NIGERIA

by

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INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a giant of Africa with the largest Muslim population in the whole continent. It has a total population of about 90 million, of which Muslims form about 65%. The remaining population is Christian and pagan. The total area of Nigeria is 923,768 sq. km. Out of this, the Northern states form the largest part of the country, constituting 281,782 square miles, and are inhabited by an overwhelming Muslim majority.

Many great scholars from different parts of West Africa came and lived in Nigeria particularly because pilgrims coming from the neighbouring Muslim countries passed through Katsina on their way to perform the Hajj. The writings of these scholars inspired many others whose manuscripts are found in various libraries and personal collections of certain ‘Mallams’ (Ma'allim).

Most manuscripts in Arabic, Hausa and Fulani languages on various Islamic subjects have come down to us from the period of the Sokoto Caliphate. Unfortunately, many valuable manuscripts have been lost or eaten away by all kinds of insects found in West Africa. Many manuscripts are kept locked in dirty-looking wooden boxes in mud houses and are not shown to anyone, because of some inexplicable fear that by exposure to people their baraka (blessing) will be lost. These people are the descendants of great scholars who are now quite ignorant and cannot even read these manuscripts; they feel that these ‘old books’ are a source of prosperity and protection.

THE WRITINGS OF SHEIKH UTHMAN DAN FODIO AND HIS SUCCESSORS

Islam was introduced in Hausaland many centuries ago, and Katsina had a Muslim King in the 17th century, while the neighbouring state of Borno had been ruled by Muslims since the 11th century. But Islam was not practised in its pure form as the Prophet Muhammad had preached. The rivalry between Islam and paganism had continued throughout the centuries. Therefore, SHEIKH

Uthman Dan Fodio, a great scholar, launched his Ḥijād of Ṭayḥid, as a result of which the Sokoto Caliphate came into existence. Fortunately, we have enough historical records available of the Ḥijād period. Shehu Uthman Dan Fodio himself wrote over a hundred books. His brother Abdullahi, and his son Muhammadu Bello were also great writers. These works of Shehu Uthman Dan Fodio, most of which are in manuscript form, are of great historical importance.

UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS

NB: See under KADUNA STATE — ZARIA — Ahmadu Bello University, Northern History Research Scheme for lists of MSS microfilmed in various places in northern Nigeria.


1967. The recovery of the Arabic script literature of the North. By

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Kendale has listed 85 works of Sheikh Uthman Dan Fodio, 75 of his brother Sheikh Abdullahi Dan Fodio and 93 of Sheikh Sultan Muhammad Bello, the son of Sheikh Uthman Dan Fodio.


INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

BORNO STATE

MAIDUGURI

Sheikh Alhaji Mustapha Alkali

Shehuri North, House No. 13, Maiduguri, Borno state

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic)

Description of collection: The MSS are on Ḥadīth, tafrîḥ, fiqh, and are in good condition.

Unpublished catalogues: Some of the manuscripts are described, but the descriptions are not printed.
Maulana Sheikh Sherif Ibrahim Saleh

Box 3, Maiduguri
Date of establishment: 1959
Total number of Islamic MSS: 40 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are about fiqh, usūl al-fiqh, history, Ḥadīth, tafsīr, Sufism, and are in good condition. The collection is not catalogued.

NGALA
Sheikh Usman

Gambaru Ngala
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS concern Islamic history and Arabic literature. They are well kept and in good condition. The owner is a renowned scholar.

GONGOLA STATE
JALINGO
Library of Prof. Dr Sa'ad Abubakar

Total number of Islamic MSS: 200 (Arabic; Fulbe).
Description of collection: The subjects covered in the MSS are Fulfulde Islamic literature, fiqh. The collection is well cared for, but not catalogued.

KADUNA STATE
KADUNA
Arewa House (Research Centre)

Kaduna, Kaduna state
Date of establishment: 1970 by Ahmadu Bello University
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,000 (Arabic; Fulbe; Hausa).
Description of collection: The subjects covered are Islamic history, fiqh, Ḥadīth. The condition of the MSS is excellent, but since the death of Professor Abdullahi Smith, many of the manuscripts have been mixed up and need to be sorted out again. See:


Unpublished catalogues: The catalogue is not very well kept.

Malam Rabiu Daura

Unguwar Sanusi Daban Road No. AF.44, Kaduna
Date of establishment: 1974
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (2 Arabic; 2 Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are about Islamic history. They are not very well kept, though to some extent safe. They are not catalogued or described in any way.

