



Libraries And Popular Collections In Touat, South-West Algeria, And Their Role In The Provision Of Manuscripts: The Case Of The Library Of The Sons Of Haj Sidik Abu Medin (D. 1427 AH) In Tamantit, Adrar Province

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Abstract:

The manuscripts of southern Algeria are one of the greatest legacies of our ancestors, serving as a testimony to the scientific and intellectual movements that have attracted the attention of scholars and researchers in modern times. Their aim was to make these sciences more accessible by indexing and categorising them, thus providing a scientific basis for researchers and enthusiasts in this field. Sheikh Sayyid Boumediene Sidiqi, son of Sayyid Sidik, son of Sayyid Muhammad, son of Haj Sidik, may God have mercy on him, is one of the most notable figures who founded a collection known as "Boumediene's Library" in the Moulay Larbi district of Timanit, about 15 km from the province. This library houses treasures from various fields, including religious, literary and philosophical subjects.

Keywords: manuscripts, Libraries, popular collections, Sons of Haj Sidik Abu Medin, Adrar.

Introduction:

Arabic libraries are rich in a vast collection of manuscripts on various scientific and literary subjects, as well as historical documents recording judicial decisions and correspondence between scholars. These manuscripts are treasures that Algeria possesses and have recently attracted considerable attention from researchers and scholars who are trying to preserve, catalogue and maintain them using scientific methods. Among these manuscripts is the collection found in the "Boumediene Library" in the Moulay Larbineighbourhood of Timanit, founded by Sheikh Sidi Boumediene in the 9th century AD. It is currently overseen by Sheikh Haj Sidiqi and contains some 90 manuscripts covering subjects such as jurisprudence, theology, grammar, astronomy and literature. Notable titles include: Majmu' Al-Bayan fi Sharh Alfaz Mawrid Al-Dhaman, Sharh Al-Ajurumiyyah by Al-Suyuti, Sharh Risalat Abi Zayd Al-Qayrawani, Sharh Mukhtasar Khalil, and Qawa'id fi Al-Nahw Sharh Al-'Aziziyyah Al-Shadhiliyyah, among others. This prompted me to re-index these manuscripts using a systematic approach based on recognised academic studies.

From the above, the following problem arises:

What is the content of the Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik Abu Medin and does it reach the level of scientific encyclopaedias covering all fields of knowledge and sciences such as astronomy, mathematics, philosophy and jurisprudence?

This problem leads us to sub-questions, such as:

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Who is the founder of this library? Who are the scholars who have studied its contents? What are the main themes of Sheikh Sayyid Boumediene Sidiqi's manuscripts?

1- Manuscripts and libraries of Touat

The province of Adrar is divided into three regions: Gourara, Touat and Tidkelt. According to statistics from the late 1990s provided by the Association for Historical Research and Studies, the number of libraries exceeded thirty and the number of manuscripts reached more than 27,000 at that time. However, due to theft and plunder by colonial forces and the effects of natural factors, many manuscripts were lost, with the number estimated at around 3,000 at the time. Over the years, as awareness among manuscript owners has increased, the current number has surpassed 4,500, with the number of officially registered libraries exceeding forty, according to statistics from the National Manuscript Centre in Adrar.

2- Introduction to the Touat Region

Historians differ regarding the origin of the name "Touat," its history, and even its boundaries. Some believe that the naming of this region as Touat is linked to a story about when Uqba ibn Nafi¹ al-Fihri opened the Maghreb and reached its coast, then returned to the valleys of Noun, Draa, and Sijilmasa², where his horses reached Touat. This event occurred in 62 AH, and he inquired about this land, referring to Touat, and whether it was known for its weakness, specifically if it was a place for exiling criminals from the Maghreb. They replied that it was indeed Touat, leading to the popularization of the name, which was simplified in common speech³. This interpretation was notably supported by scholar Muhammad ibn Omar (d. c. 13 AH).

On the other hand, another, more widespread view, put forward by Sheikh Sayyid al-Bakri (d. c. 14 AD), refers to the year 518 AD⁴, when the Shiite Mahdi overthrew the Almohad Sultan in the Maghreb. It is clear that the Touat region is deeply rooted in history, with settlements dating back to pre-Islamic times. Originally known as the "Qabail Desert"⁵, its development accelerated after the Kair River dried up in the 4th century AD. This is evidenced by its frequent mention in the works of Arab and foreign historians and travellers such as Ibn Hawqal, Al-Hasan al-Wazzan, Al-Karkhi, Al-Yaqubi, Ibn Battuta, Ibn Khaldun, Abu Salim al-Ayashi and Abdul Rahman al-Saadi⁶.

¹- He is Uqba ibn Nafi al-Fihri, born in the first year before the Hijra. Yazid ibn Muawiya appointed him to govern Africa in 62 AH, and he died in the city of Biskra in Algeria. (See: Bouamran Al-Sheikh et al., Dictionary of Famous Moroccans, University of Algiers, 1995, pp. 365-366).

²- The cities of Oued Noun, Draa, and Sijilmasa are located in the far west of Morocco, with Sijilmasa being one of the largest and oldest historical capitals connected to the Touat region. It was founded in 140 AH (757 AD). (See: Abd Al-Aziz Ben Abdallah, The Moroccan Encyclopedia of Human and Civilizational Figures, p. 62).

