

Current Status of Information Service on Literary Studies in Library-Information Centers of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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Abstract

The historical past, present and future of every nation live in its spiritual wealth. The most important of these spiritual wealth is fiction, which is the art of words. Fiction embodies the figurative reflection of the realities of life, has come a long way from the day the word existed to this day, and has kept alive the worldview, tendencies and interests of its creators in poetic examples. Literature is a process that turns into national-social, national-spiritual history. This process is constantly enriched by going through literary stages. As a result, the ideas and content, means of form description, as well as the directions of literary trends, literary schools and movements change. Over time, literary trends, literary schools and styles are renewed and replace each other. Sometimes all this continues its development in parallel. New genres and new writing styles are created to comprehensively express the spiritual and psychological world and life of a person. Each literary generation makes its own contribution to literature. Literary generations, relying on tradition and the experience of classical literature, not only keep it alive in artistic creation, but also enrich it with fresh shades of modernity. The literary historian gives serious consideration to these and emphasizes the analysis of the modern, cognitive-educational significance, humanistic and patriotic spirit of artistic culture. The article gives comprehensive details on the benefits, varieties, and various service approaches of bibliographic service, which is a bibliographic activity process that is currently conducted in libraries. At the same time, factual sources are used to explain the significance of fiction and literary studies in general, in particular, for the spiritual development of society's members. The importance of bibliographic activity processes in providing information for specific scientific fields and subject matter experts is emphasized. Information tools and resources, which are crucial to the informationization of society, are diverse and ever-evolving globally, including in Azerbaijan. Information resources of society are materialised in the form of documents for targeted social use. As a result, a document information flow and fund are created and formed.

Keywords: library, science, information, bibliographic activity, information service

Сучасний стан інформаційної служби з літературознавства в бібліотечно-інформаційних центрах Азербайджанської Республіки

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Анотація

Історичне минуле, сучасне і майбутнє кожного народу живе в його духовному багатстві. Найважливішим із цих духовних багатств є художня література, яка є мистецтвом слова. Художня література втілює в собі образне відображення реалій життя, пройшла довгий шлях від існування слова до сьогодні, зберегла в поетичних зразках світогляд, схильності та інтереси своїх творців. Література – це процес, який перетворюється на національно-соціальну, національно-духовну історію. Цей процес постійно збагачується проходженням літературних етапів. У результаті змінюються ідеї та зміст, засоби опису форми, а також напрями літературних напрямів, літературних шкіл і течій. З часом літературні напрями, літературні школи та стилі оновлюються і змінюють один одного. Іноді все це продовжує свій розвиток паралельно. Для всебічного вираження духовно-психічного світу та життя людини створюються нові жанри, нові стилі письма. Кожне літературне покоління робить свій внесок у літературу. Літературні покоління, спираючись на традицію та досвід класичної літератури, не лише зберігають її в художній творчості, а й збагачують свіжими відтінками сучасності. Історик літератури приділяє їм серйозну увагу та наголошує на аналізі сучасного, пізнавально-виховного значення, гуманістичного та патріотичного духу художньої культури. У статті вичерпно розкриваються переваги, різновиди та різноманітні підходи до обслуговування бібліографічного обслуговування, яке є бібліографічним, та процес діяльності, який зараз ведеться в бібліотеках. Водночас за допомогою фактичних джерел пояснюється значення художньої літератури та літературознавства загалом, зокрема, для духовного розвитку членів суспільства. Підкреслюється важливість процесів бібліографічної діяльності в забезпеченні інформацією для окремих наукових галузей і тематичних фахівців. Інформаційні інструменти та ресурси, які мають вирішальне значення для інформатизації суспільства, різноманітні та постійно розвиваються у всьому світі, в тому числі в Азербайджані. Інформаційні ресурси суспільства матеріалізуються у вигляді документів цільового соціального використання. У результаті створюється і формується документно-інформаційний потік і фонд.

Ключові слова: бібліотека, наука, інформація, бібліографічна діяльність, інформаційне обслуговування

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Introduction.

Libraries are society's repository of knowledge and cultural wealth. These days, libraries serve a variety of intricate social purposes and significantly influence how consumers develop their reading habits. The Republic of Azerbaijan's Law, "On Library Work," provides more specific information about the roles that libraries play. The law states: "A library is a social institution that collects and preserves printed works and other information carriers, organises their systematic public use, and serves the development of the intellectual and spiritual potential of society as a science, information, culture, education, and upbringing institution." (On Library Work, 1998). The activities of libraries are significantly impacted by the social and economic changes occurring in the world today, and they are now faced with new challenges. A few instances of these tasks are:

- Development of a new model of activity of modern libraries;
- Improvement of means and methods of information collection, storage and dissemination in modern libraries;
- Improving the information provision of science, culture and consumer groups;
- Raising the cultural and intellectual level of people, closely participating in the educational process;
- Modernization of information search and information processing tools;
- Carrying out work in accordance with the understanding of new achievements of science and technology and the essence of natural and social phenomena occurring in the surrounding world;
- putting in place the promotion of important occasions in our Republic at the level of the demands of the present (Ismayilova, 2002).

