

# Survey Report From

**Kabul Public Library and its city branches, as well as  
Kabul University and the Academy of Sciences libraries  
Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Logar, Paktia (Gardez),  
Khost, Herat, Kandahar**

**Funded by: IOM/USAID/OTI**

**Implemented by: ARIC Box Library Extension (ABLE)**

***Surveyed by:***

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**Preface:**

Under this project ABLE (ARIC Box Library Extension) would like to strengthen 14 public libraries in Afghanistan. This project is designed to provide up to one thousand books for each library center. Funded for six month by USAID/OTI.

This project will be implemented in three phases:

1. Explanatory assessment of the overall present conditions of the public libraries through a field survey.
2. Identification and purchase of books as per library requirements. This will include collecting, covering, packing and delivery of books to Afghanistan.
3. Evaluate the performance of the libraries after receiving the books to see whether the books are properly arranged for the use of the general public.

**Over all conditions of the Public Libraries**

Regarding all public libraries of the provinces of Afghanistan the following points are worth mentioning:

- The provincial public libraries are mostly funded by the Ministry of Information and Culture.
- The books available in the provincial public libraries are mostly out of date and have not been taken care of properly for many years.
- New books compiled, translated and printed over the last decade are not available in the public libraries.
- The books of the provincial public libraries are not listed in card catalogue system nor arranged by title/subject or categorized, nor are any catalogue system employed.
- The working period of the libraries is very short. The libraries are open for one or two hours in the morning when the staff come to sign their attendance sheets.
- The library visitors are very limited. Hardly up to five visitors come to the biggest public library of Kabul city. This is because of up-to-date books in the libraries are unavailable.
- Provincial Librarians are ordinary admin people and lacks professional skills.
- Damages during the civil war have not been accurately assessed in any province.
- Most provincial public libraries do not have proper buildings and are located in rented or loaned spaces with other offices.
- Most of the libraries do not have shelves, tables and chairs.
- Proper attention is not paid to the maintenance of the books.

This survey of the 14-targeted public libraries has been carried out exactly by personal visits, except for the university library of Mazar-e-Sharif. The road to Mazar was blocked with snow at the time of the surveying.

This report presents the following particulars:

- A picture and idea about the current condition of the libraries, along with a brief introduction to their backgrounds.
- Description of facts and exact figures.
- Comparative and critical report based on reality.
- The points of views of library visitors, people interested in books and concerned personalities in the community.
- A comprehensive list of the books currently available in the Kabul Public Library and its city branches.
- An index to the report on the situation of book markets in Kabul from the standpoints of the booksellers. Learning more about the book markets will be very important while purchasing books.
- Some pictures from the libraries

### General Directorate of Public Libraries – Kabul

The General Directorate the Public Libraries was established in 1970 within the Ministry of Information and Culture. It is responsible to organize, plan, supply and keep the public libraries active in the capital and provinces throughout the country.

The current president of the public libraries is Sayed Fazlullah Qudsi, and the headquarters is located in Malik Asghar Square Kabul city.

The following libraries are functioning under the Public Libraries and National Archive Department:

Province	Number of books
Baghlan	311
Bamiyan	N/A
Farah	N/A
Faryab	N/A
Ghazni	4970
Ghor	436
Heart	N/A
Helmand	1598
Jawzjan	N/A
Kabul public library with seven city and fourteen urban branches	70,000
Kandahar	1612
Khost	909
Kunduz	330
Laghman	1430
Logar	456
Mazar-e- Sharif	377
Nangarhar	1900
Nimroz	N/A
Paktia	323
Paktika	1400
Pul-e- Khumri	N/A
Samangan	N/A
Sar-e-Pul	300
Uruzgan	1179
Wardak	656

According to the official information of the directorate of public libraries, those libraries whose number of available books is not known are not active. The books and all other materials and equipment of the libraries have were destroyed and looted for various reasons.

## **The Kabul Public Library**

**Location:** Malik Asghar Square, near Istaqlal high school, Kabul city

**Foundation Year:** 1970

**Total number of books:** 70,000 copies

**General Manager of card and catalogue:** Haji Mohd Shafi

**General Administrator:** Baz Mohd Esar

**Librarian:** Ghulam Rasool Mahjoor

This library has the following sections:

- Reference hall with 11,511 books.
- Afghanistan studies section and a reading hall and 5229 books.
- Youth library section with 4,826 books.
- Children library section with 2525 books.
- Distribution section with 20,973 books.
- Jihadi library section with 4,235 books.
- Journal and Periodicals' hall with 3,946 collections and 1,257 individual magazines.

The number of books available in different sections of the Kabul public library and its city branches of Khairkhana and Qala-e-Fathullah are listed language and subjects are shown in details on the Index 1.

- Books are registered and entered in the card catalogue in alphabetical order under relevant subjects; currently the youth section hall is open to visitors. Other sections are closed. Functioning.

### **Sustained Damages:**

In the central library, 400 books from the Afghanistan Studies hall and Reference hall were destroyed during rocket attacks. Among the branches of Kabul public library, the libraries of Pul-e-Charkhi prison, Microyan, Mirwais Maidan, Kart-e-Char, De Sabz, Meer Bacha Kot, Bagramy and Char Asiyab districts were completely destroyed. Materials and equipment in these libraries were also lost.

Total number of lost books reaches some 27,602 copies.

Some of the books of the city libraries of Qala-e-Fathullah were shifted to the central stores.

