Chapter 1
Introduction
CHAPTER-1
INTRODUCTION

1. Aligarh Muslim University

Aligarh Muslim University is a Residential Academic Institution. It was established in 1875 by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and in 1920 it was granted a status of Central University by an Act of Indian Parliament. It is located in the city of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. Modelled on the University of Cambridge, it was among the first institutions of higher learning set up during the British Raj. Originally it was Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, which was founded by a great Muslim social reformer Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Many prominent Muslim leaders, and Urdu writers and scholars of the subcontinent have graduated from the University. Aligarh Muslim University offers more than 250 Courses in traditional and modern branch of Education. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a great social reformer of his age felt the need for modern education and started a school in 1875 which later became the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College and finally Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. This is a premier Central University with several faculties and maintained institutions and draws students from all corners of the world, especially Africa, West Asia and South East Asia. In some courses, seats are reserved for students from SAARC and Commonwealth countries. The University is open to all irrespective of caste, creed, religion or gender.[1]

2. GENESIS

The University grew out of the work of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who in the aftermath of the Indian War of Independence of 1857 felt that it was
important for Muslims to gain modern education and become involved in the public life and Government Services in India at that time. Raja Jai Kishan helped Sir Syed a lot in establishing this university. The British decision to replace the use of the knowledge of Persian in the 1830s for Government employment and as the language of Courts of Law caused deep anxiety among Muslims of the sub-continent. Sir Syed then clearly foresaw the imperative need for the Muslims to acquire proficiency in the English language and "Western Sciences" if the community were to maintain its social and political clout, particularly in Northern India. He began to prepare the road map for the formation of a Muslim University by starting various schools. In 1864, the Scientific Society of Aligarh was set up to disseminate Western works into native languages as a prelude to prepare the community to accept "Western Education". Sir Sultan Mahommed Shah, The Aga Khan III has contributed greatly to Aligarh Muslim University in terms collecting funds and providing financial support.

In 1875, Sir Syed founded the Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College in Aligarh and patterned the college after Oxford and Cambridge universities that he had visited on a trip to England. His objective was to build a college in tune with the British education system but without compromising its Islamic values.

The college was originally affiliated with the University of Calcutta, and was transferred to the Allahabad University in 1885. Near the turn of the century it began publishing its own magazine, and established a law school. It was also around this time that a movement began to have it develop into a
university to stand on its own. To achieve this goal, many expansions were made with more and more programs added to the curriculum. A school for girls was established in 1907. By 1921 (exact year 1920), the College was transformed into a university, and it was named Muslim University. Its growth continued. The first chancellor of the university was a female, Sultan Shah Jahan Begum. In 1927, a school for the blind was established, and the following year, a Medical School was attached to the university. By the end of the 1930s, the University had also developed its Engineering faculty. Syed Zafarul Hasan, joined the Aligarh Muslim University in early 1900s as Head of Philosophy Department, Dean Faculty of Arts. He was a pro-Vice Chancellor prior to his retirement, and brought good name to the University. [2]

3. A.M.U. AT PRESENT

Aligarh Muslim University is a residential university with most of it's over 27000 students staying in 69 hostels grouped under 16 hall of residence, including Non Residential Student Center (NRSC). Our student represents 28 states of the country and many foreign countries. Three halls of residence with an intake of over 3000 are earmarked for the female students. The residential character of the university, as envisioned by the founder, has contributed as much to the personality development and moral and intellectual training of the students as the classrooms, laboratories and playgrounds. As a premier education institution the university fosters a rich and stimulating teaching, learning and research environment at all levels.
Institution offers more than 280 Courses in traditional and modern branches of Education. It has currently composed of 12 Faculties namely Agricultural Science, Arts, Commerce, Engineering and Technology, Law, Life Science, Medicine, Management Studies and Research, Science, Social Sciences, Theology and Unani Medicine. There are ninety one Departments of studies.

The university also maintains some interdepartmental research centres such as:

- Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit
- Centre of Excellence in Material Science/Nanotechnology (Soon to be established)
- Centre for Comparative Study of Indian Languages & Culture
- Centre of West Asian Studies
- Centre of Woman Studies
- Centre of Nehru Studies

Aligarh Muslim University maintained several schools right from Nursery to Senior Secondary Level. Two of them are for the girls and one for the visually challenged persons. There are two Senior Secondary Schools one each for boys and girls. All these schools serve as feeder institutions for the university and therefore, deserve greater attention for bringing them at power with the best schools in the country. Abdullah Nursery School, A.B.K. Union High School, Ahmadi School for Blind, AMU Girls High School, City
Aligarh Muslim University is planning to set up five regional centres in the country which are Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Pune (Maharashtra), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Malappuram (Kerala) and Katihar (Bihar).