³- Narrators have reported that the creator of the palaces of Touat is Muhammad ibn Omar ibn Muhammad ibn Al-Mabrouk Al-Jaafari. p. 04. This manuscript is located in the Baabdallah Library and the Bouda Library in Adrar.

⁴- He is Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn Tumart, known as the Mahdi, whose allegiance to the caliphate began in 515 AH and who died in 524 AH. (See: Ahmed Ben Khalid Al-Nasiri, Al-Istiqsa Li-Akhbar Al-Maghrib Al-Aqsa, Casablanca, Morocco, Edition: 1997).

⁵- It is a large valley that begins in the land of Morocco and extends to the desert near Touat, bending right into numerous sands. It is one of the longest valleys in Morocco in terms of distance, but it is the least beneficial and the most feared. (See: Abi Salim Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al-Ayashi, The Ayashi Journey: Water of the Tables, edited by Muhammad Haji, Rabat, Publications of Dar Al-Maghrib for Writing, Translation, and Publishing, Part One, Second Edition: 1977, p. 18).

⁶- (See: Ahmed Al-Jafri, The Literary Movement in the Touat Region During the 12th and 13th Centuries AH, PhD thesis, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, University of Abou Bakr Belkaid, Tlemcen, 2007, p. 115).

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As for the geography of the region, it covers a vast area in the extreme south-west of Algeria, between longitudes 04° east and 01° west of Greenwich, and latitudes 20° to 30° north. This position gives it a view of western Sudan, particularly the countries of Mali and Mauritania, making it an important geographical centre. Historically, the region has been a strategic location within the Sahara, serving as a natural extension of the Tanzerouft depression in Adrar⁷ to the north, with the OuedSaoura serving as the main trade route for the Touat region.

3- Description of the Library's Location⁸

The Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik Abu Medin, known as "Boumediene's Library," is located in the MoulayLarbi neighborhood of Timanit, within the Fenougl district, approximately 15 km from the province center. The library was established by Sheikh SidiBoumediene in the 9th century AH and is currently overseen by Sheikh Haj Sidiqi. It contains around 90 manuscripts, covering various topics including jurisprudence, theology, grammar, astronomy, and literature. Notable titles include: Majmu' Al-Bayan fi SharhAlfazMawrid Al-Dhaman, Sharh Al-Ajurumiyyah by Al-Suyuti, SharhRisalatAbiZayd Al-Qayrawani, SharhMukhtasar Khalil, and Qawa'id fi Al-NahwSharh Al-'Aziziyyah Al-Shadhiliyyah, among others⁹.

4- Founder of the Library

The founder is Mr. BoumedieneSidiqi, may God have mercy on him, son of Sidik, son of Sayyid Muhammad, son of Haj Sidik. He was born in 1922 and passed away in his lifetime. He was known for his documentation and preservation of family shares of water from the wells, gardens, and properties. He authored several manuscripts on this subject, some of which are preserved while others have been lost. He is considered the last custodian of the library, which is the subject of our research today. He passed away on June 6, 2006.

5- Current custodian of the library

The library is currently supervised by Mr "Haj Ahmad Sidiqi", a retired teacher known for his generosity and hospitality. He is often present in the library and seldom leaves except when necessary. He undertakes the task of copying some manuscripts to protect the original documents from damage and loss. Occasionally, he reviews and examines some manuscripts. The librarian is not paid for his work in supervising the library. He is a person of modest knowledge and culture who has a special respect for the manuscripts. Despite his advanced age, he remains dedicated to this precious heritage, ensuring its protection through his commitment to its restoration, indexing and digitisation¹⁰.

⁷- Adrar: A Berber word meaning "mountain," it is a large, low plateau divided into two sections by a wide and large valley, from which other valleys rise. It is located about 650 km southeast of the city of Bechar and is divided into three urban centers: Gourara, Tuat, and Tidkelt, serving as a trade route to Sudan. (See: Ismail Al-Arabi, *The Great Desert and Its Coasts*, Algeria, National Book Foundation, Edition: 1983, p. 71).

⁸- Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, *Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar*, Department of Library Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of SidiBelabbes, 2022, p. 57.

⁹- National Center for Manuscripts: *Guide to Manuscript Repositories in Adrar Province*, prepared by the technical team of the center, Algeria: Ministry of Culture, 2015, p. 14.

¹⁰- Interview with Mr. Haj Ahmed Sidiqi, Keeper of the Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq, dated January 1, 2022, at 10:30 AM, cited in Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, *Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar*, p. 58.

6- Establishment and Development of the Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik¹¹

Initially, the manuscripts in the library were not organised as they are today; they were scattered in wooden boxes and cardboard containers, with some placed on shelves built into the mud walls, which were typically used to store important items. These manuscripts have been severely damaged by the elements - rain, wind and dust - and by pests such as mice and termites. Some texts have faded ink, while others show signs of wear, with some books containing only the middle pages.

As for the date of the library's establishment, we have not been able to find an accurate and specific date. However, through our examination of the dates in the library's catalogue, we found that the earliest date recorded is Sunday, 9 Rabi' al-Awwal 1110 AH, written by the scribe Ubaid Allah bin Ahmad bin Haj Yahya Al-Timaniti, concerning a manuscript on Qur'anic sciences. According to those responsible for the library, its first founder was Haj Abu Bakr bin Haj Muhammad. After his death, the library was divided into two parts among his heirs.