The purpose of research.

The current status of information services on literary studies in library-information centers in Azerbaijan is a subject of ongoing development, shaped by various factors such as technological advancement, access to digital resources, and modernization efforts. Libraries and information centers in Azerbaijan are continuously working to improve their services, making literary studies more accessible to the public. The main components of this development can be outlined as follows: Many libraries in Azerbaijan have started digitizing literary works, particularly those that are culturally significant or belong to the national literary heritage. This includes the digitization of works by famous Azerbaijani authors, such as Nizami Ganjavi, Fuzuli, and Mirza Fatali Akhundov. The digitization helps in preserving rare manuscripts and makes them available online to a broader audience.

The source research base of the article.

For an article on the "Current Status of Information Service on Literary Studies in Library-Information Centers of Azerbaijan," the bibliographic base or sources of information (mənbəşünaslıq bazası) would ideally include a mix of resources related to library and

information science, literary studies, and the national context of Azerbaijan (On Library Work, 1998).

Here are potential categories and types of sources that would form the bibliographic base for such a research article: Azerbaijani Library and Information Science Journal/ Journals focusing on library science: These may provide research on library management, digital libraries, archival preservation, and information services in Azerbaijan. Examples: Azerbaijan National Library Journal, Baku Library Journal. Literary studies and cultural journals: These journals will provide insight into literary criticism, Azerbaijani literary studies, and the relationship between libraries and literary research. Example (Aliyev, 2001): Literature of Azerbaijan. Books and Monographs Books on Azerbaijani library history and development (Ismayilova, 2011): These books may cover the historical development of libraries in Azerbaijan, their role in cultural preservation, and the current state of library information services. Example: History of Libraries in Azerbaijan by Azerbaijani scholars. Books on literary studies: Textbooks or reference books on Azerbaijani literature and literary criticism that explain the field of literary studies in the context of library resources (Ismayilova, 2004).

Analysis of previous research and publications.

It should be noted that we have used and cited various scientific works in our research work in this direction. The concept of information resources and their main essence have been comprehensively studied by a number of researchers. In previous studies, the general concept of bibliography (Ismayilova, 2005; Ismayilov, & Khalafova, 2022a; Ismayilov, & Khalafova, 2022b) and the collection of document and information resources were systematically included in the research (Ismayilov, 2022; Aliyev, 2001; Khalafov, 1986; Kazimov, 1972).

Research results.

1. On Information, Informatisation and Information Protection

The informatization of society is an important process. On April 3, 1998, the Republic of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis passed the Law "On Information, Informatisation and Information Protection." According to this law, "informatisation is an organisational, social, and scientific-technical process for creating optimal conditions for ensuring the information needs and rights in this area of all enterprises, institutions, and organisations of state authorities and local self-government bodies, regardless of their organisational, legal, and ownership form, based on the formation, presentation, and use of information resources" (Law of the Republic, 1998).

Document flow is regarded as a crucial component of the information society, according to the research. A specialist should be familiar with the structure and regularities of document flow in order to solve professional problems effectively. Eight innovations on the comparison and computation of indicators that describe dynamic processes in document flow should

be familiar to him. There are two primary uses for the findings of applied research on document flow.

- Modernization and development of the institution, library, and information service;
- Conducting surveys of readers, internal specialists, and institutions to assist in their scientific, professional activities, and self-education (Ismayilova, 2008).

Conducting research in various fields that study specific processes occurring within the document communication system in Azerbaijan determines the current state of the document mass and flow in these areas. As a result, it allows us to create an idea of how this field of science and activity is provided with information in the form of documents. The main difference that distinguishes the document mass from the document flow is that the quantitative characteristic characterizing the document mass is immutable over time. The publication unit or storage unit is measured by the quantitative characteristic characterizing the document mass. It is known that the document-information flow in all areas is a single system and combines the concepts of consumer and document information in a coordinated manner. The document flow is a set of documents operating in society and related to each other in content, constantly developing. The process of forming a theory about the document has developed directly in parallel with the general theory of a number of sciences, including library science, bibliographic science, literary studies, etc. (Ismayilova, 2008).

