Libraries as Hubs for Cultural Preservation and Educational Tourism

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Abstract. Modern libraries not only function as information and learning centers, but also as tourism destinations that play an important role in the cultural and educational tourism sector. This research aims to analyze the role of libraries in supporting cultural and educational tourism through a systematic literature review of relevant studies. The review covered publications within the last 10 years, with a focus on the library's contribution to attracting tourists, supporting the preservation of cultural heritage, and providing educational experiences for visitors. The review shows that libraries are not only a local attraction, but also part of a strategy to develop educational and cultural tourism destinations. In addition, various initiatives, such as historical exhibitions, literacy activities, and collaboration with cultural institutions, have demonstrated the potential of libraries as key actors in the tourism industry. This study concludes that libraries have a strategic role to play in enhancing tourism appeal while strengthening their educational and social functions in the community. The implications of the findings also provide insights for the development of libraries as sustainable tourism destinations.

Keywords: Library Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Educational Tourism.

1   Introduction

Libraries, which initially served only as information storage and distribution centers, have evolved into multifunctional institutions that serve a variety of community needs. In recent decades, libraries have begun to play a broader role, not only as literacy centers, but also as tourism destinations. This phenomenon is known as library tourism, a concept that combines libraries with the tourism sector, especially in the context of cultural and educational tourism (Rejeki et al., 2024).

Cultural and educational tourism has become one of the main trends in the global tourism industry. Along with the changing preferences of travelers who increasingly value authentic experiences, there is an increasing interest in tours that not only offer entertainment, but also provide educational benefits and broaden insights into the history and culture of a place (Rejeki et al., 2021). Travelers are no longer just interested in visiting visually famous places, but they are also looking for more in-depth experiences

that can provide an understanding of cultural values, history, and unique local traditions. This is where libraries, with their role as custodians of intellectual and cultural heritage, play an important role.

As knowledge centers, libraries have rich collections of intellectual resources, ranging from historical manuscripts, archives, to important documents that record the history and culture of the community. Travelers who have a special interest in history and culture can explore the library to gain insights that cannot be obtained in ordinary tourist attractions. For example, libraries can host archival exhibitions featuring historical documents and artifacts that are rarely seen by the public. This gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the history of a community or important events that may not be written about in textbooks. In addition, through literacy programs, libraries can provide educational activities that engage tourists in intellectual dialogue, such as writing workshops, cultural discussions, or seminars on historical heritage.

Libraries also play a role in cultural heritage preservation through digitization and restoration of important documents and artifacts. Digitization allows wider access for tourists interested in learning about cultures and histories from around the world without having to visit a physical library. These preservation programs are not only important for local communities, but also for international tourists interested in understanding global history. Thus, the library becomes an entity that not only stores and protects knowledge, but also facilitates cross-cultural and cross-generational dialog.

In this context, libraries can contribute to the tourism sector through various initiatives that support cultural preservation, literacy enhancement, and community development. For example, some of the world's libraries, such as the Library of Alexandria in Egypt (Tosic & Lazarevic, 2010) and the New York Public Library in the United States (Adhikary & Adhikary, 2021), have become famous tourist destinations due to the value of their historical, architectural, and cultural collections. This phenomenon suggests that libraries have the potential to be part of tourism development strategies, particularly in the field of cultural and educational tourism.

However, studies that specifically examine the contribution of libraries in the tourism sector are still limited. Therefore, this study was conducted to fill the gap by reviewing the existing literature on the role of libraries in cultural and educational tourism. This systematic literature review will identify trends, initiatives, and the impact of library tourism on tourism development, cultural preservation, and community education.

By understanding the strategic role of libraries in the context of tourism, this research is expected to provide insights for library managers, policy makers, and tourism industry players in designing more inclusive and sustainable programs, which not only support the main function of libraries but also encourage economic and social growth through the tourism sector.

2 Research Methods

The Systematic Literature Review (SLR) research method was implemented, the following are the steps taken by researchers, including the selection stage using *Publish or Perish (PoP)* to select literature:

1. Article Identification (n = 200)

   The researcher started by searching for scientific articles using Google Scholar with the keywords: "Library tourism";"Cultural tourism and libraries";"Educational tourism andlibraries";"Libraries as tourism destinations". The search timeframe was limited to articles published between 2018 and 2024. The search results yielded 200 articles that met the initial criteria based on the title and corresponding keywords.

2. Article Screening (n = 28)

   From the identification results, researchers conducted an initial screening of articles based on titles and abstracts. At this stage, 172 articles were excluded because they did not meet the criteria relevant to the research topic.