### **Kabul Library Branches:**

#### **1- Khairkhana Meena**

**Location:** The Bend of Part I, Khairkhana, Building of Municipality.

**Foundation Year:** 1974

**Total number of available books:** 6649 books.

**Manager of the library:** Habib-ul-Rahman

**In-charge of the distribution section:** Mir Mohd.

The library does not have a specific building now. It is located in two rooms loaned by the Municipality.

#### **Current condition and activities of the library:**

The city library of Khairkhana was founded as both reference and lending library.

**This library has the following sections:**

- Distribution section with 1005 books
- Reference section with 1184 books
- Children and youth section with 4460 books

**2- Qala-e-Fathullah:**

This library was established in 1974 by the general directorate of the public libraries of the Ministry of Information and Culture with a total of 620 books. Later on the library was improved and the number of books were increased to 4104.

**The Library of Academy of Sciences**

**Location:** Center of Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan – Sherpoor, Kabul

**Founder:** Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan

**Foundation year:** 1937 (the same time as Pashto Tolana (Society of Pashto) was founded. Later on the history section of society of Pashtu was also mixed with the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan).

**Total available books:** Around 14000 books in 9000 titles

**Director of the library:** Mod Akbar Madadi, doctorate in historical sciences

**Assistant:** Abdul Basir Bakhtary

**Librarian:** Mohd Aman

**The working sections of the library:**

The books of the Academy of Sciences library are categorized in the following sections:

Natural sciences, history, literature, religion, economics, laws, journalism, education, philosophy, biology, bibliography, encyclopedias, dictionaries, magazines, and periodicals.

The library has lending and study-in-library systems. At the moment only the distribution, reference and magazines' sections are functioning.

**The condition of books and library:**

- The books are generally out of date.
- The books are registered in a card catalogue.

**The visitors of the library:**

In the past more than 300 scholars had membership at the Academy of Sciences library. They used to study in the library daily. Now some 20 to 30 people visit the library daily, 10 to 15 of whom are women. Currently the lending system is not working. Plans to resume the activities of the library are in progress.

**Sustained Damages:**

- Some very valuable and rare books including some limited-to-one copybooks in hand writing have been stolen from the Academy of Sciences library. However, the exact amount of loss is not yet registered yet.
- The study hall of the library is being used by another office and the table and chairs of the study hall have been destroyed due to lack of attention.
- 500 books have been removed from the shelves because of being too old to be used

### **Kabul University Library:**

**Location:** Inside Kabul University compound, Jamal Meena

**Administration:** Ministry of Education

**Foundation Year:** 1932 the same time as the first medical faculty was established in Afghanistan.

**Funding agency:** Ministry of Higher and Professional Education

**Total number of books:** in the past around one million, now approximately 200,000 books.

**General manager of the library:** Asst. Professor Mohd. Sadiq Wadid

### **Working sections of the library:**

The general department of library of Kabul University has admin and technical assistance departments.

Four sub-departments are working under the supervision of the admin department as follows:

Distribution department, Afghanistan studies, Reference and Periodicals.

The technical assistance department is responsible for the sub-departments of Card catalogue, supplies, audio and visual and binding.

- The distribution section lends books for two weeks to those students and teachers who have the membership.
- Valuable books in the reference section of the library are available for the use of researchers inside the reference hall.
- In the winter season some 15 to 20 boys and girls come to the library.

### **Particulars and conditions of books:**

- The books available in the library of the Kabul University are all useful. All the books are registered in card catalogues and the cleaning of the books is going on seriously.
- New books are being registered and being sent to the related sections of the technical assistance section.
- Newly arrived books as well as previous volumes needing to be repaired, are being covered and mended in the bindery section.
- Currently books are not categorized under their languages and subject because the personnel of the library are busy with arranging the books and counting Sustained Damages.
- There are various types of books in the library of the Kabul University. In the Afghanistan Study section there are scientific works of Afghan scholars, who had written them for promotion. Theses of graduate students are in hand written. This is a large scientific treasure, but no one has yet tried to publish them.
- Scientific and research magazines which used to come to the library in the past are no longer received because subscriptions have lapsed.

### **Sustained Damages:**

Before the last decade of war, the Kabul university library had 1,000,000 books. Now only 200,000 books are left.

Valuable books included some very hard-to-find ones in handwriting, which enriched the library. These were looted and sold in neighboring countries and world markets, even in African countries. Some of the looted books from the Kabul university library have been sold for thousands of dollars. A number of books have been damaged by rockets and bullets, which make them partially or completely unusable.

Also it is worth mentioning that while temporarily shifting the books from one place to another trucks normally used for carrying stones were used. As a result some books were ruined and became useless.

### **Requirements of the Kabul university library in addition to books:**

Photocopier machine, video cameras for filming seminars, fax machines, computers and printers. Further more, in case the possibilities of publishing the hand writing materials would be arranged, it would be of great benefits.

### **Logar Province Public Library**

**Location:** Pul-e-Alam, Municipality building

**Foundation year:** 1996

**Number of books:** According to the report of the General Directorate of Public Libraries in Kabul 456 books, according to the Librarian 750 books.

**Manager of the library:** Mohd Saleem

### **The current condition of the library:**

- Since the establishment, more than one thousands books were given to the Logar public library by ABLE. However, now most of the books no longer exist according to this latest survey.
- A number of 750 books in Dari, Pashto, English, and Arabic languages are available in the public library.
- Most of the books are new and useful.
- Only 219 books are listed.
- The library does not have permanent members; lending books take place with temporary references.

