

DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF READING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL

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Annotatsion: This article discusses the systematic efforts being made to develop libraries and the activities of librarians in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as to strengthen the culture of reading among young people. Additionally, practical measures aimed at giving high attention to librarians in our country and developing their activities have been recognized.

Key words: library, technical base, publication, information and mass communication, education, reading, culture.

Sources of written information such as books, newspapers, magazines, and others are aimed at fully satisfying the developmental, spiritual, and socio-domestic needs of society. Throughout human progress, they have fulfilled this role. Written documents have expanded opportunities for people to exchange ideas, and libraries have served as a means to extend the lifespan of written works. Like other social institutions, libraries emerged based on society's most essential needs and have developed in various forms over different periods. The reason for this is the emergence of writing, which naturally led to the need for institutions capable of preserving these writings as a means of recording and transmitting information to meet social demands. Therefore, from the very beginning, libraries have been considered an integral part of ensuring the stable existence of society. Libraries are humanitarian institutions because they are a collection of books and the collective history of human society. They compile all the knowledge humanity has achieved in various fields of science, regardless of form, type, genre, or language. Libraries have actively fought against darkness, ignorance, and barbarism, instilling seeds of goodness, kindness, generosity, loyalty, love, and compassion in people's hearts.

Today, our country is undergoing significant changes in all fields and sectors based on the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021. In this regard, special attention is being paid to deepening the noble values and traditions in society, particularly in enhancing the spiritual and intellectual potential, consciousness, thinking, and worldview of our people, especially the younger generation, and in fostering a well-rounded personality who lives with a sense of love and loyalty to their Motherland and people, and in raising the culture of reading, which has unparalleled importance. In this direction, it is necessary to emphasize that recently considerable work has been done to strengthen the relevant legal and regulatory framework, to carry out organizational and practical work based on contemporary requirements, and to involve the broad public in this matter.

In our country, the priority tasks have been defined to enhance information and library activities, enrich the library collections of information resource centers in educational institutions, libraries, and the "Spirituality Rooms" of organizations and institutions with educational-methodological, technical literature, literary-artistic, educational, and popular scientific books, and to strengthen their material and technical base. Systematic and effective organization of promotional activities to increase book reading and the culture of reading, and organizing high-level selection and

national stages of competitions among readers, librarians, and promoters such as "Eng kitobxon oila," "Eng kitobxon mahalla," "Eng kitobxon maktab," and "Eng faol kutubxonachi" have been set as priorities.

Another important decree by the head of our state has further intensified the attention towards librarians and libraries. On June 7, a decree by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Further Improving Information and Library Services to the Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted. The decree outlines the goals and tasks of developing information and library activities at the current stage of socio-economic reform in the Republic, including the development of information and library activities considering information and communication technologies and modern global trends, ensuring high-quality social guarantees for providing information and library services to the population, and improving the regulatory and legal framework aimed at the development of information and library institutions considering modern requirements. The decree also emphasizes assisting the stable development of information and library services in the regions, strengthening the material and technical base of information and library institutions, including constructing new buildings and structures, reconstructing existing ones, providing them with modern equipment, developing public-private partnerships in the library sector, developing private and electronic (virtual) library networks, enhancing the efficiency of library activities and the promptness of services provided to users (including paid services), distributing electronic books, expanding cooperation with internet resources, ensuring the security of information and library institutions and preserving information and library collections as part of national and global cultural heritage, enhancing the information culture of society, increasing interest in our history and national culture, promoting and increasing the culture of reading, and providing information and library institutions with qualified specialists. The decree approved the concept for the development of the information and library sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2024, a program of measures for the development of the sector, and the organizational structure of the Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan – information resource center.

The Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with relevant ministries, departments, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city administrations, was tasked with establishing 186 district (city) information and library centers under the National Library, creating qualitatively new and convenient conditions for providing information and library services to the population, satisfying their scientific, educational, informational, and cultural needs using modern information technologies, providing the socially vulnerable segments of the population with opportunities for social adaptation and rehabilitation, independent learning, and expanding their communication scope, enabling users to access high-quality information sources in any format (print, multimedia, and digital), including via the Internet, creating their own information resources and continuously updating them, transitioning from traditional service methods to providing modern information and library services to readers, and developing and modernizing remote information and library services to the population as the main tasks. This decree approves the concept for the development of the information and library sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019-2024, the program of measures for the development of the sector, and the organizational structure of the Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan - Information Resource Center. These centers aim to create new and convenient conditions for providing information and library services to the population, to meet their scientific, educational, informational, and cultural needs using modern information technologies. Additionally, they aim to provide information access as a method for social adaptation

and rehabilitation, independent learning, and expanding communication for socially vulnerable groups. Users will be provided with access to high-quality information resources on any media (printed, multimedia, and digital), including via the Internet. Libraries will create and continually update their own information resources, transitioning from traditional service methods to modern information and library services, and develop and modernize remote information and library services. According to this decree, it is mandated to study the need for specialists in the library sector and propose admission quotas for "Library and Information Activities" in relevant higher education institutions to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. With the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan's decision, ministries, departments, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city authorities, state agencies, and other organizations, including military units, are tasked with establishing (improving) departmental libraries, creating, updating, and replenishing their book collections and material and technical bases. This will be funded by the state budget, extra-budgetary funds, and other sources not prohibited by law. The responsibility for annually forming the list of necessary publications to update and replenish the book collections of departmental libraries is assigned to the Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. May 21 is designated as Librarians' Day in our republic, during which librarians will be awarded state prizes and incentives for their many years of honest work and contributions to the development of the information and library sector.

Reference resources:

1. "On Further Improving Information and Library Services to the Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan"
2. "The law on Librarianship"
3. "The law on Information"
4. "Regulations on Electronic Libraries"
5. National Library of Uzbekistan website