Part One: Historical Overview of the Library

The first part of the library was under the care of "MrAbd al-Qadir Sidiqi", known as Khali Didi, may God have mercy on him, son of Sayyid Muhammad, son of Sayyid Al-Arabi, son of Haj Muhammad, son of Haj Sidik, son of Abu Medin, after whom the library is named today. Later, it passed to his cousin Haj AmhamadBoumediene, may God have mercy on him, son of Haj Hassan, son of Sayyid Al-Arabi, where their lineage converges back to Abu Medin, son of Haj Abu Bakr (the first founder of the library). The second part, which is the subject of our study, was under the care of "MrBoumedieneSidiqi", may God have mercy on him, son of Sidik, son of Muhammad, son of Haj Sidik, son of Abu Medin, who is the namesake of the library and the current surname of the Sidiqi family.

We tried to find out the names of those who gave the manuscripts to "MrBoumediene", the last custodian of the library. However, we did not find any satisfactory answers from those we questioned or from the manuscripts available in the library. We cannot say definitively that his lineage is necessarily one of inheritance. A good example of this is the observation we made recently about the manuscripts in the possession of MrAbd al-Qadir Sidiqi, which were passed on to his cousin Haj AmhamadBoumediene¹².

7- Preliminary Study of the Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik "Abu Medin".

The preliminary study includes gathering information about the library, its location, its custodian, the number of manuscripts it contains, along with their condition and main themes, followed by a scientific and evaluative analysis. The National Manuscript Centre in Adrar carried out a preliminary study of the library on 1 October 2013 in a catalogue card for the following manuscripts, which we have adopted as essential information and a starting point to support this research paper.

- Province: Adrar
- District: Fenougil
- Municipality: Timanit

¹¹- Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar, p. 58.

¹²- Information provided by Mr. Ibrahim Sidiqi, one of the sons of the Keeper of the Library, dated January 5, 2022, at 11:30 AM. Cited in Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar, p. 58.

- Neighbourhood: MoulayLarbi
- Name of the library: Library of Abu Medin in Timanit
- Founder of the library: MrBoumediene
- Date of Establishment: 9 AH / CE
- Current owner or director: Mr Haj Ahmad Sidiqi

Number of Manuscripts

Total Number of Manuscripts	Good	Average	Poor
Manuscript76	01	49	26

Topics of the manuscripts

- QuranicStudies
- Jurisprudence (Fiqh)
- Grammar (Nahw)
- Tafsir (Quranicexegesis)
- Astronomy
- Monotheism (Tawhid)
- Literature
- Theology (Aqidah)
- Science of Recitation (Qira'at)

Notes:

- There are some photographed manuscripts and some printed materials, but the manuscripts have not been catalogued.

Participants:

- Abd al-Rahman Al-Alali
- Issa Jamai
- Zahra Sadi

Preliminary Study of the Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik

- Date of the study: 1 October 2013

Space:

Location.

The library is located in the Timanit Palace in Adrar, in a room within the residence of its supervisor.

Equipment of the room

The library is located in a separate room with a storage unit for the manuscripts.

Uses

The single room is used for storage, reception, viewing and consultation.

Storage

The manuscripts are stored horizontally in the storage unit.

Storage Conditions:

Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arrange the manuscripts horizontally.- Use paper holders for the manuscripts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sometimes manuscripts are stacked excessively on top of each other.- Cardboard and paper holders may not be suitable for preservation.- Placing manuscripts with printed materials.

- **Protection (wrapping):** The library owner has wrapped the manuscripts with various materials, including:

- Paper protectors
- Cardboard wrapping
- Some manuscripts retain their original bindings (leather).

State of preservation

Most of the manuscripts in the library have suffered various types of damage, including

- Biological damage: Evidence of rodents, insects and termites.
- Physical damage: Tears, loss of parts of pages, holes and tears.
- Chemical damage: Fraying of some manuscript pages, discolouration due to oxidation.

Inscriptions:

Space:

- Increase the number of rooms to separate the storage area from the viewing and consultation area, with appropriate lighting and temperature conditions.

Storage:

- Add more shelving to reduce pressure on overcrowded shelves.
- Separate manuscripts from printed material
- Conduct regular cleaning of manuscripts

Protection:

- Replace the covers mentioned above with others made of special paper that will help protect the manuscripts, such as Japanese paper or acid-free paper.

State of preservation:

- Some manuscripts are in poor condition and require care to survive the test of time.
- Regular cleaning of the manuscripts and the use of insecticides are necessary.

