

**Librarian:
An
Evolution
From Ancient
Egypt to the
Modern Digital
Librarian**

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**Evolution of the
Genus Librus
Featuring:
Librus Originalus
Librus Religious
Librus Enlightus
Librus Silencious
Librus Digitalus**

Egyptian Librarian

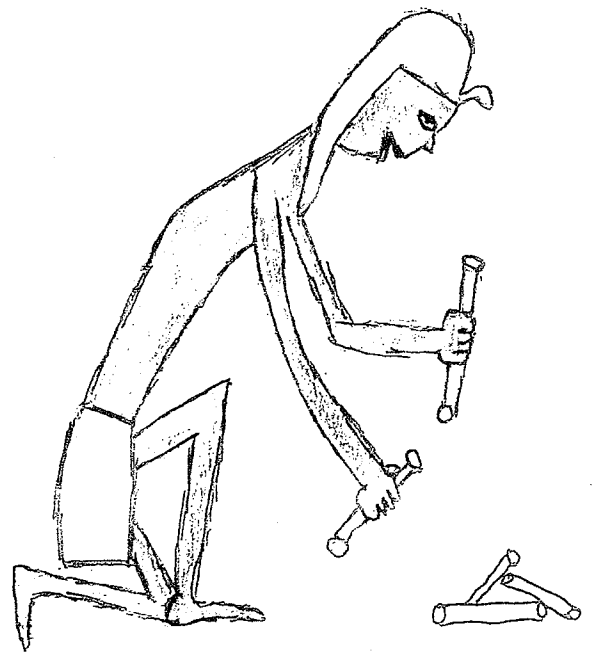
(*Librus Originalus*)

Time Period:
235? BCE until 391 CE

Famous Libraries:
Library of Alexandria, or The Great Library (Alexandria, Egypt)

Tools:
Written word
Papyrus Scrolls
Clay slabs
Simple Writing Tools

The first true public librarians originated in Egypt during the reign of Ptolemy. Libraries back then were very different. In addition to scrolls and clay slabs, the library also housed a wide variety of services, including sports grounds and even a zoo. Scholars could go to the library and examine the materials, but could not formerly check them out for personal use. However, this was a vast improvement on libraries of the past, which had been limited to private libraries owned by scholars. The Great Library was available for any scholar to use for research.



Monastic Librarian

(Librus Religious)

Time Period:

529 until 1362

Famous Libraries:

Abby of Monte Cassino (Compania, Italy)

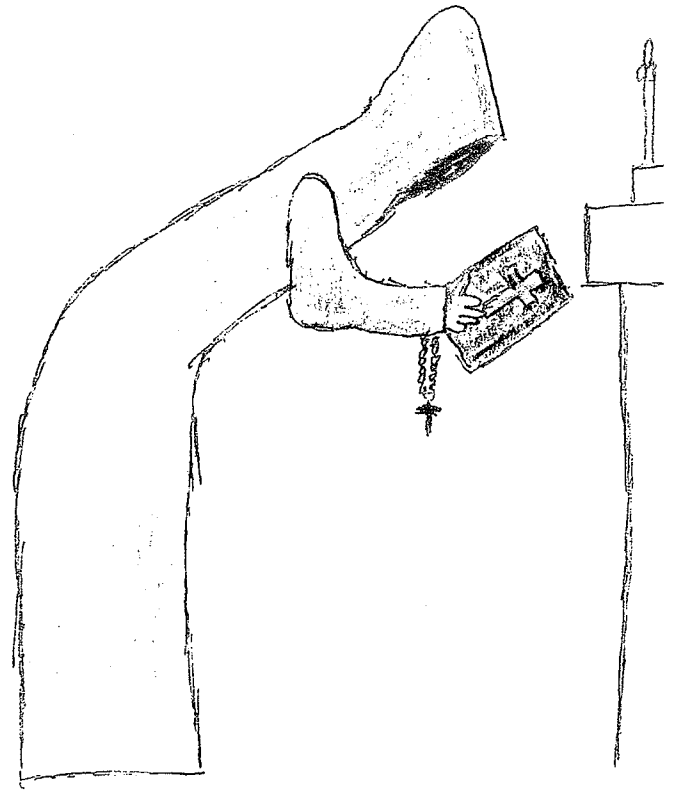
Tools:

Advanced Language

Parchment

Quills and Ink

Reclusive and quiet, Monastic Librarians are a mysterious type of librarian. Their collections centered mostly on works focused on religion, specifically forms of Christianity. Books were written by hand with ink on parchment. The ability to read was limited to other monasteries and volumes were transported back and forth between groups of monks. Many orders had scribes, monks whose only job was to copy down texts that would be shared. The Monastic Librarian only shared these texts with other monasteries and the monks were in charge of interpreting what the texts said to the masses.



