

Vol I, No 1



POF Central Library **NEWSLETTER** FALL 2024



**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF LEARNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
1984 - 2024**



Newsletter

POF Central Library

Volume I, No 1, Fall 2024

**A Legacy of Knowledge –
40 Years of POF Central Library**

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of Library Newsletter! At POF Central Library, we continue our mission to serve as a vibrant hub of knowledge, learning, and growth.

Since its establishment on 9th October 1984, POF Central Library has served as a cornerstone of knowledge, learning, and community engagement for the POF fraternity. Over the past four decades, the Library has grown from a traditional reading space to a dynamic learning space—embracing technology, expanding its collection, and launching community-driven initiatives. From manual catalogues to full automation, from print-only to digital resources, the journey reflects a commitment to continuous improvement. As we mark **40 years of service in 2024-25**, we take pride in our heritage and look forward to evolving further to meet the needs of future generations.

This year marks a significant milestone, with several enhancements in our services and infrastructure. These achievements would not have been possible without the visionary guidance of **Chief Patron of the Library, Lt Gen Tahir Hameed Shah HI(M)**, **Chairman POF Board**, and the dynamic management of **Director Library, Brig Ammar Ali**. Their unwavering support, strategic insight, and commitment to excellence have been instrumental in transforming the library into a modern knowledge center. We are also deeply grateful to **Deputy Director Admin, Mr. Imtiaz Ali**, whose hands-on involvement has played a vital role in ensuring smooth execution of library initiatives and day-to-day operations.

Let's turn the pages together and explore what's new.

Kaleem Ullah Safdar
Librarian



From the Director's Desk

As we celebrate 40 years of POF Central Library's service, it is heartening to witness the transformation of this institution into a forward-looking, community-centered learning space. The Library has consistently evolved with changing times—adapting technology, embracing inclusivity, and expanding its outreach.

This year, our focus has been on broadening impact—especially by strengthening student access, enhancing digital infrastructure, and promoting sustainable reading practices like the Book Exchange initiative. These are not just upgrades; they are reflections of our commitment to cultivating a reading culture within the POF community and beyond.

I commend the dedicated library team for their passion and hard work, and I thank our readers for their continued engagement. With strong leadership, a clear vision, and the support of our Chief Patron, **Lt. Gen. Tahir Hameed Shah, HI(M), Chairman POF Board**, the POF Central Library is well-positioned to inspire and serve for decades to come.

Brig. Ammar Ali

Director, POF Central Library



A Visit of Vision

A highlight of the year was the visit of **Lt Gen Tahir Hameed Shah HI(M), Chairman POF Board and Chief Patron of the Library**, whose presence reaffirmed the strategic importance of library services within the organization. His visit served as an inspiration to the library team and was a strong endorsement of the progress made in infrastructure, digital transformation, and community outreach. **The occasion also provided an opportunity to showcase new initiatives and gather valuable feedback for future improvements.**

**40 Years of Quiet Impact:
Because Libraries Don't
Just Hold Books – They
Hold Futures.**



Library Highlights & Achievements

Guided by the vision of the Chairman POF Board, 2024–2025 brought a new wave of modernization to the library. To improve digital access and services, 13 branded computers were installed, forming a fully equipped Digital Access Corner that allows users to browse, research, and complete academic tasks with ease. Internet bandwidth was increased fivefold—from 20MB to 100MB—resulting in significantly faster and smoother access to online journals, research databases, and e-resources.



In line with the library's digital transformation goals, core services such as book issuance, returns, and catalog searching were fully automated. This automation has reduced processing time, improved accuracy, and enhanced user satisfaction. Moreover, the library's website underwent a complete redesign, making it more user-friendly and responsive. Readers can now conveniently explore library services, track borrowed items, and access online catalogue from anywhere, anytime.

A major enhancement this year was the inclusion of book suggestions from general readers and educational institutions. This initiative allows library users to recommend titles, ensuring that the collection remains diverse, relevant, and responsive to community needs. These suggestions are reviewed and considered for procurement, aligning the library's offerings with the evolving academic and literary interests of its patrons.



