

Priority Directions for Modernizing the Information and Library System in New Uzbekistan

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Received: 24 April 2026; **Accepted:** 20 May 2026; **Published:** 08 June 2026

Abstract: This article analyzes the main directions of modernizing the information and library system in the context of New Uzbekistan. It highlights issues such as the digitalization of library activities, the development of electronic information resources, the introduction of modern information and communication technologies, and the improvement of the quality of services provided to users. The study also examines the role and prospects of information and library institutions in the spiritual and educational development of society.

Keywords: Information and library system, digitalization, electronic library, information technologies, reading culture, information resources, modernization.

Introduction: Today, in New Uzbekistan, large-scale socio-economic, spiritual-educational, and digital reforms are being implemented, creating new opportunities for the development of the information and library system, as in all other sectors. In the context of an information society, libraries are no longer limited to storing and providing books and other publications; instead, they function as modern information centers that meet the population's information needs and serve to disseminate knowledge and enlightenment. Therefore, improving the activities of information and library institutions, equipping them with modern information and communication technologies, and enhancing the quality of services have become one of the key priorities of state policy [1].

In recent years, a number of regulatory and legal documents have been adopted in our country aimed at developing the library sector, strengthening the material and technical base of information and library centers, enriching collections, and expanding electronic resources. These documents contribute to organizing library activities in accordance with modern requirements, improving the quality of services provided to the population, and promoting a higher

reading culture among the younger generation [2].

In the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, increasing the intellectual potential of young people, developing a reading culture, and widely promoting reading skills among the population are defined as important priorities. Information and library institutions play a special role in the implementation of these tasks. Libraries, as an integral part of education, science, and culture, are essential in enabling citizens to acquire knowledge, engage in self-education, and achieve spiritual and intellectual growth. From this perspective, the modernization of the information and library system, the widespread introduction of digital technologies, the creation of electronic information resources, and the development of modern mechanisms for providing convenient user services are considered among the most urgent scientific and practical issues. This article analyzes the priority directions of modernizing the information and library system in New Uzbekistan, the reforms being implemented in this field, and their future prospects.

In the 21st century, information and knowledge have become one of the key driving forces of societal development. Globalization processes, the rapid

development of digital technologies, and the widespread use of the internet in all areas of life have significantly influenced the activities of information and library institutions as well. Traditional library services are no longer sufficient to fully meet the demands and needs of modern users. Today, users expect fast, convenient, and remote access to the information they need. Therefore, the modernization of the information and library system has become a requirement of the time.

Within the framework of large-scale reforms being implemented in New Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to improving the activities of information and library institutions. In particular, the digitalization of library collections, the creation of electronic catalogs, the introduction of modern information retrieval systems, and the development of remote user services are among the priority tasks. These processes contribute to increasing the efficiency of access to library information resources and expanding opportunities for public education and learning.

One of the important aspects of modernizing the information and library system is the digitization of library collections. The digitization process enables the long-term preservation of rare and valuable publications, as well as ensures simultaneous access for a large number of users. Through electronic resources, readers are able to quickly access necessary information sources regardless of their geographical location. In addition, the effective use of information and communication technologies plays a crucial role in modern library activities. Electronic catalogs, automated library systems, virtual reference services, and mobile applications are elevating the quality of library services to a new level. These technologies not only provide convenience for users but also increase the productivity of library staff. Another important direction of the modernization process is the improvement of the professional qualifications of library staff. The rapid development of information technologies requires librarians to acquire new knowledge and skills. Therefore, improving the system of retraining and professional development of specialists is considered one of the key conditions of modern librarianship. The main goal of modernizing the information and library system is to fully meet the population's information needs, support educational and scientific activities, develop the intellectual potential of young people, and enhance reading culture. At the same time, modernization processes aim to transform libraries into modern centers of knowledge and information, strengthen their role in society, and ensure their meaningful contribution to the innovative development of the country. As a result,

the modernization of the information and library system is manifested not only as an improvement of library operations, but also as an important factor contributing to the spiritual, scientific, and cultural development of society. Therefore, the reforms and transformations being implemented in this direction are considered an essential component of the development of New Uzbekistan.

