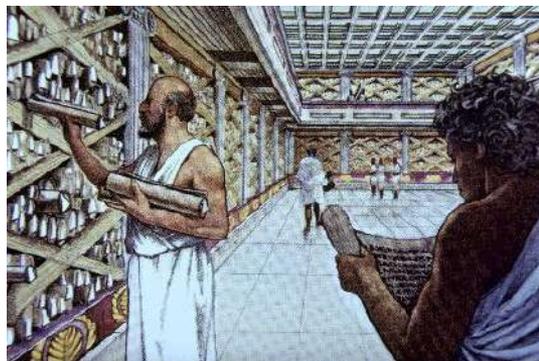
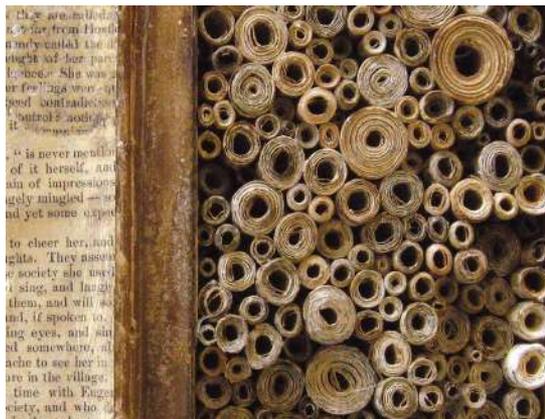


THE GUARDIANS OF KNOWLEDGE

There have always been ways of keeping knowledge safe. In Ancient times, scrolls were the only possible mode. In Alexandria (the great city of knowledge) there was a huge library, with half a million books. This library allowed visitors from all over the known world not only to share their ideas and discoveries, but to learn new ways of thinking. Alexandrians used to ask people to lend them their scrolls so they could copy them, but in fact they refused to return them. In ancient times, there weren't any copies of the same book, because each was written by hand. So it would be a catastrophe if a single piece of writing was lost. Unfortunately, this happened to the library of Alexandria. A theory says that Caesar set fire to the foe's troops, but that fire expanded and burnt the Great Library of Alexandria. Other people say it was the Christians' fault. Another group of people think that the Arabs destroyed it. But there is one thing we do know: the Great Library of Alexandria was destroyed and many years of knowledge was lost with it. In fact, only one percent of all the Alexandrian scrolls were saved.



Unlike in the past, now there are many ways of keeping knowledge safe. The internet (World Wide Web) is one of the actual manners to keep knowledge safe. There is a library named "Bibliotheca Alexandrina" in Egypt. It was founded in 1996, in honor of the ancient library of Alexandria. This library has half a million books, the same amount as the Alexandrian library. It has big computers that save all the information in the internet (World Wide Web) constantly, so it won't be lost. Today many copies of books are printed, to allow many people to read them. This is an actual way of safeguarding information.

- http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliotheca_Alexandrina
- www.greece.org/alexandria/library/library14.htm
- Channel 4 - Alexandria: The Greatest City 4/4
- Alexander the Great and the Spread of Greek Culture: Calliope, p.34 and 35, Article: Alexandria in Egypt Yesterday and Today

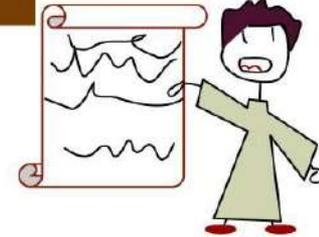


Alexandria's university

By: B. Amy Sosa Chávez and Pol Mariné Gómez

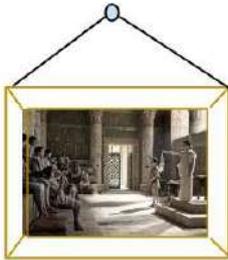
Why there were universities?

Alexander decided that Alexandria will be center of his empire. That's why he wanted to have all kind of knowledge in that city and because of that there were universities. He had the knowledge of all the places he conquered, like: Persia, Greece, India, Macedon and Egypt.



How were they like?

Alexandria's universities had classrooms (there were benches for students and a bench in the center for the teacher), the classrooms were like rectangles and those were made of stone. A lot of them were close to Theaters and those ones could be classrooms too. The university had big rooms dedicated to lecture there thirteen lecture halls, they really thought that reading was so important. There they taught all kind of school subjects: art, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, geography, and more. The teachers used tools like: the astrolabe and maps, to teach better their students.



Who could go to school?

Men and women could go to the university and they could study any subject they wanted to. There could be 5000 students at one time. And their teachers could be men or women.

Here are some of them:

1. Euclid, who taught about geometry.
2. Archimedes and Aristarchus who teaches geography.
3. Eratosthenes who taught geography.

One of the most important teachers was Hypatia. She taught all kind of subjects like: philosophy, math or astronomy.

Did you know?

The scholars came from Italy, Greece, West Asia, North Africa and East Africa. And a lot of students just for learn on the university