**INTRODUCTION:**

The earliest known library was discovered in Iraq and belonged to the ancient civilization in Sumer. They didn't use paper books but instead wrote everything on clay tablets using a style of writing called cuneiform. These tablets are over 5,000 years old. The Library of Alexandria, in Egypt, was the largest and most important library of the ancient world. It was destroyed when the Romans conquered Egypt in 30 BC. Rome’s first public library was established by Asinius Pollio who was a lieutenant of Julius Caesar. Eventually Rome would build 28 public libraries within the city. When the Roman Empire fell in 330 AD, many books went east to the city of Byzantium where a large library was built. Other libraries were built in monasteries and public homes.

**IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARY:**

The prime purpose of a library is to provide access to knowledge and information. To fulfil this mission, libraries preserve a valuable record of culture. Then they pass down this to the coming generations. Therefore, they are an essential link between the past, present and future.

People utilise library resources in their work. They also use library resources to gain information about personal interests. Sometimes, they obtain recreational materials such as films and novels. Students use libraries to enhance their classroom experiences.

Libraries help students to develop good reading and study habits. Public officials use libraries for research and public issues. The libraries provide information and services that are essential for learning and progress.

This habit of reading can be developed only if we get into the habit of going to the library regularly, and spending a lot of time there. That is the place that provides just the right atmosphere necessary for studies, and assimilating and retaining all the knowledge taken it. The environment in a library is ideal for the intellectual growth of individuals.

This is the place where one can get unlimited stocks of books on any and every subject that may be of interest or need for an individual. A library is the place where one can spend hours of time fruitfully and filled with interest. One can learn so much by reading books authored by eminent writers and thus become knowledgeable.

**TYPES:**

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES:**



**A small public library in the** [**Seacroft**](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seacroft)**area of** [**Leeds**](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leeds)**.**

Many places have a public library, where anybody can join if they live in the area. With a library card, people can borrow books and take them home for several [weeks](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Week). It does not cost money to get a library card at most public libraries.

Books are kept on shelves in a special order so they are easy to find. Public libraries have a lot of books on various topics including story books and many others. Many public libraries have books and [CDs](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compact_disk) about learning [English](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language). Stories are kept in [alphabetical](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alphabetical&action=edit&redlink=1) order by the last name of the person who wrote them, the [author](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Author). Books about other things are often given a special number that refers to what they are about. They are then put on the shelf in number order. One number system used by many libraries is the [Dewey decimal system](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dewey_decimal_system&action=edit&redlink=1).

**ACADEMIC LIBRARIES:**

Many colleges and universities have large academic libraries. These libraries are for the use of college students, professors, and researchers. Academic libraries are used mainly for doing research like studying the solar system or how earthquakes happen. These libraries do not have the same types of books you would find in a public library. They usually do not have fiction books or books for children (unless they are being studied). Academic libraries can have many books, sometimes more than a million.

**SPECIAL LIBRARIES:**

Special libraries are those libraries that are not public libraries or academic libraries. They are usually small. Many times a special library holds books on a particular subject or even a special kind of book. Some special libraries keep just old books or books by Shakespeare. A special library can be owned by a business for use only by that business. For example, Disney World in Orlando has its own library that is not open to the public but for the use of the people who work for the company.

**REFERENCES:**

* [**https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library**](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library)
* [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library)