   Reasons for exclusion (172 articles):
   a) Focus on digital libraries: most of the excluded articles discussed digital libraries, e-libraries, or library technology without relevance to tourism (n = 80).
   b) Non-library-focused tourism: some articles highlighted generaltourism(cultural tourism) without specific mention of libraries (n = 50).
   c) Non-peer-reviewed publications: articles from non-peer-reviewed conferences, essays or reports were excluded from the analysis (n = 20).
   d) Not related to educational and cultural tourism: Articles that focused more on other aspects of libraries (e.g., library services or archives management) with no link to tourism (n = 22).

   After the screening process, 28 articles were left that met the inclusion criteria for further analysis.

3. Deep Analysis: Abstract Reading (n = 28)

   At this stage, researchers read the abstracts of the 28 articles that passed the initial selection. The focus was to match the abstracts with predefined keywords ("library tourism," "cultural tourism and libraries," "educational tourism and libraries," "libraries as tourism destinations") to ensure that the articles were relevant to the topic and contributed meaningfully to the research questions.

   Articles that did not provide concrete information on the role of libraries in cultural or educational tourism were excluded from further analysis.

4. Eligibility: Eligibility Assessment (n = 16)

   Of the 28 articles screened, after abstract reading and initial analysis, the researcher decided that 16 articles were eligible for further evaluation based on methodology and contribution to the research topic.

   Reasons for exclusion of 11 articles at this stage (n = 11):
   a) Weak research methodology: These articles had inadequate or invalid methodologies, such as the use of unclear secondary data or too small samples (n = 6).
   b) No focus on libraries as tourist destinations: Some articles discussed libraries in a cultural or educational context but not directly related to tourism (n = 3).
   c) In-depth analysis: Articles that had discussions that were too superficial or general, thus not providing significant insight into the topic under study (n = 2).

After the eligibility process, 16 articles were deemed eligible to proceed to the in-depth analysis stage.

5. Included: In-depth Analysis and Interpretation (n = 8)

From the 16 articles that passed the eligibility stage, researchers then selected 8 articles for in-depth analysis and interpretation. The selection was made based on articles that:

a) Discussed the role of libraries specifically in cultural and educational tourism.
b) Have a strong methodology with detailed research results and are relevant to the research questions.
c) Offer new insights or significant contributions on how libraries can function as tourism destinations and benefit local communities and tourists.

These articles were then analyzed in more depth, focusing on how libraries contribute to cultural and educational tourism, and the impact of these activities.
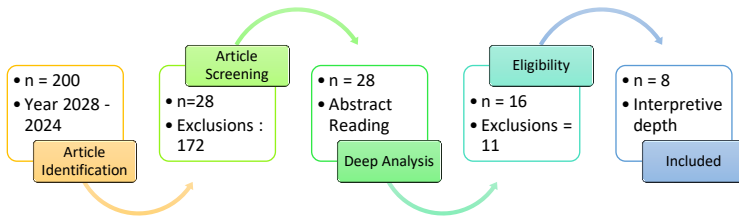

Figure 1. Systematic Flow of Literature Review

Method Flow Conclusion:

- Identification (200 articles): Initial literature search based on relevant keywords.
- Screening (28 articles): Articles were screened based on title and abstract, 172 articles were excluded as irrelevant.
- Deep Analysis: Reading of abstracts to ensure alignment with keywords.
- Eligibility (16 articles): Articles were assessed for eligibility for further testing, 11 articles were excluded due to lack of relevant methodology or coverage.
- Included (8 articles): The eight selected articles were analyzed in depth to provide the most relevant and significant findings to the research topic.

This stage resulted in a structured and in-depth analysis and provided a comprehensive understanding of the role of libraries in cultural and educational tourism based on published literature.

3   Result and Discussion

The results of the research data included in this literature review are an analysis and summary of articles related to The Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism.

