Description of Literary Sources: Theoretical Basis and Practical Approaches

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Abstract: This article analyzes the theoretical foundations, historical formation, current practical approaches and prospects of describing literary sources. The criteria for describing, the role of digital technologies, international standards and work carried out within the framework of the activities of scientific institutions are considered on a scientific basis.

Keywords: Description, literary sources, bibliography, digital catalog, manuscripts, metadata, library science.

Introduction: The description of literary sources is of great importance in scientific research, the preservation of cultural heritage, their introduction into scientific circulation, and the formation of a database. Today, along with the development of science and technology, the need to systematically collect and describe information resources is becoming more urgent. In particular, literary sources - written monuments, manuscripts, published works, translations and annotated publications - are noteworthy for their historical, aesthetic, linguistic and social value. This article scientifically analyzes the theoretical foundations, historical formation, current practical approaches and prospects for the description of literary sources.

Analysis of literature on the topic

The concept of description is widely used in the fields of information science, library science, source studies and historical research [1]. It is the process of identifying, classifying and documenting the main features of a particular object or source. The description of literary sources covers many aspects, such as the study and analysis of these sources, their composition, author, content, historical context, language features, and interrelationships [2].

Theoretically, description is carried out in two directions:

- Formal description: the external appearance of the source (volume, condition, year of publication, format, etc.);

- Content description: the internal structure of the source, main ideas, theme, author's position, genre features [2].

METHODOLOGY

The methodological basis of the descriptive process relies on bibliographical theory, semiotics, textual studies, discourse analysis, and information technologies [3]

RESULTS

The history of describing literary sources began in the ancient East, and this process also has its own traditions in Uzbek literature. In the Islamic period, catalogs of manuscripts were compiled in libraries, madrasas, and scientific centers. For example, in the 9th-10th centuries, manuscripts were systematically stored in libraries operating in Bukhara, Samarkand, and Khorezm. In the 16th-19th centuries, information about sources was provided through descriptions (descriptions) written by calligraphers and scholars. In the Jadid period, critical description of literary works through the press became a tradition. In the Soviet period, the description of literary sources took on an institutional character: publishing houses, libraries, and institutes were regularly engaged in this work.[4] Today, description based on digital technologies has reached a new level. The possibility of a complete and systematic description of literary sources is being created through electronic catalogs, online

bibliographic databases, metadata systems, and digital archives.

The following criteria are important in describing literary sources:

- Identification: author, title of the work, date of creation, year of publication, scribe or translator;

- Genre-subject classification: artistic, historical, popular science, religious, journalistic works;

- Language and style features: written language of the work, dialect, literary style;

- Internal structure of the text: system of sections, chapters, introduction and conclusions;

- Intertextual connection: connection with other works, inter-source relationships [5].

Structurally, the description consists of the following parts:

1. Bibliographic description;

2. Annotation or commentary;

3. Summary of the work;

4. Researcher's opinion and assessment;

5. Link to the list of scientific sources. [1;4]

Today, there are a number of best practices in the practice of describing literary sources. In particular, the following systems play a key role:

- National and international bibliographic standards (GOST, MARC, RDA);

- Electronic catalog systems (ALEPH, KOHA, OPAC);

- Digital archives and metadata (Dublin Core, XML, RDF);

- Online scientific platforms (Google Books, WorldCat, JSTOR, HathiTrust)[8].

These include manuscript catalogs and digitization projects implemented by the National Library of Uzbekistan, the Abu Raykhan Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the Alisher Navoi Museum of Literature, and the Institute of Language and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. There are still a number of problems in the field of description of literary sources, which are as follows:

- Lack of unified system of description criteria;

- Incomplete digitization of manuscripts and rare publications;

- Lack of specialists;

- Insufficient formation of a culture of working with digital technologies.

In the future, progress is expected in the following areas of description work:

- Creation of integrated description platforms between research institutions;

- Development of automated description systems using artificial intelligence;

- Expansion of international cooperation in the description of literary sources;

- Training and improving the skills of a new generation of researchers.

CONCLUSION

Description of literary sources plays an important role not only for scientific research, but also in preserving cultural heritage, promoting it, and obtaining new scientific results. By in-depth study of the theoretical foundations of description and the correct establishment of practical approaches, an opportunity will be created for a more in-depth and systematic study of the rich sources of Uzbek literary heritage. This will form the basis for new scientific achievements in the fields of literary studies, history, source studies, and library science.

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