Additional notes:

- The library does not contain any scientific or valuable manuscripts.
- Some titles of its manuscripts are
 - Majmu' Al-Bayan fi SharhAlfazMawrid Al-Dhaman
 - Sharh Al-Ajurumiyyah of Al-Suyuti
 - Qawa'id fi Al-Nahw

- SharhRisalatAbiZayd Al-Qayrawani
- SharhMukhtasar Khalil
- Sharh Al-'Aziziyah Al-Shadhiliyyah
- Irshad Al-IbadilaSabil Al-Rashad
- Tamrin Al-Tullab fi Sina'at Al-I'raab by Khalid ibnAbd Allah Al-Azhari¹³

8- The Library's Manuscript Collection

The total number of manuscripts in the library is about 90, covering various sciences and fields of knowledge, and their condition varies between good, fair and poor¹⁴. The subjects of the manuscripts are detailed in the following table:

Knowledge Domain	Total Manuscripts	Important Manuscripts in This Knowledge Domain
- Quality and Readings	- 5 Manuscripts	1. Guarding Aspirations and Offering Congratulations (Al-Shatibi) Author: Al-Shatibi, Abu Muhammad al-QasimibnFirahibnKhalafibn Ahmad al-Ra'ini
- Quranic interpretation and sciences	- 8 Manuscripts	The Lantern in Omitting the Clear Author: Al-Jakni, Tayr al-Jannah Ahmad bin Umar bin Mukhtar.
- Hadith	- 6 Manuscripts	The Authentic Collection of Hadith Author: Muslim bin al-Hajjaj bin Muslim Abu al-Hassan al-Qushayri al-Naysaburi.
- Explanation of Hadith	- 1 Manuscript	The Secret Breezes in Explaining the Hadith of the Will Author: Ibn al-Adim, Kamal al-Din Umar bin Ahmad bin Hibat Allah al-Khalafi.
- Terminology of Hadith	- 1 Manuscript	GharaamiSahih (The Ghazal Poem) Author: Ibn Farah, Shihab al-Din Abu al-Abbas bin

¹³- Information provided by Ms. Khadija Hamdi, responsible at the National Center for Manuscripts, dated March 16, 2022, at 10:30 AM, cited in Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar, p. 59.

¹⁴- Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar, p. 63.

		Farah bin Ahmad al-Lakhmi al-Ishbili.
- Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence)	- 6 Manuscripts	Ahkam al-Zakat (First Edition Author: IbnRushd, Abu al-Walid Muhammad bin Ahmad bin Rushd al-Qurtubi.
- Maliki Fiqh	- 37 Manuscripts	The Book of the Message Author: IbnAbiZayd al-Qayrawani, Abu Muhammad Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman.
- Usul al-Fiqh (Principles of Jurisprudence)	- 4 Manuscripts	The Sheets on the Foundations of Jurisprudence Author: Al-Juwayni, Imam al-Haramayn Abu al-Maali Abdul Malik bin Abdullah bin Yusuf bin Muhammad.
- Judicial and Political Sharia	- 3 Manuscripts	The Superior Method and the Clear Source Author: Al-Wanshirisi, Abu al-Abbas bin Yahya bin Muhammad bin Abdul Wahid al-Tlemceni.
- Recent cases and fatwas	- 5 Manuscripts	The Ascension to Obtain the Ruling of the Black Author: Al-Tanbukti, Ahmad Baba bin Ahmad bin al-Hajj Ahmad bin Umar al-Sanhaji.
- Purification	- 8 Manuscripts	The Reminder of the States of the Dead and the Affairs of the Hereafter Author: Al-Qurtubi, Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Muhammad bin Ahmad bin AbiBakr al-Ansari.
- Islamic Literature	- 2 Manuscripts	(The Clear Muwatta) (First Edition Author: Ibn al-Muhal, Abu al-Hakam Malik bin Abdul Rahman bin Faraj bin Azraq.

- Syntax and Morphology	- 5 Manuscripts	The Thousand Verses in Grammar and Morphology Author: Ibn Malik, Jamal al-Din Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Abdullah al-Tai al-Jayani.
- Miscellaneous.	- 1 Manuscript	Revealing the Secrets Hidden from Thoughts Author: Al-Aqfahsi, Ibn al-Imad Shihab al-Din Abu al-Abbas Ahmad bin Imad bin Yusuf.

Table showing the main sciences and knowledge in the library

9- Brief definitions of some manuscript sciences and knowledge found in the library¹⁵

- Tajwid and Recitation: Tajwid is the science that specifies the rules and principles to be followed when reciting the Qur'an, ensuring that each letter is pronounced correctly in terms of articulation, characteristics and movements, without exaggeration or distortion. Recitation, as defined by Abu Hayyan Al-Andalusi, is the science that studies how to pronounce the words of the Holy Quran.
- Tafsir: This is the science that guides the understanding of the words of God, elucidates their meanings, and assists in deriving legal rulings.
- The Quran and its sciences: The Qur'an is the Word of God and has a great significance in the hearts of the Touati people, who have paid much attention to it through the various Qur'anic schools dedicated to its teaching, interpretation and clarification of ambiguous aspects.
- Fiqh and its foundations: This science focuses on explaining, interpreting and teaching essential religious matters and the five pillars of Islam. Given the prevalence of the Maliki school of thought in Algeria, one of the four Sunni schools of Islam that follow the jurisprudence of Imam Malik, the most important manuscripts are in this field.
- Judiciary and Sharia policy: This consists of a set of Sharia laws established by Islam for adjudicating and regulating people's affairs. It occupies an important place among the sciences of the Touati people and their manuscripts, as it refers to rulings in disputes, conflict resolution and contractual agreements¹⁶.
- Nawazil: These are new incidents that have not yet been addressed by a text or legal reasoning, or events that require a Shari'a ruling.
- Miscellaneous: This refers to a collection of different items, parts or components, often including literary or artistic works.