### **Sustained Damages:**

Apparently the Logar Public library has not faced any accidents, but missing of books were not cleared; meanwhile the rapid administration changes made difficult to estimate damages and losses. Different figures are reported by the Directorate of Public Libraries in Kabul. This indicates there is no regular contact between Kabul and its provincial branches.

### **Gardez Public Library**

**Location:** The building of Directorate of Information and Culture of Gardez city, Paktia province.

**Foundation year:** 1969

**Manager of the library:** Noor Ajaan

**Total No. Of books:** According to the report of the Directorate of Public Libraries, 1400 books, and available 1200 books.

### **Current condition of the library:**

The public library of Gardez is a reference library and shares a single room with the Directorate of Information and Culture.

**Khost province Public library:**

**Location:** Building of the Information and Culture- center of Khost city

**Foundation year:** 1969

**Total number of books:** According to the report of the General Directorate of Public Libraries, 909 books, available 2500 books.

**Librarian:** The main librarian who was a Talib, soon after the fall of the Taliban regime disappeared. Presently Abdullah is appointed.

**Current condition of the library:**

The public library of Khost province is located in three rooms of the Directorate of Information and Culture. It does not have enough shelves, chairs and tables. The books are stored with trusted people in the community. They were given to them in order to avoid loss and destruction during the war crisis. The process of returning the books to the library is in process.

**Present condition of the books:**

- Mr. Abdullah reports there are 2500 books available.
- The books are in Dari, Pashto, Arabic, English and German languages.

**Herat Province Public Library:**

**Location:** The building of library, Flowers Park, Shahr-e-Naw, Herat

**Foundation Year:** 1938

**Number of books:** At the beginning 1000 copies, later increased according to the report of the General Directorate of Libraries to 15000 books. Available books as of February 2002: 10,000

**Librarian:** Meer Safi-ul-Haq Hussaini

**The current condition of books:**

- The public library of Herat contains 10,000 books, and some collections of magazines as of February 2002.
- All the books are listed; there is a card catalogue system.
- All the books are useful.
- The books are arranged by language as follows:
  - Dari 7900 books
  - Pashto 500 books
  - English 600 books
  - Arabic 1000 books

**Sustained Damages:**

- The public library of Herat was closed from 1980 to 1992 due to some unknown reasons. Its books were shifted to the Eidgah (the great mosque of the city).

### **Kandahar Public Library:**

**Location:** Shaheedan Avenue, Kandahar city

**Foundation year:** 1945, after being destroyed by fire in 1944

**Number of books:** At the beginning 300 books; according to the report of the General Directorate of public libraries 1612 books, available 2500 books.

**Librarian:** Aziz Ahmad Aziz

#### **The current condition of the library:**

The Public Library of Kandahar province is located in a room in the center of the Directorate of Information and Culture. The library is functioning with reference; there is a lending system. Shelves, chairs, and tables are sufficient to fulfill requirements.

#### **The current condition of the available books:**

- There are 2500 books in the public library of Kandahar as of February 2002.
- All the books are new because they were recently purchased from Kandahar and Quetta during the Taliban government. Cost amounted to Rs. 200,000 granted by the Taliban government to the library.
- The statistics of books in distinction of their languages is given as following:
  - Dari 999 books
  - Pashto 1000 books
  - Arabic 171 books
  - English 330 books

#### **Visitors of the library:**

- The library has 20 permanent members.
- The books are lent to members against a return of cash guarantee system administrated by government office.

#### **Sustained Damages:**

The library room with all its books, furniture, documents, registration books, and all other equipments were on fire in 1994.

### **Nangarhar Province Public library**

**Location:** Building of Directorate of Information and Culture of Nangarhar province, east of old city Jalalabad.

**Foundation year:** 1972

**Approximate total of the available books:** 4000 copies

**Manager of the library:** Shah Mahmood Tawhidi

#### **Particulars of available books:**

- There is no card catalogue system for the books. During the time of the previous librarian (Taliban regime) some 1500 books were taken out of the library and replaced by partisan books of the Hezb-e-Islami party.
- There are also some collections of newspapers and magazines in the library.

**Library Users:**

It is a reference library and most of the users are students of the Nangarhar Medical faculty.

**Sustained Damages:**

Throughout the years of fighting and crisis, the city public branch libraries no. 1 and no.2 of Jalalabad city were destroyed with all their books and equipment. The district libraries were completely destroyed.

**Kunar Public Library:**

**Location:** Building of Directorate of Information and Culture of Kunar, city market of Asad Abad.

**Foundation Year:** 1986

**Number of books:** Available 1800 books in February 2002.

**Librarian:** Katib Shah Katib

**The current situation of the library:**

- The public library of Kunar province is set in a small room in the Directorate of Information and Culture without required furniture and other equipments.
- This library is closed due to the lack of administration regularity in Kunar.

**The Current condition of the available books:**

*According to the librarian's claim:*

- There are 1800 books in the public library of Kunar.
- The available books are categorized under the relevant language and subject:

Subject/Sector	Number of books
Agriculture	200
Pashto literature	250
Dari literature	200
Health	200
Education	300
Islamic	250

Languages	Number of books
Dari	400
Pashto	200
English	200
Arabic	900

**Sustained Damages:**

- 650 books were looted from this library.

