



## ABOUT THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN KARAKALPAKSTAN

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### ABSTRACT

*The presented article is dedicated to the history of librarianship in Karakalpakstan, which is viewed in the context of cultural development of the society. The first libraries on the territory of Karakalpakstan were private ones and they functioned in traditional schools and madrasahs. At soviet time the librarianship was developed widely. The first public libraries in different forms (movable libraries, reading yurts and others) were formed in the republic in 1920th. The formation of libraries and other cultural and enlightenment establishments was the policy of the soviet government on eliminating the illiteracy. A great number of works had been done for organizing the nets of libraries after the Second World War period. All libraries became state and official ones, there existed movable libraries and small reading houses in villages. As most of the libraries were placed in special buildings there was a great need to educated personnel, who were able to work in these places. Due to the centralization policy of book provision, the libraries were ruled by the government and functioned according to government policy, that's why most of the books were in the Russian language. The national independence was a new milestone in the history of the nation. In the first years of the independence there formed the legislative basis of developing the cultural and educational establishments in the country. On the basis of reforming the librarianship system, all the libraries were reformed into resource centers. In spite of computerization tendency of the whole system of cultural and enlightenment sphere, the books are still in demand of most population of the country at that time.*

**KEYWORDS:** *librarianship, private library, public library, soviet time, centralization policy, movable libraries.*

### INTRODUCTION

The cultural history of Karakalpak people goes back to ancient times, it has been developing for thousands of years to the world civilization. Numerous monuments of culture and architecture, oral folk creations and many other sources evidence the existence of civilization, science and culture on the territory of Uzbekistan from ancient times. Today the issues of saving and developing the rich cultural heritage of the nation, which are essential in consolidation of national independence, as well as in upbringing a new generation of people, has been the main task put forward before the historians of the country.

The Central Asia was one of the important centers of world civilization. There lived and created famous scientists and philosophers, who put the basis on many sciences and branches of enlightenment. There were the largest educational establishments and the richest libraries of the world in the cities of

Central Asia. The libraries on the territory of Uzbekistan existed from ancient time and had a great influence on the development of world scientific points.

Despite the time of quick informational flow and the development of communication systems, books are considered one of the archaic forms of transmitting cultural treasures and shaping the spiritual and moral values of the individual. In spite of tendency of computerization the whole system of cultural and enlightenment sphere, the books are still in demand of the most population of the country. In the whole world books are becoming the main attribute of cultural development, that's why the necessity of reading books, mainly among young generation are being propagandized in our country at present time.



## MATERIALS AND METHOD

The librarianship is considered essential in the system of cultural and enlightening sphere as one of the means of upbringing the individual. It has deep historical roots, the researching of which gives to the contemporary society a great knowledge and invaluable information about cultural-educational activities of the country. The importance of learning the history of developing the librarianship is mentioned in the "The Strategy on further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021" adopted on the basis of Presidential Decree on February 7, 2017. Mainly, there mentioned the importance of «upbringing of physically healthy, spiritually and intellectually developed, independently thinking youth, dedicated to homeland with solid life views, improving their social activity in democratic reforms and development of civil society» [1].

At soviet time the scholars of Uzbekistan made a great contribution on the investigation of the history of librarianship. Among the great number of scholars we referred to the works of T.N.Kary-Niyazov, S.Radjapov, X.Mirzaeva, I.Rahmanov, T.Ernazarov, X.Davidov, X.Alimov, R.Karimov, N.Sadikova, A.Valiev, o.Kasimova, M.Rashidova, X.Eштутаров, M.Nurмухамедов and others [2] as on their aspects they are close to our topic.

The librarianship was investigated in the context of "cultural revolution" and the history of public education in Karakalpakstan. In the 1950<sup>th</sup> a numerous research works were defended and there published a lot of monographs in the country, among which we appreciate the works of J.Urumbaev, R.Timasheva, U.Shalekenova, A. Panabergenova and others, who described the development of librarianship as a part of cultural development of the country [3]. The issues of librarianship in Karakalpakstan were first investigated by B.Yu.Ibragimova, who paid attention to the formation and development of libraries in the republic [4]. In the independence period the article of G.Berdimbetova depicted the activity of librarianship in the country [5, 132-134]. The history of cultural and enlightenment establishments were described in the works of R.Ahmetshin [6]. They gave a lot of statistics about the situation in this sphere after the Second World War period. As we see, the historiography has a valuable information about this sphere, there systematized a huge materials on the current state and the development of cultural and enlightenment establishments in Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan. The scholars investigated all the fragments of the issue, which gave opportunity to learn the situation in this sphere and the role of libraries in the cultural life of the republic on the whole.

## The Results of research

The history of libraries on the territory of nowadays Karakalpakstan has also deep roots. These roots can be learned in three periods- the end of XIX century and the beginning of XX century, the soviet time and the period of national independence.

