Pearson, J.D. *Oriental manuscripts in Europe and North America: a survey.*
This is a Reference work listing known collections and catalogues published and unpublished. Hungary, pp. 246 & 407.

INDIA
by
M.S. Khan
1991
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to thank the following for their help and cooperation in various ways in preparing this survey report:

Maulana Abul Hasan Ali an-Nadwy (Lucknow); Dr. Z.A. Desai (Ahmedabad); Professor Nurul Hasan Khan (Aligarh); Sahibzada Dr. Shaukat Ali Khan (Tonk); Dr. Irfan Ahmad (Azamgarh); Mr. Sk. Mazharul Islam (Calcutta); Maulana Abdul Khallaq Nadwy (Calcutta); Mr. S. Ansari (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi); Professor I.H. Ansari (Rampur); Dr. Rahmat Ali Khan (Hyderabad); Sri Rajendra Prasad, Commissioner (Hyderabad); Thiru S. Soundararapandian (Madras); Mr. Syed Ausaf Ali (Hamdard University, New Delhi), University Librarian (Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi); Librarian, Maratha History Museum Library, Pune); Librarian, (Asiatic Society Library, Bombay) and others.

I should also like to thank Mr. Sk. Sirajul Islam, B.A., who has so carefully and meticulously typed this report.

M.S. Khan
Calcutta
31–7–1991

UNION CATALOGUES


Gives subject matter, style of calligraphy, date/colophon if any, incipit, name and place of library. Information given is meagre. Sometimes the explicit and the scribe’s name is also given.

By HÂSHIM AL’NADWI. Hyderabad. 228pp.

Lists works in 12 Indian libraries, with locations.

On Arabic & Persian MSS in 5 Indian libraries.


1 Turkish, 13 Arabic and several Persian MSS from various collections.

A bibliography of known works on music with locations of known copies, including those in Hyderabad & Rampur.


A cumulative catalogue of 85 Persian MSS drawn from published catalogues giving locations of MSS (79 catalogues from Iran & 2 from elsewhere, including India).

Some information about herefore unknown collections, new
catalogues and lists, and facts. Aligarh, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jaipur, Lucknow, Rampur and Tonk.

Union list of Urdu manuscripts in India.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ANDHRA PRADESH

HYDERABAD

General


Hyderabad Museum Library
In 1986 H. DAIKIR stated that the State Archaeological Museum held 117 MSS, of which 43 are Arabic texts, mainly copies of the Qur’ān.
Published catalogues:
Particulars given: title, registration no., size, no. of folios, no. of lines, language, subject, illumination and decoration, marginal glosses, seals, script, binding, copyist, date of transcription, subject, condition of the MS., colophon.

Idara Adabiyyat-i Urdu Library
Hyderabad
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,426 (mostly Urdu, but including Arabic & Persian).
Published catalogues:

Jāmi‘a Nizāmiya, 'Unāni Tibbī College
Hyderabad
Published catalogues:

Nawab Faylsuf Jung
Hyderabad
Status: Private
Published catalogue:
Catalogue of the Arabic, Persian books and manuscripts in the library of the Nawab Faylsuf Jung. By ABU YUSUF AHMAD MOHYAD-DIN HUSAIN FAROOQI. Hyderabad: Shamsi Press.

Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute
(formerly Asafiya Library)
Hyderabad
Date of establishment: 1975. Moved to its present rented accommodation in 1983. The Asafiya Library was founded in 1890.
Status: Public library
Conditions of access: Open on all working days 10.30–17.00. Only established scholars are permitted to study the manuscripts after obtaining special permission.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 16,963 (6,337 Arabic; 13 Hindi-Persian; 3 Pashto; 8,915 Persian; 4 Punjabi; 3 Sindhi; 14 Turkish; 1,674 Urdu).

Description of collection: The Libraries of Nawāb ‘IMĀD AL-MULK and Nawāb ‘AZĪM YAR JUNG were donated by their heirs or successors. See:


The following are the five most important, old and rare manuscripts of this library:

(i) An illuminated MS. of the Qur‘ān transcribed in 1264 C.E. by Yaqūt al-Musta‘ṣīmī, the celebrated calligrapher. It once belonged to the library of Sultan Muṣṭaṣād Qutb of Golconda.

(ii) A rare and illuminated copy of a Qur‘ān Commentary in Persian, entitled Jamsharāt al-Tafsīr by Mullā Husayn Vāzīr al-Kashīfī, which once belonged to the royal library of Golconda.

(iii) An autograph copy, dated 1548 C.E. of Khalīl al-Ṭabarī al-Manṣūr on Shāfi‘i law, by Ale al-Andalusi (d. 1401 C.E.).

(iv) An old, rare and valuable copy of three works, Faṣṣal al-Tafsīr, Qīṣāṣ al-Musta‘ṣīm and Misḥūs al-Anwār by Ismā‘il Shādhili, dated 1123 C.E.

(v) A very early MS. of the Dīvān-i Hāfez, made only 25 years after the death of the poet, in 1315 C.E.

Published catalogues:

establishment of the Library 1300 Shamsi to 1321 Shamsi or 1330 Hijri; Vol. 3 (1347/1928), 759pp., from 1331 – 1344 or 1322/1334; Vol. 4 (1353/1936).


Describes 1343 Urdu MSS.


Alphabetical index of Urdu, Turkish, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Hindi and English manuscripts.

1986. See Union Catalogue by Daiheir.


Describes 121 MSS of Urdu poetry. Volume two is in press. Particulars given: MS. no., subject, folios, no. of lines per page, size of writing, paper, style of calligraphy, scribe’s name and date of transcription, if any, short description of the contents, incipit, explicit; additional notes.

Unpublished catalogues:

The classification of Urdu, Arabic and Persian manuscripts and preparation of comprehensive catalogues are in progress.

The complete lists of manuscripts in Urdu, Arabic, and Persian, etc. are contained in four registers. The manuscripts are recorded by subject and language in the hand list.

