BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg
BG PULSE JOURNAL

105 YEARS OF SERVICE TO KNOWLEDGE: FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUKHARA REGIONAL INFORMATION AND LIBRARY CENTER NAMED AFTER ABU ALI IBN SINA

Elmira Khusainova
Head of the Legal Information Sector "ADOLAT",
Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center
named after Abu Ali ibn Sina

Abstract. The article provides a detailed examination of the history, formation, and development of the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina over 105 years of its activity. The main stages of the library's collection development, organizational transformations, changes in its functions during different historical periods, and its role in the cultural and educational life of the Bukhara region are highlighted. Special attention is given to the continuity of Bukhara's book culture traditions and the library's transformation into a modern information center.

Keywords: library history, Bukhara, librarianship, book culture, information and library center, Abu Ali Ibn Sina.

Introduction. Throughout all historical periods, libraries have been crucial centers for preserving knowledge, spiritual values, and the cultural memory of a people. The development of librarianship has deep roots in the distant past. As early as the 10th century, when Bukhara – the capital of Transoxiana – offered favorable conditions for the growth of science and art, wealthy book collections were established in the palaces of rulers. Of particular note was the library located at the court of the Bukhara Emir.

In Uzbekistan, librarianship has deep historical roots and is closely associated with the names of prominent Eastern scholars, among whom Abu Ali Ibn Sina holds a special place. The Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center, named after this great thinker, has been performing an important educational and cultural mission for 105 years.

Today, the center functions as a modern cultural and information institution, bringing together extensive book collections, rare and valuable editions, as well as electronic resources. It actively implements innovative technologies, promotes the development of information literacy among the population, supports scientific research, and popularizes the historical and cultural heritage of the region.

The library's activities are aimed at developing the intellectual potential of society, fostering respect for national and universal values, and strengthening intercultural dialogue. Continuing the best traditions of the past while responding to the demands of the present, the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina remains an important spiritual and educational center of the region.

History of the Library's Formation. At the beginning of the 16th century, the largest library of that time belonged to Kulbaba Kukeldash. In the second half of the 19th century, Emir Muzaffar ordered that books from all the city's madrasahs be transferred to the treasury. Later, part of these books became part of the Emir's library, which was overseen by a curator.

The perception of the richness of Bukhara's libraries persisted into the early 20th century. After the fall of the Bukhara Emirate in September 1920, a meeting was held, during which a project for a trip to Bukhara was approved. A commission was organized and sent to Bukhara.

On October 28, 1920, the *Izvestiya of the Turkic Central Executive Committee* (No. 245) published information that "a special premises have been arranged in Bukhara for a library, where many books and manuscripts are being placed." Musa Saidjanov, the Commissioner of Education of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, actively participated in the opening of the library.

The doors of the Old Bukhara Central City Library were first opened to readers on June 30, 1921. Following the introduction of regional divisions in 1938, by the decision of the People's Commissariat of Education of the republic, the Old Bukhara Central City Library was reorganized into the Regional Library named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina.

The history of the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center began in the early 20th century, during a period of active social and cultural transformations. Initially, the library was created as a small book collection intended to meet the educational needs of the population. Gradually, the library's collection expanded, specialized departments were established, and the number of readers increased.

During different historical periods, the library served as a scientific, educational, and cultural center, providing access to literature in various languages and promoting the dissemination of knowledge among the wider public.

The librarians of past generations are remembered with gratitude—those who, without formal education but with genuine enthusiasm, laid the first foundations of Bukhara's library system. Among them were Ibodullo Odilov (Ibodullo-Kori), Sadr Ziyo, A. Mirzaev, A. Shukurov, Khaydarov, Khanov, G. Izamov, E. Pudkova, and many others.

One of the first directors of the Bukhara Regional Library named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina was the prominent Orientalist Ibodullo Odilov (Ibodullo-Kori) (1872–1944). In 1921, Ibodullo Odilov joined the library as a research associate. As an Orientalist scholar, he conducted multifaceted scientific work and was fluent in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. He made a significant contribution to the development of Oriental studies, leaving a rich legacy. He compiled alphabetical and numerical catalogs of the Eastern collections of both the Bukhara Regional and Republican Libraries. He also participated in preparing the multi-volume collection *Collection of Eastern Manuscripts of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan*.

Ibodullo Odilov was the author of the educational manual *Kiroati Forsiy va Tojik* and, in 1942, wrote the book *Mukhtasari Tazkira-i Muammyon*, dedicated to the works of the renowned historian Khondamir. He also copied the only known manuscript of *Majmu'ai Murasalot* or the *Album of Navoi*, a collection of letters by the great poet, written by the hand of a famous calligrapher.

From 1929 to 1961, the library was led by Olimsho Khamrashayev, the first tour guide-interpreter of Bukhara. He made a significant contribution to forming the library's collection, and together with library worker Sultankhon Nakshbandi, collected publications and manuscripts of great value from the public.

For more than three decades, the library was led by its director Muborak Mukhamedovna Rakhmanova. A knowledgeable and competent specialist, she was appointed head of the library and led the Regional Library from 1961 to 1986. During her tenure, the library became a methodological center for the region's libraries. Thanks to M. M. Rakhmanova's energy and enthusiasm, a new building for the Regional Library was constructed in Bukhara in 1971, designed to house 500,000 volumes.