Table of the Library's Role in Cultural Tourism and Education

No	Author Name	Title Journal / Year	Research Result
1	Violeta Tosic; Sanja Lazarevic	The Role of Libraries in The Development of Cultural Tourism with Special Emphasis to The Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt UTMS Journal of Economics, 2010	Libraries can attract tourists through visits that introduce cultural heritage, library history, collections, and services. Visits should be designed for a variety of audiences and may include exhibits and short video shows. Programs tailored to both adult and children's audiences will enhance the appeal of the library as a tourist destination.
2	Sarmistha Adhikary; Basudeb Adhikary	Role of Public Library in Tourism Development International Journal of Research in Library Science (IJRLS), 2021	Public libraries can play an important role in tourism development by offering interaction between local users and tourists. Libraries should be innovative in providing services for tourists and play an active role in tourism promotion before, during, and after the visit.
3	Surayyo Khaydarova; Yulduz Khujamova; Munojat Toshbaeva; Dilshod Muhitdinov; Gulkhayo Mamanazarova; Oygul Tukhtakulova; Nodir Karimov	The Vital Role of Libraries in Enriching Tourism Experiences Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services, 2024	Libraries enrich the travel experience by providing expert materials, services, and support. By offering guides, digital archives and cultural events, libraries help travelers explore local culture and history for a more memorable travel experience.
4	Muhammad Ilham Nur Luthfianto; Diptya Anggita	Depok Eco-Friendly Library as an Educational Tourism Destination International Journal of Global Tourism, 2022	The research designed an environmentally friendly library in Depok City that supports education and educational tourism. The library design is adapted to local environmental conditions, creating an attraction for educational tourism, and increasing environmental awareness among the community.
5	Juan Jose Prieto Gutierrez; Francisco Segado Boj	The role of libraries in cultural centres Abroad: an insight	This research analyzes libraries in overseas cultural centers, which not only offer traditional services but also support educa-

		New Library World, 2016	tion, literacy, social coopera-tion, and development. Librar-ies in cultural centers play a role in cultural diplomacy and sup-port local communities.
6	Jawahar Lal	The Role of Public Libraries in Socio-Cultural Develop-ment in Rural Areas in India

Library   Progress (International), 2018 | Public libraries in rural areas play an important role in social and cultural development. They provide vital information to lo-cal people and support the em-powerment of rural communi-ties with digital and internet-based information services. |
| **7** | Adeniji   Paulina Olufunke;   Adeni-ran Pauline Oghe-nekaro | Promoting Hospi-tality and Tourism through   Library and   Information Services in the 21st Century

Journal of Service Science and Man-agement, 2020 | The library acts as an access point for information that is vi-tal to the development of the hospitality and tourism indus-try. Information services offered include maps, directories and reference services that support the promotion of hospitality and tourism activities. |
| **8** | MA Xiangtao | Exploration of Cul-tural and Creative Products in Librar-ies under the Back-ground of Cultural and Tourism Inte-gration

Journal of Library and   Information Science in Agricul-ture, 2020 | The development of cultural and creative products in libraries, particularly in China, provides opportunities for the integration of culture and tourism. Cultural products promoted in libraries can increase public participation in cultural tourism, with crea-tive services combining cultural and tourism elements. |

Research by Violeta Tosic & Sanja Lazarevic (2010) and Juan Jose Prieto Gutierrez & Francisco Segado Boj (2016) provides important insights into the role of libraries in cultural tourism, which is relevant to the theme of *the Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism*. Both studies show that libraries serve not only as information centers, but also as cultural tourism destinations that allow visitors to connect with local historical and cultural heritage.

The study of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt illustrates how a well-designed li-brary with tourism programs, such as structured exhibitions, library tours, and access

to cultural collections, can attract international tourists. This confirms the role of libraries as agents in cultural diplomacy, where libraries become a bridge to introduce a region's culture to the outside world. In the context of tourism, libraries offer a more immersive and meaningful experience for visitors, so that they can better understand the history and culture of the region being visited.

In relation to the *Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism*, this research reinforces the idea that libraries can be an integral part of educational and cultural tourism. Libraries provide an environment where visitors can learn about cultural heritage and history while engaging in the learning process through educational materials, such as historical archives, cultural literature, and literacy events. By organizing educational tourism programs, libraries not only attract tourists, but also contribute to the development of local culture and strengthen relations between nations through cultural diplomacy.

Research by Muhammad Ilham Nur Luthfianto & Diptya Anggita (2022) and MA Xiangtao (2020) highlights the important role of libraries in supporting educational tourism, which is highly relevant to the theme of The Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism. Both studies emphasize that libraries can be innovative educational tourism destinations, providing immersive learning experiences for visitors while supporting the integration of culture and tourism.

In the study of an eco-friendly library in Depok City, for example, Luthfianto & Anggita revealed that the library not only functions as an information center, but also creates a space for tourists to learn while enjoying nature through a design that supports environmental sustainability. By combining educational functions and a comfortable environment, the library provides a more interactive and rewarding travel experience, especially for tourists interested in education-based tourism. This shows that libraries can be more than just places of learning - they can be centers of educational tourism that attract visitors from different backgrounds, offering an experience that combines knowledge and recreation.

MA Xiangtao (2020) highlights libraries as creative platforms through the development of cultural and creative products that integrate culture and tourism. This research highlights those libraries not only provide traditional information resources, but also provide innovative cultural products that can be promoted to tourists. These cultural products, such as art exhibitions, handicrafts, and digital media, give visitors the opportunity to interact directly with the richness of local culture. This approach supports a more engaged cultural tourism, where visitors not only enjoy the library collection but also participate in the development and promotion of local culture.

