The oldest known surviving manuscript of the Bible, the Codex Sinaiticus, was written by the 4th century AD and is preserved in the British Library in London. It is one of the most important manuscripts of the early Christian period. The manuscript contains the text of the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament, including the book of Isaiah. The manuscript is written in Greek and is considered to be one of the most important early versions of the Bible. It was discovered in the early 20th century and is housed in the British Library in London.
The plan of the Abbey of St. Gall is instructive for the development of the library. In the Benedictine abbey at Göttweig in Austria the library is located in the east wing of the cloister courtyard and is arranged perfectly on axis with the choir and the refectory. This can be seen in two characteristic examples that illustrate two of the most common arrangements of libraries, the one in Göttweig and the one in the Monastery of St. Gall. Both libraries were constructed in a similar period, around the middle of the 18th century.

In Göttweig, the library is located in the east wing of the cloister courtyard and is arranged perfectly on axis with the choir and the refectory. In the Monastery of St. Gall, however, the library is located in the west wing of the cloister courtyard and is arranged perfectly on axis with the choir and the chapter house. This arrangement may have been more a matter of chance than anything else, but it probably served the practical purpose of being centrally located.

In the 17th century, the idea of the library as a centrally planned building gained increasing popularity. One of the earliest examples of this type of library is the court library in the Hofburg in Vienna, which was designed by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach in 1722. The library is a two-story rectangular building with a high dome and a grid of pilasters that connect the perimeter galleries. It is one of the most famous libraries in the world and is considered a masterpiece of Baroque architecture.

In the 18th century, the library as a centrally planned building continued to gain popularity. One of the most famous examples of this type of library is the National Library in Paris, which was designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel in 1776. The library is a two-story rectangular building with a high dome and a grid of pilasters that connect the perimeter galleries. It is one of the most famous libraries in the world and is considered a masterpiece of Baroque architecture.

In the 19th century, the library as a centrally planned building continued to gain popularity. One of the most famous examples of this type of library is the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., which was designed by John L. Keenan in 1897. The library is a two-story rectangular building with a high dome and a grid of pilasters that connect the perimeter galleries. It is one of the most famous libraries in the world and is considered a masterpiece of Baroque architecture.

In the 20th century, the library as a centrally planned building continued to gain popularity. One of the most famous examples of this type of library is the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., which was designed by John L. Keenan in 1897. The library is a two-story rectangular building with a high dome and a grid of pilasters that connect the perimeter galleries. It is one of the most famous libraries in the world and is considered a masterpiece of Baroque architecture.
The layout of the modern library is defined by the core programmatic functions of entry, staff, public spaces, circulation, reference, staff, collections and seating. These functions dictate the flow between the different parts. The flow of movement between the core elements amongst the many other program elements of the library is governed by each element's secondary relationships to other less essential functions. Each core function element has both an overall relationship within the library as an institution and a specific relationship to its immediate neighbors. The pleasantness of these relationships amongst the many program elements of the library is determined by the layout of each of these elements. Designed for a daily audience of 10,000 patrons, the layout of the library, as part of Centenary Square, provides a new cohesion with the adjacent 1960s Repertory Theatre and the 1936 Baskerville House. Facing the busiest pedestrian route in the city, the ten-story structure is a visual landmark for the central metropolitan economy of the United Kingdom. The Library of Birmingham opened in late 2013 on an 11-acre site, with an overall area of 31,000 square meters, and a seating capacity of 1,350.

The incorporation of digital capabilities has required changes in library design. The combination of these capabilities has required changes in the daily operation of most libraries. The circulation desk serves as a connector between the different sectors of the library. The resulting eight, unaligned, overlapping spaces offer unique glimpses into the areas directly above and below. The circulation desk forms the base of the library as it connects with the Repertory Theater. The reference area and the precious are additionally differentiated by issues of opening hours, safety, size and prominence. The entry area often dictates the flow between the different parts. The flow of movement between the core elements amongst the many other program elements of the library is governed by each element's secondary relationships to other less essential functions. Each core function element has both an overall relationship within the library as an institution and a specific relationship to its immediate neighbors. The pleasantness of these relationships amongst the many program elements of the library is determined by the layout of each of these elements. Designed for a daily audience of 10,000 patrons, the layout of the library, as part of Centenary Square, provides a new cohesion with the adjacent 1960s Repertory Theatre and the 1936 Baskerville House. Facing the busiest pedestrian route in the city, the ten-story structure is a visual landmark for the central metropolitan economy of the United Kingdom. The Library of Birmingham opened in late 2013 on an 11-acre site, with an overall area of 31,000 square meters, and a seating capacity of 1,350.