10- Current State of the Library and Its Challenges:

After being established in the palace of Awlad Ali bin Musa by its founder, "Abu Medin bin Haj Abu Bakr bin Haj Muhammad", the library remained there for a long time. It then changed from its ancient character to a modern one as the original premises became unsuitable for preservation and

¹⁵- Zaqah Muhammad, Qafzi Muhammad, Indexing the Documentary Heritage of Manuscripts in Algerian Libraries: The Library of the Sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Madyan - Awlad Ali bin Moussa - Temantit - Adrar, p. 64.

¹⁶- Haloui Fatiha, The Art of Indexing Arabic Manuscripts, PhD Thesis, Department of Literary Studies and Islamic Civilization, Faculty of Arts and Languages, University of AbouBakrBelkaid, Tlemcen, 2016, p. 125.

protection due to the fragility, narrowness and age of the building. As a result, the library was moved to a new building in the Moulay Larbi district, where it is housed in a large concrete space with a modern glass display case with seven shelves, each displaying the manuscripts prominently.

However, like many manuscript libraries in Algeria in general and in the Touat region in particular, the library suffers from marginalisation, neglect and confinement to its shelves. This is due to the owners' fear of loss and neglect, as well as their lack of awareness of the manuscripts. Despite the new building, the library still needs financial and moral support.

Major challenges facing the library:

- Simplicity of material equipment: The library has basic facilities.
- Dust and dirt: Manuscripts are exposed to dust, especially during windy seasons.
- Lack of awareness: There is a general lack of knowledge about the proper handling of manuscripts.
- Inexperience of the supervisor: The supervisor lacks experience in dealing with fragile manuscripts using appropriate scientific methods.
- Ignorance of conservation principles: Library staff are unaware of the rules governing the conservation, treatment and protection of manuscripts.
- Primitive conservation methods: Methods used to store, bind and package manuscripts are outdated.
- Frequent obligations of the curator: The supervisor's many commitments reduce the time available for the library.
- Mixing of manuscripts and printed materials: There is a lack of separation between manuscripts and printed materials, leading to overcrowding.

11- Cataloging a Sample of Manuscripts from the Library

The practical cataloging of the manuscripts from the Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik Abu Medin follows the indexing card model established by the Algerian Manuscripts Laboratory in Africa at the University of Adrar:

1. Manuscripts on "Tajwid and Recitations":

- Shelf number	003
- Subject	Subject:Tajweed and Recitations.
- Type of manuscript	Subject:Tajweed and Recitations.
- Title of manuscript	Type: Book.
- Author of manuscript	Title: Harz al-Amani waWajh al-Tahani (Al-Shatibiya)
- Date of composition	Author: Al-Shatibi, Abu Muhammad Al-QasimibnFiraibnKhalafibn Ahmad Al-Ra'ini
- Name of the copyist	(538 AH - 590 AH) (1144 CE - 1194 CE)
- Date of copying	Copyist: Not mentioned.
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Date of Copying:Not mentioned.
- Paper size and text size	Number of Pages: 15 sheets Number of Pages: / Number of Lines:23 lines.

- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Paper Size: 16 × 21 cm Text Size: /
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Excerpt: "Perhaps the Lord of the Throne, O my brothers, will grant our group all the misfortunes, And make us among those whose book will intercede for them when they forget it and thus be illuminated. And by Allah, my support and strength, I have no cover but Him, And the outcome of the second is high, and we will make them taste goodness for the worlds, breaking their pride. To gather the address, include the 'waw' in a state of rest, and gather their effects nobly.
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	And may it benefit the Kufi, and in length, it will be fortified, And mercy will raise me as a winner and achiever."
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Style:Maghrebi.
- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	Material:Paper.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	Condition: Incomplete at the beginning, middle, and end. Writing Color and Titles: Black and red.
- General notes about the manuscript	- Are there any decorations in the manuscript? No - Are there any annotations? No - Are there any ownership marks or loans? No - Are there any marginal notes? Yes - Are there any comments from scholars? No
- Name of the library or storage room	Library:Library of the sons of Haj Al-Siddiq Abu Medin.
- Location information	Country: Algeria Province: Adrar District:Fenoughil Municipality: Tamantit Town: Tamantit, "QasrAwwalad Ali ibn Musa."

2. Manuscripts in "Tafsir and Quranic Sciences"

- Shelf number	015
- Subject	- Subject: Interpretation and Sciences of the Quran.
- Type of manuscript	- Subject: Interpretation and Sciences of the Quran.
- Title of manuscript	- Type of Manuscript: Book.
- Author of manuscript	- Title of the Manuscript: Supplement to the Source of Thirst (Control of the Kharraz).
- Date of composition	- Author of the Manuscript: Al-Kharraz al-Sharishi, Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn Ibrahim al-Umwi.
- Name of the copyist	- Date of Composition: (718 AH) (1318 CE).
- Date of copying	- Name of the Copyist: Not mentioned.
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	- Date of Copying: Not mentioned.
- Paper size and text size	- Number of Leaves: 5 Leaves; Number of Pages: 9 Pages. - Number of Lines: 20 Lines.
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	- Paper Size: 22 x 16 cm; Text Size: /
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	- Beginning of the Manuscript (2 to 3 lines): This completes the arrangement of the script, and here I follow it with the control, as it is comprehensive and beneficial, based on what I have found customary.
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	- End of the Manuscript (2 to 3 lines): and mercy, by Your grace, on those who taught us Your glorious Book or read it to us, by the virtue of the Lord of mankind, and the hoped-for Muhammad of noble lineage. May God's blessings be upon him, as long as the longing draws near to him.
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	- Type of Script: Maghrebi.
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	- Medium on which the Manuscript is Written: Paper.

- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	- Condition of the Manuscript: Complete. - Color of Writing and Titles: Black, Red, and Blue.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	- Are there any decorations in the manuscript? No. - Are there any annotations? No. - Are there any ownership marks or loans? No. - Are there any marginal notes? No. - Are there any comments from scholars? No.
- General notes about the manuscript	- Name of the Library or Repository: Library of the Sons of Haj Sidi "Abu Medin."
- Name of the library or storage room	- Location: Algeria, Adrar Province, Fnoughel District, Municipality: Tamantit, Town: Tamantit, "Palace of the Sons of Ali ibn Musa."

3. Manuscripts on the Science of Hadith:

- Shelf number	024
- Subject	Subject: Hadith
- Type of manuscript	Type of Manuscript: Book
- Title of manuscript	Title of Manuscript: Sahih Muslim (The Authentic Compendium, Concisely Transmitted from Just to Just to the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him) Part One.
- Author of manuscript	Author: Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj ibn Muslim Abu al-Hasan al-Qushayri al-Naysaburi.
- Date of composition	Date of Composition: (204 AH - 261 AH) (820 CE - 875 CE)
- Name of the copyist	Copyist Name: Not mentioned.
- Date of copying	Date of Copying: Not mentioned.
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Number of Leaves: 150 leaves. Number of Pages: / Number of Lines: 25 lines.
- Paper size and text size	Paper Size: / Text Size: /
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Beginning of the Manuscript (2 to 3 lines): "...repeating it entirely without our need for it; may Allah the Almighty enable us. As for the first section, we aim to

	present the reports that are the safest from defects compared to others..."
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	End of the Manuscript (2 to 3 lines): "...the Prophet, peace be upon him, completed the prostration and the row behind him that was delayed in the first rak'ah..."
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	Type of Script: Maghrebi
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Medium: Paper
- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	Condition of the Manuscript: Incomplete at the beginning and end. Color of Writing and Titles: Black Notes: It has annotations/printed in several editions.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	- Is there ornamentation in the manuscript? No - Are there annotations? . Yes - Are there ownership notes or loans? No - Are there margins? Yes
- General notes about the manuscript	- Are there comments from scholars? No Library or Repository Name: The Library of the Sons of Al-Hajj Al-Siddiq "Abu Medin"
- Name of the library or storage room	Location: Algeria, Adrar Province, Fenougil District, Municipality: Tamanrasset, Town: Tamanrasset "QasrAwlad Ali bin Musa"

4. Manuscripts on Maliki Jurisprudence:

- Shelf number	050
- Subject	Subject: Maliki Jurisprudence
- Type of manuscript	Type of Manuscript: Book
- Title of manuscript	Title of Manuscript: "Tahrir al-Tayyin li Ma'ani al-Murshid al-Mu'in"
- Author of manuscript	Author of Manuscript: Al-Tamantiqi, Al-Arabi bin al-Siddiq bin Abu Madin
- Date of composition	Date of Composition: (... H - after 1263 H) (... AD - after 1847 AD)
- Name of the copyist	Name of Copyist: Muhammad al-Salam bin Muhammad al-Salam al-Tamantiqi
- Date of copying	Date of Copying: Dhuhra, 8 Jumada al-Awwal, 1269 AD

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- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Number of Leaves:52 (Q.) Number of Pages: / Number of Lines:32 lines
- Paper size and text size	Paper Size:18 × 23. Text Size: /
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Beginning of Manuscript: "... He sent His servants with miracles to establish proof upon them, guiding whomever He wills... We praise Him for all His increasing blessings... What one should care about in this world is learning the issues of religion with sincerity to his Lord, and it was one of the briefest... that was inspired in my mind during some... and I symbolized what I recorded for the commentator..."
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	*End of Manuscript:* "... good deeds accepted and abundant sustenance... O Allah, we ask You for the best of the two abodes, Amen. Glory be to Allah and praise Him, Glory be to Allah the Great. O Allah, send blessings and peace upon... and his family, as many as those who remember Him and those who forget Him, and may Allah be pleased with... the followers of the righteous until the Day of Judgment. And our last call is that all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds."
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	Type of Script: Maghrebi
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Medium:Paper
- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	Condition of Manuscript: Complete Color of Writing and Titles: Black and Red Copyist's Note:"He said in his history that the completion of... meaning from his exit from the draft on the evening of Thursday, the 26th of Jumada al-Akhirah in the year 363 AH, I found that in the handwriting of the author, Sidi al-Haj Al-Arabi." Ownership Note: Owned by Muhammad Fathah bin Abdul Salam.

