Introduction

When scholars of Islamic studies think of manuscripts in Arabic and related languages, they almost invariably turn to the great library holdings in the Middle East and Europe, forgetting that there are huge collections elsewhere, for example in India. It is estimated that in 2003, India possesses nearly one hundred thousand manuscripts in Arabic script spread over a number of libraries in various parts of the country. This number is in addition to what may be available in undocumented private collections. The Indian collections are renowned for the importance of many individual items, from some of the finest calligraphic and illustrated manuscripts of the Qur’an to autograph and other high-quality copies of major legal, literary, scientific, and historial works. Manuscripts produced in India but taken away illegally to Europe is another category altogether. Should various cultural properties of Indian Islamic origin found in foreign countries ever be returned to their place of origin, prééminence of many European museums and libraries would be diminished. For instance, most of the Arabic and Persian, and Urdu collections in the British Library are of Indian origin.1 Similar is the case with Persian manuscripts in France’s Bibliothèque nationale.2 Poet philosopher Allama Iqbal lamented the theft of Indian books in European libraries in a memorable couplet:

“Those pearls of wisdom, books of our race
Seeing them overseas makes my heart ache”

As recently as 1997, 750 volumes of Ismaili manuscripts of Indian origin were transferred to the Institute of Ismaili Studies.³

The manuscripts discussed in this essay do not include state papers available in Persian and Urdu in various state archives in the country. According to India’s Minister for Human Resource Development Murli Manohar Joshi, “an estimated 30 million manuscripts are scattered all over” the nation.⁴ A majority of manuscripts are in Persian, followed by Arabic and Urdu. A smaller number of the manuscripts are in Pushto, Sindhi and Turkish.

Present Conditions

Like libraries everywhere, public and private funds needed to build, safeguard and preserve book and manuscript collections in India are in short supply, leading to stagnation, thefts and deterioration of existing collections. According to one American scholar who used several Indian libraries:

“Let me also record here my sense of tragedy at what is occurring through widespread neglect of Indian libraries. I would not be surprised if many of the manuscripts I mention below are soon unavailable because of the rapid deterioration of resources that is taking place. The present political problems of the subcontinent make the situation much worse than it was in the past, when the climate was always an enemy of books (never before in studying manuscripts have I been so annoyed by wormholes and disintegrating pages). Most of the libraries I visited are directed by well-meaning people, but the resources for long-term preservation are often not available. I heard of several important libraries that have been or recently become inaccessible. Recent fires in two of these libraries, one of which was caused by communal violence and the other simply by neglect, destroyed many manuscripts that may well have been irreplaceable.”⁵

Published Catalogs and Lists

Given that many of the present libraries were founded during the British colonial period, many are called “oriental,” for example, the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library. To date I am unaware of a union catalog of manuscripts available in various libraries in India. Individual libraries have published their catalogs. Oddly, most catalogs for Arabic script manuscripts have been published and continue to be published in English transliteration, not in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Urdu. Given that each library and cataloger has used a different scheme of transliteration, there is bound to be endless confusion, unless the catalogs are issued in the language of the manuscript. A critical examination of these issues is by Nasim Fatima, *Urdu Makhtutat ki Catalag sazi aur Miyar Bandi,* (Karachi: Library Promotion Bureau, 2000). For possibilities of cooperative efforts among manuscript libraries, see the article by Abid Riza Bidar, “Regional Planning for Unearthing Knowledge Buried in Oriental Manuscript Libraries,” pp. 621–72, in *Third Congress of Muslim Librarians,* (Ankara: Department of Libraries and Publications, Ministry of Culture, 1989). In February 2000, India’s central government initiated a nationwide project to “prepare a comprehensive list of the manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu that are with the government, public institutions and individuals.”  

The project, called National Mission for Preservation of Manuscripts has divided the task of a union catalog preparation between three institutions as far as Arabic script manuscripts are concerned. Thus the Salar Jang Museum Library will work on the collections in southern Indian states and Maharashtra, whereas the Raza Library in Rampur, U.P. will concentrate on northern states, while the Khuda Bakhsh Library will focus on the eastern states. In addition to the libraries, the project will include listing of manuscripts in the dargahs, Islamic shrines, mosques and madrasas, religious schools. It is hoped that this will constitute the first major step in a national inventory of the manuscripts, leading to preservation and publication. Like libraries elsewhere, the Indian manuscript collections are in a poor state of preservation, compounded by inclement, humid weather extremely injurious to paper. An overview of issues faced by Arabic manuscript libraries in India is the subject of an article by a former director of the Khuda Bakhsh Library, Habib al-Rahman Chighani, “Mashriqi kitab khanah: masayil wa mustaqbal,” *Kitab Numa* (October 2000): 3–9.

---


**Access to the Indian Libraries**

Most Indian manuscript libraries are hard to access. All of the libraries have rules requiring registration of the users. The rules are harder for scholars who are not either graduate students or faculty. Once in library, one should expect to encounter problems pertaining to the actual availability of the manuscripts, even if they are listed in the catalog, and a delay before delivery of the requested manuscript. If the manuscript is really available, the reader will likely face problems related to reproduction of the manuscript. Copying in almost any form is discouraged. Fear of damage to the manuscript during reproduction process is understandable but often exaggerated. Deterred by the civil and international wars in the Middle East since the 1970s, many foreign scholars turned to the Indian libraries for materials in the Arabic script collections. Although all readers are welcomed, the time-constrained scholar will find the rules particularly discouraging. Each library’s rules for user access and reproduction of manuscripts seem peculiar and to depend on the availability of copying equipment. Interested scholars should begin by going through a historical overview of Indian collections and then peruse the entries on each library, arranged customarily by state. Users from abroad should get in touch with the library authorities to obtain the most complete information before travelling there.

