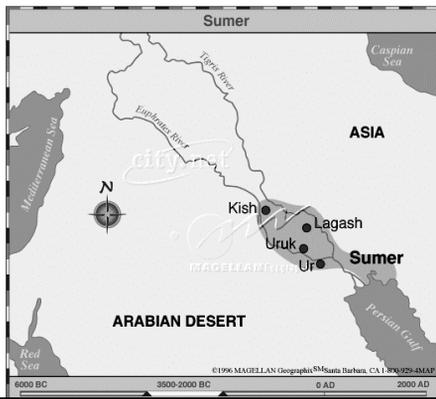


# History of Libraries

Western World

## Sumer



## Ancient World

- 3200 B.C. – Earliest known libraries
- Connected to Palaces & Temples
- Were called “House of Writings” or “Place of the Records of the Palace of the King”
- Mostly official records and documents

## Sumerian Information Technology

### Clay Tablets

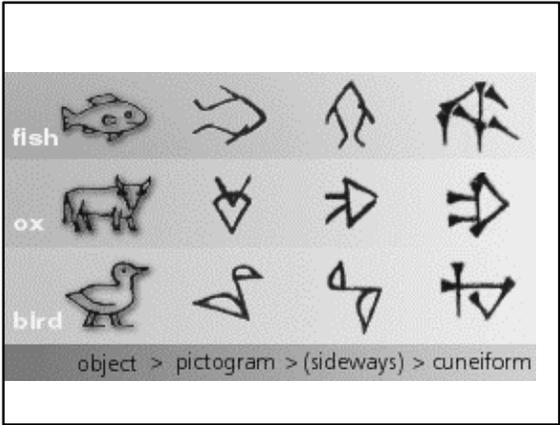
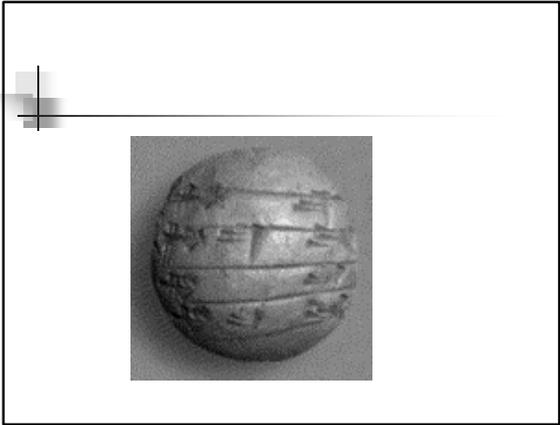
Written language was Cuneiform  
Cuneiform was the worlds first written language.

