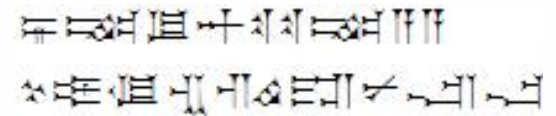# *Digital Libraries*

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Libraries

❑ Libraries have been developed very late in the human history

❑ Three main requirements have been necessary:
   ▪ Writing with letters (egypt, babylonia, china since 4000-3000 BC)
   ▪ Literature, which could not be conserved by aural repetition
   ▪ A society of literate, educated people

❑ Mesopotamian (about 3200 BC):
   ▪ probably the earliest written texts in the world written in Sumerian.
   ▪ Text was engraved in clay
   ▪ More than 100.000 tablets found so far
   ▪ First explorations by Peters and Hilprecht at Nippur/Euphrat (150km southeast of Baghdad/Iraq)
   ▪ All types of text (business & poetry)

Source: http://www-etcsl.orient.ox.ac.uk/, http://www.upenn.edu/gazette/0103/frith.html

Libraries

❑ Nineveh (Assyria)

- Founded 626 BC by King Assurbanipal
- Explored 1845-54 by Layard and Rassam
- Today: British Museum
- Tablets of size 24x16cm
- Famous: Gilgamesh

Source: http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Libraries

❑ Museion of Alexandria

- ▪ Founded 288 BC by Ptolemeus I
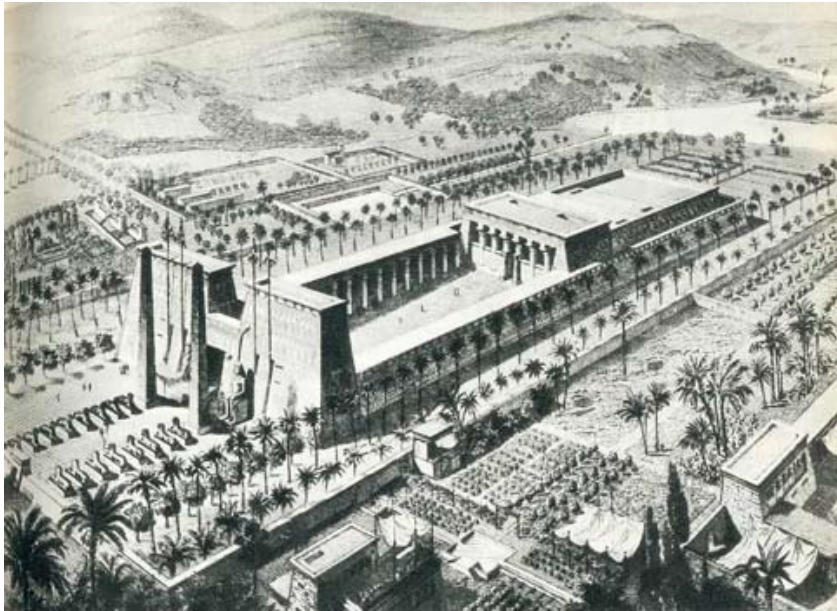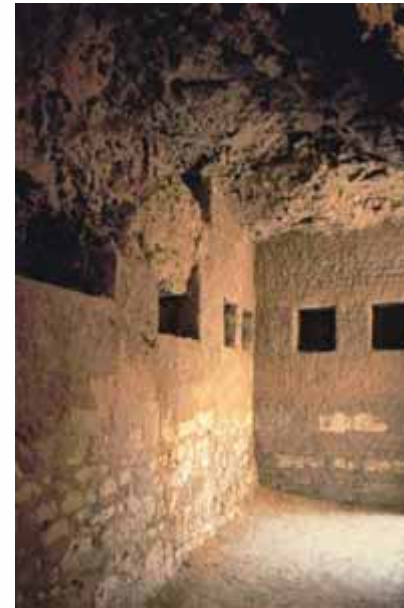- ▪ Meeting point for sages, thinkers and their students

Illustration of the possible impression of Edfus

Ptolemeus I

Source: http://www.bibliothek-alexandria.de/sites/neuebi_foto.html,
http://www20.wissen.de/material/wissen.de/specials/schuledesmonats/08bertha_essen/p_bibl20.htm,
http://imperiumromanum.com/kultur/bildung/bibliothek_alexandria_02.htm