Osmania University Library

Hyderabad

Date of establishment: 1918; moved to the new building in 1963

Conditions of access: Open from Monday to Saturday except for the second Saturday of every month, 10.00 – 16.30. To consult the manuscripts, a letter of recommendation from an institution or university is required.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,418 (1,673 Arabic; 1,371 Persian; 5 Turkish; 369 Urdu).

Description of collection: The main donors to this Library were Hākim Mīr Qāsim, Mōhsīn-ul Mulk and Sir Akbar Hydarī.

Published catalogues:


1931 – 1932. See the Union Catalogue by Nadwī.


1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiheir.

Unpublished catalogues:

Only one catalogue of 147 Urdu manuscripts has been compiled and will be available for use shortly. For all other manuscripts, Card Catalogues are available in the Library.

Saʿidiya Library

Hyderabad

Status: Private library, not open to the public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,141 (mostly Arabic, some Persian).

Description of collection: Named after Mufīr Muḥammad Saʿīd, a learned man of Hyderabad, it contains important and rare Islamic manuscripts mostly in Arabic. There are many works of Qadī Maqāmūd of Bijapur (d. 1586 C.E.) and his descendants. A handwritten list is available. See:


Appendix 2 contains short notes on some of the MSS.


The following are four important old and rare manuscripts of this library:

(i) A MS. of al-Tāhān fi Frāḥ al-Qurʾān on the orthography of the Qurʾān, transcribed in 1231 C.E.

(ii) An early MS. of a few parts of the rare Taʿrīkh-Dīmasq of Ḥāfez ibn Asākir (d. 1126 C.E.) on the History of Damascus transcribed by the author's son, and subsequently read by students with the author as well as with the抄写者. Several volumes of this history of Damascus have been published recently by the Arab Academy of (Damascus) Syria.

(iii) An autograph copy of Tuhfat al-Gharb, on literature, by Muḥammad al-Damāmīnī, dated 1430 C.E.

(iv) A highly illuminated and illustrated copy of the Gullistān of the 13th century Persian poet Saʿdi of Shiraz. It was completed in eight years by Sharīf al-Husayn ibn Husayn al-Mashhādī in 1578 C.E. Its Nastaliq calligraphy is beautiful and artistic and the leather-binding is inlaid with gold medallions showing a forest scene.

Published catalogues:


Describes about 700 MSS.

1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiber.

Salar Jung Museum Library

Hyderabad

Date of establishment: 1958 but moved to the present new building in 1968.

Conditions of access: Open every day except Fridays and public holidays 10.00–17.00. Only established scholars are permitted to use the manuscripts.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 8,519 (2,620 Arabic; 4,801 Persian and Turkish; 1,098 Urdu).

Description of collection: Most of the manuscripts were purchased but the entire collection belonged to the Salar Jung family and mostly to Salar Jung III, Nawab Yusuf Ali Khan (d. 1949).

The following are the most important, old and rare manuscripts in the Salar Jung Museum Library:

(i) A MS. of Maʿīmat al-Muṣʾin on jurisprudence by Yūsuf ibn Muḥammad, transcribed in 1190 C.E.

(ii) A unique MS. of the Shāhānshāh Nāmah-i Shāh Jalānī, containing an account of Shāh Jalānī’s reign including a description of his buildings.

(iii) An autograph MS. of Jāmī’s Divān which once belonged to the Bijapur royal library.

(iv) A rare MS. belonging to Golconda Royal Library of Mathnasīr-i Jamieli Ardashīnī with a note in the hand of Sultan Muḥammad Qutb Shah.

Published catalogues: 17 catalogues of Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts have been prepared so far and printed and only a few manuscripts have not been catalogued.


1045 MSS listed with call no., size, total no. of pages, lines per page, style of calligraphy, paper, author, title, incipit, explicit, colophon, if any.

1957—. *A Catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts in the Salar Jung collection.*


Particulars of the manuscripts as given in each catalogue: author, title, number of lines, size, script, scribe’s name, general description and condition, old and rare manuscripts not indicated.


Covers MSS nos. 1099–1644.


Covers MSS nos. 1645–2277.


A list of rare and illustrated MSS given. Covers MSS nos. 2278–2400.


Covers MSS nos. 2401–3029.


Covers MSS nos. 3030–3493.


Particulars given: title, author, contents, description of the different parts, folios, lines, size in cms, incipit, explicit, script or calligraphy, general condition, indexes in some vols.

1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiber.

BIHAR

PATNA

Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library (Bankipur)

Date of establishment: Founded as a private Library in 1891. The first new building was constructed between 1935 and 1938 and the second new building was completed in 1987.

Status: Public library

Conditions of access: For the consultation of manuscripts, the library is open every day except Friday 10.00–18.00. Bonafide scholars should obtain a permit from the Director to consult manuscripts.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 17,036 (8,000 Arabic; 12 Pashto; 8,000 Persian; 24 Turkish; 1,000 Urdu).

Description of collection: Established by Maulvi Muhammad Bakhsh, a lawyer by profession and augmented by his son, Maulvi Khuda Bakhsh. Eminent donors are (i) Maulvi Subhanullah Khan, Ra‘is and Zamindar of Gorakhpur, (ii) Syed Khurshid Nawab Sahib of Patna City; (iii) Late Sayyid Safdar Nawab, Sahib of Patna and (iv) Sayyid Maulavi Abdul Majid Sahib of Patna.

Three important and rare manuscripts are:

(i) A very old MS. of the Qur’ān in Kufic transcribed from the copy of ‘Abd Allah ibn Mas‘ūd, a Companion of the Prophet.
(ii) A very early MS. of the well-known collection of Traditions, the Ṣaḥīḥ of Muslim, bearing autographs of eminentTraditionists.

(iii) A unique MS. of the history of Sulṭān Fīrūz Shāh Tūghluq, called Siārat-i Fīrūz Shāhī.