## **Laghman Province Public Library**

**Location:** Qala-e- Alsaraj Palace – Mehterlam City

**Foundation Year:** 1972

**Approximate total of available books:** 200 in foreign languages (English and Russian), which are not very useful.

**Manager of the Library:** Asadullah Rahnaward, Master of Literature

### **Current Condition of the Library:**

The Public Library of Laghman province in the Directorate of Information and Culture is located in the destroyed Palace of Qala-e-Alsaraj.

According to the report of the General Directorate of Public Libraries in Kabul, the public library of Laghman province had 1430 books in 2001. However, based on a report from Malem Abdul Qudos, director of Information and Culture, Haji Akhtar Mohd, Director of Foreign Relations of Laghman province, Hayatullah admin manager of Information and Culture and Asadullah Rahman, manager of the public library of Laghman province, this library was completely looted and destroyed during the war. Late on during the Taliban government the library become active with 1500 books. But during the last crisis and the arrival of the Interim Government, the library was once again looted and only 200 old and useless books in foreign languages are left in the library. People do not know how to read foreign books in Mehterlam.

The Building of Qala-e- Alsaraj palace is occupied by an armed group who has robbed the offices of Information and Culture and the library. After insisting for three days and showing a notice from the governor of Laghman province, the let us see the library only from its window and take a picture of its locked door.

Now the librarian of the public library and personnel of Information and Culture come to the center of the province and sign their attendance sheets in a local mosque.

**Suggestions:**

After the primary survey of all the libraries included in this project (except the university library of Mazar-e-Shari), talking with the concerned authorities, hearing the views of concerned and interested people, evaluating the book markets and seeing the needs and requirements of the libraries the following points are recommended:

1. For all those libraries, which are clarified as supportable libraries, new books should be arranged according to the subject list attached to this report.
2. In the first step those books should be purchased which are published in the past ten years but were not allowed to enter Afghanistan due to political, religious, discrimination and other reasons.
3. Discriminative, political books as well as the biography of those people who will create problems among people should not be purchased.
4. While buying the books the status and level of the Kabul University and academy of science libraries should be taken in mind to buy books, which are in their standard because these are research centers and need more scientific books.
5. While buying books, it should not be completely relied on the Kabul book markets because good books are not available there. In case the required books are not available in the book markets of Peshawar an officer from ABLE will travel to Iran to buy the needed books.
6. Librarians of all the libraries surveyed are ordinary and non-professional people and do not know the ways of keeping books. To improve the activities of the libraries they should be admitted to the short-term courses or workshops.
7. All libraries of the provinces need tables, chairs and shelves.
8. Most of the libraries do not have buildings; if possible it should be handled.
9. Salaries and allowances of the librarians have not been paid in time, which is the main reason of their lack of interest in their work. Discussion should be made with the ministry of Information and Culture in this regard.

**List of the required books for the libraries according to subjects:**

Books are required in the following subjects for the surveyed libraries:

Computer learning, Science and Technology, Universal Literature, Philosophy, Religious, Social Sciences, Political Sciences and Diplomacy, Journalism, Dictionaries of the alive languages of the world with Dari/Pashto translations, Encyclopedias, General Knowledge books, Poets, Stories, Medical, the Fine Arts, Statistics, children books, informative books for youth, Agriculture, Livestock, Sanitation and Irrigation, Electricity, Radio-TV techniques, Telephone and Communications, Astrology and Space, education, Psychology, Archeology, Environment, Folklore, Sports, Laws, Engineering, Veterinary, International languages, Novels, Economy, Biographies, Bibliographies, Geology, Chemistry, History, Geography, Physics, Mathematics, Pedagogy, Mines, Good House Keeping, Handicrafts, Communications, Universal Master Pieces, Creative Writing, Light crafts, Atom and atomic energy, books in the formal languages of UNISCO, Internet books, Weather, Army, Criminology and Architectures.

## Index no (1)

Total available books in Kabul Public Library and city libraries of Kabul city in February, 2002  
According to the report of Directorate of Public Libraries

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No	Name of the library	Total of books in distinction of their languages								Total of books in distinction of their subject										Total	Remark
		Dari	Pashto	Arabic	Urd o	Eng	Ger	Fren	Turk	Philo	Gen.	Rel	Soc.S	Lan	Sci	Med	Arts	Lite	His.Geo		
1	Reference Hall	1337	1265	3138	1179	334 7	634	248	356	313	182 2	302	254	347	543	494	523	173 4	1033	11511	
2	Afg. Study Hall	3159				145 0				130	300	300	239	300	60	112 0	42	112 0	1234	5225	
3	Youth. Hall	2800								100	300	500	300	200	100	490	70	300	240	4826	
4	Children Hall	2300			1236	25					900									2525	
5	Dis. Sec	8640	1964	1964	390	406 8	169 0	237 8		490		880	575	510	480	235	209 2	289 0	450	20973	
6	Jehadi. Section	2010	35	1800	390															4235	
7	Mags & Periodicals	<b>A total of 3949 collations and 1257 individuals magazines</b>																			
8	Dic. Sec. Khairkhana	900	105							132	14	86	136	79	94	83	31	258	77	1005	<b>Total of Khairkhana 6649</b>
9	Reference Khairkhana	780	138	47		85	44			15	220	137	136	62	35	11	18	109	199	1194	
10	Child & Youth Sec of Khairkhan	1800	260	939		223				155	29	229	156	152	160	54	35	173	95	4460	
11	Reference Qala-e-Fathullah	746	359	53		541														1699	<b>Total of Qala-e-Fathullah 4104</b>
12	Distribution Section Qala-e-Fathullah	442	132	63		158 3														2220	
13	Child & Yough of Qala-e-Fathullah	48	97	16		24														185	

In general the libraries of Pul-e-Charkhi prison, Mecroaian, Merwais Maidan, Kart-e-char, and De Sabz Meer Bacha Kot, Bagramy and Char Asia districts are completely destroyed along with 67603 books and all equipments.