Libraries

❑ The library consisted of a big collection of papyrus rolls

- ▪ Main purpose: collect everything! The library is called the first memory of the human society (approx. 900.000 rolls)
- ▪ Every ship that entered the nearby haven had to give the papyrus to the library and only got handwriten copies back (smart system!)
- ▪ An open environment for different cultures (greece and orient)
- ▪ Callimachus invented a sorting system, a catalogue for rolls allowing to search for topics and authors (the catalogue itself had more than 120 books)
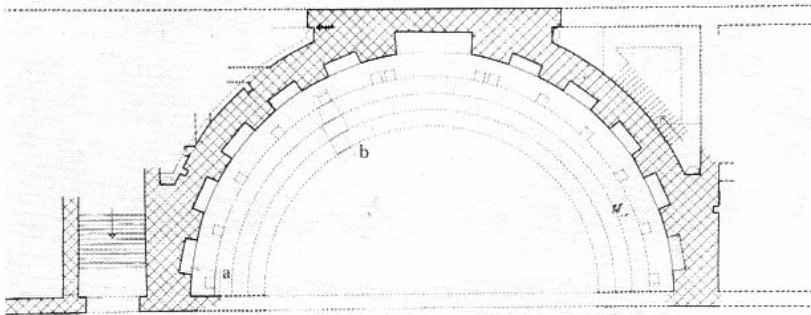- ▪ Kind of early university campus

Image Source: http://www.princeton.edu/papyrus/

Libraries

❑ Rome (39 BC, Asinius Pollio)

- In Rome, the first *public libraries* have been built
- Greek and latin books (stolen from greece – Alexandria)
- 28 libraries have probably existed in the city
- Only a few building artefacts are remaining
- Main principle: greece and latin departments
- Books in cupboards to have space for tables and chairs in the middle
- Greece libraries have been more archives, whereas roman libraries served the comfort of the users and were open to the public

Trajan Library Forum

Source: http://imperiumromanum.com/kultur/bildung/bibliothek_rom_04.htm,
http://classics.uc.edu/johnson/libraries/bath%20libraries/photo%20album/pages/trajan%20library.htm

Libraries

❑ Rome: Example: Trajan Library
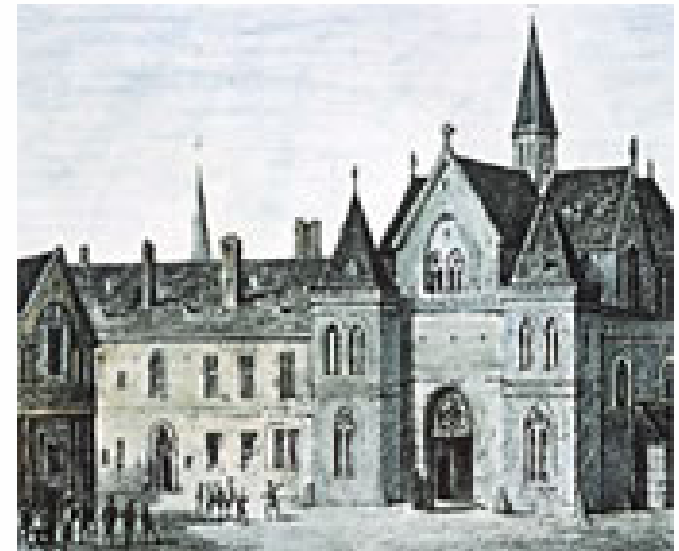

Trajan Library West Wing: Greek Books

Trajan Library East Wing: Latin Books

Source: http://www.getty.edu/artsednet/images/Trajan/index.html

Libraries

❑ Sorbonne (1257, Paris)