The library continues to uphold an open-access policy, welcoming all visitors - students, researchers, professionals, and general readers - without restriction. This inclusive approach ensures that knowledge remains freely accessible to everyone. With its calm, well-lit reading spaces and supportive environment, the library continues to be a **conducive place for learning, reflection, and intellectual growth.**



Book Exchange – a social initiative

POF Central Library introduced a unique community service, the **Book Exchange Section**, dedicated to promoting the spirit of sharing and sustainability in reading. Initially, the idea was implemented for general book exchange to cater the readers interested in fiction, non-fiction, and other general interest titles. Encouraged by the positive response, the initiative was soon expanded to include textbook exchange, enabling students to obtain syllabus-related materials without financial strain.

As the new academic session approaches, an awareness campaign is being planned to further publicize the initiative, ensuring maximum participation and benefit.



- Textbooks**
- General Reads**
- Free & Sustainable**
- Visit the Library**
- Donate • Exchange • Learn**

The library also plans to formally engage both public and private sector schools in this initiative, expanding its reach and ensuring that a wider student community can benefit from the spirit of educational sharing.

With continued community interest, the **Book Exchange program** will fast become a symbol of collaborative learning and mutual help within the community.

Stay tuned—the impact of this initiative will be featured in the next issue!



Bookshelf – Update

The Library added **729 new books** this year, enriching our shelves with fresh perspectives across a wide range of subjects including **science, literature, social sciences, history, biographies, and technical references**. Each book has been **accessioned, catalogued, classified**, and is now **available for circulation**.

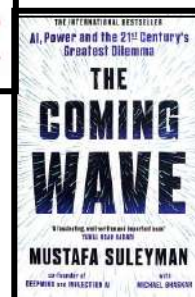
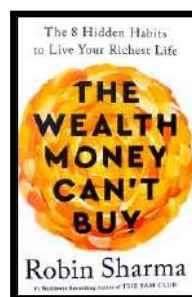
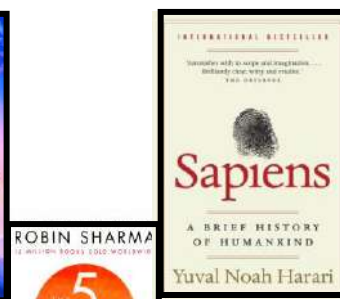
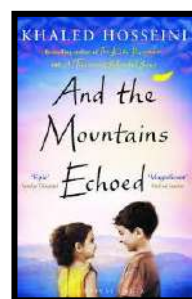
A specially designated **“New Arrivals” shelf** makes it easy to explore the latest additions. Whether you're a student, professional, or casual reader, there's something new waiting for you.

Librarian's Picks

A few handpicked titles from our new collection:

- **"And the Mountains Echoed"** – A heartwarming tale of love, sacrifice, and family bonds that transcend time and distance.
- **"Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind"** – A fascinating journey through human evolution and our impact on the world.
- **"The 5 AM Club"** – Unlock peak productivity and success by mastering the power of early mornings.
- **"The Wealth Money Can't Buy"** – Discover life's true riches—love, time, and purpose—beyond material wealth.
- **"The Coming Wave"** – A gripping insight into how emerging technologies will reshape our future.

Come explore, borrow, and let your next great read begin!