See:


Published catalogues:
Catalogue of the Arabic & Persian MSS in the Oriental Library.


Particulars given: serial no., folios, lines, size in cm, name of the author, title, style of writing, date of transcription, if any, description of contents, reference to MSS in other libraries, details of notes or seal, incipit & explicit, in some cases very detailed description of the contents.


Catalogue of Persian MSS.

1931–1932. See the Union Catalogue by Nadwī.


Describes all the important medical manuscripts of this library.

DELHI

General


Surveys 13 private and public libraries of Delhi. 210 MSS are described.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations Library

Delhi

Date of establishment: 1955, by the late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 140 (Arabic, Persian and Urdu).
Conditions of access: Letters of introduction from a person in authority necessary.
Open: Mondays to Fridays—10.00–17.00
Description of collection: Manuscripts of Wadi al-Bustānī’s Arabic translation of the Indian Classics—the Mahābhārata, the Ramayana, the Gītā and the Upanishads are available in this Library.

Two of the most important manuscripts are:

(i) A beautiful manuscript of the Holy Qur’ān bearing the seal of Empress Nūr Jāmān (Cat. no. Ara, MS. 297.12 Qur).

See:

Unpublished catalogues: Hand-written catalogue of the manuscripts prepared by Khwaja Muhammad Ahmad in Roman script is available.
Information about author, title, date of transcription, total number of folios is given—but this catalogue is incomplete.

Jamia Hamdard (Hamdard University Library)
Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, Delhi

Date of establishment: Library started in Hamdard Buildings in 1956, moved to Panchkuin Road in 1963 when the Indian Institute of Islamic Studies was registered as a Public Society under the Societies’ Registration Act. The Library moved to its new building in Tughlaqabad in 1977.
Status: University under the administrative control of the Government of India
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,619 (Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu).
Conditions of access: A letter of introduction from an eminent scholar or a person in authority is necessary.
Open 10.00–17.00 on week days.

Description of collection: This library contains the Ja‘farī collection of Maulāna Mo. Ja‘far Maẓfūrī, and the collections previously housed in the Institute of History of Medicine and the Nazirīya Public Library. Important and rare manuscripts are:

See:

Published catalogues:

Particulars given: title, author, language, total no. of pages, accession number, subject, incipit, size, a short description of the contents.

National Museum Library

Delhi

There are some illustrated and illuminated manuscripts with miniature paintings in the National Museum of India. See the Union Catalogue by Daiber, 1986. All the MSS (which number several thousand Persian, Arabic & Urdu) are registered in a handwritten list.

Dr. Zakir Husain Library, Jami’a Milliya Islamiya
(Islamic National University)

New Delhi

Condition of access: Letter of introduction from an Academic Institution or a well-known scholar necessary.

Opening hours: 10.00 – 17.00 with a break for one hour. Closed half-day on Friday and Sunday all day.

Total number of Islamic MSS: between 2,000 and 2,200 (Arabic, Persian and Urdu).

Description of collection: One of the donors was Jalil Dehlavi and manuscripts were also received from Sahaswan, Haidar. The entire collection of manuscripts from Taqsimiya Shaukatia Library, Moradabad, was donated to this Library.

Published catalogues: A short list was printed in the Journal Wakhed in Iran.

Unpublished catalogues: Cards for the manuscripts have been prepared and they are awaiting editing for publication as catalogues.

GUJARAT

General

1941. Oriental treasures: being condensed tabular descriptive statement of over 1,000 MSS and their colophons written in Iranian & Indian languages and being in private libraries of Parsis in different parts of Gujarat. By Jamshed Cawasji Katrak. Bombay.

AHMEDABAD

Hadrat Pir Muhammad Shah Dargah Library

Description of collection: This library is attached to the Dargah (tomb) of Pir Muhammad Shah, a well-known saint of Ahmedabad belonging to the 18th century. Several disciples of the saint have donated manuscripts to this library including the famous Walji Ullah family of Ahmedabad.

It contains about 2000 Islamic manuscripts, including about 30 manuscripts of the Holy Qur’an transcribed in different styles of calligraphy. The catalogue of these manuscripts has not been printed and access to them is rather difficult.

The following are the rarest and most important manuscripts preserved in this library:

(i) A MS. of the entire Qur’an in which the Sura al-Fatiha is transcribed in Kufi Ghubar (a microscopic hand).


(iii) An early MS. dated 1258 C.E. of Mashariq al-Anwar of Qadi Anbu ’l-Fadl Ayaz.

(iv) A fine copy of Princess Jahan Arah’s rare work Mu’tnis al-Arsheh dated 1639 C.E.

This library possesses quite a few rare works on Islamic law and Sufism and also works of such masters as Ahmad al-Qastalani, Ibn Hajir al-Asqalani, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Tahir Patani, Shah Wajih al-Din Alawi, Mulla Ali Qari and Shah Khub
Muhammad Chishti and also of scholars belonging to the prominent saintly families of Gujarat.

Published catalogues:
A catalogue of selected manuscripts from the collection.

NAVSĀRĪ
First Dastūr Meherji Rānā Library

This library contains 145 Arabic & Persian manuscripts. A printed catalogue is available of which the details are as follows:

Pp. 79 – 105: original collection of Persian and Arabic MSS; from p. 106 Pahlawi, Avestan, Pazend and Persian MSS. For Persian and Arabic MSS, the following information is given: author, title, date of transcription, total no. of folios, number of lines to the page, size and condition.

HARYANA

There are 592 Persian MSS in the libraries of Haryana.
Unpublished catalogues: a cyclostyled hand-list is available, divided into the following sections:

JAMMU and KASHMIR

There are many Islamic manuscripts in the State libraries, University libraries and private libraries of individuals in Jammu & Kashmir, as well as in the two Srinagar libraries below.