Lugard Hall Library

Lugard Hall, Northern House of Representatives, Kaduna
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30 (Arabic).
Published catalogues:

Describes 30 Arabic MSS in varying amounts of detail, but most entries give full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style or script, date and place of copying.

National Archives, Kaduna

National Archives Centre, Kaduna
Total number of Islamic MSS: Unknown (Arabic and Hausa documents and MSS).
Description of collection: See:
1960. The archives of tropical Africa: a reconnaissance. By Philip
The National Archive collections are described on p. 136: 2 small collections of Arabic & Hausa documents, and the private papers of Mallam Muntaka Coomasie (in Hausa).


**ZARIA**

Ahmadu Bello University, Centre for Islamic Legal Studies Library

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

Date of establishment: 1965

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 50 (Arabic; mostly photocopies).*

*Description of collection:* The subjects covered in the MSS are *fiqh*, *usul al-fiqh*. The collection is well kept.

*Unpublished catalogues:* The collection is properly catalogued.

Ahmadu Bello University, Northern History Research Scheme (NHIRS) Collection

Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, Samaru Zaria, Nigeria

Date of establishment: 1960

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 300 (Arabic; Hausa).*

*Description of collection:* The subjects covered in the MSS are: history of western Sudan in general and of the Sokoto Caliphate in particular; *Shari'a*, *usul al-fiqh*, Sufism, and philosophy. The MSS are very well kept, and the building is suitable, since it is maintained by Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. See:


Describes the collection, which is mostly on microfilm, and includes a list of books in Arabic script which are in the collection.


Published catalogues:


Unpublished catalogues:

Catalogues are available for all the MSS.

Professor Abdur Rahman I. Doi

c/o Centre for Islamic Legal Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Date of establishment: 1960

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (Arabic).*

*Description of collection:* A private collection kept in the owner’s house. The MSS are in excellent condition and are about *Shari'a*, and Islamic history.

Alhaji Umar Bn Sheikh Mu'azu

Zaria (Tudun-wade Ungwar dan Dutc)

Date of establishment: 1967
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The MSS concern Arabic literature, and Islamic history. The building is not suitable and therefore the collection is in danger.

Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner.

KANO STATE

KANO

Bayero University of Kano Library and History Research Bureau

Kano.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 89 (Arabic; Fulbe; Hausa etc.).

Description of collection: The MSS cover the Islamic sciences and humanities—including history, Shari'a etc. The collection consists of copies, originals and microfilms, well kept. See:


Unpublished catalogues: The MSS are properly catalogued, and there is an accessions list.

Alhaji Ahmad Baffa (Retired Area Court Judge)

Yakasai-Kano city

Total number of Islamic MSS: 43 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The subjects of the MSS are Shari'a & theology, literature—prose & poetry. The collection is not properly cared for. It is not catalogued.

Alhaji Ado Bayero His Highness, The Emir of Kano

The Palace—Kano.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 45 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The MSS are originals & photocopies, on Islamic history, Fiqh, Hadith, and not catalogued or listed. The collection is kept in boxes.

Personal library of Dr Hassan Ibrahim Gwarzo

Kano

Total number of Islamic MSS: 50 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The MSS are about Islamic sciences, Qur'an, history, Shari'a, not catalogued, and kept in files and boxes.

History and Culture Bureau

Nassarawa, Kano

Total number of Islamic MSS: 37 (Arabic; Fulbe; Hausa).

Description of collection: The MSS are on Islamic sciences, including Islamic history, theology, astronomy etc. The collection is well kept.

Unpublished catalogues: Cards are available.

Sheikh Nasir Kabara

Kano

Date of establishment: 19th century.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 45 (Arabic; Fulbe; Hausa).

Description of collection: The subjects covered in the MSS are: history, Fiqh, Sufism & other Islamic sciences. The collection is fairly well preserved, on shelves.

Kano Native Authority Collection

Shahuci Judicial School, Kano

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 20 (Arabic).

Published catalogues:


Lists, with full title and author, subjects, and date of composition, 20 items held in the Shahuci Judicial School. Microfilms of some of these MSS are deposited in Ibadan University's collection.
Ahaji Muhammad Murtala (Retired Area Court Judge)

Masallacin Jali—Kano City
Total number of Islamic MSS: 63 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are about Shari’ah, history & literature, but not properly cared for and uncatalogued.

