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## **HISTORY OF LIBRARY WORK IN NAKHCHIVAN, THE WAY OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE CURRENT SITUATION**

### **Abstract**

Nakhchivan is one of the oldest cultural centers in the world. Nakhchivan, like other regions of Azerbaijan, which is closely connected with the civilizations of the Ancient East, has left a deep mark on the course of historical development. The rich history, scientific and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people has been formed in this land. Tribal associations, the oldest inhabitants of the territory of Nakhchivan, played an important role in the ethno-political history of Azerbaijan. Nakhchivan is one of the oldest urban settlements in the world. Nakhchivan, the capital of this region, is considered one of the oldest cities in the East and in the world. The city of Nakhchivan, which is more than 3,500 years old, later became one of

the economic, political and cultural centers of Azerbaijan. Nakhchivan also played an important role in the formation and development of Azerbaijani state system.

### **History and the way of development library work in Nakhchivan**

The people of Azerbaijan, one of the oldest nations in the world, has a very ancient and wealth book and library culture. The uniqueness of each region has led to a different development of books and library culture. The history of library work is very old in Nakhchivan, one of the most important regions of Azerbaijan, which from time to time makes unprecedented contributions to human culture. The history of librarianship in Nakhchivan, one of the centers of ancient civilization, has been closely connected with the processes that took place here from time to time, with the history of culture. Although the development of librarianship in Azerbaijan dates back to the 11th century AD, the first libraries in this field appeared in very ancient times. According to ancient authors, the Albanians used their writings in the first century BC. In the 5th century, there was an improved Albanian alphabet with 52 phonemes. Albanians used their writings not only within the country, but also in international correspondence. In history, the V-VII centuries are considered the heyday of Albanian literature. Among the Albanian literary examples, Musa Kalankatli's "Albanian History" and the elegy of the seventh-century poet Davdak have survived. After the adoption of Islam in Azerbaijan, libraries appeared in mosques and madrasas, and book culture began to spread. Already in the VII-X centuries in Azerbaijan, along with literature, law and other social sciences, there were favorable conditions for the spread of natural sciences, mathematics, astronomy and other exact sciences. In the first half of the VIII century, as in other regions of Azerbaijan, socio-political relations and cultural life in Nakhchivan began to change radically. After the rule of the Arab Caliphate and the spread of Islamic culture, other beliefs declined. Starting from the 9th century, the largest cities of the Arab Caliphate, Damascus, Baghdad, Aleppo, Basra, as well as Ardabil, Maragha, Shamakhi, Nakhchivan and other cities of Azerbaijan became cultural centers with educational institutions, libraries and mosques. It can be concluded that libraries in Nakhchivan, as in other regions of Azerbaijan, began to appear not in the XI century, but in the IX century. But libraries have developed since the 11th century. Since that time, the number of libraries has increased to preserve the works created, as well as to protect textbooks in accordance with the curriculum of students studying in madrassas. In the first quarter of the 19th century, new emergency schools, as well as libraries were opened in many cities of Azerbaijan, including Nakhchivan and Ordubad. Prominent enlighteners M.T Sidgi, J. Mammadguluzade, G. Sharifzade and others played an important role in this field. Along with teachers and students, intellectuals also used the library of M.T Sidgi's "Tarbiya" school, which was established in Nakhchivan at that time and had a rich library, and helped to enrich the fund. Well-known intellectual Eynali bey Sultanov also played an important role in

the establishment of libraries in Nakhchivan. So that, the issue of establishment of new schools and libraries in Nakhchivan was discussed at the meetings of the “Society of Intellectuals” created by him in 1882 and with the opening of a new library, Eynali Bey went down in history as the founder of the first library in Nakhchivan. In the twentieth century, library work in Nakhchivan developed, the library named after MS Ordubadi was established in 1922, it was called the city library until 1930, after 1930 it continued its activity as the library of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, since 1953 The library is named Library named after M.S Ordubadi. At the same time, many libraries have been established in Nakhchivan. In 1960, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Children's Library named after Adil Babayev, in 1968 the Scientific Library of Nakhchivan State University, and in 1972 the Scientific Library of the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS were established and put into use by readers.