	Condition: The manuscript has signs of wear and moisture damage, resulting in missing parts of the text.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	- Is there any decoration in the manuscript? No - Are there any annotations? No - Are there any ownership notes or loans? Yes - Are there any margins? Yes - Are there comments by scholars? Yes
- General notes about the manuscript	Library or Repository Name: Library of the Sons of Haj al-Siddiq Abu Madin
- Name of the library or storage room	Country:Algeria Province: Adrar District:Fenughel Municipality: Tamantit Town:Tamantit, "Palace of the Sons of Ali bin Musa"

5. Manuscripts on "Judiciary and Sharia Policy":

- Shelf number	078
- Subject	Subject:Jurisprudence and Legal Policy.
- Type of manuscript	Type:Book.
- Title of manuscript	Title:Gift to the Judges on Matters of Litigation and Judgments (Lamiyyat al-Zuqaq)
- Author of manuscript	Author: Al-Zuqaq, Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn al-Qasimibn Muhammad al-Tajibi.
- Date of composition	Date of Composition: (... H - 912 H) (.... AD - 1506 AD)
- Name of the copyist	Copyist:Not mentioned.
- Date of copying	Date of Copying: Not mentioned.
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Number of Leaves:6 leaves. Number of Pages: / Number of Lines: 25 lines.
- Paper size and text size	Paper Size: 18 × 23 cm. Text Size: /
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Excerpt: "Praise be to the Lord, I begin first, but I cannot count His praises, the Exalted One, as He has been praised, and after Him, I

	praise Ahmad the Guide, my prayers upon the first, and his family and wives and companions, then those who follow them with goodness until the Day of Trial.
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Whoever seeks benefit from this composition, I entrust it to its author, a faithful servant, O Lord, bestow favor. And may blessings and peace be upon the Guide, his family, and companions, and whoever has honored the religion, a prayer and peace that has no end, to the utmost limit, O Lord, accept."
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	Script Type: Maghrebi.
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Medium: Paper.
- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	Condition: Complete copy. Color of Writing and Titles: Black and Red. Notes: Contains signs of moisture / has annotations / printed with the text of Al-Asimiyah (*Gift to the Judges) by Abdul Hamid Ahmad Hanafi in Egypt, date not mentioned.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	- Are there decorations in the manuscript? No - Are there annotations? No - Are there ownership marks or loans? No - Are there marginal notes? No - Are there comments by scholars? Yes
- General notes about the manuscript	Repository Name: The Library of the Sons of Haj al-Sidiq "Abu Medin"
- Name of the library or storage room	Country: Algeria Province: Adrar District: Fenoughil Municipality: Tamantit Town: Tamantit, "Palace of the Sons of Ali bin Musa"

6. Manuscripts on "Nawazil and Fatwas":

- Shelf number	082
- Subject	Subject: Novels and Legal Opinions.
- Type of manuscript	Type: Book.

- Title of manuscript	Title: The Concise Issues from the Book of Al-Barzali ("Summary of Al-Barzali's Novels").
- Author of manuscript	Author: Halulu Abu Abbas Ahmad bin Abdul Rahman bin Musa Al-Zalitani.
- Date of composition	Date of Composition: (815 AH - 898 AH) (1412 CE - 1493 CE).
- Name of the copyist	Copyist: Abdullah bin Abu Medin Al-Tawati Al-Tamaniti.
- Date of copying	Date of Copying: Morning of Friday, mid-Muharram, 1215 AH.
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Number of Leaves: 286 leaves.
- Paper size and text size	Number of Pages: / Number of Lines: 24 lines.
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Paper Size: 24 × 17. Text Size: /
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	"This is a selection of issues that I have summarized from the book of our master, our sheikh, the Imam, the scholar, the notable Abu Al-Qasim Al-Barzali, may Allah have mercy on him and benefit us through him. These are issues of fatwa and inquiry, which are said to be synonymous; Ibn Maki and others mentioned this. Issue of Ibn Sahl in his rulings regarding what is fatwa-ed upon, as established by the rulings..."
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	Issue regarding Ka'ab Al-Ahbar in the Torah: O son of Adam, do not fear the loss of sustenance as long as My treasures do not perish, and My treasures will never perish... Al-Ghazali said: The ultimate fruit of religion in this world is to attain the knowledge of Allah and to find solace in His remembrance. Knowledge is attained by constant contemplation in the creations, and solace is found in the continuous remembrance of Him. This is the summary found; praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds..."
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	Type of Script: Maghrebi.
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Material: Paper.

- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	Condition: Complete copy. Color of Writing and Titles: Black and Red. Notes: Some leaves are missing parts of the text. Al-Barzali Abu Al-Qasim bin Ahmad (d. 844 AH). A part of the book was printed with the verification of Ahmed Muhammad Al-Khalifi at Dar Al-Madar Al-Islami, Beirut, in 2002.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	- Are there decorations in the manuscript? Yes. - Are there annotations? No. - Are there ownership marks or loans? No. - Are there margins? No. - Are there comments from scholars? No.
- General notes about the manuscript	Repository Name: The Library of the Sons of Al-Hajj Al-Siddiq "Abu Medin."
- Name of the library or storage room	Country: Algeria. State: Adrar. District: Fenughel. Municipality: Tamanrasset. Town: Tamanrasset "Qasr Awlad Ali bin Musa."