Currently the University has almost thirty thousand students, and over two thousand faculty members with seventy-eight departments of study. It continues to function as a premiere educational institution in India, and draws students from a number of countries, especially countries in Africa, West Asia and South East Asia. In some courses, seats are reserved for students from SAARC and Commonwealth countries.[3]

4. MAULANA AZAD LIBRARY

4.1. HISTORY:

M.A. Library was established in 1877 with the personal collection of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of Aligarh Muslim University. It was further enriched by the donated by his associates. The library was named after Lord Lytten as Lytten Library. Foundation stone of the present building was laid by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1995 and was inaugurated by him in 1960. The library was renamed after great scholar and first education Minister of India Maulan Abul Kalam Azad, the great Educationist, Statesman & the first Education Minister of independent India.
4.2. PRESENT SENARIO

Maulana Azad Library is regarded as second largest University Library of Asia with more than 11.5 lakh books/documents. The present grand seven storied building surrounded by 4.5 acres of land. The Oriental Division of Maulana Azad Library comprising of about two lakh printed books & periodicals, including 10,000 items belonging to rare category in Urdu/Persian/Arabic/Hindi & Sanskrit forms the most significant part of the collection. Donations received from great bibliophiles and literary persons are designated as special collections by the names of their donors. The Urdu collection with more than one lakh books on almost all aspects of Indian Life and Culture forms the largest part of Oriental Division. A substantial number of rare and out of print publications of 19th century belong to the Scientific Society of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Fort William College (Kolkata), Delhi College, Agra College and from the Royal Printing Presses of the court of Delhi and Oudh.

One of the most priced collection of the library is that of 16000 rare manuscripts, one of which written on parchment in Koofi script is claimed to be inscribed by Hazrat Ali (the fourth caliph of Islam), 1400 years ago. Several royal decrees of Mughal emperors namely Babur, Akbar, Shahjahan, Aurangzeb, Shah Alam etc. and also translation of Sanskrit works such as Bhagwad Geeta, Mahabharata and Leelawati in Persian by Abul Faiz Faizi, a scholar in the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar are some of the highlights of the manuscripts collection of this Library. No wonder than, the Library known for its collection of oriental manuscripts is frequented by
the scholars of Orientalia and Medieval India. Yet another highlight of the Manuscript Collection is the painting of TULIP flowers, considered as magnam opus of Mansoor Naqqash, the celebrated artist in the court of Emperor Jahangir. Some other valuable Sanskrit works translated into Persian forming part of manuscript collection are – Ayurveda in Telugu and Bhasdas in Malayalam script written on palm leaves. Apart from the collection of orientalia the Library has a vast collection of books in English belonging to different subjects especially in Science & Technology.

The library provides the whole university campus wide access to online journals through a well-equipped Computer Lab. Digital Resources on many subjects are made accessible through a Digital Resource Centre, inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor on the 16th March 2009. All the issue able books in the Library are bar coded for automated check in and check out. About 5000 students, teachers and other members of the University visit the Library daily. The library is open from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 a.m. (next day). The library has started Data mining in a recently developed Information Centre, where free e-resources from the web are tapped for the benefit of university community.[4]

4.3. OPAC:

Bibliographic details of all books in English are available in our Online Public Access Catalogue. Database of Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, and Sanskrit is also available. In Circulation Division several computer terminals have been placed. Any student can find out the call no. and ascertained the
availability of books through Author, Titles, Subject, Publisher, Place and Classified approaches. It has become quite popular during last three years.

4.4. DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTRE, MAULANA AZAD LIBRARY, ALIGARH.

Digital Resource Centre was inaugurated on 17 March 2009 which is the Hi-tech resource centre Prof. Shabahat Husain, Librarian-Incharge. Maulana Azad Library said that the digital resource have now become and essential part of library collection. Therefore to access digital resources10 systems are installed to begin with, the digital resources are loaded on to high power server.

DRC is beneficial for students as it provides easier and faster access to information they can access to wide range of information. Multimedia resources and specialization subject databases are available.[5]
References