpose of serving readers is to satisfy their needs for information and literature as much as possible. There are clear historical sources that there were large dynastic libraries and libraries under the mosques and madrasas in Central Asia. During the Samanids, science and culture developed in Movarounnahr, Samarkand and Bukhara. During this period, many famous encyclopedic scholars lived and worked in this country. The majestic center of Bukhara is located on the east side of a large square. At the entrance to the arch, the right path leads to an old building. Its thick walls protect the rich treasure. The Bukhara Library is one of the most famous libraries of the 10th century. At that time, the Bukhara library had a very rich fund and was the political and cultural center of Central Asia. The library in Bukhara is located in the Emir's palace and books are kept in science boxes. Only a reader could enter it with the permission of Amir Nuh ibn Mansur. Inside the library were a series of compiled boxes containing books, each of which contained a list of books. The works of Jolinus (Claudius Galen), a physician from Pergamum, who lived in the 2nd century, Archigen, Troyan Rufus, and Baulus from Alexandria (7th century), Roman physicians who lived in the 2nd century, have been preserved. In addition, Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya al-Razi (865-925), Ibn Musawaih, a court physician of the Abbasid dynasty, Isa ibn Ali (ninth century) from Baghdad, Isa ibn Yahya (ninth century), Indian physician Charak Hindi (first century), The works of the Jewish physicians Basrali Ibn Mosarjovayh (ninth century) and others. In another box were philosophical books, including the originals of Aristotle's works, their Arabic translations, and the Arabic translations of the Greek philosophers by Hussein bin Ishaq; The works of the philosophers Abu Yusuf Yaqub bin Ishaq al-Kindi, Abu Nasr al-Farabi and other thinkers who wrote in Arabic have been preserved. [1]

Bukhara, the capital of the Samanids, had many libraries and book markets. Large dynastic libraries also existed in Khorezm. Libraries were built in Urgench during the reign of Khorezmshahs, Mamuns and Anushtagens. The collection of books in the library of the king of Khorezm Mamun ibn Ma'mun began long before the arrival of the Arabs. King Ma'mun entrusted the management of this library to the famous literary critic and historian al-Solibi.

King Mamun II of Khorezm established the Mamun Academy in the palace, which brought together many scholars. In 1010, like all Khorezmian scholars, Beruni began to work here and met Abu Ali ibn Sina here. They will work together for a long time to come. Khorezm was inhabited by many scientists, and in the XI-XII centuries the conditions were good for scientists



to work in this country. Fakhriddin ar Riyazi wrote his encyclopedic collection of sciences (Sobraniye nauk).

Another Khorezm library is the Shahobuddin library in Khiva. "There has never been such a library before or since, because the collection of manuscripts in it was not inferior to the library in Merv", Nasafy said.

"During the Ghaznavid period, the libraries of large cities such as Khorezm, Hamadon, and Isfahan became the center of attraction for all talented and educated people in Khorasan", writes the great scholar A.A. Semyonov.

On the eve of the Mongol invasion, Merv had ten large libraries, and the library of the Aziziya Madrasa alone contained about 12,000 volumes of books. At the beginning of the 11th century, Mahmud Ghaznavi built a madrasah in the treasury. developed, great scholars and celebrities grew up. As much as Alexander Dhu'l-Qarnayn's mentor Aristotle was instrumental in making him a warrior, so was Alexander's disciple, who sent books from the conquered lands to Aristotle, who knew the secrets of the world while standing in Rome. Bukhara was a world-famous library until the time of Ibn Sina, and we know from history that this library caught fire later.