**Historical Overview**

Steeped in the Persianate culture of Iran and Central Asia, the Delhi sultans patronized poets and scholars. The successors of the sultans were the Mughal emperors, some of whom were dedicated bibliophiles and patronized book production. The Mughal collections were destroyed and dispersed after the revolt of 1857. Some of the Mughal books were removed to the Royal Asiatic Society and the India Office Library in London. Like the Mughals, the sultans of Bengal, Deccan, Gujarat, and Malwa were also notable book collectors, as were their own successors the Nawabs of Avadh, Arcot, Bhopal, Rampur and Tonk, as well as the Nizams of Hyderabad. The tradition of book
production patronage and collection survived until the 19th century, when modern printing replaced manuscript production.


Surveys of Manuscript Collections

Three works cite catalogs and related information on libraries worldwide, including India. These are, beginning with the most recent, World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts, Vol. 1, edited by Geoffrey Roper, (Leiden: Brill, 1992). In Arabic a similar work is by Kurkis Awwad, Fuharis Makhtutat al- Arabiyah fi al-Alam, 2 vols., (Kuwait: Ma'had al-Makhtutat al- Arabiyah, 1984). See also A. J. W. Huisman, Les manuscrits arabes dans le monde: une bibliographie des catalogues, (Leiden: Brill, 1967), pp. 33–39; Fuat Sezgin, Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums, (Leiden: Brill,), vol. 6 (published 1978), pp. 350–359, and vol. 8 (published 1982), p. 300. While all of these works are useful, some of these union catalogs contain frequent inaccuracies. Instead of laboriously indentifying all of the errors, we present here rather an account of each library or collection. The account includes an introduction, citations of the published catalogs, number of manuscripts, citations on works published about the history or individual manuscripts of the library, and press citations to the present conditions. In addition to the literature cited here about each library, interested scholars should consult recent issues of the periodicals noted below.
Key Periodicals

Manuscripts of the Middle East is a periodical that should be consulted for the latest research on the subject of Arabic-script manuscripts everywhere, as well as the publications of Maḥād al-Makhtutat al-ʿArabiyyah, Cairo; Majid al-Jumʿa Center in Dubai’s Afaq al-thaqafah wa al-turath; Al-Furqan Heritage Foundation in London is also involved in similar activities. See its website: http://www.alfurqan.org

General Works on Manuscript Collecting


Indexes of Urdu periodicals such as *Aaj Kal* (Delhi), *Burhan* (Delhi), *Mavarif* (Azamgarh), *Nawa-yi Adab* (Bombay), *Sabras* (Hyderabad), as well as journals specializing in Indian history and culture are likely to reveal articles on individual manuscripts.

Listed below are specific libraries in various parts of the country geographically divided first by state and then by city.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

**Andhra Pradesh Government**

Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute (OMLRI)

Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad 500 007

Introduction:


Number of manuscripts: 23,000.
Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Present Conditions:

“Memorandum On Oriental Manuscripts Library, Hyderabad,” *Radiance* 23–29 August 1987, p. 4. The memorandum submitted by the Islamic Service Society to the government of Andhra Pradesh speaks about lack of staff for the Arabic script manuscripts. Evidently matters have not improved at the library since the memorandum was submitted: See “State on Verge of Losing 17,000 Rare Manuscripts,” *Dec-

**Andhra Pradesh State Archives**

Tarnaka, Hyderabad 500007

Introduction:
The State Archives was established in the 18th century in the Nizam’s Dominion through the merger of various departmental depositories. It has a large collection of state papers in Persian and Urdu, but fewer manuscripts. The present institution and building dates from 1956 and 1965, respectively. An introduction is found in Archival Organization and Records Management in the State of Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad: Government of Andhra Pradesh, 1980), as well as in A Guide to Persian and Urdu Records Preserved in Andhra Pradesh State Archives and Research Institute, edited by Syed Dawood Ashraf, (Hyderabad: AP State Archives, 1993)

Works on history or individual manuscripts:

**Andhra Pradesh State Museum**

Public Gardens, Hyderabad 500001

Introduction:
The Museum was established in 1930 as the Hyderabad State Museum. The name was changed in 1956 to the present name. An official introductory text is by P. Joginaidu, A. P. State Museum (Hyderabad: The Government of Andhra Pradesh, 2000)

Number of manuscripts: 117.

Catalog(s):

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


**Government Nizamiya Tibbi College**
Charminar, Hyderabad 500002

Introduction:


Catalog(s):


**Idarah-yi Ihya al-Ma'arif al-Numaniya**
Jalal Kucha
Hyderabad 500002

Introduction:

It was established by Abu al-Wafa al-Afghani, a scholar from Afghanistan domiciled in Hyderabad. He passed away in 1976. This institution contains several manuscripts, as yet uncataloged or listed.
Idarah-i Adabiyat-i Urdu
Iwan-i Urdu, Panjagutta
P.O. Somajiguda, Hyderabad 500482

Introduction:

The Idarah was established in 1931 by Sayyid Muhi al-Din Qadiri Zor and his colleagues. Besides Urdu, it has manuscripts in Arabic and Persian. An official introductory text is in Yadgar-i jashn-i simin (Hyderabad: The Idarah, 1955), as well as in the catalog noted below.