2. Literary studies

The science that examines the particular rules and principles of literature is known as literary studies, according to the scientific literature currently in publication in this area. Literary studies is one of the oldest sciences that studies fiction and the literary process. Literary studies is a science that creates a complete, finished, fundamental, and comprehensive scientific idea about literature and the literary process in general. Literary studies summarises the history of literature, its main directions, theory, development path, features of mastery, and the literary process by studying it. The most important result of bibliographic activity in the field of literary studies is bibliographic information, which is possible in this process only under the conditions of document flow and demand for it. Documents on literary studies, as objects of bibliographic activity, are systematised, and bibliographic information sources of various directions and contents are created by bibliographers for the purpose of bibliographic processing. In terms of publication types, the document mass of Azerbaijani literature can be collections, selected works, separate editions of works, chrestomathy, various collections, periodicals, and serials (Ismayilova, 2002).

3. The fundamental research

The research changes taking place in society under the conditions of independence lead to an increase in the information needs of members of society day by day. Currently, extensive scientific research is being carried

out in literary studies, as in all fields of science. And accordingly, a need for bibliographic information arises in relation to its individual fields. Bibliographic service, as a process of bibliographic activity, plays an important role in satisfying the bibliographic information needs of specialist readers. Delivering bibliographic information directly to the user is the main essence of the bibliographic service process. The function of the bibliographic information service consists of delivering operational current information to the user about the literature newly entered into the collection without waiting for the user's request or in accordance with constant requests. There are a number of bibliographic centers that provide bibliographic services.

When talking about centers providing bibliographic information services to literary scholars, it is necessary to mention the activities of the former Book Chamber, then the relevant departments of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov, Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), the bibliographic department of the Scientific Library of Baku State University (BSU), and the Baku City Central Library. In these centers, all forms of bibliographic information services are applied, although not completely, and are constantly improved in accordance with the requirements of the day (Ismayilova, 2004). The main center of general bibliography in Azerbaijan was once considered the Republican State Book Chamber. The main functions of the Book Chamber, which has been operating since 1925, were the following:

- Create an inviolable archive of republican printed works;
- Maintain their state registration, to provide consistent current bibliographic information about them;
- Provide bibliographic services to related organizations, scientific departments and individual researchers;
- Prepare and publish statistical information about the Azerbaijani press.

The Book Chamber, while performing its functions, referred to control copies. The Republican State Book Chamber was closely involved in the preparation and publication of bibliographic indexes of a repertory nature. The Chamber has been issuing printed cards for books published in Azerbaijan since 1950, which was of certain importance in the centralisation of cataloguing in the libraries of the republic. Thus, the Republican State Book Chamber, as the center of general bibliographic activity in Azerbaijan, was engaged in the creation and delivery to consumers of bibliographic sources that influenced the practical implementation of the two main public functions of bibliographic information (search and communicative). The product of the general bibliographic activity of the Book Chamber consisted of the "Azerbaijan press chronicle," the "Azerbaijan annual book," and also printed cards. The "Azerbaijan Press Chronicle" was

published first in 1926. The Chamber has been publishing the "Book Chronicle" since 1926 and the "Journal Articles Chronicle" and the "Newspaper Articles Chronicle" since 1938. Since 1960, these three bibliographic journals have been combined and published once a month under the name "Azerbaijan Press Chronicle" and have fulfilled the task of providing consistent current bibliographic information about new books and articles published in the territory of Azerbaijan. (Ismayilova, 2004).

4. A large number of literary scholars work at the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS

A large number of literary scholars work at the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS, which is one of the bibliographic centers. Therefore, the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi, is considered such a coordinating center for literary studies. The bibliographic information service in the library located under the Central Scientific Library of ANAS and the Institute of Literature is carried out in two directions:

- Differentiated (in individual and group forms);
- Undifferentiated (mass bibliographic information service).

The most widespread form of a differentiated bibliographic information service is the system of Selective Dissemination of Information. The Central Scientific Library of ANAS has been implementing a bibliographic information service based on the SDI system since 1973. The distinguishing feature of this system from other traditional forms is that there are feedback cards between the customer and the bibliographer. Bibliographic information corresponding to this form of service is provided on a feedback card on a five-point price scale. In the Central Scientific Library of ANAS, a different bibliographic information service is implemented in the 1980-1990s with the widespread use of ECM, and in modern times with the effective use of computer technology. For this, all conditions have been created in The Central Scientific Library of ANAS, and a large computer hall is operating. Using the latest achievements of technology, specialist literary scholars conduct bibliographic searches on the Internet in accordance with their requests and can receive prompt, complete answers to their requests. For this reason, a different bibliographic information service has been used more effectively.

Another form of bibliographic information service is the undifferentiated bibliographic information service. In modern times, this form of service has been further improved, and its role in bibliographic activity has increased. The advantage of this form is that each specialist customer can see and use the information he needs in an operational and regular manner. Undifferentiated information service is one of the tools serving to promote the literature included in the library collection. Information bulletins published by the Information

Bibliography Department at the Central Scientific Library provide regular bibliographic information about new publications received by the library. When compiling information bulletins, bibliographers must adhere to the following requirements:

- a) completeness of information;
- b) precise selection criteria;
- c) systematic arrangement of materials;
- d) accurate and uniform bibliographic description;
- d) writing of information annotation (Aliyev, 2001).

