

# KAZAKHSTAN

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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## HEADING INTO THE FUTURE. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC

### HISTORY

The Library was founded in 1910. In 1931 the library was renamed into the State Public Library of the Kazakh SSR. In 1991 Kazakhstan gained sovereignty and the library received National Library status. This was in recognition of its special place and role in the cultural, educational and spiritual renovation of Kazakhstani society.

### HAVING THE STATUS OF “THE NATIONAL LIBRARY”

During 1991-2001 the independent state of Kazakhstan was formed. For 10 years the libraries of Kazakhstan felt upon themselves all the economic and legal reforms, the reforms in culture, education and in social sphere. The libraries like mirror reflected the physical and spiritual state of the Kazakhstanians. But they went on fulfilling their mission to be the centres of information and knowledge. They strove to provide the constitutional right of every citizen of democratic society for equal access to knowledge and world informational resources collected in the libraries. The National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan was the one to initiate the elaboration of draft projects of legislative acts on librarianship and becomes the centre of formation of library policy in the country.

In Kazakhstan there are thousands of libraries with different systems and departments. 3218 are state public libraries.

### INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The National Library is a member of the IFLA since 1992, from 1993 is a member of the Library Assembly of Eurasia (LAE), participates in the programme “Unity of libraries of Turkic-speaking countries”, from 1995 the National Library is a depository of UNESCO materials. In acknowledgement of achievements of the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan Director-General of the National Library of Kazakhstan Rosa A. Berdigaliyeva was elected in 2001 President of the LAE. Thus, she is the first president of the LAE.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Already in the first years the National Library elaborates the strategy of its development and singles out three priority programmes in its activity: Memory of the people, Preservation of written monuments, the Automated library-informational network. Their implementation aims at the National library's entering the world informational space, preservation of world documentary heritage. During the implementation of the programmes, the inculcation of library innovations there plays great role the experience gained at IFLA conferences and also conferences of directors of national libraries (CDNL).

The National library initiated the creation of its own national product: the software for automation of libraries RALIS, the creation of data-bases, electronic editions, including the first ever multimedia CD-ROM in the republic "The musical heritage of Kazakhstan". With the purpose of preservation provision for the unique fonds of the National library there is carried out digitization of rare editions. With the purpose of providing readers of the library and also remote users with the necessary documents there in the National library operates the Electronic delivery of documents. With financial assistance of the "Eurasia" foundation there was opened "The resource centre for researchers of public politics" for researchers interested in the process of perfection of state administration and development of civil society.

## **THE NATIONAL LIBRARY TODAY**

The National library today has a new level of knowledge management. From 1999 it carries out the policy of unification of information resources of the country. The National Library and the libraries of Kazakhstan for the first time start work on joint solution of the problem- the creation of the corporate centre of cataloging. The purpose is to integrate information resources of the country, further development of national and regional data-banks, provision of access to information for remote users in the cities and villages. Thus, due to reduction of inequality in access to information there takes place the preservation of social stability in society.

Today the Kazakhstani libraries turn more and more to personality, being the source of spirituality and resources of renovation of national culture. That is why the National Library initiated and organized two republican conferences "Libraries as resource of spiritual enrichment of Kazakhstani society" and "Eurasianism- integration of cultures and library resources". The last conference also had the theme "Eurasianism as an aspect of library policy".

Today Kazakhstan is a country with big natural resources and is the cross-roads of trade and transportation routes from Europe to Asia. The country is at the meeting-point of two world religions: Christianity and Islam with their rich culture that is of Eurasian and all-human significance. According to the Kazakhstani census there in the country live representatives of 130 nationalities. Different peoples have different cultures and different norms and values which at times leads to non-understanding and even conflicts. In the conditions of our reality shaken by conflicts on national and religious bases there started to come realization that the preservation of inter-national consent, inculcation of democratic ideas and norms of political life are organically linked with the development of national cultures and spirituality of Kazakhstani society.

That is why Eurasianism has become the basis of our new sovereignty. Eurasianism means ethnical and spiritual tolerance, openness of society and the state to everything positive, not only acquired in the past by the peoples of Eurasia but everything constructive and progressive which is at present, the striving of peoples and states towards mutual understanding, cooperation, integration. Eurasianism is capable to become the sensible centre of cultural policy of Kazakhstan in future. The cultural policy is to be oriented upon harmonization of all-national and ethnic interests, upon involvement of all ethnic groups to carrying out state policy. For the attainment of the goal there also make their own contribution the libraries of the republic, including the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**THE PRIMARY WORK INDICATORS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY:**

- Number of readers – 386 thousand
- Number of visits – 5947 thousand
- Number of book loans – 18560 thousand
- Library fond – 55185 thousand editions
- The web-site of the national Library: [www.nlrk.kz](http://www.nlrk.kz)

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