The first libraries on the territory of Karakalpakstan were mostly private ones and they functioned in traditional schools and madrasahs. These kind of educational establishments were about 3000 (in 1909) on the territory of Karakalpakstan at the beginning of the XX century [7, 161]. The scientific literature of that time libraries consisted of the pedagogical works of muddarists, and famous spiritual peers [8].

The first public library on the territory of Karakalpakstan was opened at the 90<sup>th</sup> of the XIX century in Turtkul and now it is called Turtkul City Library(at past it was named Petroalexandrian library). The initial book fund consisted of people's donations from their personal libraries. On March 7, 1907 the library was given an official status of the Public City library. In 1912 the library fund consisted of 3300 books and magazines.

When the soviet government came to the power there began the nationalization of former libraries of tsarist officers and big manufacturers. In May of that year the special commission nationalized the private library of Novikov in Turtkul, the library of former tsarist administration and reformed them into city's national library, which had about seven thousand books and other publications.

At soviet time the librarianship developed widely. The first public libraries in different forms (movable libraries, reading yurts and others) were formed in 1920<sup>th</sup> on the territory of Karakalpakstan. It was due to the situation that during the XX century the development of cultural life mostly depended on the structure of government ruling. The existed administrative-commanding system at that time was characterized by the influence on cultural and spiritual-moral life of the society. The cultural life in Karakalpakstan at that time developed under the influence of soviet power and there spread a new system of cultural values and approaches. The government, which lost much in continuing economic devastation and consequently had cultural backwardness from other developed countries, put forward quick and wide measures on extinction of traditional cultural basis. At the same time the government tried all his best to organize his own cultural life and strengthen his new system of social relationship. One of the important role in this policy played the cultural and educational establishments, among which were the libraries as well. They were in the center of ideological policy in the karakalpak society and served in the development of public views. If there were only 5 clubs, 6 chayxanas and 8



reading-houses in 1921, and in 1933 their numbers increased, mainly 41 chayxanas, 15 clubs, 43 libraries, 71 reading-houses, 25 amateur circles were engaged into the cultural sphere [9, 264-265]. Before the war time there functioned 176 libraries, 121 clubs, museums of Local Lore and Republican library, the fund of which consisted of about 30,5 thousand volumes of books and the number of readers was more than 1157 people in the Karakalpak Republic [10].

This activity was closely connected with the issues of enlightenment and elimination of illiteracy, but the latter issue was not announced openly and was a little bit distorted. At the beginning of the 30<sup>th</sup> years, the magazine "Enlightenment of nationalities" published the data about the literacy condition of Central Asian people, where there pointed out that the number of literate people covered 3,9 % population of tadjiks, 2 % - of uzbeks, 1 % -of kazakhs, 0,7 % - of turkmens, 0,6 % -of kirgizs, 0,2 % - of karakalpaks [11]. This statistical data served as the basis for a great number of researches and hypothesis, resulted on conducting the governmental policy on enlightenment, which included the libraries into the institutions of enlightenment. In 1920<sup>th</sup> the Department of Enlightenment began the management over the public education and support of all educational and enlightenment establishments, among which were the libraries as well. There organized the organs of library management, which ruled the system of library service in the country.

In learning the history of Karakalpakstan the librarianship is often investigated in the context of "cultural revolution" and as well as in the history of public education in Karakalpakstan. The process continued till the beginning of the World War II. But after the War the issues of cultural and enlightenment establishments were taken a great attention. The results of the attestation, conducted at the end of 1940 mentioned that there were 176 libraries (1774 in Uzbekistan), among which 1 republican, 16 regional and municipal, 6 rural, 2 children's libraries, 116 pivot chayxanas and reading-houses and others in Karakalpakstan. To the mid of 1950 there functioned 293 libraries and 117 reading-houses in the republic. These facts show us that there existed the net of libraries in 1950<sup>th</sup>, most of which were valuable in the Republic, as well as in regions and villages, and there also functioned small libraries inside the clubs and other establishments, movable libraries and reading-yurts in Karakalpakstan.

In the second half of the 1950<sup>th</sup> there were opened new libraries: in 1956-1958 there opened 10 new libraries, more than 70 clubs, which had their own libraries in the republic. The book and magazine fund of the libraries in the republic were increased to 300 thousand copies during these three years [12]. On September 22, 1959 there adopted the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of

the Soviet Union "About conditions and measures on improving the librarianship in the country". By that time there existed about 3205 libraries in Uzbekistan and in 1960 there functioned 305 public libraries, the book and journal fund of which consisted of 1180 thousand copies in Karakalpakstan [13]. In 1962 there opened a Republican Children's Library in Nukus and 5 special libraries, which served the weak-eyed people. There existed the net of libraries in the republic, which included numerous republican, municipal and regional libraries as well as children's libraries, rural, club's libraries, labor union's libraries and collective farms' libraries. There can be noticed the increase of libraries in rural places: from 676 in 1958 to 1176 in 1965. The book and journal fund of public libraries consisted of 23177 thousand copies in 1966, which were increased to 7 million copies compared to 1958 [14]. The book fund of libraries in Karakalpakstan was increased rapidly: if in 1927 the book fund consisted of only 16000 copies, then in 1965 it was increased to 1140810 copies, and in 1978 it was reached to 3125790 copies, book loan was 4452618, the number of readers was 301120 people.