Number of manuscripts: 1,426

Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Institute of History of Medicine
Osmania Medical College Building
Residency, Hyderabad 500001

Introduction:

Jamia Nizamiya
Shibli Gunj, Hyderabad 500002
Website URL: http://www.jamianizamia.org/
(Not to be confused with the Government Nizamiya Tibbi College, noted above)

Introduction:
Number of manuscripts: 1164

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Kutub Khanah-i Rawdat al-Hadith
Rain Bazaar, Hyderabad 500023

Introduction:
It is under the control of Muslim Waqf Board. The collection is housed in a building inappropriate for the purpose.
Number of manuscripts: 800.
Catalog(s): None at present.

Works on the history or individual manuscripts:

Present conditions:
Although the A.P. State Waqf Board is supposedly in charge of the collection, the Board’s negligence led to its near destruction as reported in Siyasat 11 January 1982, and 25 January 1982.

Mecca Masjid Library
Charminar, Hyderabad 500002

Introduction:
The premier mosque of Hyderabad was founded in 1617. Like most other jama masjids, the Mecca mosque probably always had a collection of books, if not a separate, designated space for storing books. The

**Osmania University Library**

Osmania University Campus
Hyderabad 500007

Introduction:

The University was established in 1918, and the library was located in the College of Arts. Since 1963, it is housed in the present purpose-built facility. An official introductory text is on [http://www.osmania.ac.in](http://www.osmania.ac.in)

Number of manuscripts: 3,418

Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Saidiya Library
5–6–175 Aghapura, Hyderabad 500001
Website URL: http://business.vsn.com/netcity/sayeedia.htm

Introduction:

The library was founded by Mufti Muhammad Said Khan, (1831–95), a judge of Hyderabad High Court. It was opened in 1935 by members of the Mufti Said Khan’s family. It used to be located in the Jam Bagh/Troop Bazaar in the heart of the city. However, on 9 September 1984, a mob of crazed fanatics burned down a portion of the library, destroying a number of precious manuscripts. Since then it is located in the private home of Mr. Ahmad Ataullah. For an earlier introduction see, Muhammad Ghawth, “Kutub Khanah-yi Saidiya,” Marif (Azamgarh) January 1936: 33–45. An official introduction is found in the catalog noted below.

Number of Manuscripts: 3,141.

Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

For accounts of the attack on the library in 1984, see Munir Ahmad Siddiqi, “Kutub khanah-i Saidiya,” Siyasat 13 October 1984; and the comment of Narayana Rao on Siddiqi’s article lamenting the destruction published in the same newspaper dated 21 October 1984.

**Salar Jang Museum and Library**
Hyderabad 50002
Website URL: [http://www.salarjungmuseum.com/](http://www.salarjungmuseum.com/)

**Introduction:**


Number of manuscripts: 10,000

**Catalog(s):**


Work on history or individual manuscripts in the library:


**Other Collections and Institutions**

There are/were a number of collections whose present whereabouts are unknown, see for example, *Catalogue of the Arabic, Persian Books and Manuscripts in the Library of the Nawab Fuglsuf Jang*, edited by Abu Yusuf Muhi ad-Din Husain Farooqi, (Hyderabad: Shamsi Press, n.d.) No one seems to know what happened to this Library. Similar is the case with *Fihrist-i matbawat wa-makhtutat Kutub Khanah-i Haydari*, edited by Shaykh Abu al-Qasim, (Hyderabad, 1354 Fasli).

Davirat al-Mavarif al-Osmania is an institution established to edit and publish Arabic manuscripts written between 6th to the 14th century CE or first to the eighth century H. It was established in 1888. Since 1944 it is affiliated with Osmania University, and located on the University campus in its own building since 1963. The best introduction to this institution is written by Abd al-Muid Khan, “Davirat a-Mavarif

Special Note: In the [Abdul] Razzaq Manzil, in Nampally, is located the Haj House, where there was a library containing manuscripts and rare books, see the report, “Haj House Eats Up Library, Lets Books Rot,” Deccan Chronicle Monday 30 September 2002, http://Deccan.com/city/city2.shtml accessed on that date.

BIHAR
Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library
Ashok Raj Path, Patna 800 004
Website URL: http://www.kblibrary.org/oriental.htm

Introduction:


Number of manuscripts: 21,000.