### **Establishment of electronic libraries in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic**

Libraries in Nakhchivan have entered a high stage of development, mainly with the restoration of independence in 1991. The atmosphere created in the Republic of Azerbaijan with the return of Heydar Aliyev to power in 1993 had a positive effect on the work of the library. Thus, as in various fields, libraries were reconstructed in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, there was a great revival in library work. First of all, the strengthening of the material and technical base of libraries, the construction of new buildings and equipment, the staffing of the book fund with new literature, periodicals and scientific journals have led to raising libraries to international standards. 1993-1999 were remembered as important years in the history of the library. In 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan adopted a resolution "About Library work". This decision set serious tasks for the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan to maintain library networks and improve public services, and the state budget allocated a large amount of money for libraries to purchase new books, enrich the fund, along with traditional libraries and create electronic libraries. Although the first initiatives to create an electronic library were initiated by the staff of the Laboratory of Automated Control Systems of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences in the late 1980s, special attention was paid to this issue during the years of independence. At present, there are dozens of electronic libraries in the global Internet space, concentrating resources in the Azerbaijani language. Although electronic libraries were

initially limited, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, signed on April 20, 2007, "On Improving the Activities of Libraries in Azerbaijan" gave impetus to the complex and conceptual development. Along with a number of other measures, this order envisages raising the electronic catalog and electronic library of the country's major libraries to modern standards, and making the "virtual library of Azerbaijani literature" available to readers on its basis. In recent years, in order to fully meet the needs of modern readers in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, the creation of modern library systems has been in the spotlight, and purposeful steps have been taken to electronicize libraries in the Autonomous Republic. In 2012, an electronic library was established on the basis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Library. The creation of an electronic library system and the launch of a new website in this cultural center, which has the status of a universal scientific library in the Autonomous Republic, allowed the library to be built at the level of today's requirements. The library has a state-of-the-art copier and 2 electronic kiosks, 12 computers have been installed in the electronic reading room, and the website [www.e-kitab.nakhchivan.az](http://www.e-kitab.nakhchivan.az) has been launched. The next step in creating an electronic archive and electronic library system was the commissioning of the Nakhchivan Studies Center. The Center is equipped with the latest information equipment and carriers for the preservation, research and promotion of books, albums, scientific articles, newspaper and magazine materials, documentaries, electronic media, electronic library and electronic archive. Along with the information kiosk, there is an electronic reading room with 12 computers, as well as the center's website [www.e-merkez.alimeclis.az](http://www.e-merkez.alimeclis.az) . On July 9, 2012, the Electronic Library of Nakhchivan State University was opened. During the reconstruction of the library, a modern copier, electronic information kiosk, main and backup server were installed, and 20 reading places were created. During the opening, the library's new website [www.e-kitab.ndu.nmr.az](http://www.e-kitab.ndu.nmr.az) was presented. The library also provides exemplary services to readers in electronic form. The main and backup server with 12 terabytes of memory was installed in the electronic library of the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS, established on September 4, 2013, the electronic reading hall with 6 reading places was created. The library is equipped with a high-speed transmitter, printer, a TV set for visual and audio monitoring of data on electronic media, a mobile electronic board. Since 2013, electronic versions of books have been developed and made available to readers through a local network or the Internet. The library's [www.e-kitab.ameanb.nmr.az](http://www.e-kitab.ameanb.nmr.az) website has been developed and made available to the general public in 2013. The site contains the history of the library, its main activities and address. The books are electronically cataloged and presented to readers in the "Electronic catalog" section. Through the site it is possible to get acquainted with the materials prepared about the events held in the library, the exhibitions organized. Virtual exhibitions based on electronic versions of books posted on the website of the electronic library provide readers with more comfortable use of books. Virtual exhibitions

covering the full electronic text of various books, articles and other documents are presented to readers through social networks and play an important role in increasing readers' interest in reading and speeding up searches. An electronic version of various newspaper and magazine materials is constantly posted on the site. In the "Electronic books" section of the library, separate links to the literature in each field of science allow you to search for books in both the alphabet and various fields of science. Through the "Useful links" section, you can use the website of various libraries in Azerbaijan, as well as around the world. At present, 15826 books with the inventory number of 37988 units have been electronically cataloged in the library. Bibliographic information on 20951 articles on various topics - 16203 newspapers, 4748 magazine articles, 8280 abstracts in the catalog of electronic abstracts, 107 dissertations in the dissertation catalog are placed in electronic files. An electronic version of more than 2,000 books has been developed and posted on the Internet or local area network. Various electronic catalogs and card index have been created through the internal network. Also, the processes of reader registration, book transfer, return of books, reader attendance and other service work are carried out electronically. Every reader who applies to the library also registers in electronic form, and through a personal password given to him, he can access the electronic version of the book from the electronic reading room by visiting the library's website. At present, the library has more than 1,000 readers, of which 550 users are registered in electronic form.

The creation of not only ordinary libraries, but also special electronic libraries in the Autonomous Republic is in the center of attention. The establishment of an audio and electronic library service for people with disabilities at the Nakhchivan Regional Information Center has created conditions for the free use of electronic resources by this category of citizens.

In conclusion, we can note that special attention is always paid to the organization of library work in Nakhchivan in accordance with modern standards and the development of this field, a number of library processes are successfully implemented using both traditional and electronic forms of service. Also, thanks to cooperation with other libraries, innovations in this field are obtained and widely used during the operation.