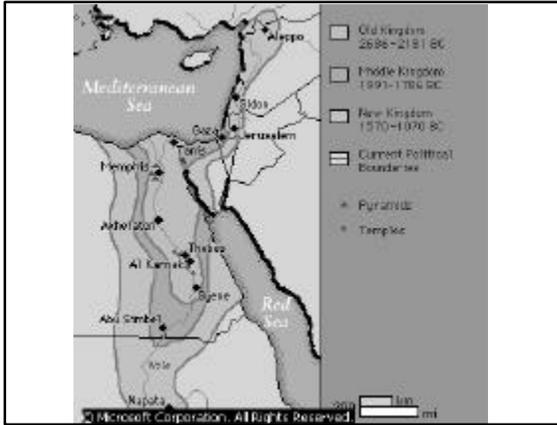


THE BETTMANN ARCHIVE



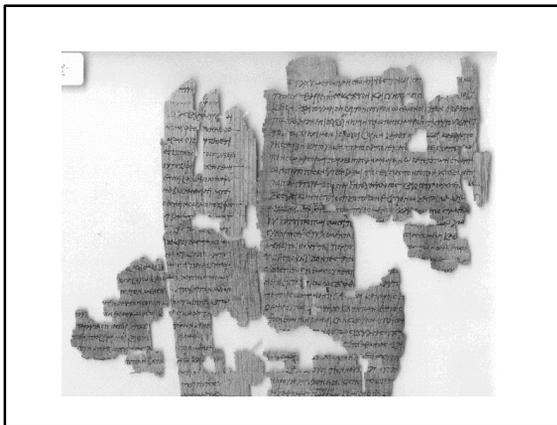
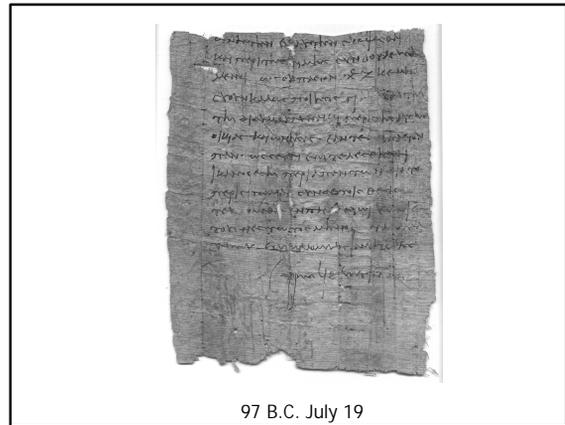
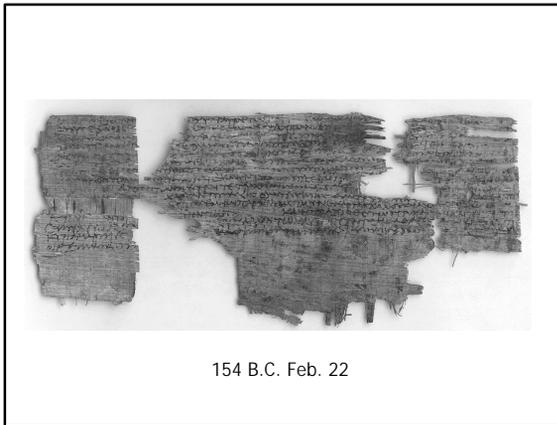
BAKED CLAY TABLET IN AKKADIAN CUNEIFORM, EGYPT, CA. 1400 BC





## Ancient World

- Papyrus
  - Made from the papyrus plant
- Written language was Hieroglyphics



## Hieroglyphs

ur	men	neb
mes	mer	su
bat	kheper	ra
sha	ka	

## Ancient Egypt

- First “Librarians” were called Scribes
- Literacy was so rare that even Pharaohs were not commonly able to read
- Their ability to read and write was considered mystical and spiritual

## Ancient Egypt - Scribes

- Trained in temples to read and write as young boys
- Apprenticed for many years (8-20) before becoming full scribes
- Had to learn as many as 2000 hieroglyphic characters

## Ancient Egypt

- 2000 B.C. – Literacy grows
- Wealthy began to develop private libraries
- Temples become places of formal education with communities developing around them

## Ancient Egypt

- Temple Collections
  - Religious Writings
  - Technical Writing
  - Histories
  - Literature
  - Practical knowledge specific to fields of study and work

## Ancient Egypt

- 332 B.C.
  - Egypt has been conquered three times, the last by Greece (Alexander the Great)
  - The Greeks seek to replace Egyptian culture, writing, & history with Greek culture

## Ancient Greece

- Literacy was widespread
- Developed an Alphabet

## Greek Alphabet

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

## Greek Alphabet

Alpha  
Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω  
Beta

## Ancient Greece

- 6<sup>th</sup> Century (500's) B.C. – First libraries in Athens and Samos
- 4<sup>th</sup> Century (300's) B.C. – Libraries in Athens develop around philosophical schools (Aristotle, Plato, Others)

## Alexandrian Library

- 331 B.C. – The city of Alexandria is founded in Egypt by Alexander the Great and named after himself
- Alexander leaves before construction begins and dies before it is completed