In recent years, one of the important directions in the development of the information and library system in Uzbekistan has been the special attention paid to the digitization of library collections. The digitization process involves converting printed publications into electronic form, creating electronic databases, and providing users with modern information services. Reforms implemented at the national level in this regard are significantly expanding the opportunities for libraries to access and use information resources. As a result of the creation of electronic libraries and digital information resources, users are gaining the ability to access necessary literature remotely. In particular, the availability of electronic resources serves as an important factor in improving the effectiveness of educational and scientific activities for researchers, students, and teachers. Access to electronic catalogs and full-text databases via the internet has significantly simplified the process of obtaining information. Libraries are considered one of the important social institutions in the development of society [3]. Digitizing library collections primarily provides an opportunity to preserve rare and valuable publications. Over time, printed documents and books may deteriorate or become damaged. The creation of electronic copies, however, ensures the long-term preservation of these materials and their transmission to future generations. In this regard, digitization is considered an effective tool for preserving national cultural and scientific heritage.

In addition, the digitization process significantly expands access to information resources. In traditional libraries, users were required to physically visit the library to obtain needed materials, whereas electronic libraries allow access to information from anywhere and at any time. This ensures the principle of equal and open access to information. One of the important directions of modernizing the information and library system in New Uzbekistan is the wide implementation of information and communication technologies. The history of librarianship in Karakalpakstan is closely connected with the cultural life of the people, the education system, and social development. Libraries that initially operated within religious and educational institutions later transformed into cultural and educational centers serving the wider public [4].

Modern technologies are enabling the automation of library operations, efficient management of information resources, and the provision of high-quality and fast services to users. Today, many information and library institutions have implemented electronic catalogs, which allow users to quickly and conveniently search for the required literature. The human factor also plays an important role in the modernization of the information and library system. Working with modern technologies requires librarians to acquire new knowledge and skills. Therefore, continuously improving librarians' competencies in information technologies and training them to use modern software tools is an integral part of the modernization process. Qualified specialists not only effectively use technological systems but also play a key role in providing high-quality information services to users.

In general, the wide implementation of information and communication technologies in library activities contributes to the development of the information and library system in accordance with modern requirements. This process is an important factor in increasing the competitiveness of libraries, improving the quality of information services, and fully meeting users' information needs. In New Uzbekistan, shaping a reading culture is of great importance in enhancing the intellectual potential of the younger generation, enriching their spiritual world, and developing their independent thinking skills. Therefore, promoting reading and developing a culture of reading is recognized as one of the priority directions of state policy. In our country, a number of measures are being implemented to support reading, encourage young people to read books, and create a reading-friendly environment. Today, libraries are no longer merely institutions for issuing books; they also function as spiritual and educational centers. They introduce young people to the finest examples of national and world literature, help them develop reading skills, and contribute to the meaningful organization of their leisure time.

The development of digital technologies has created new forms of promoting reading culture. The expansion of access to books through electronic libraries, audiobooks, electronic publications, and mobile applications has contributed to an increase in the number of readers. In particular, young people's active use of information technologies has increased the demand for electronic resources. In this regard, the development of digital library services is considered one of the key factors in enhancing reading culture. The development of reading culture not only expands an individual's knowledge and worldview but also has a

positive impact on the spiritual development of society. Reading enriches human thinking, develops independent thinking skills, and increases interest in scientific and creative activities. Therefore, improving library services and promoting reading culture is considered one of the important factors in the development of New Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, the modernization of the information and library system in New Uzbekistan is one of the key factors in shaping a modern information society, meeting the population's information needs, and enhancing the country's scientific and educational potential. In recent years, reforms in this field have strengthened the material and technical base of information and library institutions, introduced modern information and communication technologies, and expanded the scope of electronic services.

The digitization of library collections, the creation of electronic libraries and databases provide users with fast and convenient access to information resources. This not only contributes to the development of education, science, and culture, but also plays an important role in preserving national cultural heritage and transmitting it to future generations. In addition, the introduction of automated management systems and modern software tools has increased the efficiency of library services and improved the quality of services provided to users. The research results show that the main directions of modernizing the information and library system are closely related to accelerating digitization processes, expanding the volume of electronic resources, improving the professional skills of library staff, and developing reading culture. In particular, promoting reading culture among young people and encouraging their engagement with scientific and literary works plays a key role in ensuring the intellectual development of society.

In the future, it is advisable to further improve the information and library system by studying international experience, widely introducing innovative technologies, enriching electronic resource collections, and continuing the digital transformation of libraries. As a result, libraries will further strengthen their position not only as information sources but also as modern knowledge centers that ensure the spiritual, scientific, and cultural development of society.

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