Today, the library's universal collection contains 300,000 items in 20 languages. Of particular importance are monuments of the region's history and culture—the Eastern Collection (Arabic manuscripts, historical documents, lithographs, samples of calligraphy, printed and typographic

editions, 1,394 items), lithographic editions from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, journals, and books from the Protectorate period, totaling 7,345 rare editions.

The core of the collection was formed from the library of the last Emir of the Bukhara Khanate, Sayid Alimkhan Manghit, and the collections of Bukhara Khanate officials, which were transferred to the Commissioner of Education of the Bukhara People's Republic after the September 1920 coup.

In 1922, manuscripts from the Commissioner of Education were transferred to the Central Bukhara Library. In 1925, based on the inventory by V. L. Vyatkin, A. A. Semyonov compiled a catalog of manuscripts for the Historical Department of the Bukhara Central Library.

The Eastern Collection of the Library as Part of Cultural Heritage. A special place in the structure of the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina is occupied by the Eastern Collection, which represents a valuable repository of sources on the history, philosophy, medicine, theology, and literature of the East.

Formation of the Collection. The formation of the library's collection is closely connected with the centuries-old traditions of Bukhara's book culture, which for centuries was one of the leading scientific centers of the Muslim world.

The Eastern Collection includes publications in Arabic, Persian, and Old Uzbek (Chagatai) languages, as well as manuscripts and early printed books. A significant part of the collection consists of works by medieval Eastern scholars, including medical treatises associated with the name of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, giving the collection both scientific and symbolic significance.

During the Soviet and post-Soviet periods, systematic work was carried out to catalog, preserve, and scientifically describe the Eastern Collection. Today, special attention is paid to its preservation, restoration, and digitization, ensuring researchers can access these unique sources without endangering their physical condition.

The Eastern Collection is actively used in scientific research, serves as a basis for international and interregional research projects, and contributes to cultural dialogue and the study of the spiritual heritage of Central Asian peoples.

Key components of the Eastern Collection include:

- Manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkic, and other Eastern languages containing philosophical, medical, astronomical, theological, and artistic works;
- Unique editions by prominent Eastern scholars, including works by Abu Ali Ibn Sina and other thinkers;
- Rare printed books and materials on the history, culture, ethnography, and literature of Central Asia and the East.

The collection serves not only as a repository of valuable historical sources but also as an active research base. Interest in the library's rare collection is particularly high. These rare publications, considered a national heritage, are accessible only for scientific research purposes.

Access is granted to individuals who provide a request from their institution, signed by its head, along with an identity document. Unique documents, access to which is restricted, are issued for a period of 1 to 5 days with special permission from the library administration. The library has developed the following regulations in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan *On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Objects*: "Regulations on the Rare and Valuable Collection," "Instructions for Working with Rare and Valuable Collections," and "Rules for Using Rare Documents."

Development and Modernization. With the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a new stage in the development of librarianship began. The Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center was transformed into a modern institution focused on the implementation of

information and communication technologies. The introduction of electronic catalogs, creation of digital resources, and expansion of information services significantly increased accessibility to knowledge.

The Center actively participates in cultural and educational projects, scientific conferences, book exhibitions, and events aimed at promoting reading and national cultural heritage.

Current Status and Prospects. Today, the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina is a multifunctional institution that combines traditional library values with modern information technologies. The Center plays an important role in developing information literacy among young people, supporting scientific research, and preserving rare book collections.

Future prospects for the Center include further digitization of library processes, expanding international cooperation, and creating innovative forms of engagement with readers.

International and Interregional Cooperation. An important area of activity for the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina is the development of international and interregional cooperation. Professional connections have been established and maintained with leading library and scientific-cultural institutions of the Russian Federation, including libraries and research centers in Saint Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod.

Conclusion. The 105-year history of the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina is a vivid testimony to its significant role in the cultural and educational life of the region. Preserving the traditions of the past while actively implementing modern technologies, the Center continues to serve the pursuit of knowledge and the spiritual development of society.

REFERENCES.

1. Karimov, I.A. *High Spirituality – an Invincible Force*. Tashkent, 2008.
2. Abdurakhmanov, A.A. *History of Librarianship in Uzbekistan*. Tashkent, 2015.
3. Sadykov, M. *Cultural Heritage of Bukhara*. Bukhara, 2012.
4. Materials of the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina.
5. Abdurakhmanov, A.A. *History of Librarianship in Uzbekistan*. Tashkent, 2015.
6. Khasanov, B. *Book Culture of Bukhara*. Bukhara, 2010.
7. Sadykov, M. *Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Bukhara Oasis*. Bukhara, 2012.
8. Archival materials of the Bukhara Regional Information and Library Center named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina.
9. Байтураев, Тойчибай Досатович. "Библиография изданий ГА Пугаченковой как источник краеведческой библиографии." *Вестник Санкт-Петербургского государственного института культуры* 2 (47) (2021): 170-173.
10. Байтураев, Тойчибай Досатович. "Библиография Бабура и Бабуридов." *Вестник Санкт-Петербургского государственного института культуры* 3 (48) (2021): 172-175.