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**EXPLORING THE LITERARY TREASURES:  
10 MOST WELL-KNOWN LIBRARIES IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND**

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**ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ЛІТЕРАТУРНИХ СКАРБІВ:  
10 НАЙВІДОМІШИХ БІБЛІОТЕК В ІСТОРІЇ ЛЮДСТВА**

Libraries have always been the repositories of human knowledge, preserving the written word across centuries and civilizations. From the most ancient manuscripts to modern digital archives, these temples of learning have played key roles in shaping our worldview. Let's start a journey through history to discover the ten most renowned libraries that have stood as headlights of enlightenment throughout the ages.

We will start from The Royal Library of Alexandria (Alexandria, Egypt), which was founded in the third century B.C. It was one of the largest and most significant libraries of the ancient world. It was Ptolemy I Soter, an ancient Greek general and ruler, who was known for his military and political achievements, including the establishment of the renowned Library of Alexandria, leaving a lasting heritage in ancient history both as a skilled military leader and patron of the arts and education. The Royal Library of Alexandria housed a gigantic collection of manuscripts from across the Mediterranean and Near East and attracted such scholars as Euclid, Archimedes, and Eratosthenes.

The next extremely popular and world-known is the Library of Congress, located in Washington, D. C., United States of America. The Library of Congress was founded in 1800. Nowadays it is the largest library in the world by shelf space, which holds over 170 million items. It works as the research department of the United States Congress and is famous for its diverse collections, including rare books, maps, photographs, and manuscripts.

The British Library's (London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) origin dates back to the XVIII century. It remains one of the world's most comprehensive research libraries and houses over 200 million items, including the Magna Carta, Gutenberg Bible, and the Codex Sinaiticus, making it a treasure-house both for scientists and bibliophiles.

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France (National Library of France) was founded by King Charles V of France in 1368. Initially established as the Royal Library of Charles V, it later transformed into the National Library System of France. It is one of the oldest and most esteemed libraries in Europe housing a vast collection of over 40 million items, including rare manuscripts, prints, historical documents, and other documents of national significance.

Oxford (United Kingdom) is proud of the Bodleian Library. Established in 1602, the Bodleian Library is one of the oldest libraries in Europe and serves as the main research library of the University of Oxford. The library contains over 12 million items, among which are the Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare's First Folio, and the Codex Bodley.

In the XV century, Pope Nicholas V started the Vatican Apostolic Library, which is also known as the Vatican Library. Pope Nicholas V projected the library as a repository of knowledge and culture. He was collecting manuscripts to form an initial collection. Over the centuries, the Vatican Library has become one of the most important and huge libraries in the world with over 1.1 million printed books and 75,000 manuscripts, including ancient texts and papal documents.

The next place can be given to the New York Public Library (New York City, United States of America), which is the second-largest public library in the United States and is well-known for its symbolic main branch on Fifth Avenue. The New York Public Library (NYPL) was organized in 1895 employing a combination of private philanthropy and government support. Its creation became possible due to the efforts of several individuals, including John Bigelow, Samuel J. Tilden, and Andrew Carnegie. The library was officially established when the New York State Legislature merged the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, and the Tilden Trust to form the NYPL system. It contains over 53 million items, including rarified manuscripts, first editions, and archival materials.

The Biblioteca Nacional de España (National Library of Spain), located in Madrid, was officially opened to the public as the National Library in 1712 during the reign of King Philip V of Spain and his minister, Cardinal Giulio Alberoni. The library's origin goes back to the XVI century when it had the name of the Royal Library. The Biblioteca Nacional de España is the largest library in Spain and holds a vast collection of over 26 million items, including exceptional books, manuscripts, and historical documents dating back to the Middle Ages.

And now, let's go to Asia, where another great library is located: Beijing, China. The National Library of China (NLC) was founded in 1909 during the Qing Dynasty. Its establishment was the result of efforts by Liang Qichao, a prominent Chinese scholar, journalist, and reformer, along with other intellectuals of the time. Liang Qichao defended the idea of creating a national library in order to stimulate education and literacy in China. The NLC initially had the name of the Capital Library of Beijing (now Beijing) and experienced several name changes before it officially became the National Library of China in 1950.

And finally, last but not least, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin, Germany), or Berlin State Library, was founded by Frederick William III of Prussia in 1661. At first, established as the «Kurfürstliche Bibliothek» (Electoral Library), it was the library of the Prussian rulers. Over the centuries, it transformed into one of the most prestigious libraries in Germany, with over 11 million items, including rare manuscripts, incunabula, and historical archives.

These ten libraries can be considered monuments to human intellect and curiosity, which preserve the collective wisdom of ancient and modern civilizations. All libraries of the world are guardians of knowledge.

СЕКЦІЯ:

УКРАЇНСЬКЕ МОВОЗНАВСТВО ТА СВІТОВА ЛІТЕРАТУРА  
В КОНТЕКСТІ МІЖКУЛЬТУРНОЇ КОМУНІКАЦІЇ ХХІ СТОЛІТТЯ

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**СУЧАСНИЙ ЛІТЕРАТУРНИЙ КАНОН:  
МНОЖИННІСТЬ ВИЗНАЧЕНЬ ТА МНОЖИНА ІНТЕРПРЕТАЦІЙ**

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**THE MODERN LITERARY CANON:  
MULTIPLICITY OF DEFINITIONS AND PLURALITY OF INTERPRETATIONS**

Канон, з грецької — «палиця», набуває значення «правило», «норма» у V ст. до н. е. (трактат «Канон» грецького скульптора Поліклета), наразі — «одне з основних