SRINAGAR
Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir
Hazratbal, Srinagar 190006, Kashmir
Status: Academic research library
Published catalogues:
Gives titles, authors, translators, subject-matter.

Research and Publication Department (MSS Section)

Jammu & Kashmir Government
Srinagar, Kashmir
Status: Government library
Published catalogues:
Authors, titles, historical notes, but little codicological detail.

Catalogue of Arabic & Persian MSS, with titles, authors, scripts, scribes’ names, number of leaves, sizes, dates and descriptions.

MADHYA PRADESH

BHOPAL
Darul Uloom Taj al-Masajid Library

This is a library attached to the famous Madrasah within the precincts of the great mosque Taj al-Masajid in Bhopal. It contains several important manuscripts but details are unknown.
Hamidia Library

This was the private library of the former ruler of Bhopal. Published catalogues:


MAHARASHTRA

BOMBAY

The Asiatic Society Library

Date of establishment: 1804
Conditions of access: The library is open from Monday to Saturday, 10.00–17.45. Prior permission from the Managing Committee/Hon. Secretary of the Society is necessary to consult the manuscripts.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 27 (5 Arabic; 19 Persian; 3 Urdu).
Description of collection:
See:

Published catalogues:


K.R. Cama Oriental Research Institute, Bombay

This Institute has a library attached to it. The Mānikī Collection is preserved in it.

Published catalogues:


Jami Masjid Library

Date of establishment: Established in the great Mosque of Bombay in 1903 as a part of Madrasah-i Muḥammadi.
Status: Mosque Library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,200 (Arabic, Persian & Urdu).
Description of collection: The donors of the Islamic manuscripts were the rich Korkana Muslim families, especially Mr. Baquruddin Qurr and ʿAbdul Qadir Jīmekār.

The following are three of the old and rare manuscripts of this library:

(i) Mīzān al-Hikma on medicine by ʿAbd al-Rajmān Khāzīn.
(ii) ʿUyun al-Sharaf on prosody and rhetoric by Sharaf al-Dīn ibn Muqri.
(iii) Ḥāshīyāt al-ʿAlawī by the celebrated Shah Waqī al-Dīn ʿAlawī.

Published catalogues:


Unpublished catalogues: The catalogue of 1200 Islamic manuscripts has not been printed.
Mullâ Firûz Library

Status: Private library about which information is not easily available.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 844 (119 Arabic; 725 Persian; unknown number of Turkish and Urdu).

Published catalogues:

Descriptive catalogue of all arts and science subjects, several MSS on astronomy, chronology, mathematics and astrology. 924 MSS described.


A manuscript is indicated with (MS.). Only author, title and call no. given.

The University of Bombay Library

Status: University library

Conditions of access: Open on weekdays 10.00 – 17.00.

Description of collection: It has a good collection of Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts which includes the Government collection and Professor Shaikh Abdul-Qadir Sarfaraz collection. It also contains the Khatkhate collection.

A unique collection of 160 manuscripts dealing with the Isma’ili has been donated by Professor A.A.A. Fysee, ex-Ambassador of India to Egypt and ex-Principal of Bombay Law College. The following are four old and rare manuscripts in this library:

(i) A beautifully and carefully written manuscript of the well-known Persian commentary on the Qur’ân, Tafsîr-i-Husayni of Husayn Vâlz Kashiî.

(ii) A MS. of the not very common Aţ-hârâr al-Asrâr on Sufi discourses, by the great Muslim saint of the Deccan, Khwaja Banda Nawaz Gesu Daraz of Gulbarga.

(iii) Rasûl-i, an unpublished and very rare imitation of Mullâ ʿAr-Ra’i al-Ra’i al-Muhammadi’s famous Sufi work entitled Lawâ’i, by Shaikh Yaqût Sra’i of Kashmir.

(iv) Aş-hâr va Aţ-hâr, a rare 13th century Persian work on astrology, by ʿAlî Shâh known as ʿAlâ’ al-Munajjim al-Bukhârî.

Published catalogues:

Government collection = 181 MSS; University Library Collection = 62 MSS. Detailed & descriptive catalogue of the Government & Sarfaraz collections; the content of each MS. analysed in detail, with author, title, date of composition, colophon (if any), full references to copies of the MS. in other libraries, folio nos., no. of lines per page, type of paper. Some information about binding. In the “Brief Review” of the collection 35 old and rare manuscripts are described.


The MSS described are now in the University collection.

PUNE (POONA)

Maratha History Museum, Deccan College Post-Graduate & Research Institute

Punč

Status: Library maintained by the Department of Archaeology.

Conditions of access: For consultation a letter of introduction is necessary. Open: Monday to Saturday.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 18 (Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts, but mostly Persian).

Published catalogues:

PUNJAB
AMRITSAR
Sikh History Research Department, Khalsa College

Amritsar
Published catalogues:
Detailed catalogue of 248 Persian MSS.

Includes 41 Urdu MSS.

KAPURTHALA
Kapurthala State Library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 287 (Persian).
Published catalogues:

Particular given: author, title, call no., size of the MS., total no. of folios, no. of lines to the page, subject matter, style of calligraphy, condition, no. of the MS., colophon if any, scribe’s name, incipit, paintings, if any. Total no. of MSS: 287.


RAJASTHAN
ALWAR
The Government Museum contains some Islamic MSS. See:

JAIPUR
Maharaja of Jaipur Museum
(also known as Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum)

Description of collection: Includes Arabic, Persian and Urdu MSS.

Published catalogues:

Describes 13 astronomical MSS.

Unpublished catalogues: A typewritten list contains a note of 42 further MSS in Arabic & Persian & 3 Urdu MSS.
1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiyer.

TONK

Arabic and Persian Research Institute Library

Tonk 304001, Rajasthan

Date of establishment: 1978

Status: Originally the private library of the rulers of Tonk, but now under the administrative control of the Government of Rajasthan and supported financially by the Government of India.