Alexander the Great

## Alexandrian Library

- Egypt ruled by Ptolemy family during Greek occupation
- 284 B.C. – Ptolemy I founds the Alexandrian Museum & Library
- Ptolemy II finishes building and develops the library collection using Aristotle's private library

## Alexandrian Library

- World's first great library
- Center of scholarship in Greco-Roman world
- Was considered a university
- Collection was built by force

## Alexandrian Library

- Royal Library
  - Also called Main or Inner library
  - In the Greek area of Alexandria
  - By 250 B.C. had approx. 490,000 rolls
- Daughter Library
  - Also called Outer library
  - In the Egyptian area of Alexandria
  - By 250 B.C. had approx. 42,800 rolls



**Demetrius of Phaleron**  
First Librarian of Alexandria

## Alexandrian Library

- By 260 B.C. – Had a library catalog which was divided into ten main subject areas:

Poetry	The Drama	Laws
Philosophy	History	Oratory
Medicine	Mathematical Science	Natural Science
Miscellanea		

## Alexandrian Library

- Also had an alphabetical author index which covered:
  - Name
  - Place of Birth
  - Name of Father
  - Name of Teachers
  - Nicknames
  - Bibliography

## Destruction of the Alexandrian Library

- 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C. – 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. the library is destroyed
- 47 B.C. – Julius Caesar (Roman)
  - Arrives in Alexandria to handle a dispute between Cleopatra VII and her brother/husband Ptolemy XIII over the throne of Egypt



Julius Caesar



Cleopatra VII

## Destruction of the Alexandrian Library

- 47 B.C. – Julius Caesar (Roman)
  - Caesar (53) becomes the lover of Cleopatra VII (16)
  - Ptolemy XIII attacks Caesar with an army of 20,000 men

## Destruction of the Alexandrian Library

- 47 B.C. – Julius Caesar (Roman)
  - Caesar burns the Egyptian fleet to make way for Roman reinforcements
  - Approximately 40,000 rolls sitting on the docks are burned with part of the Royal Library
  - Cleopatra VII has Ptolemy XIII murdered marries another younger brother

## Destruction of the Alexandrian Library

- Rome conquers Egypt and Alexandria loses its importance in the scholarly world
- A.D. 391 – Rise of Christianity
- A.D. 641 – Invasion of Islam

## Bibliotheca Alexandrina

- <http://www.bibalex.org/English/index.aspx>

## Monasteries

- By end of 5<sup>th</sup> Century Roman culture no longer dominates
- Dark Ages (500 – 1000)
- Monasteries begin collecting books
- Collected secular as well as Christian works against wishes of church leadership
- Monks were generally those seeking education not available elsewhere

## Monasteries

- 529 – St. Benedict started the Benedictine Order in Italy
- Established the Rule of St. Benedict

## Monasteries

- Rule of St. Benedict
  - Poverty & Communal Living
  - Physical Labor
  - Reading & Copying of Books
    - Books were copied by hand
  - Copiers were called Scribes
  - The order & the Rule spread throughout Italy, Gaul (France) and other parts of Europe

## Renaissance

- 1300's – 1500's
- Development of interest in ancient cultures, literature, and art
- Universities spread

## Universities

- In the beginning, students gathered around good teachers and attended their lectures
- There was no curriculum and no degrees
- Eventually students and teachers began to form guilds

## Universities

- Teachers formed faculties and obtained university charters from the king or the Pope
- The word 'university' comes from the Latin word 'universitas' which meant organized guild or corporation

## Universities

- Universities did not initially have libraries
- Teachers would have their own book collection that some students could borrow and/or copy

## University Libraries

- Earliest known university library in Europe was at the University of Paris in 1250
- The library was created by an endowment from Robert de Sorbon who gave his own personal library

## University Libraries – Univ. of Paris

- Over 1,000 titles by 1289 arranged into 10 major subject categories
- Eventually there was a reference collection chained to the shelves and a collection of copies for circulation

## Paper

- Invented between 100 BC – 105 AD
- Credited to Ts'ai Lun of China (105 AD)
  - A eunuch of the emperor Ho Ti during the Han Dynasty