### Index no (2)

#### Short list of the Public Libraries of the provinces included in the Strengthen Libraries of Afghanistan program

Source: Report of the Directorate of the Public Libraries, librarians of the provinces and eye witnessing of the survey team.

No.	Name of the library	Foundation year	Location	Number of books when established	No. of books according to the central report	No. of available books in Feb.2002	Statistics of the difference	Is the library active?	No. damaged books	Exact ideas for supporting the library	Remarks
1.	Public Library of Nangarhar	1972	Jalalabad city	530	1900	4000	+2100	Yes	1500	The library is supportable	1. The difference between the report of the directorate of public libraries and number of available books in the libraries of the province show the lack of proper relations and attention between the central and provincial public libraries 2. The number of damaged books is not exactly entered, because the statistics is not officially taken yet.
2.	Public Library of Laghman	1972	Mehterlam city	300	1430	200	-1230	NO	1230	The library is not supportable	
3.	Public Library of Logar	1996	Pul-e-Alam city	219	456	750	+294	Yes	1000 by ABLE	The library is supportable	
4.	Public Library of Paktia	1969	Gardez city	900	1400	1200	-200	Yes	200	The library is supportable	
5.	Public Library of Khost	1969	Khost city	2500	909	2500	+1591	No	?	The library is supportable	
6.	Public Library of Herat	1938	Herat city	1000	?	10000	?	Yes	25000	The library is supportable	
7.	Public Library of Kandahar	1945	Kandahar city	300	1612	2500	+888	Yes	All	The library is supportable	
8.	Public Library of Kunar	1986	Asadabad city	500	755	1800	+1045	No	?	The library is not supportable	

### Index no (3)

## Views of the booksellers about the books:

Since the main point was to supply books for the libraries and it was possible to buy some books in Kabul in order to avoid extra expenses of transportation and shifting, interviewed some booksellers of Kabul. Here is what they said:

*Abdul Ghafoor*, Bookseller of Pul-e-Bagh Omomi, opposite Speen Zar Hotel:

Books are not available in wholesale currently in Kabul markets. Publishing houses of the country are not working. We deal in books, which are published in Iran or the ones that are re-printed in Pakistan. However, our business is buying and selling old books.

*Abdul Hadi Abasian*, bookseller of Malik Asghar Square,

Nowadays only the school and courses textbooks are dealt in Kabul. The economic shortcomings do not let people buy big and expensive books. Therefore, the importers of books do not dare to bring expensive books to Kabul.

*Mohd Aman*, bookseller of Walayat Rd,

We imported the books in wholesale from Iran and Pakistan in past, but now the market are not good, so we are waiting for peace. All the good books that were in Kabul have been taken to Peshawar and Queta. The booksellers make the living though. If the publishing house began work the conditions will be better.