Catalog(s):

Mahbub al-bab fi tarrif al-kutub wa al-kuttab, by Khuda Bakhsh, (Hyderabad, 1314 A.H./1896 or 1897; reprinted by the Library, 1991); Catalogue of Arabic and Persian Manuscripts in the Oriental Public Library at Bankipore, 34 volumes, edited by Azim al-Din Ahmad et al. (Calcutta and Patna: The Library, 1980). For a comment on

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Present conditions:

centenary in 1991; see the report “Khuda Bakhsh Library ka jashn-i
10. For the state of preservation see the account by a former di-
rector Abid Riza Bidar, “The Preservation of Islamic Manuscripts in
India,” pp. 15–19, in The Conservation and Preservation of Islamic
Manuscripts, edited by Yusuf Ibish, (London: al-Furqan Islamic Her-
itage Foundation, 1996). The most recent accounts of the library is
and Other Medieval Texts . . .” India Today 12 April 2002: 8; “Khuda
Bakhsh Library in Dire Straits,” Islamic Voice (Bangalore) April 2003,
http://islamicvoice.com/april.2003/community.htm#kbl

Other Collections

Kutub Khanah-yi al-Islah Dasna, Patna, was established in 1899. See
Abd al-Qawi Desnawi, Ek aur Mashriqi Kutub Khanah (Dasna:
Jamiat al-Tulaba, 1954). Syed Hasan Askari, the well-known scholar
in his article, “A Rare and Unique Eighth Century Arabic Manuscript
on Embassies and Amanuences of the Prophet of Islam,” Indo-Iranica
Sayyid Mazhar Husain, Waqf Diwan Nasir Ali Library in village Ki-
jhua, district Saran, and the library of Raja Pyare Lal Ulfati of Patna
who had significant number of manuscripts, though they were left in
the hands of descendants unfamiliar with Urdu, or Arabic and Per-
sian. Syed Hasan Askari wrote two articles dealing with manuscripts
in places not known, see “Historical Contents of a Newly-Discovered
Persian Manuscript,” Indian Historical Records Commission Proceed-
ings 16 (1939): 179–187; and “Fragments of a Newly Discovered Persian
Manuscript by a Hindu News Writer,” Indian History Congress Pro-
ceedings 12 (1949): 270–273. See also the following articles, Mahmud
Sher, “Azimabad, Patna ke Ghayr Maaruf Kutub Khaneh,” Mawarif
(Azamgarh) (January 1914): 46–52; Abu Salma Shaafi Ahmad, “Ku-
tub Khanah-yi Shakranawa,” Barhan (Delhi) 38, no. 1; Sayyid Abd
al-Rauf Nadwi, “Chand Kitabon ke Qalami Nuskhe,” Mawarif (Azam-
garh) (August 1947): 130–136, which is about the collection of Shaykh
Nur Ali in Sahsaram, Bihar.
Introduction


**Anjuman-i Tarraqi-yi Urdu Library**

212 Rouse Avenue
New Delhi 110002

Introduction:

The Anjuman is the leading organization for the non-official promotion of Urdu language and literature. It was founded in 1903 as a unit within the Muslim Educational Conference. It moved to Aurangabad in 1912, then to Delhi in 1936, then to Aligarh in 1947, and then back again in the 1970s where it started. Its new building has been constructed on a site provided by the central government of India.

Catalog(s):

Dargah of Shah Abu al-Khayr
New Delhi 110006

Introduction:
This is the private collection of Mawlana Abu al-Hasan Zayd Faruqi. An obituary notice on the Mawlana appeared in Radiance 19–25 December 1993: 12.

Catalog:

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Ghalib Academy
Hazrat Nizamuddin
New Delhi 110013

Introduction:
The Academy is dedicated to the life and works of Mirza Asad Allah Khan Ghalib (1797–1869), the eminent Persian and Urdu poet.

Catalog(s):

Hardayal Municipal Public Library
Near Town Hall
Near Old Delhi Railway Station
Delhi 110006

Introduction:
Hardayal Municipal Public Library was set up in 1862 and is considered the oldest public library in Delhi. In early twentieth century, it was called Hardinge Public Library. After independence, it was named as the Hardayal Library after a freedom fighter.

Catalog(s):
Fihrist-i nuskhah′ha-yi khatti-i Farsi-i Kitabkhanah-iumum-i Har- dayal (New Delhi: Markaz-i Tahqiqat-i Farsi, Rayzani Farhang-i Jumlihuri-i Islami-i Iran, 1999)
Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Indian Council for Cultural Relations Library
Azad Bhavan
Indraprastha Estate
New Delhi 100002

Introduction:

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations Library was established in 1950 as the premier Indian institution for the exposition of Indian culture.

Number of manuscripts: 140

Catalog(s): None

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Hakim Muhammad Said Central Library
Jamia Hamdard
Tughlaqabad, New Delhi 100062

Introduction:


Number of manuscripts: 3619.

Catalog(s):

Fihrist-i kutub-i qalami shubah-i makhtut: Arabi, Farsi, Urdu, edited by M. al-Mahdi Jaafari (Delhi, 1360); A Catalogue of Arabic and Per-

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


National Archives of India Library
Janpath, New Delhi 110001
Website URL: http://nationalarchives.nic.in/

Introduction:

Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 100

National Museum of India Library
Janpath, New Delhi 110001
Website URL: http://www.nationalmuseumindia.org/

Introduction:


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


**Zakir Husain College Library**

Ajmeri Gate

Jawaharlal Nehru Road

Delhi 110006

Introduction:

The College is probably the oldest in Delhi. It began as the Madrasa of Ghazi al-Din Khan, a Mughal grandee, who founded the school in 1796. During the three centuries the Madrasa became Anglo-Arabic school and then Delhi College. It changed the name sometime after independence.


**Zakir Husain Library**

Jamia Millia Islamiya

Jamia Nagar

New Delhi 110025

Website URL: [http://jmi.nic.in/ZHL/Zhlibrary/htm](http://jmi.nic.in/ZHL/Zhlibrary/htm)

Introduction:

The Jamia Millia Islamiya itself was established in 1920 in Aligarh, then moved to Delhi in 1925. The library dates from 1972.