7. Manuscripts on "Literature":

- Shelf number	089
- Subject	Subject: Literature
- Type of manuscript	Type of Manuscript: Book
- Title of manuscript	Title of Manuscript: Al-Muwatta Al-Fasih (The Poetic Version of Al-Thalab) (First Edition)
- Author of manuscript	Author: Ibn Al-Marhal Abu al-Hakam Malik ibn Abdul Rahim ibn Faraj ibn Azraq
- Date of composition	Date of Composition: (604 AH - 699 AH) (1207 CE - 1300 CE) Copyist: Not mentioned
- Name of the copyist	Date of Copying: Not mentioned
- Date of copying	Number of Leaves: 3 leaves Number of Pages: / Number of Lines: 20 lines
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Paper Size: / Text Size: /
- Paper size and text size	Excerpt from the Manuscript: "Gratitude to God is due to His essence, And thanks for His great gifts. We praise Him and thank Him,

	And seek forgiveness for past sins.
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Then we invoke the best prayers Upon the generous in essence and attributes..."
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	Condition: Maghrebi
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	Medium: Paper
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Type: Fragment of the book Color of Writing and Titles: Black
- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	Publication Details: Printed with the verification of Abdullah bin Muhammad Al-Hakami at Dar Al-Dhakha'ir in Riyadh, 1424 AH - 2003 CE.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	- Is there any decoration in the manuscript? No - Are there any annotations? No - Are there any ownership marks or loans? No - Are there any margins? No - Are there any comments from scholars? No
- General notes about the manuscript	Repository Name: Library of the Sons of Al-Hajj Al-Siddiq Abu Madin
- Name of the library or storage room	Country: Algeria Province: Adrar District: Fnoughel Municipality: Tamanrasset Town: Tamanrasset, "Palace of the Sons of Ali bin Musa"

8. Manuscripts on "Grammar and Morphology":

- Shelf number	093
- Subject	Grammar and Morphology.
- Type of manuscript	Book.
- Title of manuscript	Alfiya in Grammar and Morphology.
- Author of manuscript	Ibn Malik, Jamal al-Din Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Abdullah al-Tai al-Jayani.*
- Date of composition	(600 H - 672 H) (1203 CE - 1274 CE)
- Name of the copyist	Not mentioned.
- Date of copying	Not mentioned.
- Number of pages, sheets, and lines in the manuscript	Number of leaves: 1 leaf. Number of pages: /

	Number of lines: 7 lines.
- Paper size and text size	Paper size: / Text size: /
- Beginning of the manuscript (two to three lines)	Excerpt: And what actions are of transfer and deletion, so it is also an object... Like sold and preserved... and correcting the one with the "waaw" ... And the object is corrected in the case of "adaa" ... And I will justify if you do not choose the best...
- End of the manuscript (two to three lines)	"Zallat" and "zallat" in "dhallalt" are used... And "qarn" in "aqroon" and "qarn" transferred... The assimilation... The first two vowels in the word "idgham" are not like "saffaf.
- Type of cover (leather, cardboard, etc.)	
- Type of script (Maghrebi, etc.)	Moroccan.
- Medium on which the manuscript was written (paper, leather, digital image, etc.)	Paper.
- Condition of the manuscript (brief description): complete or incomplete	A leaf from the book. Color of writing and titles: Black and Red. Has comments. / Printed in several editions.
- Color of the writing, titles, and other notes	_Is there decoration in the manuscript? No - Are there annotations? No - Are there ownership marks or loans? - No - Are there margins? No - Are there comments from scholars? Yes
- General notes about the manuscript	Library of the children of Al-Hajj Al-Siddiq Abu Madin.
- Name of the library or storage room	Country: Algeria, Province: Adrar, District: Fnouguil. Municipality: Tamnatit. Town: Tamnatit, "QasrAwlad Ali bin Musa.

Conclusion:

It can be said that Algeria, like other Arab countries in general, and the Adrar province in particular, is rich in intellectual and scientific heritage, especially in manuscripts. However, this heritage remains confined to libraries and public repositories, which lack the necessary resources and modern equipment to protect this documentary heritage from various forms of damage and factors that could harm it. The Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik Abu Medin, like other libraries in the Touat

region, has a considerable documentary heritage but also suffers from marginalisation. This was evident in our study of the library, where we examined the condition and material status of some of its manuscripts and explored the key sciences, knowledge and arts it contains.

Thus, the importance of cataloguing the manuscripts emerges as a crucial basis for preserving the nation's memory and heritage through their treatment and maintenance using modern techniques and methods. This would enable their availability and dissemination for quick access by beneficiaries and consumers, while providing a suitable environment for them to survive and flourish for as long as possible.

Our aim in cataloguing the manuscripts was to highlight the rich heritage of the region and to change the perspective of library owners and regional officials regarding the importance of this cultural heritage. We wanted to encourage improvements beyond the current state of deterioration and extinction. In general, regardless of the interests and initiatives that the manuscripts in these libraries, especially the Library of the Sons of Haj Sidik, receive, they do not fulfil their purpose in light of the current conditions. Therefore, it is essential to shed light on this issue and to show the way for specialists in the field who have the knowledge and ability to deal with this type of human knowledge, moving away from personal justifications that hinder the preservation of manuscripts in the region and the libraries that house them. We hope that this documentary heritage will regain its scientific and historical value, and we encourage researchers and students of library and information sciences to get involved in the field of manuscripts.

Appendices to the presentation:

Appendix 01: A clear image of the manuscript library and its state of preservation.



Appendix 02: Two images of the upper and lower shelves of the library, showing the arrangement and state of preservation.



Appendix 03: Images of selected manuscripts in the library.





List of Sources and References:

The Holy Quran

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