Renaissance Librarian

(*Librus Enlightus*)

Time Period:

1450s-1800s

Famous Libraries:

Laurentian Library (Florence, Italy)

Herzog August Library (Wolfenbuttel, Germany)

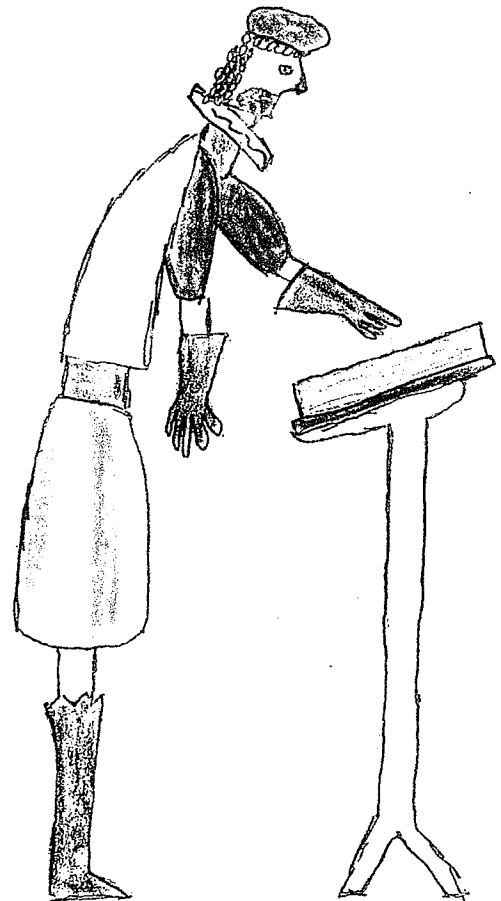
Tools:

Guttenberg Printing Press

Paper

Literacy of the Masses

The Renaissance Librarian sought to improve the quality of education. With the invention of the Guttenberg Printing Press, the Renaissance Librarian was able to help people of all classes develop their literacy. Usually connected to a college, the Renaissance Librarian strove to educate in an academic sense. With the help of the Renaissance Librarian, citizens were able to escape the dark ages and advance into an enlightened state in which academia (science, art, mathematics) advanced to the levels they are today.



Modern Librarian

(Librus Silencious)

Time Period:

1920s until 1990

Famous Libraries:

Library of Congress (Washington, USA)

British Library (London, England)

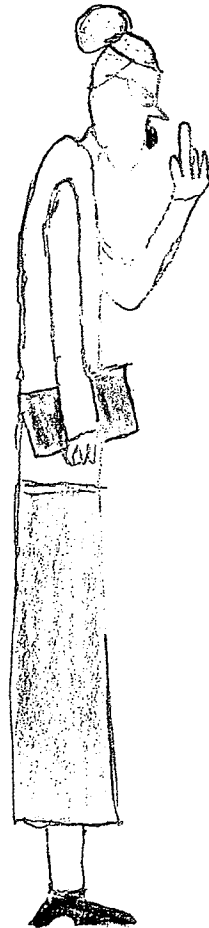
Tools:

Advanced Binding Materials

Better Printing Technology

Mass Produced Books

When an individual is asked to think of a librarian, most minds will quickly think of this type of librarian. Armed with only a sharp glare and the right to shush patrons, the Modern Librarian often worked in public and college libraries. Open to the public, the facility of the Modern Librarian was somewhere that people could research and further educate themselves. In addition to books, the Modern Librarian was also responsible for resources like video and audio recordings.



Modern Digital Librarian

(Librus Digitalus)

Time Period:

1990 until Present

Famous Libraries:

OMA: Seattle Central Library (Seattle, USA)

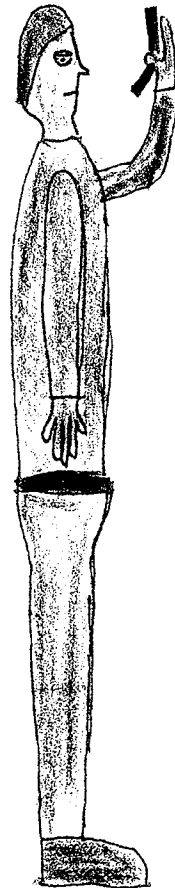
Tools:

The Internet

E-Readers

Digital Resources

This librarian is the fusion of technology and education. With a wide array of digital databases, websites and other non-physical references to contribute, the Modern Digital Librarian is the "Librarian of the Future." Digital Libraries are not only experts in the field of physical books, but also very skilled at acquiring digital resources for patrons. In the murky world of the Internet, it's easy for patrons to get lost, but Digital Librarian is there to guide them in the right direction.



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