E-Library Access – Your Digital Reading Companion

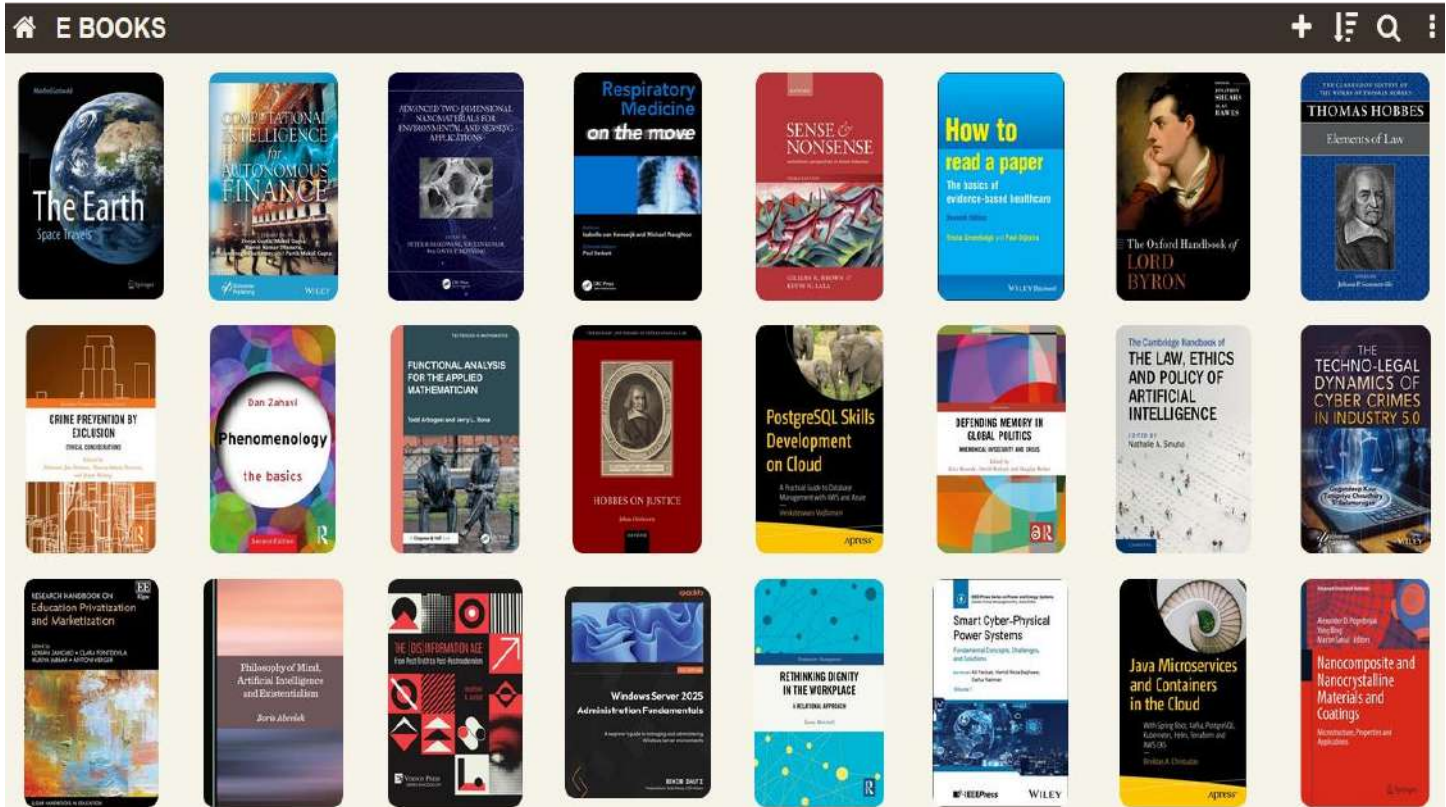
In line with our modernization drive, **POF Central Library launched its E-Library in 2024**, providing members with a modern, convenient, and dynamic learning environment. The E-Library currently houses a curated collection of **5,500 e-books** across multiple disciplines including science, technology, literature, and social sciences.

Key Features:

-  Access to a diverse digital collection of 5,500 e-books

- Available through the Library's Computer Lab
- Books can be read online or downloaded for offline use
- Efficient search and browse tools for quick navigation
- Ideal for students, researchers, and casual readers alike

Whether you're preparing for an exam, researching a topic, or simply enjoying literature, the E-Library ensures uninterrupted access to knowledge—right at your fingertips.



Expanding Access: Student & Private Memberships

To make the library more accessible and inclusive, **POF Central Library** has launched two new membership categories:

Student Membership

Designed for students of local public and private schools and colleges, this subsidized membership allows access to thousands of academic and recreational resources. With simple documentation and a nominal annual fee, students can benefit from:

- Borrowing privileges
- Access to reference material and e-resources
- Use of digital facilities and study spaces

Private Membership

For the first time, the library has opened its doors to the general public through Private Membership. Individuals outside POF employment—such as professionals, educators and

avid readers—can now register and enjoy:

- Full borrowing privileges
- Access to a rich collection of books across genres
- A quiet, resourceful space for reading and research

These additions reflect the library's mission to serve the broader community and promote lifelong learning.



Trip Diaries – Connecting with Institutions

This year, POF Central Library welcomed students and faculty from **15 educational institutions**, hosting a total of **1,004 students and 66 faculty members**. These visits were designed to introduce young learners to the world of books, research, and digital literacy, fostering a culture of reading and exploration.