A Scene from the Youth Hall of the Kabul Public Library

Photo: Shebal

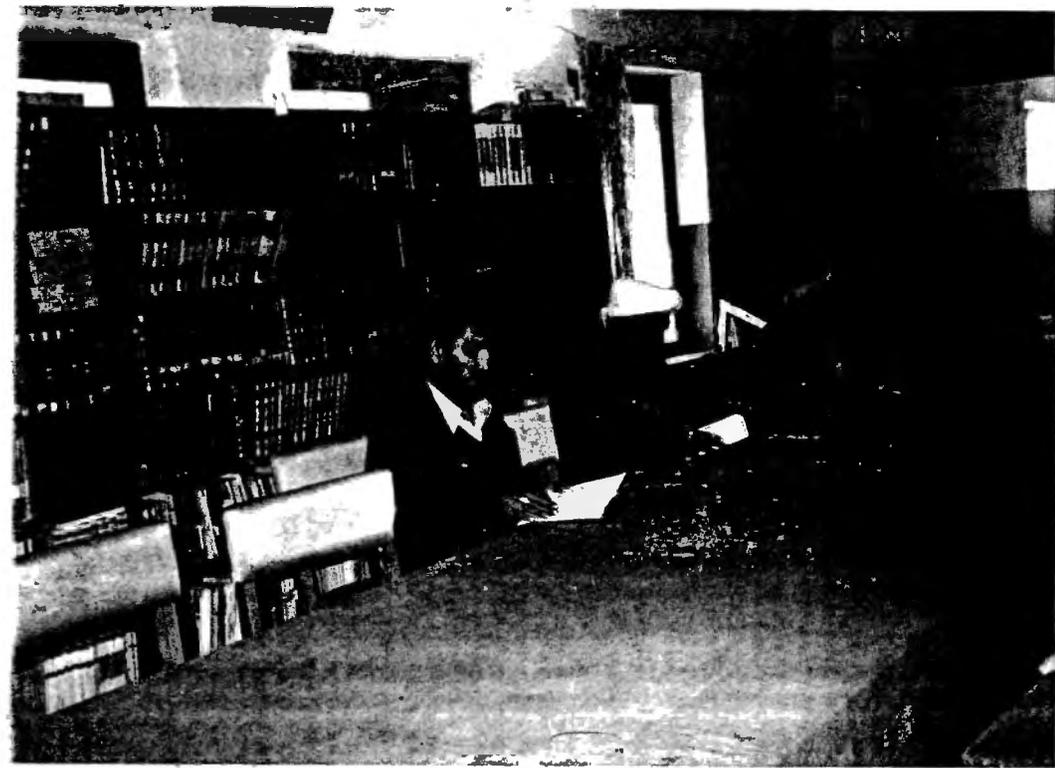
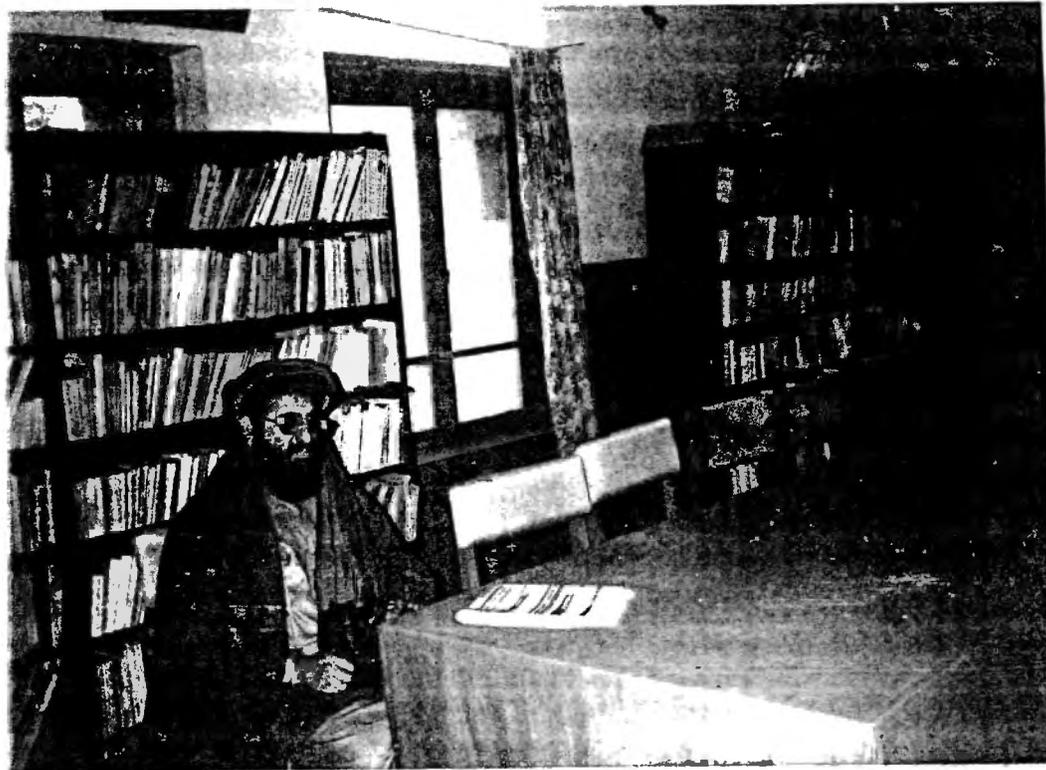


The Outer look of the General Directorate of the Public Libraries and the Public Library of Kabul. Malik Asghar Square, Kabul

Photo: Shebal

The Hall of Ningarhar Public Library Jalalabad

Photo: Shebal



A Scene from the Ningahar Public Library

Photo: Shebal

Herat Public Library Reading Hall

Photo: A. Rashid



An Outside View of Herat Public Library

Photo: A. Rashid



One of the booksellers of Malik Asghar square, Kabul

Photo: Shebal



Booksellers, Pul -e- Bagh Umomi, Kabul

Photo: Shabal



The Hall of Ningarhar Public Library Jalalabad city

Photo: Shebal



The closed door of Laghman Public Library,  
Qala -e- Alsaraj palace, Mehterlam city.