Number of manuscripts: 2,500

Catalog(s):

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


**Other Institutions**

**Noor Microfilm Center**

The Noor Microfilm Center, named after Qadi Nur Allah Shustari (d. 1610), an Iranian-Indian theologian, and established in the 1980s, seeks to revive cultural realtions between India and Iran. To this end, it has begun an extensive program of cataloging and microfilming of manuscripts. The moving spirit behind this effort is Dr. Mahdi Khwajapiri, an Iranian scholar resident since the 1980s in New Delhi. See the website [http://www.Noormicrofilmindia.com](http://www.Noormicrofilmindia.com).

**GUJARAT**

**Ahmadabad**

**Dargah Hazrat Pir Muhammad Shah Library**

Pir Muhammad Shah Road

Pankore Naka

Ahmadabad 380001

Introduction:


Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 2000

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Shaykh Farid al-Din Burhanpuri, d. 1998, “Kutub khanah-yi Dargah Hazrat Pir Muhammad Shah,” *Nawa-i Adab* (October 1955); Mohamed

Gujarat Vidya Sabha & B. J. Institute of Learning
H. K. Arts College Campus
Ashram Road
Ahmadabad 380009

**Introduction:**

**Catalog(s):**


Number of manuscripts: 416 in three collections.

**Other Collections:**


Navsari
First Dastur Meherji Rana Library
Navsari
Contact information may be had of Unesco House
B 5/29 Safdar Jang Enclave
New Delhi 110029
Website URL: http://www.unescoparzor.com/librar.hyml

Introduction:
Descriptive Catalogue of All Manuscripts in the First Dasture Meherji Rana Library, edited by B. N. Dhabar,(Bombay, 1923)
Number of manuscripts: 145

Surat
Al-Jam‘iat al-Sayfiyah
Devdi Mubarak
Zampa Bazaar
P.O. Box 392
Surat 395003

Introduction:
This Arabic Academy in Surat is the principal institution for the religious education and training of the Dawoodi Bohras. Established in 1814, it houses some of the most rare manuscripts of the Fatimid and Yemenite periods of Ismaili history. An introduction is found in http://members.tripod.com/aliangerrasheed/jamea.htm; and “Al-Jam‘aat-us-Safiyyah Arabic Academy,” Muslim India (December 1985): 556.

Vadodara (new/old name of Baroda)
Alawi Bohra Library
Mazun al-Dawah al-Alawiyah
Al-Wazarat al-Alawiyah
Badri Mahalla
Vadodara 390017

Introduction: Contains several hundred Ismaili manuscripts.
Other Collections:
Jamsheed Cawasji Katrak, Oriental Treasures: Being Condensed Tabular Descriptive Statement of Over 1,000 Mss. . . in Iranian and Indian Languages . . . in Private Libraries of Parsis in Different Parts of Gujarat (Bombay, 1941)
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Center for Central Asian Studies
Research Library
University of Kashmir
Hazratbal, Srinagar 190006

Introduction: The Center is a unit within the University of Kashmir.

Catalog(s):

Fihrist-i makhtutat, Risarch librairi, edited by Ghulam Rasul Bat,
(Srinagar: Center for Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, 1989)

Jammu & Kashmir Islamic Research Center
P.O. Nowshera
Srinagar 190001

Introduction: The Center was established in 1996 by Abdur Rahman Kondoo, a lawyer.

Number of manuscripts: Several thousand.

Works about the history or individual manuscripts in the library:


Research and Publications Department

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Srinagar

Introduction:


Catalog(s):

Sir Pratap Singh Museum
Lalmandi
Srinagar 190008

Introduction:


KARNATAKA
Archæological Museum
Bijapur 587138

Introduction:

The Archæological Museum contains artifacts relating to the Adil Shahi dynasty that ruled Bijapur from 1518–1686.

Catalog(s):


Oriental Research Institute
Mysore 570001

Introduction:

Catalog(s):


Other Collections:

The Adil Shahi dynasty’s royal library was located in Bijapur’s Athar Mahal, which is still extant. When the city came under the British rule in the late 18th century and became part of the Bombay Presidency, the library came to the attention of the colonial authorities. See *Selecions from the Records of the Bombay Government*, no. XLI (New Series) 1856, pp. 213–242. P. M. Joshi’s “Ali Adil Shah and His Royal Librarian: Two Ruqas,” *Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal

The library of Tipu Sultan, (1753–99), the ruler of Mysore met a fate similar to that of the Adil Shahi library. See Charles Stewart, A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental Library of the late Tipoo Sultan of Mysore (Cambridge, 1809); Hidayat Hosain, “The Library of Tipu Sultan,” Islamic Culture 15 (1940): 139–167; and S. C. Sutton, Guide to the India Office Library, (London: India Office Library, 1967). However, some portions of Tipu’s library was moved to Calcutta’s Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1808, see the Asiatic Society’s website: http://www.indev.nic.in/asiatic/Library/index.htm


MADHYA PRADESH

Maulana Azad Central Library
State Archives
Old Secretariat
Bhopal 462001

Introduction:
This is the private library of the former rulers of Bhopal, and named after Hamidullah Khan, the last Nawab. In 1955, the Library was renamed after Maulana Azad. See an early introduction by Sayyid Sulayman Nadwi, “Kutub Khanah-yi Hamidiyah,” Marif (Azamgarh) December 1936: 405–411. In 2002, it moved from its location on Itwara Road to the present site.