Although all these requirements were fully complied with in the information bulletins compiled in the 70s-80s, these requirements have not been paid attention to in recent times. Thus, the bibliographic information source newly entered into the Central Scientific Library in 2001 in Azerbaijani and Russian languages was in 4 issues. The materials in the bibliographic information source are given in accordance with the classification of sciences, and inside in alphabetical order of authors. The introductory article and information annotation were not given in any of the issues. Also, the repeated bibliographic description of the literature in some issues has somewhat reduced the value of that issue (Ismayilova, 2012). In providing bibliographic information to specialists in the field of literary studies in Azerbaijan, it is necessary to specially mention the activities of the "Information and Bibliography" department of the library located at the Institute of Literature. The main goal of the "Information and Bibliography" department, established in 2002, was to organize the effective use of existing information resources by literary specialists (Ismayilova, 2017). The main criterion of the department's activity was to integrate the latest achievements of Azerbaijani literary studies into world science through the "Internet", to ensure the collection of relevant information on a global scale and its delivery to consumers. If the branch library provides only library-bibliographic services to specialist readers, the employees of the "Information and Bibliography" department perform both the bibliographic process and bibliographic service. Since the beginning of its activities, the employees of the department have compiled bibliographic indexes of both general and personal nature. In this sense, the bibliographic source "Azerbaijan - 80" is worthy of praise as a source of general bibliographic information. Covering an 80-year period (1923-2003), this bibliographic resource was published by the department in 2004 in 544 pages by the "Chinar-chap" publishing house in connection with the 80th anniversary of the "Azerbaijan" magazine (Ismayilova, 2012).

The system of personal bibliographic resources as a whole has a wide bibliographic information potential and plays an important role in the bibliographic search of literature in the field included in this system. It is necessary to specially note the place of these indexes, dedicated to poets and writers who have made important contributions to the development of Azerbaijani literary

studies, in the composition of literary bibliographic publications. Literary bibliographic publications are of great importance in the provision of bibliographic information to literary scholars. Today, the intensive development of Azerbaijani literature requires, along with itself, the rapid and dynamic development of Azerbaijani literary bibliography. That is, the need to create electronic bibliographic sources arises in order to accurately determine their place and position in the development of literary studies (Ismayilova, 2018). In the modern state of literary studies bibliography, electronic bibliographic information sources in this field are of particular importance. In general, one of the components of the problem of creating national bibliographic resources is the problem of creating electronic bibliographic sources in Azerbaijan for fiction and literary studies.

Therefore, this problem should be approached comprehensively. Since 2001, the creation of an electronic catalog has been started in the Scientific Library of Khazar University and Baku State University.

The electronic bibliographic record of many books and dissertations in the Azerbaijani literature fund, dissertations and rare literature fund of the Scientific Library of BSU was compiled with the participation of the "Computerization of Libraries" scientific research laboratory headed by Honored Scientist, Professor Abuzar Khalafov (Ismayilova, 2018).

Conclusions.

Another major step in the development of electronic bibliographic resources of libraries in our republic and their provision to consumers was the "Electronic Library Network" project, implemented in 2002 by the Public Union for the Future and the Azerbaijan State University of Economics, with the assistance of Exxonmobil Company.

The database menu allows to search in 4 aspects. These are search, subject, library and language aspects. In the aspect called Search, it is possible to search by author, title, word signs, and in the subject aspect, it is possible to search by 9 sections of the UDC. In literary criticism and fiction, it is possible to search by 8 subject sections.

Another electronic bibliographic source belongs to the Presidential Library of the Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The creation of a bibliographic database in the library began in May 2004. The database is an integral part of the IRBIS-64 Library Automation System. The database includes bibliographic records of about 6,000 documents in Azerbaijani, Russian and other languages. And 20% of this is made up of materials on fiction and literary criticism. The database is accessible both from the automated system in the library and from the Internet via the WEB catalog (Ismayilova, 2005).

In the 21st century, called the information age, the renewal of the Azerbaijani literary bibliographic information system, the improvement of its scientific, social and communicative function, the enrichment of its structural structure and types of publications, and the strengthening of its theoretical and methodological foundations emerge as important issues.

The most important of the factors influencing this process is the rapid development of new information technologies - the Internet, one of the important discoveries of the 20th century, its spread and comprehensive application in all areas of science, culture, literature and art. One of the main features of the modern information society is the dynamic growth of information resources and databases in the Internet world.

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