ANCIENT LIBRARIES
A brief history.

Library of Ashurbanipal
Assyria (Iraq) 668 BCE - 627 BCE
- A large palace which had a large archive
- Archive contained temple business, and government records
- First systematically organized library
- Over 30,000 cuneiform tablets
- Created to be the King’s personal reference collection

Temples of Mesopotamia
Nippur, Southern Mesopotamia 500s BCE
- Built in honor of Siddhartha Gautama Buddha
- Contained a lot of literature ranging from orthodox, vedic, and non-buddhist works.
- Reading rooms richly furnished

Jetavana Buddhist Monastery
Sravasti, India 400 BCE
- As being literate became fashionable, people started creating personal libraries
- Aristotle had his own organization method.
- This collection was hurried for safe keeping but damaged and thend scattered

Libraries of Alexandria
Alexandria, Egypt 300 BCE
- Housed 200,000 volumes
- Outside of Alexandria considered best Hellenistic library.
- Made parchment an important part of the library
- Library held between 400,000 to 700,000 scrolls
- There was a main library and a branch that had 42,000 items for the general public
- First cataloging system based on alphabetical subject classification (librarian: Callimachus of Cyrene)

Rise of Villa Libraries
Italy 138 BCE-138 CE
- First Public Library of Rome
- Contained both Greek and Latin wings
- Besides books it also contained an art collection
- Start of circulation
As book availability, increased, so did home book collections.
- Libraries were seen as fashionable, as were reading rooms.
- Much of this knowledge comes from letters written during that time.

Aristotle’s Library
Athens, Greece 384-321 BCE

Pergamon Library
Burgama, Turkey 197-159 BCE
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Gaius Asinius Pollio’s Library
Rome 39 BCE