Conditions of access: Open every day of the week except official public holidays and every second Saturday of the month, from 10.00–17.00. An application must be submitted to the Director of the Institute for permission to use the manuscripts.

Total number of Islamic MSS: Over 3,000 (1,757 Arabic; 4 Pashto; 1,496 Persian; some Turkish; 150 Urdu; 3 Hindi in Arabic script).

Description of collection: This collection was originally built up by Tonk’s third ruler, Nawab Mohammad Ali Khan and it was augmented by successive rulers. The following six collections have also been incorporated into this library:

6. Kutub Khana Mirji ka Bagh, Jaipur, etc.

There are no less than 40 donors of manuscripts to this Library. Three old and rare manuscripts found in this library are:

(i) A fine ornamented copy of the Qur‘an in thuluth script which once belonged to the Library of Aurangzeb’s grandson, Muhammad Humayun Mirza, son of Prince Kamil Bakhsh.

(ii) A copy of the Tafsir Jadilayn of Al-Suyuti, which was used by the 15th-century mystic and poet, Maulana ‘Abd al-Rajman Jamali, as attested by marginal notes in his own hand.

(iii) A very rare and old MS, transcribed in Egypt by the celebrated copyist ‘Abd al-Rajman al-Sadfi in 1147 A.D. of the fifth volume of an otherwise famous lexicon of unfamiliar words occurring in the Qur‘an and Traditions, al-Gharibayn of Abu ‘Ubayd al-Hirawi (d. 838 C.E.).


Published catalogues:


1986. See Union Catalogue by Daiyer.


Uncatalogued MSS: This library possesses Turkish manuscripts but no catalogue has been compiled so far.
TAMILNADU

MADRAS

Government Oriental Manuscripts Library

First Floor, Madras University Library Building, Madras 5

Date of establishment: 1869

Status: Under the administrative control of the Government of Tamilnadu.

Conditions of access: The library is open 10.00–17.00 on week days.

An introductory letter is necessary to consult the manuscripts.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 2,000 (406 Arabic; 1,386 Persian; 183 Urdu).

Description of collection: Some of the Urdu manuscripts were donated by Syed Qasim Ali Khan Basha, Fort St., Gudlapah. A few Persian manuscripts were donated by Tajammul– Husain Gopamawi (a relative of the present prince of Arcot ʾAmir Mahal).

Old and rare MSS: No. D62 Isḥārat al-Chāfīlīn (Urdu), No. D578 Tadbirat al-Ansāb (Persian) and no. R628 Divān-i Turkhān, a poet of Akbar’s court (d. A.H. 981).

Risālah-i Mīrāj al-Saqī‘īn, No. D130 Urdu (Dakani); Persian Tausak-i wāštijāhī, No. D768, and Bahār-i Aṣūmānjīhī, No. D775 (Nauārkh of Areed).

Published catalogues: Almost all the Islamic manuscripts preserved in this library have been catalogued.


Particulars given: author, title, folios, lines, language, size, condition, style of writing, appearance, subject, extent, date of transcription, scribe, substance, incipit, explicit, old and rare MSS indicated in the catalogue. Several indexes.


UTTAR PRADESH

ALIGARH

Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University

Date of establishment: The library was initially established in the year 1877 with the personal collection of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of this University. The library came to be known as Lytton Library. The present building of the library was inaugurated by the First Prime Minister of India, the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, under the name of Maulana Azad Library, on 6th December 1960.

Status: Library attached to the University.

Condition of access: Open from Monday to Saturday 9.00–17.00.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 14,460 (5,126 Arabic; 8,237 Persian; 20 Turkish; 1,077 Urdu).

Description of collection: The Manuscripts Division consists of the University Library and also the collections of eleven donors. The most eminent donors are: (i) Janab Subhanullah Khan of Gorakhpur; (ii) Alhaj Mouli Harib Rahman Khan Shervani, Sadaray Jung of Aligarh; (iii) Janab Abdus Salam Khan of Rampur; (iv) Janab Ahsan Maraghavi of Aligarh; (v) Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan of Aligarh.

No manuscripts are to be found in the University’s Departments of Islamic studies, Shia & Sunni Theology departmental libraries, but there are a few in the Department of History and Tibbiya College Libraries.

The Maulana Azad Library contains many important and rare Arabic and Persian Manuscripts, of which the details of four are given below:

(i) Farsi ʿUlūm; nos. 44 and 45 in two Vols. A Persian translation of the Kitāb al-Taḥkīm of al-Bīrūnī, 1st Vol. 135 folios, 2nd Vol. in modern hand 198 folios, dated 1563 A.H. with figures and diagrams in red in both Volumes. In the University collection.

(ii) Tarjuma-i ʿarābī-h-i Sāngštā: Persian translation of an important
Sanskrit work on Astrology/Astronomy by the renowned Indian astronomer Varahamihira. The translation was made at the order of Sultan Firuz Shah Tughluq (752–790/1351–1388). The translator was 'Abd al-'Aziz Shams Nuri (Habibganj collection No. 44 Farsi).

(iii) 'Uyun al-ajza'ib fi funun al-asl: A mystical treatise by Abü 'L-Qasim 'Abd al-Karim ibn Hawazin al-Qushayri (d. 465 H/1072). Very rare and old copy, transcribed by the author himself. No other copy of this work exists. No. 21/64, Habibganj collection—29 folios. Title page states that it is the autograph of the author from fol. 5 to fol. 25.

(iv) 'Aqu'id al-Khawajā by Ibn al-'Arabī (d. 638/1240). Unique MS. not mentioned by Brockelman.

See the description in:


Published catalogues:


1931–1932. See the Union Catalogue by Nadiw (Habibganj collection).


Catalogue of some important manuscripts on Sufism, mostly Persian.

1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiber.

Unpublished catalogues:

Abdul Haq Collection: no printed catalogue; hand-written catalogue in Urdu available; 1194 Arabic, 228 Persian, 16 Urdu MSS. Particulars as in other catalogues. Tabular form.

