

# UZBEKISTAN

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UZBEKISTAN

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## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

The year of 2002 was marked by the important event for Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan. In accordance with the President's decree (February 20, 2002 No.VII-3029) "On the Improvement of the Organization of Scientific Research Activity", Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan was, created on the basis of Alisher Navoi State Library, and it was joined the Republican Library of Science and Technology. Later it was decided to transfer the National Book chamber to the National Library. The above-mentioned documents aim to further development and improvement of the librarianship with due regard for changes taking place in traditional library technology and services to users.

In 1870 the National Library was open for broad masses as Tashkent Public Library. During the years of its activity the National Library indeed has become the national library. It performs humane mission as the curator of the national documentary heritage of the Uzbek people. The National Library collection holds above ten million publications. This unique collection of the national written culture of more than 250 thousand copies, includes rare and antique editions, manuscripts, lithographs, first national periodicals, books and other documents. There are some pearls among them such as the first books in Uzbek: Sh. M. Ibragimov. *Kalendar*, Tashkent, 1872; N.P. Ostroumov. *Amir Temur*, Tashkent, 1890 ; N.P. Ostroumov. *Skazanie o gorode Oshe*, Tashkent 1885. There are also works on history of Turkestan: *Turkestanskij sbornik* in 594 volumes generated from the articles and anthologies; *Turkestanskij albom* A.L.Kun, 1871 consisting of four parts in ten volumes- historical, archaeological, ethnographic, trade, and having 1200 photos; the first translation in Russian of classical works of the Uzbek literature *Shedžere-I-tjurk* "Genealogical history of the Tatars" by Abdul-Gaza, khan of Khiva, SPb., 1768; the first edition of Philipp Efremov's *Ten-year travelling and adventures in Bukharia, Khiva, Persia and India and returning from there through England and Russia, written by himself*, SPb., 1785. The first newspapers printed in Turkestan are gathered in the library. They are as follows: *Turkestan vilojatining* (1870-1917, *Tidžo*, 1907, *Turan*, 1919, *Sadoi Turkestan* 1914, *Ishtrakiun*, 1917, *Turkestanskije vedomosti*, 1870-1917, *Samarkand*, 1904-1907.

Books in foreign and Old Slavonic languages are stored in the library:

- Incunabulum *The Ninth German Bible*. It belongs to the outstanding masterpieces of typographical art of the XVth century;
- *The Oriental Library* by B. Erbeo is the original encyclopedia of the East issued in French in 1679;
- *Ostrozskaja Biblija* by I.Fedorov published in Ostrog in 1582.

To preserve the National Library collection for the project "Uzbekistan Memory Program" has been worked out. It is directed to the preservation of the unique fund. The priorities and the main ways of their realization are determined. The block of valuable editions and the criteria

of the selection are formed. The realization of the Program has allowed computerization of *Turkestanskij sbornik* and to present it to users in electronic form.

It is necessary to solve a problem of purchasing the software for transferring to electronic carries and organizing the work for creating the union electronic catalogue of antique and rare editions which are stored in the NL and the libraries of the Republic. The electronic catalogue's database contains more than 26 thousand records accessible to readers. Under the financial support of Uzbekistan Open society Institute and Science and technology Center the NL has begun the realization "Virtual Library". A Consortium of Uzbekistan's Libraries for Making up the Union Electronic Catalogue' project.

The status of the national library has made changes not only to the structure of the NL itself. It has changed the research, methodical and handbooks expose the rich historic and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, its traditions and original culture, creative heritage of the Eastern thinkers, scientists, poets, cultural and art workers of Uzbekistan.

At the present stage of its development the NL solves the basic problems of the preservation and development libraries' nets, their information resources; legal guaranteeing with due regard for implementing information technologies; automation and creation of the union electronic catalogue; granting the library information to Internet.

The research work is conducted on several directions: history of the librarianship, automation of library processes, marketing researches, sociology and psychology of reading.

The creation of the sources of the national bibliography remains one of the NL basic functions. The ways of its optimisation to liquidate the duplication to form the union automated national information system and cooperative cataloguing are worked out. The NL creates series of bibliographical indexes and manuals. The implementation of the information technologies puts forward this direction to the foreground.

The initiatives on the working out the law project of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the librarianship" are the NL important achievements. This project will create a legal basis for library strategies, normative basis for practical activity of the libraries, and the Conception and Program of the development of the librarianship in the Republic till 2010. The NL is the cooperative and coordinative centre of the libraries' activity and the Inter departmental Library Council is the consultative body. It will coordinate the libraries' activity of the different boards and departments.

The NL international connections have become stronger. More than 150 organizations from almost 30 countries are the book exchange partners of the NL. In 1995 the library become a member of IFLA and now it has an opportunity to take an active part in the work of the international forum. Our specialists go abroad to participate in the international conferences, seminars and training courses. The NL is one of the organizers of the international conferences "Library and Information Resources in Science, Education, Culture and Business," Samarkand – 1999, Bukhara – 2002. The conferences have demonstrated the competence of the library and information resources of the Republic and have showed the interest in the conferences on the part of the international community.

Keeping the traditions, the NL is on the way of changes. The stable development of the NL depends on the legal guarantees on the part of the state, the efforts of the staff and the help of the interested organizations including international. The National Library of Uzbekistan will take a proper place in the Commonwealth of the national libraries of the world.

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