Catalog(s):
Fihrist-i nuskhah′ha-yi khatti-i kitabkhana-yi Hamidiyah-i Bhopal, edited by Syed Ahmad Husayni, (Delhi: Markaz-i Tahqiqat-i Zaban-i Farsi dar Hind, 1986); “Fihrist-i makhtutat-i Farsi, Hamidiyah Library Bhopal” (Patna: Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, 1995), a typescript listing Arabic, Persian, and Urdu manuscripts in the present writer’s possession.

National Archives of India
Regional Office
Civil Lines
Bhopal 462002

Introduction: Contains some Persian manuscripts.

Sitamau, Mandsaur

Shri Raghubir Sinh Library
Shri Natnagar Shodh-Samsthan
Sitamau, Mandsaur 458990

Introduction:

Catalog(s):
A Handlist of Important Historical Manuscripts in the Raghubir Library, edited by Raghubir Sinh, (Sitamau: The Library, 1949); A Cata-

Works about the Individual Manuscripts and the History of the Library:


Vikram Kirti Mandir
Vikram University
Scindia Oriental Manuscripts Library
Ujjain 456010

Introduction: The library has a number of Arabic and Persian manuscripts. Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts Collected till the End of March 1935 and Preserved in the Oriental Manuscripts Library, Ujjain (Gwalior, 1936)

MAHARASHTRA

Balapur, Akola
Khanqah-i Naqshbandiyah
Balapur, Akola 444302

Introduction: This is the private library of the Sajjada nashin of the shrine of Naqshbandi order of Sufis.

Catalog:


Anjuman-i Islam Urdu Research Institute
Karimi Library
92 DN Road Mumbai-400 001

Introduction:

Belonging to and named after Qazi Abdulkarim of Porebandar (d. 1916), the Karimi Library has nearly 40 Arabic, Persian, and Urdu manuscripts. See the introduction by Hamid Allah Nadwi, “Karimi Library,” Nawa-i Adab (January 1950): 73–79; Nizam al-Din Gorekar,
“Mashriqi Ulum ka ek Qadim Kutub Khanah,” Burhan (Delhi) February 1981: 159-164. The library was founded in 1898, and now open only by special permission. A typescript listing 39 manuscripts is in the present writer’s collection.

The Asiatic Society
Town Hall
Mumbai 400 023
Website URL: http://education.vsnl.com/asbl

Introduction:


Catalog(s):


Bharat Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala
1321 Sadashivpeth
Pune 411030

Introduction:

Bharat Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala center for Indian history was established in 1910. The center has Persian manuscripts and documents such as farmans, royal edicts relating to Indian history. An introduction is by B. M. Gupta, “Bharat Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala” pp. 293–300, in Handbook of Libraries, Archives and Information Centers in India, vol. 9, edited by B. M. Gupta, (New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 1991).

Catalog:


**K. R. Cama Oriental Institute**
136 Bombay Samachar Road
Fort, Mumbai 400023

Website URL: http://librar.vigyan.org.in/ands/libvig/yp/pubbsl/pub

**Introduction:**


**Catalog(s):**


Works about the history or individual manuscripts in the library:

Forbes Gujarati Sabha
Vithalbhai Patel Road
Mumbai 400049

Introduction:
The Forbes Gujarati Sabha was founded by a colonial administrator-scholar, Alexander K. Forbes, (1821–65) in the 1860s for the promotion of western Indian studies.

Catalog(s):

Jama Masjid Library
Shaykh Memon Street
Mumbai 400002

Introduction:
The Jama Masjid was built in the early 19th century. The library forms part of the Madrasah-i Muhammadiyah, which began in 1903. See the introduction by Nizam al-Din Gorekar, “Mashrīqi Ulum kā ek Qadim Kutub Khanah,” Burhan (Delhi) February 1981: 159–164.

Catalog(s):

Number of manuscripts: 1,200.

Maratha History Museum
Deccan College Postgraduate Research Institute
Yervada
Pune 411006

Introduction:
Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 18

Works about the history or individual manuscripts in the library:


Mumbai University Library
University Road, Fort, Mumbai 400032

Introduction:

The University of Mumbai dates from 1857, when it began as University of Bombay; the name was changed in the 1990s. Its library contains collections donated by families such as the Khatkhates, and scholars like Shaykh Abd al-Qadir Sarfaraz and Asaf Ali Asghar Fyzee.

Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Other Collections and Institutions


PANJAB

Punjab State Archives & Library
Baradari Gardens
Patiala 1470001

Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 287.

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Present conditions:
Sikh History Research Department
Khalsa College
Amritsar 143005

Catalog(s):

RAJASTHAN
Arabic and Persian Research Institute Library
Tonk 304001

Introduction:


Number of manuscripts: 3064

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


**Government Museum**

Old City Palace
Alwar 301001

Introduction:

The museum originated as the collection of Maharajas Jay Singh and Vinay Singh.

Catalog(s):

* A Descriptive Catalogue of the Arabic Manuscripts in the Government Museum (Jaipur: Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Rajasthan, 1960)

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


**Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum**

City Palace
Jaipur 302002

Introduction: Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum was established in 1959 from the collection of the Jaipur rulers.
Catalog(s):  

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:  

**National Archives of India**  
Record Center  
10 Jhalan Doongri Institutional Area  
Jaipur 302017

Introduction: Contains some Persian records.