Abdus Salam Collection: no printed catalogue, hand-written catalogue available; 90 Arabic, 498 Persian; 23 Urdu and 2 Turkish MSS.

Sukyan Collection: hand-written catalogue available, 290 Arabic, 904 Persian, 16 Urdu MSS and 46 Hindi books in Arabic script.

University collection: no printed catalogue; two hand-written catalogues—one of Arabic MSS and one of Persian & Urdu MSS up to 1968. 577 Arabic, 1,847 Persian, 730 Urdu MSS.

Munir Alam Collection: hand-written catalogues of manuscripts. 23 Arabic, 158 Persian and 8 Urdu. Total 189 MSS. Particulars given: title of the book, name of the author or compiler, date of composition, no. of folios or pages, no. of lines to the page, name of scribe, style of writing, date of transcription, place of writing, additional notes.

Qushbudin Collection: hand-written catalogue available. 55 Arabic, 235 Persian and 5 Urdu = total 295 MSS.

Uncatalogued MSS:

Habibganj Collection: Arabic MSS not catalogued; belonging to
Nawab Habibur Rahman Khan Sherwani. 779 Arabic, 1,090 Persian and 125 Urdu—total 1,994 MSS.

ALLAHABAD

Uttar Pradesh State Archives Library


Published catalogues:
Only an alphabetical index, giving author, title, subject, date of transcription.

AZAMGARH

Shibli Academy

Date of establishment: The Shibli Academy Library was established on the 21st November 1914 three days after the death of Maulana Shibli Nomani in his residential house. It was moved to the new building in 1927.

Status: Private collection

Conditions of access: Letter of introduction from an academic institution or a well-known scholar is advisable.

Opening hours: 10.00 to 17.00. Closed on Fridays.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 520 (192 Arabic; 318 Persian; 10 Urdu).

Description of collection: There are 189 manuscripts belonging to the Dar al-Muṣannifin. The Persian manuscripts have been noticed in a paper by ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd Nadwi, Librarian of the Shibli Academy, in the monthly Maʿārif, 102 v, 373pp. One of the donors of the manuscripts was Maulavi Abdul Ghafer, the landlord of Mohammadabad, near Azamgarh.

There are at least 20 rare and important manuscripts, including:

(i) Sirr Akbar by Prince Darā Shikoh being the translation of the Upanishad in 50 chapters.
(ii) Mathnawī Fūlī al-Harmoqī by Mūllā Jāmī. An account of Hājj, which bears the seals of Emperor Shāh Jahān and of Nūr Jahān's father Iʿtimād al-Dawlah.
(iii) Kulliyāt Kalīm. Anthology of poems of Emperor Shāh Jahān's Court poet Kālīm dated 1077/1666, with beautiful calligraphy.

Unpublished catalogues: No catalogue has been printed; unpublished hand-written catalogues are available.

DEOBAND, SAHARANPUR

Darul Uloom Library

Date of establishment: This Library is attached to the well-known Centre of Islamic religious education, the Dar al-Uloom, Deoband, which was established in 1866 C.E. by Hājjī Muḥammad ʿAbīd Husayn.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,563 (languages unknown).

Published catalogues:

LUCKNOW

Amir ud-Dawla Public Library

Built in 1921 and contains books and manuscripts from the former Public Library of Lucknow. The collection includes some Arabic & Persian MSS, but they have not been properly described. See the Union Catalogue by Daimber, 1986.

Kutubkhana-i Nasiriya

Status: Private library

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30,000.

Description of collection: Some of the MSS are rare and old. They belonged to Maulana Ḥamīd Husayn who lived mainly at Karbala.
The library is primarily intended for the study and research of the Shi'a community.

The following old and rare manuscripts are to be found in this library:

(i) The Tuhfat al-Mustaqīm containing a description of the Aqṣā mosque of Jerusalem, by an anonymous author.

(ii) Al-Ḥudāʾīq, by ʿAbd Allāh al-Batal汉字 (d. 1127 C.E.) on the lives of the Imāms of the Zaydi sect.

(iii) A unique MS. of Kitāb al-Manammat by Abū Jaʿfar Muhammad al-Baghdādī (d. 895 C.E.), dealing with the early history of the Quraysh.

(iv) Mawālid Aḥī al-Ḥayth by ʿAlī b. Mūsā Riḍā, dealing with the names, titles and burial-places of the descendants of the Prophet. It was transcribed from a manuscript in the library of Najaf (Iraq).

Published catalogues:
1931–1932. See the Union Catalogue by Nadwī.

1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiber.

Unpublished catalogues: Hand-written descriptions of the manuscripts are available on cards.

Nadwat al-ʿUlamāʾ Library

Status: Private library attached to the great centre of Islamic learning in India, the Nadwat al-ʿUlamāʾ, established in 1884.

Total number of Islamic MSS: At least 4,000 (Arabic, Persian and Urdu).

Description of collection: see:

Published catalogues:

Particulars given: serial no., catalogue no., title, author, style, lines per page, total no. of pages or folios, condition. Under Taṣawqīṭ: Tibb = 27 MSS; mathematics and astrology 47 MSS. Date of transcription also given. Several MSS of the Qānūn of Ibn Sīnā. Some MSS of the Khulāṣat al-Ḥisāb of Bahāʾ al-Dīn al-ʿAmarī.

1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiber.


Unpublished catalogues:

Rajah of Mahmudabad Library

There is a library belonging to the former Rājā of Maḥmūdābād.

Published catalogues:

Tagore Library, Lucknow University

Description of collection: This Library is attached to the University of Lucknow. Although primarily for the use of the students and members of the Staff of the University, it contains a number of Arabic and Persian manuscripts.

Published catalogues:
Arabic and Persian MSS only, with call no, accession no, author and title.