In the last quarter of the 11th century, the lands of Central Asia were separated from the Arabs and an independent Samanid state was formed, as a result of the division of the vast Arab caliphate into independent provinces in the ninth and tenth centuries. The formation of independent states led to a more centralized state structure and a decrease in feudal wars. It has contributed to the development of many industries and cultures. Scholars, poets, artists and other artists from all over the Arab Caliphate came to Movarounnahr. According to the famous Persian poet and literary critic Ibn Muhammad Saalibi, in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries, 119 poets lived and wrote in Central Asia and Khorasan, including 25 immigrants from western Iran and the Arab Caliphate. At that time, Samarkand, Merv, Urgench and other cities were more culturally developed, but the capital of the Samanid state, Bukhara, is of special importance in this regard. Many members of the Samanid dynasty sponsored literature, especially poetry and science. The language of the state's main scientific and literary administration was Arabic, but it was gradually supplanted by the local Persian language, and more and more literary works, including poetry, were created in Persian. During this period, secular culture, science flourished, and literature flourished. Many famous scientists have emerged in Central Asia. Born in the village of Afshana in Bukhara, Abu Ali ibn Sino (980-1037) created 450 works on medicine, mathematics, physics, astronomy, philosophy, ethics, rhetoric (rhetoric) and other sciences. lum. Researchers of Ibn Sina's work are still searching for new works and enriching the treasury of our spirituality. The great scholar Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, a contemporary of Ibn Sina, was born in Kat and became known to the world as a famous encyclopedic scholar of his time. His extraordinary diligence and unparalleled desire to unravel the mystery of knowledge, combined with his God-given innate ability, led him to great success. During his nearly eighty years of life, the scientist created about 150 important works, including astronomy and mathematics, geology, history, geography and other sciences. While Beruni called books immortal, his works were as revered as his own children. Noting the diligence of the scholar, his contemporary Shahrazuri Beruni wrote shortly after his death (1053-54):, and his heart longed to meditate. Only two days a year, New Year's Day and Mehrjan, were spent on food and clothing". [2]

Beruni studied spiritual culture with passion, loved books with all his heart, and his love and respect for books were born in him at a young age and have been preserved throughout his life. All the great scholars and thinkers mentioned above had their own libraries. In Samarkand, in the VIII century, the introduction of high-quality paper production helped to increase the number of libraries and rare books in Central Asia. 10th century palace libraries were characterized by the



creation of book collections. By this time, the palace libraries had begun to classify and preserve books. By the end of the tenth century, there was a division of labor in the storage of manuscripts and bookstores: there were managers (representatives), custodians (treasurers), supervisors (mushrifs) and others. [3]

The collection of these manuscripts, which were significant for their time, reflected different areas of knowledge in terms of their content. All publications were included in the relevant lists, on the basis of which the relevant work was searched. That is, the search engine was developed. The library staff took care not only of receiving and giving books, but also of their storage, repair and restoration. The Bukhara library, which at that time had a lot of books, very popular, it can be said without exaggeration that this library was one of the leading political and cultural-educational centers of Central Asia. Bukhara was a meeting place for celebrities, literary stars, and a place for scientists to meet and consult. The palace of the Emir of Bukhara also had a rich library, where books on some disciplines were kept in separate rooms in boxes. The great medieval thinker Abu Ali ibn Sina, at the age of 17, was a prominent figure in the field of medicine among the courtiers of the palace of the Samanid emir Nuh ibn Mansur. when I entered, there were chests full of books in each room. One room had books and poems in Arabic, and the other had books on law, and so each room had books on some kind of science. I read the list of books of my predecessors in science and asked them to bring me what I needed. I saw their names there, and I had never met them before. Then I read these books and learned the useful things in them, and I realized the level of knowledge of each author in his field of knowledge. " Based on this definition, it is possible to draw conclusions about the richness of the library, which contains information about the order of storage of books, a large number of rare books. The Khorezm kingdom also had rich state libraries. In the 11th and 12th centuries, Khorezm flourished in all directions, with the cities of Khiva, Kat, and Gurganj (Urgench) developing rapidly, with a large number of educated people. [4]

In about 1000, Ibn Sina also escaped from the war of dynasties and oppression of the Karakhanids. In Urgench, Fakhriddin al-Razi, a well-known scholar, completed an encyclopedia entitled A Collection of Sciences, which collected information on 57 different fields of science. The famous philologist and writer Abdulqasim az-Zamahshari lived and worked in Khorezm and was the author of major dictionaries and grammar books. The great scholar of the twelfth century, the physician Zayniddin Abu Ibrahim al-Jurjani, compiled a detailed medical encyclopedia.

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