Photo: Shabal

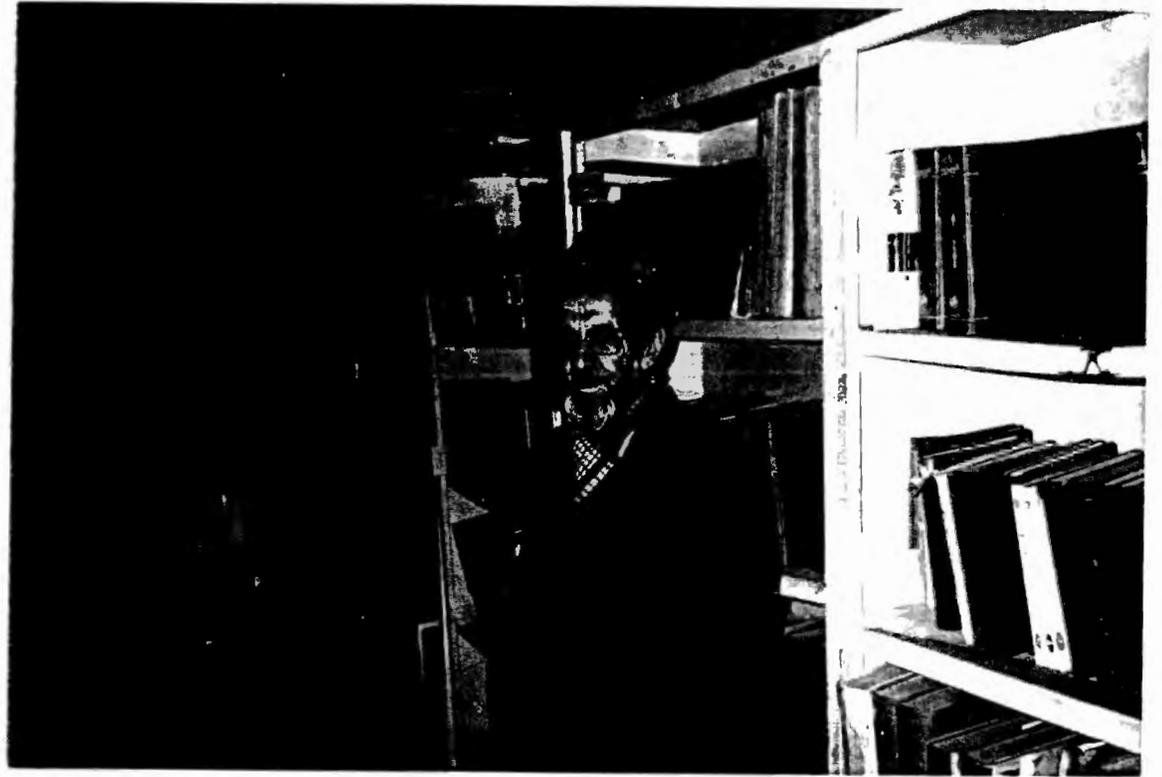


A damaged book from the Kabul University Library

Photo: Shebal



A Scene from the Academy of Sciences Library  
Photo: Shebal



Dr. Mohd. Akbar Madadi, director of the  
Academy of Sciences Library and Mohd  
Aman, the distribution manager.

Photo: Shebal

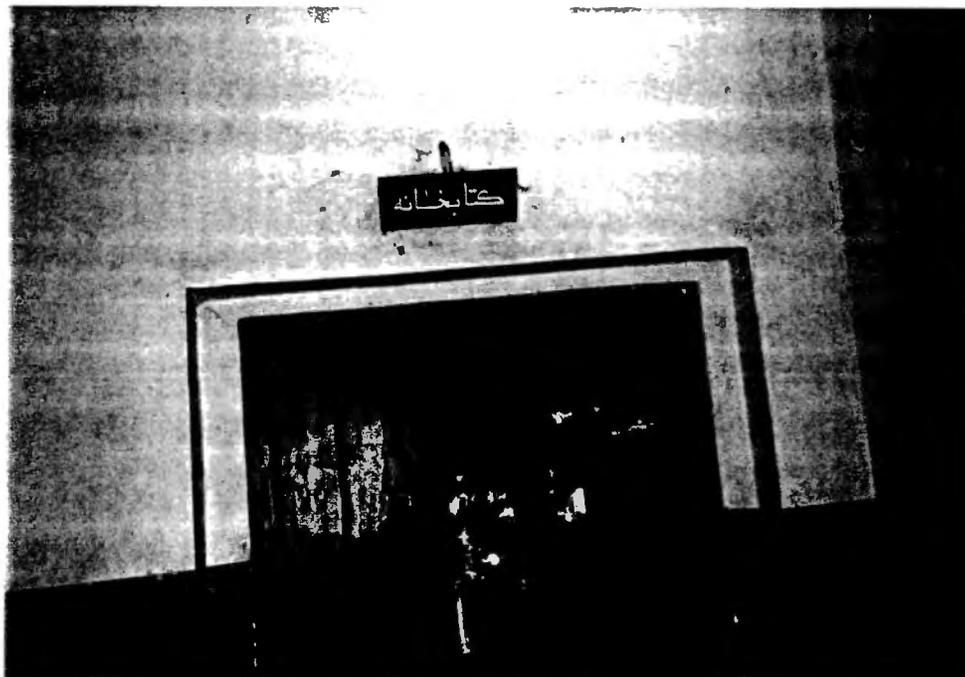
The City Library of Khairkhana is closed due to the death of the Librarian.

Photo: Shebal



The Outer Look of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan.