## DISCUSSION

The critical analysis of historical evidences on the situation of librarianship in 1960-1980<sup>th</sup> years show that there developed the net of libraries at that time, but the statistical data does not give information on the quality of service in this sphere, whose activity was limited by ideological policy. There was a lack of professionals in this sphere thereto, and many libraries were located in unequipped buildings. While the libraries in cities had some opportunities to service, but the librarianship in rural places were under bad conditions: shortage of book stacks, restriction in functions, beadedness, weak material and technical basis – all of which influenced on the readers' interest to this kind of establishments. And this kind of amotivation resulted the decrease of social culture and spiritual development of the nation. That's why, the foundation of new social-cultural establishments are essential part of the policy of the country, which is going to be in the list of developed countries with innovative technologies and high level of intellectual potential.

The national independence became a new page in the history of our nation. The cultural and public establishments, as well as libraries had a great role in realizing by people their national identity in the country. At present time there exist 11 thousand information and library establishments, which supply 6,3 million readers with information in Uzbekistan. The total fund of literature consists of 83,6 million copies, among which 3,5 million e-versions of books. All regional information and library centers have local networks, which give opportunity to use the Internet. Such kind of networks involved 1639, or 91



% of all resource centers of the country, among which 1380 are connected with the Internet.

These enlightenment establishments are considered the basis of spreading the culture in our society, increasing the opportunities of population in having enough information about the measures and values of reforms being conducted in Uzbekistan in all spheres of life.

Before the 2000<sup>th</sup> there were 468 libraries in Karakalpakstan, which influenced on the strengthening of national independence and formation of the basis of national ideology. Let's give some facts on the activity of libraries. In the 1990<sup>th</sup> there were organized different kinds of meetings, "round tables", book exhibitions and discussions in the libraries of the republic. The Republican library being a methodological center, distributed methodological manuals and bibliographic indicators to 17 central library nets. The topic of works were various, for example, in 1999 there organized an exhibition "At the bound of the XXI century" at the libraries №4 and №9 in Nukus, there also organized book exhibitions devoted to the 800 anniversary of Jaloliddin Manguberdy, 175 anniversary of a great karakaplak poet Ajiniyaz, and a Constitution Day. This kind of exhibitions became annual and were organized every year. In 2001 the people of the republic celebrated the anniversaries of famous uzbek poet Alisher Navoy, famous people of karakalpak culture and literature A.Musaev, S.Nurumbetov, M.Nurmuhammedov, G.Esemuratova, K.Mambetov and others.

While investigating the development of librarianship of this time we also learned the normative-legislative documents, which are the basis of the activities of libraries. From the first days of the independence great attention was paid to the preservation of the national heritage and the development of librarianship in Uzbekistan. According to the Presidential Decree "On the organization of Information and Library support for the population of the Republic" adopted on June 20, 2006 there established information-resource centers in all higher and secondary special educational establishments, as well as in secondary schools, there opened Information-resource centers in the republic of Karakalpakstan, in all regions and in the city of Tashkent. This contributed to the increase of supplying the population with the information, teaching the schoolchildren and students.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on February 23, 2011 "On measures for further development of information-resource service on the basis of information-communication technologies during 2011-2015 years" opened new opportunities for developing this sphere using the information-communication technologies, uniting the information and library centers into a whole information area, which is able to satisfy the

intellectual needs of the growing generation, to preserve and develop the cultural and spiritual-moral values of the nation, to develop the system of education and self-education in the country.

The adoption of the Law "About Information and Library activity" on April 14, 2011 was an important step in the sphere of information service of the population, in organizing the activities of information and library establishments in the country.

## CONCLUSION

It is still continuing the further development of the system of legal regulation of the activity of information and library establishments basing on the principles and norms of national legislation.

In the Presidential Decree of Sh. Mirziyoev adopted on January 12, 2017 "On creation of the commission for the development of publication and distribution of books, and promoting the culture of reading" there pointed out the importance of increasing of the intellectual potential of the youth, and the role of information-resource centers and information and library centers, the system of e-libraries. The actuality of the presented issue is that enlightenment establishments are the basis of spreading culture in the society, they help to increase the familiarity of the population with the essence and importance of reforms being conducted in all spheres in the republic of Uzbekistan, and also the increase of culture of reading among population, especially among young people.

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