

The Punjab Public Library

The Punjab Public Library, Lahore, lies in the heart of the city of Lahore at Library Road near the Lahore museum, off Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam. It is surrounded by well-known educational institutions and the Punjab University Old Campus. The commercial Centre, of Anarkali, the main offices of the Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (Town Hall) and the provincial government offices, i.e., the Civil Secretariat, are at a short distance from this building. Thus the Punjab Public Library, Lahore, is centrally situated; it has a congenial atmosphere for quiet and peaceful study.

The Library was established in 1884 by Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab and registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

In the beginning, the library operations started in the Baradari Wazir Khan, an imperial building which has a rich history. During the Sikh era the Baradari was part of cantonment. After British, Mian Mir became the Garrison to house the soldiers their residential quarters were there, and the building served as a military camps. It was successively used as the Settlement and Telegraph Office. Then it became the home of the Lahore museum, and has finally been utilized as the Punjab Public Library. The founder of the building was himself a patron of learning and profound scholar, and the association of his name with an institution reminds us about hard work and passion

Other library blocks were built in 1939. A block housing the auditorium and Bait-ul-Quran section was constructed in 1968 and inaugurated by General Mohammad Musa, then governor of West Pakistan.

The Punjab Public Library, Lahore, holds a rare collection of books pertaining to all fields of knowledge. There are in English, Urdu, Persian, Arabic and Punjabi languages. Its total collection is about 0.3 million volumes and includes books, bound volumes of old magazines/newspapers, reports, the old gazettes of Punjab, Pakistan and undivided India, and there are more than 1500 manuscripts. The library receives 170 magazines, 24 journals by subscription and the rest as complimentary copies. Twelve daily newspapers are received in the library

Bibliography

Latif, Khan Bahadur Syad Muhammad. *Lahore: Its History, Architectural Remains and Antiquities*. Lahore: Sang e Meel, 1892.