Each tour included:

- 📖 A **guided library tour**, familiarizing visitors with various sections, including general reading, research, and digital resources.
- 🖨️ **Hands-on digital sessions**, where students explored the online catalog, learned about e-resources, and practiced book searches.
- 🗣️ **Interactive orientation sessions**, covering membership benefits, borrowing policies, and the role of libraries in academic growth.



Faculty members expressed appreciation for the well-structured tours, highlighting how students found the sessions engaging and insightful. Many institutions have since encouraged their students to sign up for memberships and utilize the library's expanding resources.







As part of our commitment to outreach, we plan to extend invitations to more schools and colleges, ensuring that every student in the community has the opportunity to experience the power of knowledge firsthand.



Tech @ Library

Our digital transformation continues to evolve, with a strong focus on making library services more efficient, accessible, and user-friendly. This year, the library achieved full **automation of its core operations**, meaning all processes—from book issuance and returns to catalog browsing—are now managed through an integrated digital system.

Visitors can now:




-  **Search the catalog** in real-time using dedicated search terminals within the library.
-  **Issue and return books** through automated modules, reducing waiting time and improving service accuracy.
-  **Check book availability** before visiting, helping users plan their reading in advance.
-  **Reserve books** that are currently on loan, ensuring fair and timely access once they are returned.

Did You Know?

With just a few clicks, you can now check book availability, reserve titles in advance, and explore our digital resources—all thanks to our upgraded library systems. Welcome to a smarter, faster library experience!

 Visit us at: <https://library.pof.gov.pk>

In addition, the **revamped library website** serves as a central hub for information. It now offers:

-  Detailed updates on **library services**, new arrivals, and announcements.
-  A **digital resources section**, linking users to curated academic materials and relevant **external** research tools.
-  A **Library News & Updates** section to keep readers informed about recent developments, events, and activities.

New Feature!

Kindle devices are now available for **in-house use**, giving members the opportunity to explore a growing collection of eBooks in a convenient digital format within the library.



These enhancements are part of our commitment to integrating technology into every aspect of library operations—making the experience smoother, smarter, and more engaging for all our members.



Did You Know???

- Each member receives **two borrower cards**, allowing them to issue **two books at a time**.
- Books are issued for **14 days** and can be **reissued if needed** (subject to availability).
- A **fine of Rs. 2 per day** is charged for overdue books.
- **Library remains open on Sundays** for readers' convenience.
- You can **suggest books online** or by **visiting the library** in person.
- **Life Membership** is now available for POF employees.
- Library's online catalogue provides the following facilities to the members:
 - view their book issue history, helping them track past and current checkouts.
 - check book availability online before visiting the library.
 - Reserve books in advance and get notified when they are ready for pickup.



Upcoming Events

Orientation Lecture for CSS Aspirants – May 2025

A special session featuring a CSP officer who will guide students preparing for competitive exams, offering insights and strategies for success.

Reading Challenge 2025 – A Test of Comprehension & Expression

A book review competition among students of different school systems, encouraging critical thinking and a love for reading.

🏆 Roll of Honor – Celebrating Our Readers' Success!

POF Central Library is setting up a Roll of Honor to highlight the achievements of its readers. Whether you've cleared an exam, written a book, or reached a career milestone with the help of the library, share your success with us and inspire others!

📖 Literary & Book Discussion Sessions

Arranging discussions on selected books, featuring guest speakers, book enthusiasts, and interactive debates on trending topics.



Reader's Voice

Our readers are at the heart of everything we do.

This section highlights success stories, experiences, and testimonials from library members who have found inspiration, academic support, and personal growth through the resources and services of POF Central Library.

**Dr Muhammad Idrees Raja, Assistant Professor,
FG Degree College for Men Wah Cantt**



"The POF Central Library played a pivotal role in my PhD research, offering exceptional resources, a superb reading environment, and a highly professional, welcoming staff. It stands among Pakistan's finest libraries, and the POF administration truly deserves immense appreciation."

**Cadet Mustafa Ali, students of MBBS at
Army Medical College Rawalpindi**



"POF Central Library was my go-to place during my college studies. The peaceful environment, vast collection of books, and digital resources helped me stay focused and excel in my studies. It played a crucial role in my journey to Army Medical College."

**Muhammad Adeel, students of 3rd year MBBS at
Nowshera Medical College**



"POF Central Library has been my academic companion since my intermediate days. From entry test preparation to medical textbooks, the library's rich resources and quiet study space have supported me at every stage. Even now, as an MBBS student, I continue to benefit from its vast collection and learning environment."