KATSINA STATE

KATSINA

Alh. Husaini Ibrahim

No. 20 Wali Street, Katsina Township
Date of establishment: 1981
Total number of Islamic MSS: 95 (Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are about qiṣṣah, usūl al-fiqh, history and Arabic literature. They are in the owner’s possession, but their physical condition is not very safe.
Unpublished catalogues: Descriptions are in the hands of the owner.

Alh. Muhammad Imam

c/o Imam, cikin-gida Katsina Township
Date of establishment: 1982
Total number of Islamic MSS: 25 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are about Islamic sects. They are in the owner’s possession, but not very well kept, and not catalogued.

Alh. Hamza Isa Katsina

Lawal Dan Halifu Road, Katsina Township
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10 (8 Arabic; 2 Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are on Islamic religious subjects, and there are various handwritten tracts on Id-El-Kabir celebrations. The MSS are in the owner’s possession, but not very well kept.

Malam Abdul Wahab Ladan

Iyar-Adua, Katsina (Alhaji Ladan’s House)
Date of establishment: 1978
Total number of Islamic MSS: 700 (Arabic; Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are Islamic religious poems in Hausa written in Ajami scripts. The collection is in the owner’s possession.
Unpublished catalogues: Owner’s handwritten catalogue.

Alh. Suleiman Kuraye

No. 2 Tudun-Wada, Tafida Street, Katsina
Date of establishment: 1982
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS concern pilgrimage, fiqh and Islamic history. They are not in very good condition, and not catalogued.

Alh. Usman Jari Kurfi

No. 1'B' new staff Quarters, ATT.C. Katsina
Date of establishment: 1987
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12 (Arabic; Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS concern Salāt as the second pillar of Islam, and prayers in accordance with the Tijāniyya Sufi order.

Alhaji Usman Muhammad

Shari‘ah Court of Appeal Katsina State, Katsina
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MS is on fiqh and usūl al-fiqh, in quite good condition, but not catalogued.

Alh. Muhammad Suyudi Usman

c/o Imam cikin-gida Katsina City, Katsina
Date of establishment: 1987
Total number of Islamic MSS: 55 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS concern fiqh and wāl al-fiqh. They are in the author’s possession, but not very well kept, and not catalogued.

KWARA STATE
ILORIN
Mallam Abdul-Hamid
Ile—Gbogba, Ilorin, Kwara State
Date of establishment: 1963
Total number of Islamic MSS: 60 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS concern fiqh, Hadith, tafsir; they are not very well kept, and there are no descriptions.

OGUN STATE
ABEOKUTA
Imam Lawal
Orile—Ilugun, near Abeokuta, Ogun State
Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS concern fiqh, and Islamic history, but they are not very well kept, and no descriptions exist.

OYO STATE
IBADAN
Centre of Arabic Documentation
Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.
Total number of Islamic MSS: over 500 (mostly Arabic, a few Fulbe, Hausa and Yoruba; microfilms).
Description of collection: A microfilm collection of manuscripts from Northern Nigeria. See:


Detailed descriptions of MSS CAD/231–290.


Detailed descriptions of MSS CAD/291–320.

Provides an author and title index of MSS 1–320.

Detailed descriptions of MSS CAD/375–401.

Detailed descriptions of MSS CAD/402–422.

Ibadan University Library

Ibadan University, Ibadan
Date of establishment: Collection began in 1950s
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,200 (mostly Arabic).
Description of collection: The manuscripts which form the basis of this collection were acquired, or borrowed for filming, during the 1950s–1960s in Northern Nigeria. The subject-matter is largely Nigerian history, and religious practice and studies. Nearly all the MSS are of local provenance. See:

At the beginning of this article, Kendsdale describes the acquisition of MSS in Northern Nigeria which became the basis of the University Library collection.


Describes the formation and development of the collection.


Published catalogues:
Detailed description of 160 MSS, giving full author and title, subjects, date of composition. Fascicule 3 contains indexes of authors and titles.

ILE-IFE
University of Ife Library

Obaño Awolowo University, Ile-Ife
Date of establishment: 1960
Total number of Islamic MSS: 200 (Arabic; mostly photocopies and microfilms).
Description of collection: Most of these manuscripts were acquired from Ifas (scholars) from Iwo, Oyo and Ibadan. The subjects covered are Islamic history, fiqh, Hadith and tafir. Very good condition. Unpublished catalogues: Catalogue very well kept.