Photo: Shebal





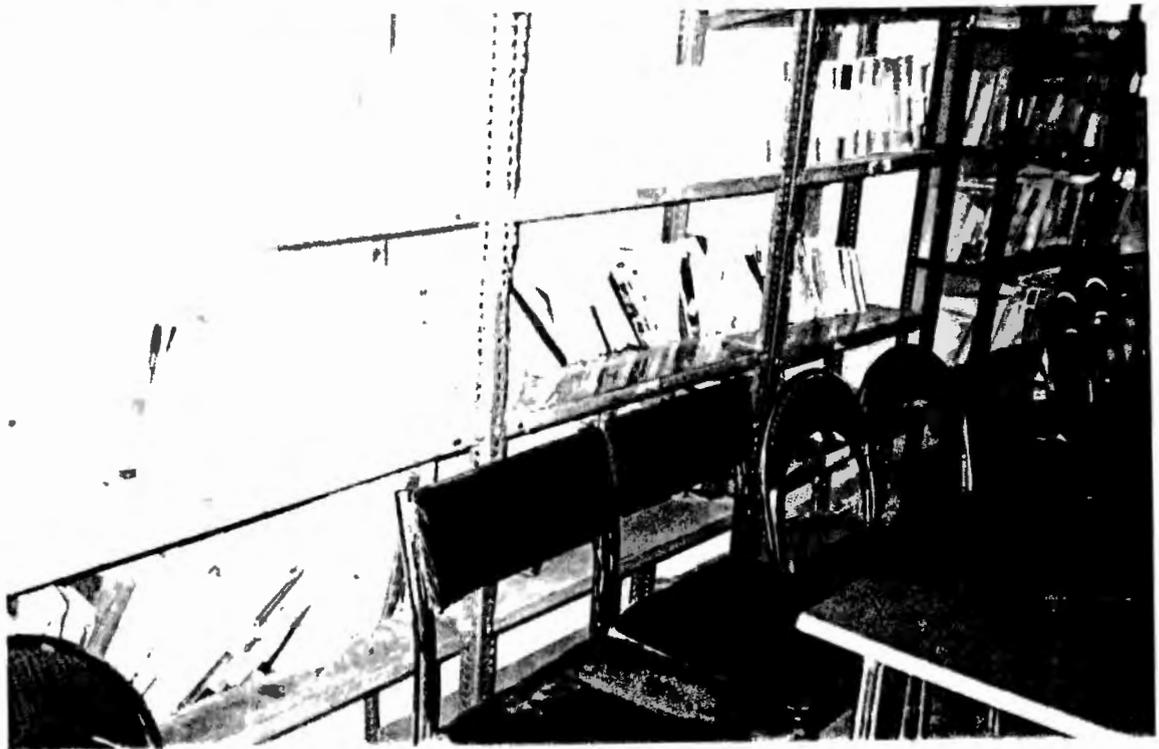
From the Left to right: Hayatullah, the admin manager of the directorate of Information and Culture, Asadullah Rahnaward the manager of Laghman Public Library, who are not allowed to enter their offices.

Photo: Shebal



The Enterence of Qala -e- Alsaraj Palace, Mehterlam city, center of Laghman. The Board of Laghman Public Library is seen, but nobody is allowed to enter, either the palace to library by the armed men.

Photo: Shebal



A View of Reading Hall of Herat Public Library

Photo: A. Rashid

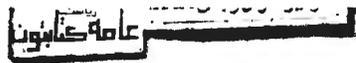
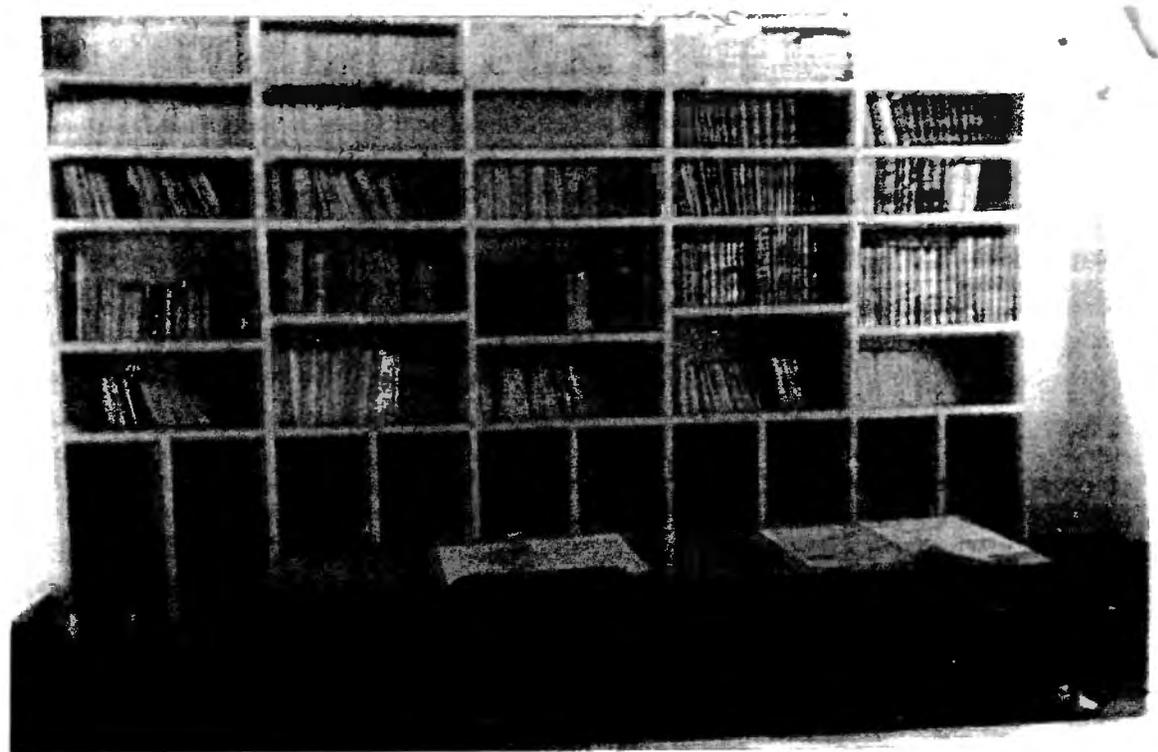


A Section of Herat Public Library

Photo: A. Rashid

A Section of Kandahar Public Library

Photo: A. Rashid



An Outside View of Kandahar Public Library

Photo: A. Rashid