Both studies fit well with the role of libraries in educational and cultural tourism, where libraries can become educational centers that enrich the tourist experience through environmental education and creative cultural promotion. By providing innovative cultural products and a comfortable environment for learning, the library expands its function from a mere repository of information to a holistic educational tourism destination. This shows that libraries can play a strategic role in combining education, environmental preservation, and culture, in accordance with the concept of the Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism.

Research by Sarmistha Adhikary & Basudeb Adhikary (2021) and Jawahar Lal (2018) underlines the important role of public libraries in supporting cultural and educational tourism, especially in local communities and rural areas. This is highly relevant to the theme of The Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism, which highlights how libraries can be centers of social interaction and platforms for community empowerment.

Both studies show that public libraries, especially in rural areas, serve not only as repositories of information, but also as centers of social interaction that contribute to a richer and more meaningful tourism experience. Public libraries in tourist areas in India, as raised in Adhikary & Adhikary's (2021) study, play a central role in connecting locals and tourists, allowing both groups to exchange knowledge, stories, and culture. This reinforces the role of libraries as places of intercultural interaction, where tourists can learn directly from locals, as well as understand unique aspects of rural life and local culture.

This research also underscores those public libraries in rural areas have an important role to play in socio-cultural development. As described by Jawahar Lal (2018), rural libraries contribute to community empowerment through information services that support increased literacy, access to technology, and lifelong learning opportunities. Such libraries can also attract tourists interested in educational tourism, where visitors can learn about the dynamics of rural life, local culture, and even participate in community social activities. By providing access to in-depth information on local history, customs, and cultural richness, public libraries become a window for tourists to better understand life in the countryside.

In relation to the Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism, this research reinforces the concept that public libraries can be an integral part of the educational tourism experience. Travelers visiting rural areas can not only enjoy the natural beauty and local culture, but also could learn and interact with local people through the library. Public libraries involved in tourism development can help create a more immersive tourism experience, where visitors do not just come as tourists, but also as active participants in the process of learning about local culture.

Research by Adeniji Paulina Olufunke & Adeniran Pauline Oghenekaro (2020) revealed the strategic role of libraries in supporting hospitality tourism through the provision of important information for tourists, such as maps, directories, and reference services. This is highly relevant to the theme of *The Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism*, where libraries act as information providers that support the exploration of cultural and educational tourism.

Libraries can play an important information gateway role in the tourism industry, especially for tourists who need guidance on lodging, tourist attractions, transportation facilities, and attractions. By providing relevant and accurate resources, libraries serve as key reference centers that can help tourists effectively plan their visits and support the exploration of cultural and educational attractions. In the context of cultural and educational tourism, libraries provide access to local cultural information, historical tour guides, and resources that enable tourists to understand the historical and cultural context of the places they visit.

This research confirms that libraries can be strategic partners for the hospitality and tourism sector, by providing services that make it easier for travelers to navigate and enjoy their travel experiences. For example, travelers interested in educational tours can access literature collections related to local history, culture and heritage in libraries. Resources such as digital maps, local travel guides, or even tour programs integrated with the library can enrich their experience while at the destination.

Thus, libraries not only support cultural tourism by providing cultural and historical literature, but also contribute to hospitality tourism by providing practical services that support travelers' convenience. This expands the library's role as an information service provider for all, not only for residents but also for tourists who need access to information to support their trip.

4   Conclusion

Overall, from the analysis of the table above, it appears that libraries can play a dual role in cultural and educational tourism. Libraries as Cultural Destinations: Libraries are not only information providers, but also tourist attractions that connect visitors with local cultural heritage. Through structured visitation programs and exhibitions, libraries can become cultural icons that introduce tourists to the history and traditions of a region. Library as an Educational Destination: Libraries can also become hubs for educational tourism by providing programs that allow visitors to learn while enjoying their trip. Libraries that are designed with eco-friendly innovations or that offer cultural and creative products, contribute to deeper learning for tourists. Libraries as Centers for Social Interaction: In tourist areas, public libraries play an important role in creating interaction between tourists and residents. This not only supports tourism, but also helps in building more inclusive and sustainable communities. Libraries as Information Gateways: As information hubs, libraries play an important role in providing tourism-related guides, references, and information. This is important to support the hospitality and tourism sector. As such, libraries can play a strategic role in cultural and educational tourism and can contribute significantly to the traveler experience as well as local community development. This is very relevant to the research title "The Role of Libraries in Cultural and Educational Tourism", where libraries can be the center of developing immersive, innovative, and sustainable tourism experiences.

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