

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

NATIONAL ACADEMIC LIBRARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

R A BERDIGALIYEVA – DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

The 2006-2007 period has become significant and important for Kazakhstan libraries. At joint participation of all the regional Kazakhstan libraries, it was worked out "Programme of Modernisation of Kazakhstan Libraries for 2007-2009". This Programme was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Information; it was approved by N A Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the frame of this Programme, some big projects have been planned. They are directed on improving library services in our country, informatisation and computerisation of rural libraries. For the first time, such big electron projects are being financed on the state level. They are: "Kazakhstan National Electron Library KazNEB", and Informational-Cognitive Web-Portal "Cultural Heritage". The state undertakes obligations in providing with establishing electronic libraries as well as sets up conditions for mutual use of library resources including electronic resources.

For Kazakhstan libraries, it is a serious step on the way of creating new digital projects allowing to modernise a national model of library system and establish a United information net of Kazakhstan libraries on the unified transport platform.

Initiators of these projects are Library Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a model of new modern library in Kazakhstan oriented on work with electronic information and creation of national electronic depository. For two years of activity, the National Academic Library became a prominent cultural event of the country.

Having evaluated activity and initiative of the new library, the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan decided to establish an electronic library on the basis of the National Academic Library in Astana city. Such decision was taken at the meeting of the Public Council at the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on realisation of the State Programme "Cultural Heritage". President of RK N A Nazarbayev participated at that meeting. This electronic library will include all the editions issued within the State Programme "Cultural Heritage" and published in Kazakhstan. Online access to these editions will be provided not only to all the libraries of Kazakhstan irrespective of their status and location but to foreign libraries as well, through participation in joint digital projects.

At the same time, in spite of the fact that the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan is focused on electronic information; the library's specialists are worried about decreasing interest for reading as a culture element. This worldwide problem caused organising and conducting the first in Kazakhstan International Congress of Reading under the slogan "Reading Society - A Base of Competitive Country". The Congress was conducted in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on 18-19 April, 2007, with the total support of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Congress was organised and conducted by the employees of the National Academic Library.

Meaning of the Reading Congress was emphasised by the attention of N A Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In his complimentary address, he noted actuality of the Congress's problems stipulated by increasing role of reading, and defined development of reading and literacy as one of the most important challenges necessary for country's competitiveness rise.

The status of the Reading Congress as an International event was reinforced by aegis of the international organisations UNESCO and IFLA. Representatives from UK, Canada, Germany, USA, Iran, Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Mongolia and France participated in the International Congress of Reading. More than 200 persons participated at the Congress. Participation of scientists, theorists and experts in librarianship, well-known figures of creative and scientific intellectuals from Kazakhstan, near and far foreign countries became a ponderable contribution to the Congress's work.

Within preparation and conducting of the International Congress of Reading, topic of reading was announced in Kazakhstan as "Hot Topic of the Season". Aim was to support interest to the Congress's topic during a month, draw society's attention to discussed problems, increase image of the librarian profession and libraries. There were prepared actions in all the regional libraries of Kazakhstan which had to be reflected in regional mass media. All the actions were reflected on press pages, in news of mass media, on the sites of the Reading Congress (<http://www.congress.nabrk.kz>) and Library Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (www.bark.kz).

The following sections became key events of the Reading Congress: special section of IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) "Reading As A Dangerous Tool"; sections "Children's Reading", "Reading Country", "Electronic Resources". Opening of Intercultural Dialogue Centre, conducting of round table "Book and Civilisation" with writers' and librarians' participation turned to be important points of the Congress. Exhibition of Kazakhstan books was opened on the first day of the Congress; it became a prominent event. The exhibition aim was further increase of meaning of the Kazakhstan book culture in upbringing and forming of new generations, popularisation of Kazakhstan books, support of high book status.

With a view to study reading issues, before the Congress, a sociological investigation of needs for reading was fulfilled in nine Kazakhstan regions, the totals were summed up at the section "Reading Country". The results of this research will be used by librarians, teachers, specialists of state cultural and educational bodies, sociologists, publishers, booksellers, etc.

In the frame of the Reading Congress, such interesting activities were announced as a competition for Russian children "Make up your mind for Kazakhstan" and an action for readers "One Country - One Book". These activities started in April and will be summed up at the end of 2007. Thus, a series of activities devoted to the Reading Congress will be completed.

One of the Congress results was a decision about necessity to work out a New Conception on Kazakhstan libraries development. It was decided to elaborate a new project - Central-Asian library model as a contemporary multimedia complex of information and electronic services.

In opinion of the Congress foreign participants and in opinion of Kazakhstan libraries' representatives, the Reading Congress has gained authority as an international forum and became one of the best such events by level of organisation, professional activity of its participants, warm and friendly atmosphere and unique site.

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: Levoberezhie, zdanie NABRK, 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan
Telephone: + 7 3172 242085
Fax: + 7 3172 241946
Web address: <http://www.nabrk.kz>
Email contact: bark@nabrk.kz