Unpublished catalogues: A complete hand-written card catalogue is available.
RAMPUR
Raza Library

Status: Now under the administrative control of the Government of India.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11,993 (5,053 Arabic; 5,060 Persian; 100 Turkish & Pashto; 1,780 Urdu).

Description of collection: The Library owes its origin to Nawab Sayyid Faizullah Khan Bahadur (d. 1794), the first Rohilla chief of Rampur State. In its early days, it formed a part of the Toshà Khana and continued in that position up to the accession of this grandson, Nawab S. Muhammad Said Khan Bahadur (1840/55), who in 1851 established it in the form of a distinct department designated as Kutub Khànah-i Riyâsat Rampûr. In 1865, Nawab S. Kalbi Ali Khan Bahadur came to the throne. He was a lover of manuscripts and miniatures and a great patron of knowledge and art. Eventually a large number of rare manuscripts and other articles found their way to his Court. It was he who arranged for the first list of manuscripts to be prepared under the supervision of Munshi Amir Ahmad Missâzî, a famous Urdu poet.

His grandson, Nawab S. Hamid Ali Khan Bahadur (1889 – 1930) also continued his tradition and in his reign the 1st and the 2nd Volumes of the Hand-list of Arabic books and manuscripts were published in 1902 and 1928 respectively.

In 1930, Nawab Sayyid Raza Ali Khan Bahadur ascended the throne and cared for the Library with even greater zeal than his forefathers. At his instance, the whole collection was classified on the pattern of Dr. Ahlwardt’s catalogue of Arabic MSS preserved in the Royal Library of Berlin. Since its reorganization in 1953, the Library has rightly been named after him, the Raza Library.

The following are four important and very rare or unique manuscripts of this library:


Particulars given: serial no. and subject, accession no., title of work, name of author, name of commentator, material, script, size, folio and lines per page, extent, condition and age. Additional particulars. Tabular form.

1986. See the Union Catalogue by Daiser.
SAULAT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Founded in 1934, it is a public library receiving some grants from the Ministry of Education, Government of India. It was established by the late SAULAT ALI KHAN with the help of a group of social workers.

Published catalogues:

Particulars given: serial no. and subject, accession no., title of work, name of author, name of commentator, material, script size, folio and lines per page, extent, condition and age, many indexes. 525 MSS.

VARANASI (BANARAS)

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Date of establishment: The library was established in 1918 and moved to the new building in 1932.

Status: University library

Conditions of access: Open from 9.00 a.m. to 17.00 on working days. Special permission necessary.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,111 (134 Arabic; 936 Persian; some Turkish; 140 Urdu).

Description of collection: The most eminent donor was the late LAL SHRI RAM of Delhi.

Published catalogues: A printed catalogue of the Persian manuscripts only is available:
A descriptive catalogue of the Persian manuscripts in the Benaras Hindu University. By AMRIT LAL ISHRAT. Varanasi: Benaras Hindu University, 172pp., 937 MSS.

Particulars given: title, condition, date, size, folios, class no., incipit & explicit.

Unpublished catalogues: Urdu and Arabic manuscripts are described in a hand-written catalogue.

WEST BENGAL

CALCUTTA

The Asiatic Society Library

Date of establishment: Established in 1784; moved to the new building in 1965.

Conditions of access: Open 08.00–20.00 on working days. On Saturdays only the reading room is open. The Society is under the administrative control of the Government of India, New Delhi. Library facilities are available to members only. Non-members may use the Library by obtaining special permission which is granted for three months only.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 6,591 (2,367 Arabic; 25 Pashto; 3,714 Persian; 35 Turkish; 450 Urdu). Of these 2,879 Persian and 1,767 Arabic are catalogued, with the catalogue of a further 230 Arabic MSS in press.

Description of collection: Some manuscripts were purchased from the Middle East through Maulavi NAZIR AHMAD. Parts of the library of TIPU SULTAN and Islamic manuscripts of the Fort William College Library (1835) are preserved in this Library. The Hyderabad collection and the Cama collection of Islamic manuscripts are available in this Library. Some manuscripts were donated by HENRY BOILEAN, Colonel J. BAILLIE, CHARLES DE LONDUFF, Captain S. LODDAM, H.A. DARELL, J. DELMERICK, T. HENNEY, G. SWINTON, CLAUDY MARTIN, G. BAYLIE and others.

The following four old and rare MSS are found in this Library:

(i) A MS., perhaps unique, of Ḥāfī al-ṣawrā bi-akhbār Umm al-Qura, by NAJĀL-AL-DĪN ABRĪ ‘L-QASM MUḤAMMAD, a history of Mecca from the birth of the Holy Prophet to the first year of Hijra (1 July, 622).

(ii) ‘Umūn al-Sharīf, a curious manuscript dealing with five subjects (jurisprudence, history, grammar, prosody and rhyme) ingeniously written on every page in seven columns, two of which at the extremities and in the middle are written each in red and those in between in black in such a way that the matter inscribed in the latter, when read line by line horizontally, treats with jurisprudence of the Shafi‘i School and that of four red columns read vertically deals with prosody, history of Yemen, grammar and rhyme respectively.
(iii) *Sāhib al-Musulmān*. One of the oldest manuscripts of the Arabic collection in the Society, transcribed in 639/1241.
(iv) *Kitāb al-Qirā’āt al-Sawā‘a*, A treatise dealing with the recognised schools for the different readings of the text of the Qur’ān. It is dated 5th century Hijrī, written in Khurasan and the oldest copy of the collection.


**Published catalogues:**


732 Arabic & Persian MSS described in great detail. Old and Rare MSS are described in the Preface.

Particulars given: author, title, no. of folios and lines to the page. Description of the contents as in Ahwardt catalogue. Biography of the authors in great detail. References to copies in other libraries of India.


Tabular Form.

Gives new no., old no., title of the work, name of the author, whether MS., printed or litho; subject, no. of vols, remarks. Covers about 1,900 MSS and books. Author index and title index, added.