PLATEAU STATE
JOS
Jos Museum

Jos
Total number of Islamic MSS: over 1,000 (Arabic; Fulbe; Hausa; Yoruba).
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are about various aspects of Islamic religious teaching and practice, and jurisprudence. Other MSS describe Nigerian history, folklore, various kinds of science, etc.
Describes over 1,000 MSS (nearly the entire collection of Arabic MSS at the Jos Museum). Most MSS are fully described, with entries giving full author and title, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, and date & place of copying.

SOKOTO STATE

SALAME
‘Abb al-Qadir bin al-Mustafâ (d. 1864) Collection

Salame, Gwadabawa Local Government (60 km to the north-east of Sokoto)
Date of establishment: ca. 1900
Total number of Islamic MSS: 28 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS cover the following subjects: history of Sokoto Caliphate; history of western and central Sudan in the 18th and 19th centuries; theological dispensation; Sufism and Sufi practices; philosophy; elegy; Qur’anic commentary; biographies of ‘ulama. However the building is not suitable and the collection is in danger. Photocopies have been made.
Unpublished catalogues: The state of cataloguing is fair.

SOKOTO

Personal Library of Dr Waziri Junaid, the Waziri of Sokoto

Sokoto
Date of establishment: Originally established in the late 18th century, inherited and developed by Dr Junaid from early 20th century.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,000 (800 Arabic; 60 Fulbe; 140 Hausa).
Description of collection: Most MSS are on Islamic sciences, including law, politics and economics. Other subjects covered are medicine, astronomy, mathematics and history. The MSS date from the late 18th century to early 20th century. There are many MSS in the handwriting of 18th- and 19th-century authors or their scribes; some are in verse. Some of the original MSS of Sheikh Uthman dan Fodio are preserved in this collection. The MSS are all in good condition, preserved in boxes.
Unpublished catalogues: The MSS are all catalogued stating author and title, pagination and whether MS. is original, handwritten copy or photocopy. All are listed in catalogue available in the Library.
The Ministry of Information, Sokoto State

Sokoto

Description of collection: The original MSS of Sheikh Uthman Dan Fodio which were formerly housed in History Research Bureau, Sokoto.

Sokoto State History Bureau Library

Sokoto

Date of establishment: 1977

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,100 (900 Arabic; 80 Fulbe; 120 Hausa).

Description of collection: Most of the MSS are on Islamic sciences, including politics, economics and law. Others are on history, medicine, astronomy and mathematics. Some are in the handwriting of 18th- and 19th-century authors or their scribes. Some are in verse.

The MSS are all in good condition and kept in boxes. Most are photocopies of the original or handwritten copy, and all are easily readable.

See:


Unpublished catalogues:
The MSS are all classified and catalogued, indicating author, title, pagination, source, and whether original, old handwritten copy, or photocopy. They are listed in the catalogue available in the Library.


Accessions list, by author.

WURNO

Malam Haliru Wurno

c/o Shehu Malami Primary School

Status: Private

Published catalogues:

Incl. detailed descriptions of the MSS and their orthography.

APPENDIX: OWNERS OF DISPERSSED COLLECTIONS

Dr Bello Abdu

Zaria (Tudun-Wada-Mora Road)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Hausa).

Description of collection: The MSS concern modern medicine.

Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Lawal Abubakar

Zaria (City)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Hausa).

Description of collection: The MSS concern Islamic religion.

Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Ummaru B. Ahmad

Zaria (Tudun-Wada)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Hausa).

Description of collection: The MSS contain Hausa literature.

Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Muntaqah Coomassi

Zaria (City)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (4 Arabic; 1 Hausa).

Description of collection: The MSS are about Islamic religion.
Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Alhaji Abubakar Imam

Zaria (Tudun-Wada)
Total number of Islamic MSS: 8 (Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are about fiqh, history, and Islamic religion.
Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Kamurrudin Imam

Zaria (Tudun-Wada)
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are about literature & moral teachings.
Unpublished catalogues: Cards are with the owner. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Kaalar Maiwada

Zaria (Tudun-Wada)
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS concern Islamic religion and Hausa literature. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

Subairu Uthman

Zaria (Tudun-Wada)
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Hausa).
Description of collection: The MSS are about moral teachings and Hausa literature. Collection dispersed in bookshops and libraries.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX

Nayjīrīya, p. 54.


NORWAY

by

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