

Developing Reading Culture in Modern Libraries

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role and significance of modern libraries in fostering a reading culture. In the context of the rapid development of information technologies, issues surrounding the harmonization of traditional library activities with modern services, the effective utilization of electronic resources, and increasing young people's interest in books are highlighted. Furthermore, the role of innovative projects, digital libraries, and interactive services in shaping a reading culture is revealed.

Keywords: Library, reading culture, electronic library, digital technologies, information resources, reading, innovative services, youth.

Introduction: The spiritual development of any society is primarily determined by its level of reading culture. The book is one of the most vital sources that enriches human thought, broadens worldviews, and forms independent critical thinking skills. For this reason, the development of a reading culture in Uzbekistan today is regarded as one of the priority directions of state policy.

In the current era, where digital technologies are rapidly advancing, libraries are not merely places where books are stored, but are transforming into modern information-resource centers. Electronic catalogs, digital collections, online services, and multimedia resources create opportunities for readers to access information rapidly. This, in turn, further strengthens the socio-educational role of libraries in society.

The issue of developing a reading culture in modern libraries is considered one of the priority areas of scientific research currently being conducted in the fields of library science, pedagogy, and information and communication technologies. Under the conditions of an information society, libraries are not merely facilities housing printed literature, but are evolving into modern information-resource centers that rapidly satisfy the information needs of users. From this

perspective, implementing digital technologies, expanding the fund of electronic resources, and providing innovative services to users carry great significance in developing a reading culture.

Digital libraries, electronic books, and online databases create opportunities for users to easily find and read information. Accessing existing resources through the Internet allows readers to quickly search for literature aligned with their interests, study scientific sources remotely, and engage in continuous education. Moreover, multimedia tools, virtual libraries, and interactive platforms serve to make the reading process even more engaging and effective. Libraries play an essential role in developing a reading culture by enhancing the information literacy of users and cultivating skills for the proper use of electronic resources (A. Abdurahmonov, 2020).

In our country, raising the reading culture is also recognized as one of the priority directions of state policy. In particular, Decree No. PQ-9 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 15, 2026, "On Measures to Develop Reading Culture and Increase Interest in Reading Among the Population," initiated a new phase in this direction. The Decree defines comprehensive tasks for improving the activities of modern information-library centers, enriching

electronic library collections, popularizing book reading, and increasing the reading level of the population, especially the youth. These reforms serve to further solidify the role of modern libraries as educational and information centers (PQ–9-son Qarori.2026).

The theoretical foundations of reading culture are also reflected in the scientific views of many prominent pedagogical and psychological scholars. V.A.Su khomlinsky evaluated the book as one of the most important factors in an individual's spiritual perfection, defining the library as a "school of thought" that shapes human intellect, aesthetic taste, and moral qualities. The scholar's views scientifically justify the significance of modern libraries not merely as disseminators of information, but as educational institutions that shape a spiritual and educational environment (Suxomlinskiy, V. A., 1982).

L.S.Vygotsky's cultural-historical theory emphasizes that personality development is inextricably linked with the social environment and cultural tools. Based on this approach, libraries are evaluated as vital social institutions that support the social exchange of knowledge, foster intellectual dialogue among readers, and encourage independent learning. Book presentations, literary gatherings, readers' clubs, and online discussion platforms organized in modern libraries manifest as the practical expression of this exact theory (Vygotskiy.L.S., 1999).

J. S. Bruner's constructivist theory of learning states that knowledge is not delivered in a ready-made form, but is actively acquired by the individual and reconstructed on the basis of new experiences. For this reason, developing independent reading, electronic learning resources, digital platforms, and interactive services in modern libraries acts as a crucial factor in forming a reader's critical thinking, information analysis skills, and lifelong learning competencies. This transforms modern libraries from mere book storage facilities into innovative educational centers that support knowledge creation and intellectual development (Bruner, J. S., 1960).

Additionally, in developing a reading culture, it is highly important for libraries to effectively utilize modern means of communication, especially social networks. Through social networks, libraries gain the opportunity

to rapidly deliver information about upcoming events, new publications, and books to readers, as well as establish continuous dialogue with them. Such an approach serves to strengthen collaboration between the library and its users. At the same time, recommended literature based on readers' interests and needs, reading recommendations, and interactive projects increase interest in reading, ensuring the effectiveness of the reading process (Murodov, S., 2022).