**Rajasthan State Archives**  
Jaipur

Introduction: This is the repository of state papers.

Catalog(s): *A Descriptive List of Farmans, Manshurs and Nishans addressed by the Imperial Mughals to the Princes of Rajasthan* (Bikaner: Directorate of Archives, 1962); *A Descriptive List of Vakil Reports addressed to the Rulers of Jaipur, vol. 1, Persian* (Bikaner: Directorate of Archives, 1957).

**Saravasti Bhandar Library**  
Sarasvati Bhavan  
Gulab Bagh  
Udaipur 313001

Introduction: The Saravasti Bhandar Library is the library of the a maharaja of Udaipur.

Catalog:  
TAMILNADU

Government Oriental Manuscripts Library
University of Madras Library
Chennai 600005

Introduction:

The Government Oriental Manuscripts library was established in 1869. See Kawish Badri, “Qadim Tamilnadu aur Us ke Mawjudah Arabi Madaris aur Kutub Khaneh,” Ma’arif (Azamgarh) February 1994:


Number of manuscripts: 536.

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Amanati Kutub Khanah-i Khandan-i Sharaf al-Mulk
Kutub Khanah-yi Madrasah-i Muhammadi
Kutub Khanah-yi Rahmaniya
Shams al-Ulama Qazi Ubayd Allah Oriental Library
123 T.T. Krishnamachari Road
Chennai 600014

Introduction: These four private libraries belong to the Nawait families of Chennai and Hyderabad. An introduction to these libraries is found in Yadgar Number bi-Taqrib-i Jashn-i Sad Sala, Madrasah-i Muhammadi, Madras, 1989.
Catalog(s):


Works about the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Tamilnadu Archives and Historical Research Center
28–29, Gandhi Irwin Road
Egmore, Chennai 600 008

Introduction:

The Tamilnadu Archives and Historical Research Center archives contains the state papers of the Nawabs of Arkat-Karnatak in Persian and manuscripts in Persian, Urdu and Arabic; see Kawish Badri, “Qadim Tamilnadu aur us ke Mawjudah Arabic Madaris aur Kutub Khaneh,” Marif (Azamgarh) (February 1994): 135.

Catalog(s).7

7 The whereabouts of the manuscripts noted in the section below is uncertain.

UTTAR PRADESH

Aligarh

Maulana Azad Library
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh, 202002 U.P.

Website URL: http://www.amu.ac.in/library.htm

Introduction:


Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Other Collections:


Hakim Sayyid Zill al-Rahman Library
Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences
Tijara House, Dodhpur
Aligarh, UP 202002

Website URL: http://www.medbeats.com/iamms

Introduction:

The Hakim Sayyid Zill al-Rahman Library was founded on 1 March 2000 and formally inaugurated on 20 April 2001. It was established by Professor Hakim Sayyid Zillur Rahman of Aligarh Muslim University.

Number of Manuscripts: 400
Catalog(s):


ALLAHABAD

Uttar Pradesh State Regional Archives Library
53 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Allahabad 211011

Introduction:

Like archives in other states, Uttar Pradesh State Regional Archives Library is a depository of state papers, but also contains some manuscripts. See the introduction by S. N. Sinha, “UP State Archives,”

Allahabad Museum
Motilal Nehru Park
Kamala Nehru Road
Allahabad 211002

Catalog(s):


Other collections:

A number of other institutions in Allahabad such as Ganganath Jha Research Institute, Allahabad University, and Daira Shah Ajmal seem to have Arabic script manuscripts; see David Pinault, “An Investigation of Arabic and Persian Manuscripts in Selected Indian Libraries,” Hamdard Islamicus 13, 2 (Summer 1990): 72–73.

AZAMGARH

Dar al-Musannifin
Shibli Academy
P.O. Box 19
Azamgarh, U.P. 276001

Introduction:

The Shibli Academy Library was established on 21 November 1914, three days after the death of Maulana Shibli Numani, a leading scholar. It moved to the present premises in 1927. See the introduction by Abd al-Majid Nadwi, “Nawadirat wa Makhtutat-i Dar al-Musannifin Azamgarh,” Burhan (Delhi) (October 1969): 46–53.

Number of manuscripts: 520 (192 Arabic, 318 Persian, 10 Urdu), according to World Survey, p. 428. See Mawarif 102: 373.
Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


**DEOBAND**

**Dar al-Ulum Library**

Deoband 247554

Introduction: The Dar al-Ulum was established in 1866.

Catalog(s):


**LUCKNOW**

General:

As the seat of the Lucknow nawabs who ruled the Avadh region between 1727–1856, many collections came into being, most notably the ruler’s own. It was described by the Austrian scholar, Aloys Sprenger, 1813–1893: See *Catalogue of the Arabic, Persian and Hindustani Manuscripts of the Libraries of the King of Oudh* (Calcutta, 1854, reprinted 1979). It is probably the first catalogue of an Arabic, Persian, and Urdu manuscripts published in India. The collection was moved to Calcutta when in 1856, the ruler Wajid Ali Shah was exiled to Calcutta. See the following works of Sprenger, *Report on the Researches into the Muhammadan Libraries* (Calcutta, 1896) and “Über eine Handschrift des ersten Bandes des Kitâb Tabaqât al-Kabîr von Sekretär des Wâqîây,” Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft 3 (1849): 450–56. An Urdu translation is entitled *Shahani Awadh ke Kutub Khaneh*, was produced by Muhammad Ikram Chaghatai, (Karachi: Anjuman-i Taraqqi-i Urdu, 1973). On Sprenger himself, see *Austrian Scholarship in Pakistan: A Symposium Dedicated to the Memory of Aloys Sprenger*, (Islamabad: Austrian Embassy, 1997).


