

KYRGYZSTAN

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Library was created in 1934; in 1993 it was given a status of National Library of Kyrgyz Republic. Its principle functions are characteristic of a modern national library in accordance with its status: organizing of native documents archive, foreign documents archive and ensuring of access to them, bibliographical registration of native documents, service, assistance in the development of national library informational system.

These functions remain the same for the National Library irrespective of political system. At the same time policy of Kyrgyzstan, its present priorities and tendencies of world community development determine specific directions of National Libraries activity at a certain period of time.

Organization of archives has fundamental meaning for the national library. At present 6 million editions in 89 languages of the world form are held. These are the most complete works of native and foreign documents. Unique book collections, rare and valuable editions are collected here.

The library is aiming at ensuring an exhaustive organization of native documents archive; however unsuccessfully, despite of the fact that "Compulsory specimen of documents" law was adopted in Kyrgyzstan in 1998. Regulation of the process of receiving and distribution of compulsory specimen is in prospect as well as those who break the law must be called to account.

Consequently the National Library like many other libraries in the world is responsible for organization of native documents archives of all forms and kinds irrespective of their production means on the basis of the most possible completeness of their acquisition, physical safety guarantee and storage permanency.

Organization of foreign documents archive.

Those editions issued in Russian language in CIS countries are in high demand. Organization of such archive is a priority. It is preferable that all scientific literature edited in CIS countries could be completed, but today this is unreal because of limited financial resources of the Library.

Presently concerted actions on arrangement of books exchange in post soviet space are being undertaken by CIS Inter parliament Assembly, Eurasian

Library Assembly and the National Library. Other countries including members of Eurasian economic society are discussing this issue.

The Foreign language collection has grown through sporadic donations from foreign embassies and joint projects with foreign organizations. Stable completion of literature by selection of the most topical scientific publications for the development of Kyrgyzstan is essential for qualitative satisfaction of users demands. However, we unfortunately are not able to allow this because of financial problems.

Gaps in archives completion are filled with help of Internet technologies that allow the national Library to get access to the world informational resources for users. This year due to the joint project of "Open society" Institute and EBSCO Publishing eLFL Direct National Library got a free access to electronic resources of the world periodical press, to the more than 4,5 thousand of magazines and newspapers, to 5 texts completed and paper data bases such as: Academic Search Elite, Business Source Premier, Master FILE Premier, Newspaper Source, Medline. NL conducts seminars-trainings for libraries, scientific institutions, educational institutions and other organizations to acquaint with these unique informational resources and services, to involve them into project participation and also to define opportunities of its cooperative financing for next year. Library Informational consortium of Kyrgyzstan was created recently to cooperate efforts.

Thus National Library together with other libraries fulfils organization of foreign documents archives of all forms and kinds irrespective of their production on the basis of maximum completeness of acquisition and safekeeping in the frames of interests and opportunities in Kyrgyzstan.

The National Library in cooperation with NKP fulfils bibliographical registration of native documents of all forms and kinds on any repositories on the basis of common state, thematically universal range by distribution of responsibilities. NKP is responsible for current bibliographical registration, publication of "Kyrgyz Republic press chronicle". NL is responsible for retrospective registration that is fulfilled parallel in card and electronic forms in "Kyrgyzstan" catalogue; retrospective scientific-auxiliary indexes of national press with both universal and thematic range of literature, and also according to the type of press publications.

The National Library together with the scientific branch and universities libraries of Kyrgyzstan continue their work on organization of "Kyrgyzstan" free catalogue that is registered both in Kyrgyz and Russian. It is not limited chronologically. Combined printed catalogues are published on the basis of the free catalogue.

Service of documents and information is fulfilled on the basis of popularity.

Number of users, attendance and books issue have strong tendency to increase. There are 1000 seating places in 14 reading halls differentiated by category of users, types of publications, branches of knowledge, languages of publications, new technologies of access to information. More than 250 thousand users visit Library every year, 2 million documents are issued, 12

thousand references are carried out, more than 200 informational arrangements – exhibitions, presentations, conferences, round tables, meetings are conducted here.

The National Library executes informational demands of all directions from juridical persons and physical bodies. Alongside it fulfils functions of presidential, parliament and governmental library executing demands of legislative and executive power. Inquiries from nongovernmental structures: civil society, private sector, business class, independent mass media and others.

Prior attention is given to the transition of bibliographical-informational processes to new technologies. More than 50 thousand bibliographical data about resources devoted to Kyrgyzstan for the period of 1991-2001 became accessible on pages of NL Web site for users due to the realization of “Creation of electronic resource of national bibliography and its allocation on NL Web site” project in 2002. “Improvement of informational service system for Kyrgyz Republic population” project is being implemented. This fact allows to raise a level of NL processes computerization to a new qualitative change.

Library informational system IRBIS is created to ensure the automation of library informational processes at all stages – from book acquisition to its issuing to readers. Electronic catalogues of NL archives are being organized. They will be allocated on NL Web site that will provide free access to NL informational resources for all users, using net technologies and Internet and also will provide equal opportunities for the population of Kyrgyzstan irrespective of place of their living as well as for foreign users to get information.

The most important function of NL is promotion in national library informational system development. NL is a scientific-research, methodical-consultation and coordination center for all libraries in Kyrgyz Republic irrespective of their type and departmental membership.

The leading role of the National Library in the library informational sphere of Kyrgyzstan became stronger and wider for the last years its being the first to assist other libraries in their adaptation to new conditions during transitional period.

Thus in spite of all complications of transitional period the National Library continues to fulfill all main functions without slackening its pace, using practically all interior resources and grant assistance from international and other organizations.

The National Library entered third millennium as a library proved to be able to meet challenges and threats of modern world by modern methods, as a library that found its niche in modern informational space.