In this research, the issue of developing a reading culture in modern libraries was studied based on a theoretical and analytical approach. During the research process, scientific literature related to library science, pedagogy, and information and communication technologies was analyzed. Furthermore, by employing methods of comparative analysis, a systematic approach, generalization, and scientific deduction, the role and effective operational directions of modern libraries in developing a reading culture were clarified.

During the study, the primary factors influencing the development of a reading culture in modern libraries were analyzed. Observations demonstrated that today, library activities are not restricted to preserving traditional book collections; rather, they are developing toward broadly introducing digital information services, serving users remotely, and organizing the reading process based on modern technologies. In particular, the implementation of electronic catalogs, electronic libraries, and online databases allows users to locate required literature in a short period.

As a result of the analyses, it was determined that the effective utilization of information and communication technologies is one of the essential prerequisites for developing a reading culture in modern libraries. The introduction of digital services expands access to libraries and serves to increase youth interest in reading in particular. Through e-books, audiobooks, virtual exhibitions, and mobile applications, readers gain the opportunity to access information resources anywhere and at any time.

Developing a reading culture is not limited solely to implementing modern technical tools. Organizing book presentations, creative meetings, literary evenings,

contests such as "Most Active Reader" and "Young Reader," as well as readers' clubs within libraries serves as an important factor in attracting the general public to the reading process. Such spiritual-educational events increase readers' motivation to read while simultaneously developing their independent thinking, communication, and analytical approach skills.

The professional competence of the librarian also plays a critical role in shaping a reading culture. A modern librarian must act not only as a specialist managing book funds, but also as an information consultant, a guide in media literacy, and a specialist assisting users in their scientific inquiries. For this reason, regularly enhancing the qualifications of library staff in digital technologies is a requirement of the times.

As effective directions for developing a reading culture in modern libraries, the study identified the necessity of expanding electronic library funds, improving the quality of digital services, developing mobile library platforms, multiplying innovative projects that promote reading, and strengthening cooperation with educational institutions. In addition, establishing book promotion through social networks and internet platforms, alongside expanding book recommendations and virtual reading projects, is known to be one of the effective means of raising the reading culture among young people. One of the significant directions of developing a reading culture in modern libraries is cultivating a culture of establishing a personal library among users. A personal library enables an individual to continue the reading process seamlessly and regularly collect literature corresponding to their interests and professional needs. Therefore, it is advisable for information-library centers to provide methodological recommendations to readers regarding book selection, forming a personal book fund, and organizing it by subject.

Today, the concept of a personal library is not limited to printed books alone. Creating personal electronic libraries consisting of e-books, audiobooks, and digital resources is also becoming a modern manifestation of reading culture. Electronic platforms and digital services recommended by libraries create opportunities for users to systematically enrich their personal libraries and effectively utilize information resources.

As a result of developing a personal library culture, book reading ceases to be a one-time activity and becomes an essential component of an individual's daily lifestyle and lifelong learning process. In this regard, modern libraries must operate not only as institutions supplying books, but also as educational centers shaping the culture of creating and enriching a personal library among readers.

On the whole, the conducted analyses demonstrated that organizing the activities of modern libraries based on innovative approaches is a critical factor in developing a reading culture. The effective utilization of digital technologies, electronic information resources, and modern library services elevates the reading culture of the population, increases the intellectual potential of youth, and makes a worthy contribution to the spiritual development of society. Therefore, perfecting library activities in accordance with modern requirements and broadly implementing innovative services stands as one of the urgent tasks of today.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, modern libraries serve as essential socio-educational centers for developing a reading culture in society. The rapid development of information and communication technologies elevates library operations to a new stage, creating the necessity to harmonize traditional services with digital capabilities. Electronic libraries, digital databases, mobile applications, and remote services serve to satisfy users' information needs rapidly and qualitatively.

Research results show that merely implementing modern technologies is insufficient for developing a reading culture. In this context, spiritual-educational events that engage readers in reading, book presentations, literary meetings, readers' clubs, and establishing consistent cooperation with educational institutions carry great importance. Simultaneously, enhancing the professional qualifications of librarians and developing their digital competencies is one of the main factors in elevating service quality.

Furthermore, the active use of social networks, electronic platforms, and modern communication tools by libraries strengthens young people's interest in books and serves to popularize the reading process. Consequently, libraries transform not only into

information-resource centers, but into vital hubs supporting lifelong learning, scientific research, and spiritual growth.

In the future, expanding innovative services in library operations, enriching digital resource funds, perfecting convenient electronic services for users, and consistently continuing practical projects aimed at promoting reading will make a worthy contribution to elevating reading culture and enhancing the intellectual potential of society

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