



*Abou Bakr Belkaid University  
Faculty of Human and social Sciences  
First Year Common Trunk  
English module*

## **What is Librarianship?**

Librarianship is the profession that focuses on the management and dissemination of information through the maintenance and organization of libraries. It is an ancient craft that has dynamically evolved to include the stewardship of digital resources alongside traditional media. Librarians are no longer merely custodians of books; they are information specialists who play a crucial role in educating the public and preserving knowledge for future generations. At its core, librarianship involves cataloguing, archiving, and curating a variety of media forms, ranging from the written word to digital files. Librarians are also deeply involved in information science, utilizing database management skills to organize resources effectively. By filtering and providing access to accurate, relevant information, librarians facilitate research, learning, and entertainment for a community's patrons.

### **History of Librarianship**

**1 Origins :** The concept of librarianship dates back to ancient civilizations when scribes played the role of collecting and organizing texts. Libraries like the one in Alexandria served as hubs of knowledge in the ancient world.

2 The Middle Ages during the middle Ages, the role of a librarian was typically held by monks who safeguarded and hand-copied religious and scholarly works within the confines of monasteries.

**3 The Printing Revolution:** The invention of the printing press in the 15th century burgeoned the need for librarians, as books became more widely available and libraries grew in number and size.

**4 Digital Age:** The digital revolution has drastically changed the field, integrating technology with traditional methods. Today, librarianship includes managing digital archives and databases alongside physical collections.

### **Types of Libraries**

- 1- **Public Libraries:** Public libraries serve the general public, providing access to a vast range of knowledge, community events, and literacy services. They often become cultural centres of the towns and cities they are in.
- 2- **Academic Libraries:** Located in educational institutions like colleges and universities, academic libraries support the curriculum and research needs of the students and faculty, offering specialized collections and services.
- 3- **Special Libraries:** Special libraries are typically part of organizations, corporations, or government agencies, focusing on specific areas like law, medicine, or technology, catering to a targeted clientele.