- Founded by Robertus de Sorbona as a theologicel college
- Intended to serve poor students at the Quartier Latin
- 1289 : 1017 books (28 desks)
- 1338 : 1722 books
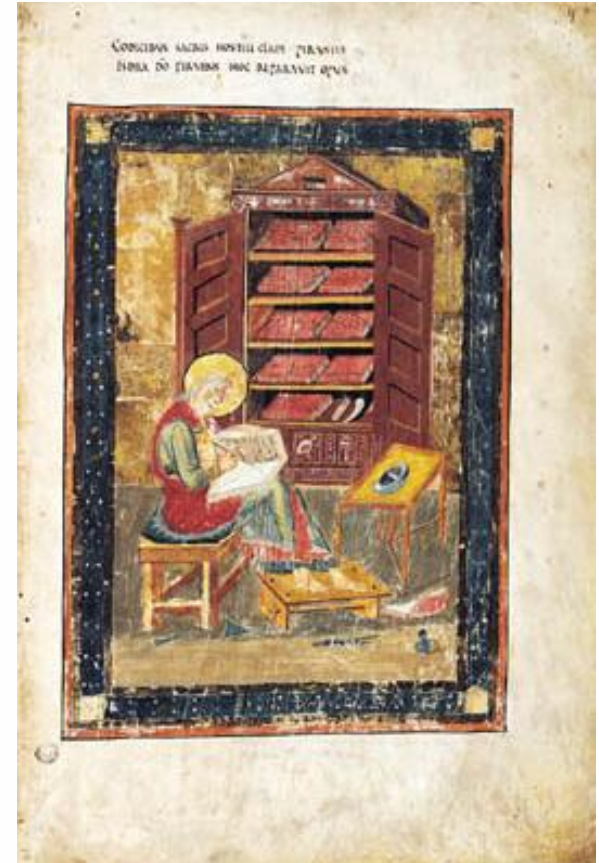- Books were chained to desk to avoid theft

Source: http://www.imarginal.com/education/antiquite_moyenage/1257.html

Libraries

❑ Medieval Ages in Europe

- Books were collected in monastries
- Collections were much smaller and *usually not public*

- Cupboard Libraries
  - Books are stored in closed cabinets
- Desk Libraries
  - Books are chained to desks to allow usage by visitors
  - Problem: almost nobody could read at that time, visitor circle quite restricted

Codex Amiatinus (A.D. 716)

Image Source: http://www.umilta.net/pandect.html

Libraries

❑ Libraries in Germany
  - Reading Circles („Lesezirkel", 60s of 18th century)
    - Private clubs with own rooms
    - High fees, therefore mainly high society (60-120 members)
    - Main time: 1770-1790, after 1789 partially forbidden
    - Changed to handcraft unions etc.
  - Commercial Rental Libraries („Leihbibliotheken")
    - Two classes
      - Scientific background (e.g. Leipzig with 70.000 books)
      - Trivial literature
  - Public Libraries („Öffentliche Volksbibliotheken")
    - First ideas in 1797 (Heinrich Stephani) and 1830 (Benjamin Preusker)
    - But no interest in the government for long time
  - 1886: Eduard Reyer (Vienna) and 1895: Constatin Nörrenberg (Kiel):
    - Visited US public libraries and started the movement for open book halls („Bücherhallenbewegung")
    - Main request: censor-free book collection, free access
    - 1898: first public library in Charlottenburg, Berlin
    - 1902: 179 public libraries in Germany

Hamburg 1899

Libraries

❑ Example: Lübeck Library

- Unique in Germany
- Integrated scientific and public library (since 1979)
- Building (Hundestrasse) from medieval age, 19th and late 20th century
- Today: about 1.100.000 media units

Scharbausaal (1617)
Former sleeping room of
Franciscan monastery

Mantelssaal (1877)
Neo-gothic construction
near the Scharbausaal.
Renovated 1992-1994
to create the originally planned
hall library with gallery.
Today: 8500 books

Reading Hall (1926)

Source: http://www.luebeck.de/kultur_bildung/bibliothek/geschichte/

Libraries

❑ Libraries today

- Everything is public
- Books are stored in open shelves
- Books can be rented by registered users
- Libraries are open the whole year (also in the dark and in winter ...)
- Additional features are offered: coffee shops, book shops, audio CDs, DVDs, etc.
- Problem:
  - Number of users is decreasing
  - Number of rented media entities is decreasing
  - Cost is increasing
  - Example (Germany): http://www.bib-info.de/bibliothekssterben/