## Paper

- Before paper, books in China were made from bamboo (heavy) or silk (expensive)
- Made from mulberry bark, linen, hemp, and plant fibers that is beaten, soaked and laid out on a bamboo frame to dry

## Paper

- 1150 – First paper mill built in Spain
- 1411 – Papermaking spreads through Italy, France and Germany
- Germans become finest papermakers in Europe
- Book production in Europe is primarily done in monasteries by hand or through use of wood engravings

## Johannes Gutenberg



## Gutenberg Bible

- Printed around 1454
- Also called the 42-line bible
- The first mass-produced book in Europe
- Approximately 180 copies made
- 48 copies still exist. Most in libraries and museums.
- British National Library has two complete books

## Gutenberg Press

- Early printers have difficulty making money and printed mainly religious materials as the church was a reliable source of income
- Gutenberg lost his press and other equipment to foreclosure

## Printing

- 1475 – Printing has spread to most of Europe
- Large cities such as Paris and London became the centers of printing as there were more customers
- 1539 - First printing press in the "New World" in Mexico City, Mexico by Juan Pablos

## Public Libraries – Europe

- 16<sup>th</sup> Century – Public Reference Libraries began to appear
- Most were religious or private libraries that were taken over by the government and turned public
- France – Over 8 million books were confiscated after the revolution (1792)
- Usually not well managed

## Public Libraries - Europe

- 1725 – First rental library in U.K. (Edinburgh)
- Rental libraries charged a fee to borrow books
- They were usually run by booksellers

## Public Libraries - Europe

- Subscription libraries
  - Began in late 1700's
  - Born out of book clubs
  - Wealthy men would form Lyceums (Reading Society)
  - The Lyceum would rent a room or hall to house books
  - Members paid monthly fees

## Public Libraries - Europe

- Subscription libraries
  - Liverpool Lyceum (1758)
  - Society Library of Dumfries (1745)
  - The London Library (1841)
    - <http://www.londonlibrary.co.uk/>

## Modern Public Library

Definition: A general library owned by the public and open to use by any citizen

## Modern Public Library

- Began in England
- 1847 – 1849: Committee on Public Libraries
- 1850 – Public Libraries Act
  - All cities over 10,000 may levy taxes to build and support a public library
  - 1877 – 75, 1900 – 300
- 1919 – County Library Act

## Subscription Libraries - US

- First American subscription library started by Benjamin Franklin
- The Library Company of Philadelphia
- 1731
- 40 shillings to join

## Public Libraries - US

- First public library – Peterborough, NH
  - Town meeting were they agreed to use public money to buy books and house them in the post office.
  - Not a lending library

## Public Libraries - US

- 1854 – Boston Public Library



Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section I. The City of Boston is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a public library, for the use of the inhabitants of the said city; and the city council of the said city may, from time to time, make such rules and regulations, for the care and maintenance thereof, as they may deem proper; provided, however, that no appropriation for the said library shall exceed the sum of five thousand dollars in any one year.

Section II. This act shall be null and void unless it shall be accepted by the city council of the said city of Boston, within sixty days of its passage.

March 16, 1848

## Public Libraries - US

- 1854 – Boston Public Library
  - 1870 – BPL becomes first public library system when it opens a branch in East Boston
- 1895 – New York Public Library
- 1889 – L.A. Public Library starts from Los Angeles Library Association, a subscription library

## Andrew Carnegie



## Andrew Carnegie

- 1835 – 1919
- Born in Dunfermline, Scotland
- Steel Baron
- Sold his company to US Steel in 1901 for \$250 Million
- Decided to dedicate himself to philanthropy

## Andrew Carnegie

- 1886 – Gave money to build a public library in Allegheny, PA
- If any city would agree to maintain a free public library, he would build a library building.
- 1920 – 1,679 libraries had been built in the U.S. from his money
- Carnegie Libraries of California