Gives no. of MS., title of the book, author's name, whether printed book or MS., date of MS., no. of vols, remarks.


In tabular form; new no., old no., title of work, name of the author, whether MS. or printed book or lithographed; date of MS., no. of vols, remarks giving information about the contents or subject matter of the MS. Contains author and title index. Covers about 1,225 MSS and printed books in Arabic only.


Gives no. of folios, lines, size, author, title, incipit, explicit, reference to MSS in other libraries, date of transcription, style of calligraphy, condition.


This collection is in the Asiatic Society Library.


1926. *Concise descriptive catalogue of the Persian manuscripts in the Curzon
756 MSS, including rare works of the collection, are described. Gives serial no., author, title, folios, lines, probable date of transcription, paper, condition, contents, references to other collections, incipits; indexes.

MSS nos. 757–924 with serial no., MS. no., title, author, folios, paper, no. of lines to the page, condition, style of calligraphy, date and place of transcription, name of the copyist; indexes.

MSS 925–1098. Details as in the first supplement.

Covers 1,200 MSS giving serial no., catalogue no., author, title, total no. of folios, no. of lines, paper, condition, seals, marginal notes, if any, incipits, style of calligraphy, possible date of transcription; indexes.

MSS nos. 1201–1541 with author, title, serial no., contents, folios, lines, size, style of calligraphy, date, if any, marginal notes, references to other collections, incipits & explicitis; indexes.


233 MSS with serial no., subject, title of work, name of author, name of commentator, script, size, folios and lines per page, extant, condition and age, additional particulars; indexes.

Uncatalogued MSS: 350 Arabic, 855 Persian and 450 Urdu MSS are uncatalogued.

The National Library
Date of establishment: Renamed from the Imperial Library after independence; originally established as a result of the initiative taken by Lord Curzon in 1903.
Conditions of access: Open 09.30–18.00 every day except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. A scholar holding a card is permitted to consult these manuscripts for study and research.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,161 (467 Arabic; 691 Persian; 1 Turkish; 2 Urdu).
The following collections are preserved in the library: Buhar Collection: Arabic 467; Persian 485; Urdu 2; Turkish 1; Jadunath Sarkar Collection: 206 Persian MSS.
Description of collection: It contains book and manuscript collections of the old Fort William College Library and the Calcutta Public Library. It moved to Belvedere, Alipore, in 1948. The manuscript collection was brought to the annexe building in 1967.
Most of the Arabic and Persian manuscripts were donated by Maulvi Sayyid Sadruddin al-Musawi (Zamindar of Buhar, Burdwan, West Bengal) and Sir Jadunath Sarkar, a well-known historian of Calcutta.
The following four old and rare manuscripts are to be found in this library:
(i) 'Tafsîr-i Harât: This unique and exceedingly valuable work, of which no other copy is extant, is undoubtedly the most valuable possession of this library. It gives on an elaborate scale an
accurate account of the city of Herat and the Malik kings between the years 1221–1321 C.E. Written in a beautiful, bold and clear Naskh. Not dated. Edited and published by Dr. Mo.- Zubayr Siddiqui. Persian MS. no. 58.

(ii) ʿAṣīr al-makhtūṭat wa-gharābūt al-mawjūdūt: A valuable work, composed in the beginning of the latter half of the sixth century A.H. This book was written for the last Saljuq monarch, Sultan Tughril ibn Arslān. It was transcribed by Muḥammad Qāsim in a clear hand and contains several miniatures of eastern style. Persian MS. no. 97.

(iii) Taṣjavārat Majmaʿ al-Bahrayn: An Arabic translation of the famous work of Dārā Shikāh called Majmaʿ al-Bahrayn by Muḥammad Šālīm ibn al-Shaykh ʿAbd al-Muḥammad. This book was aimed at reconciling the Hindu doctrine of Jot with that of the Sufis. On the margin are written in red ink the equivalent Sanskrit used by the Hindus. Transcribed in bad Naskh. Not dated. Arabic MS. no. 133.


Published catalogues:


Describes 485 MSS. Particulars given: serial no., folios, lines to the page, size, title, author’s name, incipit, brief account of its contents, date of transcription, scribe’s name, marginal notes with date, if any, seals recorded, language indexes.


Describes 467 MSS.


206 MSS; particulars given: serial no., author, title, total no. of pages and/or folios, and size.

Victoria Memorial Library

The following catalogue of the Victoria Memorial Library of Calcutta is available:


SHANTINIKETAN (BIRBHUM)

Viswabharati University Library

This Library possesses some Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts. No catalogue is available, although apparently a catalogue is being prepared. In spite of considerable effort, no information about the Islamic manuscripts could be obtained.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Lists 222 catalogues published in 17 countries; catalogues of Indian collections are on pp. 55–63.


Lists catalogues and publications about Arabic manuscripts all over the world. India in vol. 2, pp. 304–329.

India is on pages 706–707. The article describes the Turkish collections and the state of their catalogues, published and unpublished.

Gupta, B.M. & others (eds.). *Handbook of libraries, archives and information centres in India*. Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 1984–

See vol. I “Islamic Studies Libraries in India” by Gulab Khan (pp. 220–226) and articles about individual Islamic collections in vol. 9 (pts 1 & 2).


A bibliography of published catalogues dealing only with Arabic MSS. India on pp. 33–39.


On general library resources in India for Oriental Studies.


Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS. India on pp. 93–106.


Contains references to published catalogues. See particularly vol. 6, pp. 350–359.


A survey of Persian literature which lists catalogues consulted in vols. 1 & 2.

Suleimanov, Khamid S. Po rukopisnym fondam Indii; [In Russian, with English summary: “Through the manuscript funds [i.e., collections] of India.”]. *Sovetskaya Tyurkologiya*, 2, 1979, pp. 68–73.


General reference work listing published catalogues of Arabic manuscript collections all over the world.