**Zehra Ali Student of BS Electronics 8th Semester at SEECS
NUST Islamabad**



"Being a reader of POF Central library has been a matchless opportunity! The vast collection of books, peaceful study environment, and access to valuable resources have truly enhanced my learning experience."

**Naseer Ahmed Formerly Elementary Standard Teacher at FGEI
C/G Wah selected as Town Municipal Officer at Hyderabad
Sindh. A regular library reader**



"The library has been an invaluable part of my journey. From my days as a EST at FGEI C/G Wah to my selection as Town Municipal Officer in Hyderabad Sindh, the resources and learning environment at POF Central Library played a vital role in my professional growth. It provided me with the knowledge and guidance needed to achieve my goals."

**Cadet Muhammad Usman Ali, students of 2nd year
MBBS at AMC (QIMS) Quetta**



"The journey from FSc to medical school was challenging, but having good opportunity made it easier. With access to essential books, a peaceful study space, and a supportive environment, I found the perfect place to focus on my goals. I am grateful to the POF management for maintaining such a well-equipped facility that continues to support students like me."

**Zeeshan Nazir Student of 1st year MBBS at Rawalpindi
Medical University Rawalpindi**



"The journey from BDS to MBBS was not easy, but persistence and the right resources made it possible. POF Central Library became my second home during MDCAT preparations, providing me with the books, study environment, and motivation I needed. I am grateful for this invaluable support that helped me achieve my dream!"

**Shahzaib Sajjad Student of 2nd year MBBS at Rawalpindi
Medical University Rawalpindi**



"I'm grateful for the library's services and the support from the staff, which has truly contributed to my academic success."

**Farwa Ahmed Student of BBA F G Degree College for Men Wah Cantt
1st Student Member of Library**



"Becoming a student member of POF Central Library has been an incredible opportunity. The chance to explore a vast collection of books and resources in a peaceful learning environment is truly inspiring. I am grateful to the library staff and POF management for making such resource available to students."

**Syed Haseeb Ahmed, Retired Lecturer
1st Private Member of Library**



"Becoming a private member at POF Central Library has been such a great experience. It's quiet, the book collection is awesome, and the staff is always helpful. It's my favorite spot to unwind and learn something new."

FEEDBACK & SUGGESTION FORM 0606-9376

Name: اسرار احمد Library Membership No: New-158

Address: نواب آباد واہ کٹ Mobile No: 0306-8137075

Feedback/ Suggestion: میں نے اس کتاب خانہ کی خدمات سے بہت متاثر ہوں۔ یہاں پر بہت سی نئی کتابیں آتی ہیں۔ اس کی وجہ سے میں نے اپنا پڑھنا شروع کر دیا۔ یہاں پر بہت سی نئی کتابیں آتی ہیں۔ اس کی وجہ سے میں نے اپنا پڑھنا شروع کر دیا۔

اسرار احمد

FEEDBACK & SUGGESTION FORM

Name: Sannia Komal Library Membership No: 16

Address: Wah catt. Mobile No:

Feedback/ Suggestion: I have no words - It is an amazing experience to visit this library -



Reader Spotlight

Mr Israr Ahmed – A Story of Consistency & Achievement

Since 2017, Israr Ahmed has been a regular visitor of POF Central Library, making this space a part of his academic journey. His unwavering commitment to learning is reflected in his achievements:

✓ CA-Pak (CA– Pakistan)

Part qualified, 13 exams cleared – a milestone in one of the most rigorous professional fields.

✓ ACCA-UK (ACCA – United Kingdom)

Passed 8 out of 13 papers – testament to his ongoing pursuit of excellence on an international platform.

"The peaceful environment, updated material, and welcoming staff made all the difference. The library became my partner in progress." – Israr Ahmed

We celebrate his longstanding association with the Library and hope it serves as an inspiration for many more to follow!



Top Borrower Highlight

Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, DCO-IT Network, earned the title of *Reader of Distinction* by an impressive **62 books** issued against his membership over the past six months. His consistent reading habit reflects a deep commitment to learning and personal growth. We applaud his enthusiasm and hope his story inspires others to make reading a regular part of their lives.



POF Central Library
Quaid Avenue, Wah Cantt



<https://library.pof.gov.pk>



library@pof.gov.pk



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