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INFORMATIZATION OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN UKRAINE

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ABSTRACT

In the last thirty years, information technologes in Ukrainian libraries have been increasingly used not only to manage internal library operations, but also to organize access to information in its various forms and places of storage. The new technological environment allows libraries to serve both local visitors and global – remote users who get access to the library's collections through external computer networks.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, in rallying the library community around determining the priorities for the development of librarianship, in promoting interlibrary interaction, international organizations, primarily the International Renaissance Foundation, as well as the British Council and the US Embassy made financing automation processes, training specialists and mastering international experience a significant contribution. They launched projects aimed at improving access to information by developing the automation of libraries and raising the professional level of library staff.

A significant contribution to the development of automation was made by national, public and special libraries, primarily university libraries, as well as library associations. Thus, the specialists of the Vernadsky National Library in the mid-1980s and early 1990s created the concept of computerization, developed technical tasks for automation, since the mid-1990s worked on bibliographic data formats (UKRMARC). This library in 1993–1995 introduced conveyor technology for automated processing of current receipts and filling of the electronic catalog, began to use CDs to serve readers, and opened the Center for Computer Technologies, since the late 1990s is working on the creation of an electronic library.

In Ukraine, due to the specifics of the development of society and the peculiarities of financing, the typical stages of automation have changed places. In particular, the opening of Internet centers for readers in most public libraries was the first attempt to use computer technology and preceded the automation of internal library operations.

At the end of the 20 th and beginning of the 21st centuries in Ukraine, the first associations of libraries were created and are operating – users of certain software, subscribers to electronic journals, corporate cataloguing has begun. In the context of extensive library networks of various departmental subordination, the activities of library

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associations of Ukraine, designed to ensure the development of interaction and coordination of the process of informatization of book collections, the development of a single balanced policy, are of particular importance. The Association of New Information and Library Technologies (Kharkiv), the Ukrainian Library Association, and the Association of Libraries of Ukraine played a leading role in the development of automation of libraries in Ukraine. All-Ukrainian and regional library associations, implementing projects on library automation, worked on the issues of staff training, studying and disseminating positive foreign experience, preparing professional publications, attracting additional sources of funding.

Since the early 2000s in Ukraine, there is the Association «Informatio-Consortium», which was joined in different years by those libraries of the country that subscribed to e-resources and learned to work with them together. «Informatio» is the first independent consortium of libraries officially registered in Ukraine as a non-governmental organization, is a member of the International Consortium eIFL.net (Electronic Information for Libraries, which unites more than 50 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa), which allows you to receive significant discounts on resource subscriptions. The consortium organizes annual thematic conferences, numerous trainings and educations.

The creation of websites has given libraries an exceptional opportunity to expand their activities, covering an increasing number of users, as well as to present themselves and their achievements, creating a positive image for themselves. The advantage of websites is that libraries can not only better meet the information needs of users, but also present their information and analytical products to the public, introduce the services they provide and inform about their activities.

The modern development of informatization processes in the libraries of Ukraine is quite rapid. The introduction of computer technologies in the work of libraries is no longer a fashion, but an urgent requirement to improve the productivity and quality of library and information services based on the creation and use of electronic resources, as well as the automation of library processes. Electronic catalogs and arrays of digital documents, together with telecommunications, are necessary to fulfill the main task – to provide users with access to various types of information resources of libraries at minimal cost.

The main factors accelerating the modern evolution of librarianship are: state policy aimed at informatization of society; expanding the range of user requests, which requires diverse, complete and high-quality information; technical re-equipment of the library sphere;

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growth of information flows, aggravation of problems of selection and processing of information.

Thanks to the development of informatization, the social functions of the library – the social role it plays in society – have enriched. The library of the XXI century is called to provide access to external information resources, which can be achieved only at a certain stage of automation, including by automating the interaction of information systems. The main, essential functions of the library – memorial, communicative, cumulative, i.e. the functions that ensure the collection, storage of documents and the satisfaction of users' needs on this basis, are implemented much more efficiently due to automation. At the same time, the communicative function comes to the fore.

Automation of library and information activities is a manifestation not only of modern scientific and technological development, but also of social progress. It provides not only timely and quick access of users to information and primary sources, but in general creates conditions for the implementation of one of the main principles of an open society – the principle of universal accessibility of information and publications.

Keywords: Ukraine, librarianship, library, library automation, library association.