**Amir al-Dawlah Government Public Library**

Qaysar Bagh

Lucknow 226001

**Introduction:**


**Catalog(s):**


**Works about the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:**


**Kutubkhanah-yi Nasiriya**

Nadan Mahal Road  
Shastri Nagar  
Lucknow 226003

Introduction: **Nadwi’s Union**

Number of manuscripts: 30,000

Catalog(s):


**Madrasat al-Waizin**

16 Canning Street  
Lucknow 226003

Introduction: Madrasat al-Waizin is the seminary that trains Shia clerics and was founded in 1919 by the Raja of Mahmudabad.

Number of manuscripts: 529

Works on the history or individual manuscripts:


**Nadwat al-Ulama Library**

P.O. Box 93  
Lucknow 226007

Introduction: This collection belongs to the former noblemen of the Raja of Mahmudabad family.

Catalog(s):


_Raja of Mahmudabad Library_
Mahmudabad House
Qaysar Bagh
Lucknow 226001

Introduction: The Sultan al-Madaris is another Shia religious seminary.

Works on the history or individual manuscripts:

Tagore Library
University of Lucknow
Lucknow 226007

Website URL: http://members.tripod.com/~TagoreLibrary/

Introduction:
The University started out as Canning College. Its library is named after the Bengali poet Rabindranatha Tagore.

Catalog(s):

Works on the history or individual manuscripts:

Number of manuscripts: 170

RAMPUR

Rampur Raza Library
Hamid Manzil
Rampur 244901

Website URL: http://www.razalibrary.com

Introduction:

Catalog(s):

Number of manuscripts: 11,993

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Present conditions:


**Saulat Public Library**

Rampur, U.P. 244901


Catalog(s):


**VARANASI**

**Banaras Hindu University Library**

Varanasi 221005

Introduction: The Banaras Hindu University Library was established in 1918 and moved to the present building in 1932.

Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 1,111 (134 Arabic, 936 Persian, some Turkish, 140 Urdu)
WEST BENGAL

The Asiatic Society Library
1 Park Street
Kolkata 700016

Website URL: http://www.indev.nic.in/asiatic/Library/index.htm

Introduction:

The Asiatic Society Library was founded in 1784. One of the earliest gifts received was from the Seringapatam Committee, which sent portions of Tipu Sultan’s library to the Society in 1808. Among the Arabic script manuscripts collections are those of Nawab Aziz Jang of Hyderabad and the Fort William College library. An introduction is by A. M. Fazle Kabir, “Asiatic Society of Bengal,” pp. 177–194, in Libraries, Archives and Information Centers in India, vol. 9, edited by B. M. Gupta, (New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 1991). I have not seen the following book, which may have to do with a library in Kolkata: An Entire and Correct Edition of the Five Books upon Arabic Grammar which together with the principles of Inflection in the Arabic Language . . . Carefully collated with the Most Ancient and Accurate Manuscripts which could be found in India, by John BailHie, 3 vol. (Calcutta, 1802–1805). The collection of Mughal noble, which the Library inherited, is discussed by Hafiz Nazir Ahmad, “Abd al-Rahim Khan-i Khanan aur Iss ka Kutub Khanah . . .” Mawarif (Azamgarh) (November 1924): 339–350 and (December 1924): 415–430.

Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 6,591 (2,367 Arabic, 3,714 Persian, 450 Urdu, 35 Turkish, 25 Pashto).

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

Khalida Husayni, Asitic Society ki khidamat-i Farsi, (Kolkata: Qasimi Dawakhana, 1997).

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:

The National Library
Belvedere, Alipore
Kolkata 700027
Website URL: http://nlindia.org/index2.html

Introduction:
The National Library was established as the Imperial Library in 1903, renamed in 1947 as the National Library. It contains the collections donated by Mawlawi Sayyid Sadr al-Din al-Musawi, a landlord of Buhar, Burdwan, West Bengal and Jadunath Sarkar, a historian of the Mughals.

Catalog(s):


Number of manuscripts: 1,161 (691 Persian, 467 Arabic, 2 Urdu, 1 Turkish)

Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the Library:


Victoria Memorial Hall Library
1 Queen’s Way
Kolkata 700071

Introduction:

Catalog(s):


Works on the history or individual manuscripts in the library:

Hazarduari Palace Museum & Library
Murshidabad
Website URL: http://Kolkata.wb.nic.in/murshidabad/tourism.htm

Introduction:
Murshidabad was the seat of a princely state like Hyderabad, Bhopal, Rampur, and Tonk, where Persian literature was cultivated. Evidently there are some manuscripts in the Hazardari Palace Library, the former nawab’s palace, as recorded by Sayyid Husayn Azimabadi, Nawa-yi did, (Patna: Kitab Manzil, 1997).

Visva Bharati University
Shantiniketan, Birbhim 731235

Introduction: