

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE AZERBAIJAN
NATIONAL LIBRARY NAMED AFTER M.F.AKHUNDOV:
DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT STATUS (1923-2017)**

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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

The actuality and the level of development of the research work. One of the main components of international cultural relations of the world's leading countries is international cooperation and international relations in the field of library work. Historically, this process began with the establishment of libraries and was conditioned by the development of human civilization as a whole, including library work in the world.

The dynamic development of international relations has created conditions for further intensification of international cooperation in the field of library work, and this direction has played an important role in the development of library work in different countries. One of the main tasks of library science is to study and generalize the theoretical and empirical experience gained in this field.

Throughout the history of its development the international cooperation of the libraries in Azerbaijan emerged and developed at various levels, even during the years of Soviet ideology and has reached a modern stage. Libraries of our country, especially the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov, play an important role in the international information environment as an institution distinguished by its unique and multi-vector activities. The Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov is an institution of significant importance in the formation and management of global information flow, as well as in the international cooperation framework among the libraries.

During the second leadership of national leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan, the international relations of Azerbaijani libraries, as well as the Azerbaijan National Library, which began in the 70s of the XX century, but were lost in the early 90s of the 20th century, have been restored and developed, the library work has been renewed through improving the material and technical base of the library, increasing the financial resources allocated to the library, equipping the new building with modern equipment, improving the fund with new literature. This turning point in the life of the library, of course, gave impetus to the

development of the library's international activities, and the experience of foreign national libraries was studied. Having emphasized the international experience as the main factor in the development of the libraries, National Leader stated: *"In order to develop the socio-economic situation of the republic, we consider close cooperation with foreign countries and all companies of the world, joint work between Azerbaijan and foreign countries and companies as one of the main directions in the economic sphere"*.

In general, the issues of international cooperation, exchange of books and integration are widely reflected in the legal and normative laws and acts adopted in the Republic of Azerbaijan. One of the greatest services of Heydar Aliyev to the Azerbaijani culture is the attention and care for the creation of a legal framework in the field of culture. As a result of the serious tasks and care of the Great Leader, in the second half of the 90s of the XX century and at the beginning of the XXI century, Laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Culture"¹, "On Library Work"², "On Publishing"³, and "Information, Informatization and Protection of Information"⁴, "On Freedom of Information"⁵ were developed and adopted. The issues of international cooperation, promotion of national heritage abroad, international exchange of books are construed in separate provisions of these documents.

The rich experience of the Azerbaijan National Library in the field of international cooperation has always been important as a special research object in the national library science. The main activity of the National Library in the field of international cooperation was the establishment of bilateral relations with international and regional

¹"Mədəniyyət haqqında" Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu // Azərbaycan. – 2013, 17 fevral. – s. 2-4.

²"Kitabxana işi haqqında" Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu // Azərbaycan. – 1999, 14 mart. – s. 3.

³Kitabxana işinə dair rəsmi sənədlər (Qanun və qanun qüvvəli normativ hüquqlu sənədlər toplusu) / tərt. K.Tahirov. – 3-cü təkmilləşdirilmiş nəşri, – Bakı, – 2015, – s. 54-68.

⁴"İnformasiya, informasiyalaşdırma və informasiyanın mühafizəsi haqqında" Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu // İnformasiya və məlumat azadlığı haqqında sənədlər toplusu, – Bakı: Qanun, – 2007, – s. 3-14.

⁵"Məlumat azadlığı haqqında" Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu // İnformasiya və məlumat azadlığı haqqında sənədlər toplusu. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2007, – s. 16-19.

library organizations and individual leading information centers. The activities of the library in the field of international cooperation can be divided into two parts:

1) The organization of international events, international inter-library subscription, cooperation in the field of international document exchange and bibliography;

2) Ensuring professional development of librarians.

This includes ways to ensure direct access to information, exchange of experience through meetings (seminars, conferences, trainings, staff exchanges, etc.), dissemination of information on best practices through various publications (translation of materials, preparation of joint publications, etc.).

The factors determining the topicality of the study are the integration of national content into the global space, the need to ensure each reader's access to world and national information resources, the requirements for international training, increasing interest in multicultural literature, the organization and informatization strategy of the library based on modern technologies, the need to intensify mutual relations with international library organizations, etc.

The international relations of the Azerbaijan National Library have not been studied in a detailed, systematic and complex way, however, have been partially covered in a number of works.

The first researcher of the history of the Azerbaijan National Library, the academician of the International Academy of Informatization under the UN, Honored scientist, Doctor of history, professor A.A.Khalafov discussed the activities of the National Library in a number of scientific works, books and articles⁶ and touched upon

⁶ Xələfov, A.A. Azərbaycanca kitabxana işinə dair Heydər Əliyev doktrinası uğurla davam edir / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: – 2009. – 185 s.; Xələfov, A.A. Azərbaycanca kitabxana işinin tarixi: Dərslik / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: BUN, – h.2. – 2007. – 552 s.; Xələfov, A.A. Azərbaycanca kitabxana işinin tarixi: Dərslik / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: BUN, –h.3. – 2010. – 432 s.; Xələfov, A.A. Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanca kitabxana işi / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 2006. – 312 s.; Xələfov, A.A. Kitabxanaşünaslığa giriş: Dərslik / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: BUN, – h.3. –2003. – 314 s.; Xələfov, A.A. M.F. Axundov adına Azərbaycan Milli Kitabxanası 90 il elm və mədəniyyətin xidmətində / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: Bakı

the library work in different stages of its development in the context of international relations and joint cooperation with world libraries.

At the same time, it is especially necessary to mention the names of professor Karim Tahirov⁷, associate professor Almaz Abbasova⁸, PhD in history Arzu Valiyeva and Eldaniz Mammadov among the scientists who defended their thesis on the activities of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov in various directions.

A number of aspects of the international activity of the National Library, international exchange of books, work with international organizations, international cooperation in personnel have been briefly studied in separate works of professor Kh.Ismayilov⁹, associate professors N.I.Ismayilov¹⁰, A.I.Gurbanov¹¹, M.A.Mammadov¹²,

Universiteti, – 2013. – 61 s.; Xələfov, A.A. Türk dünyası milli kitabxanaları / A.A.Xələfov, P.Kazımi. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2016. – 197 s.

⁷ Tahirov, K.M. Dünya milli kitabxanaları / K.M.Tahirov. – Bakı: BUN, – 2013. – 212 s.; Tahirov, K.M. M.F.Axundov adına Azərbaycan Milli Kitabxanasının tarixi: 1923-2008-ci illər. – Bakı: Ulu, – 2008. – 218 s.; Tahirov, K.M. M.F.Axundov adına Milli Kitabxananın beynəlxalq əlaqələri // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və informasiya, – 2011. № 1, – s. 32-39; Тахиров, К.М. Библиотека им. М.Ф.Ахундова как феномен культуры // Библиотечный вестник: сборник статей, – Минск: Национальная Библиотека Беларуси, – 2012, – с. 9-11; Тахиров, К.М. Ахундовская библиотека: из прошлого в будущее // – Москва: Библиотековедение, – 2009. № 2, – с. 117-120;

⁸ Аббасова, А. Тенденции развития и совершенствования деятельности Азербайджанской Государственной Библиотеки им. М.Ф.Ахундова (1959-1985 г.г.): / автореферат дис. канд. ист. наук. / – Баку, 1990. – 26 с.

⁹ İsmayilov, X.İ. “Azərbaycan Respublikasında kitabxana işinin metodik təminat sisteminin inkişaf tarixi (1918-2000)” / X.İ.İsmayilov. – Bakı: – 2000. – 416 s.; İsmayilov, X.İ. Azərbaycan kitabxanalarının metodik fəaliyyətində beynəlxalq əlaqələrin rolu // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və bibliografiya, – 2010. № 2, – s. 13-21.

¹⁰İsmayilov, N.İ. Milli Kitabxana: Beynəlxalq əməkdaşlığın yeni mərhələsində / N.İ.İsmayilov, M.M.Hacıyeva // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və bibliografiya, – 2009. № 1, – s. 154.

¹¹ Qurbanov, A. Kitabxanaların kompüterləşdirilməsinin əsasları: Dərslük / A.Qurbanov, A.Xələfov. – Bakı: BUN, – 2007.– 200 s.; Qurbanov, A. Elektron kitabxanalar informasiya cəmiyyətinin əsas fenomenidir // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və informasiya, – 2013. №3(12), – s. 26-31; Qurbanov, A. Kitabxana-informasiya fəaliyyətinin iqtisadiyyatı: (Ali məktəb tələbələrəi üçün dərs vəsaiti) / A.İ.Qurbanov, P.F.Kazımi, N.N.İsmayilova. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2012. – 308 s.

K.I.Aslan¹³, E.Y.Ahmadov¹⁴, S.A.Khalafova¹⁵, doctor of philological sciences A.Aliyeva-Kangarli¹⁶ PhD in history P.F.Kazimi¹⁷, N.Kh.Babaxanova¹⁸ and others.

In addition to local authors, a number of foreign researchers and scholars, like S.M.Grishina¹⁹, Y.Schreiberg²⁰, M.M.Vorku²¹,

¹² Məmmədov, M.Ə. Azərbaycan Respublikası kitabxanalarında kitabxanalararası abonement sistemi (tarixi inkişafı, müasir vəziyyəti, perspektivləri 1918-1990): / ped. elm. nam. dis. / – Bakı, 1999. – 165 s.

¹³ Aslan, K.İ. İnformasiya cəmiyyəti şəraitində gənclərə kitabxana xidmətinin müasir problemləri // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və informasiya, – 2010. № 3, – s. 15-25.

¹⁴ Əhmədov, E.Y. Dünya milli kitabxanaları: Dərs vəsaiti / EY.Əhmədov. – Bakı: – 2008. – 150 s.; Əhmədov, E.Y. Multikulturalizm ənənələri kitabxana-informasiya infrastrukturunda // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və informasiya, – 2015. № 2, – s. 43-50.

¹⁵ Xələfova, S.A. Kitabxana fondunun formalaşması: ideyası, anlayışı və inkişafı // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və bibliografiya, – 2010. № 1, – s. 14-19.

¹⁶ Əliyeva-Kəngərli, A. Beynəlxalq elmi əməkdaşlıq genişlənilir // Elm qəzeti. – 2003, 20 iyun; Dünya kitabxanalarına giriş // Təhsil problemləri. – 2005, 21-31 iyul; Əliyeva-Kəngərli, A. İnformasiya şəraitində türkdilli xalqların beynəlxalq elmi əlaqələri: kommunikativliyin və perspektivlərin artırılmasına doğru // Milli-mənəvi dəyərlərimiz: yaradanlar və yaşadanlar. – Bakı: Proqres, – 2012. – s. 207-212.

¹⁷ Kazimi, P.F. Azərbaycan multikulturalizmi informasiya məkanında // – Bakı: Kitabxanaşünaslıq və informasiya, – 2016. № 1 (19), – s. 22-26.; Kazimi, P.F. Kitab yayım mədəniyyəti // – Bakı: Kitabşünaslıq və nəşriyyat işi, – 2010. № 2.

¹⁸ Babaxanova, N.X. Beynəlxalq informasiya mühiti və elmi mədəni inteqrasiya / N.X.Babaxanova. – Bakı: “Zərdabi LTD” MMC nəşriyyatı, – 2017. – 256 s.

¹⁹ Гришина, С.М. Международное сотрудничество российских библиотек историко-теоретически и организационно-практические: / автореф. дис. канд. пед. наук. / – Москва, 2006.– 24 с.; Гришина, С.М. Международное сотрудничество российских библиотек: основные этапы и факторы влияние // Информационный бюллетень Российской Библиотечной Ассоциации, – 2005. № 35, – с. 45-47; Гришина, С.М. Теоретические аспекты международного сотрудничества библиотек на рубеже XX и XXI веков. / Материалы 3-й научной конференции "Молодежь в науке и культуре XXI века". Челябинск, – 2004, – с. 52-55.

²⁰ Земсков, А. Электронная информация и электронные ресурсы / А.Земсков. – Москва. – 2007. – 528 с.; Земсков, А. Электронные библиотеки: учебник для вузов/ А.Земсков, Я.Шрайберг. – Москва: Либерия, – 2003. – 352 с.

A.A.Purnik²², P.J.Bover²³, J.S.Parker²⁴, J.P.Danton²⁵, W.B.Rayward²⁶ and others have partially touched upon the scientific-practical activity of libraries in the international context, some historical-theoretical, organizational aspects of this field in their scientific works on various directions of library science and bibliography. However, a general analysis of the scientific literature shows that, the cooperation between international libraries, the evolutionary stages of its forms and methods, the place of national libraries in the society of information and knowledge and the role of international relations in the modernization of this process have not been studied as an object within a specific framework and it proves the novelty of the research.

The object and the subject of the research. The research object of the dissertation is the history and development prospects of the international relations of the National Library of Azerbaijan from its establishment to 2017.

The subject of research is the period of formation and formation of international relations of the National Library, international scientific and cultural relations of the library during the years of independence and the Heydar Aliyev stage, organization and prospects of cooperation with world libraries and international organizations, international book exchange in the global information environment and determining the place and role of grant projects, prospects for the development of

²¹ Ворку, М.М. Международное библиотечно-библиографическое сотрудничество: На примере деятельности ЮНЕСКО в развивающихся странах: / дис... канд. пед. наук. / – Москва, 1999. – 181 с.

²² Пурник, А.А. Управление некоммерческими проектами в библиотечной сфере: / дис... канд. экон. наук. / – Москва, 2005. – 187 с.

²³ Bover, P.J. International cultural exchange through libraries / International librarianship: cooperation and collaboration / P.J.Baver, H.R.Abad. – London, Scarecrow Press, – 2001. – 384 p.

²⁴ Parker, J.S. International librarianship - a reconnaissance // Journal of Librarianship, – 1974.– v. 6. № 4, – pp. 219-232.

²⁵ Danton, J.P. Definitions of comparative and international library science // In Comparative and International Library Science, – Metuchen, Scarecrow Press, – 1977. – pp. 3-14.

²⁶ Rayward, W.B. The evolution of an international library and bibliographic community // Journal of Library History, – 1981, – v. 16, №2, – pp. 449-462.

international relations in the field of informatization of the National Library.

The aim and the tasks of the research. The aim of the research is to study the development history of the international relations of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov, to study and analyze the experience of the library in this field at different stages of history, to determine the theoretical-organizational and methodological bases of ongoing modern cooperation on the basis of this experience, to identify the role and place of the library in the international information environment, to consider the existing problems in the relevant field and to show their solutions, to study the level of using best practices in the field of international cooperation and to determine the prospects for the integration of national content into the global information environment. For this purpose, the following tasks have been identified:

- To determine the role and place of national libraries in the system of international library cooperation;

- To summarize the advanced experience gained on the basis of defining the main stages of the organization and development of the activities of the Azerbaijan National Library in the field of international cooperation;

- To scientifically substantiate the main directions of the library's activity in the field of international cooperation;

- To generalize the activity of the library in the field of international cooperation, its genesis as an integral part of the history of library, culture and information exchange, its development trends and regularities on the basis of the analysis of the initial document flow;

- To systematically study the impact of the Azerbaijan National Library on the development of international multicultural values and their integration into the international information environment;

- To study the possibilities of using international experience in the relevant field in the National Library;

- To substantiate the need for international cooperation in the field of book and information exchange;

- To identify the existing problems in the relevant field and their solutions, main approaches and directions, methods of work;

- To analyze the experience of the National Library in the field of

international book exchange from the historical point of view and to generalize the experience gained.

The methods of the research. Scientific-historical generalization, comparative, statistical and terminological analysis methods have been used for the purpose of historical, theoretical and conceptual study of the opportunities of the international information environment to influence the libraries and vice versa the impact of the libraries on this environment in the context of integration of globalization with the knowledge society. In order to study the history of the National Library named after M.F.Akhundov in the international information environment, all forms and methods of international cooperation, including the current state and prospects of international book exchange, the existing scientific and theoretical literature has been analyzed, the activity of the library in the relevant field has been examined, the obtained results have been reciprocally compared and summarized. For this purpose, scientific-historical generalization, comparative, statistical and terminological analysis methods have been used.

The research used the method of terminological analysis to determine the scope of the library's concept of international cooperation, and the method of comparative-history in order to determine the origins and development stages of international relations of the library.

The basic provisions of the defence. In order to further improve the activities of the Azerbaijan National Library in the field of international cooperation, the following propositions have been defended:

–In the preparation stage for the opening of the library, the organization of business trips to purchase books from foreign countries has been identified as the first step in the integration of the library into international relations. It led to the formation of the National Library's international book exchange system in the field of international cooperation in the following years, as well as the emergence of a number of directions of international activity.

–The conclusion of agreements, memoranda, contracts on cooperation with various libraries around the world has been involved in the research, which was one of the main activities of the National

Library in the field of international cooperation during the years of independence. It would be reasonable to expand the scope of cooperation agreements with national libraries around the world and monitor the activities on the implementation of the provisions contained in the memoranda in the field of international cooperation of Azerbaijan National Library, summarize the results obtained and note the prospects.

–As a result of the research, it was found out that, one of the main activities of the Azerbaijan National Library was to establish relations with international library organizations (TURKSOY, IFLA, CENL, BAE, etc.) and study and apply the recommendations, standards and other guidelines of these organizations. The results obtained suggest that it is relevant and important to represent the National Library in international library organizations, to intensify its involvement and apply the recommendations of these organizations in practice while taking the national interests into account.

–It is clear from the study that the integration of Azerbaijan National Library into the world information space in the context of effective international cooperation implies the creation of a new type of training system and the organization of international electronic document management and consequently, the creation of a modern electronic library. Establishing a comprehensive information support system for specialists with maximum use of modern methods of international document exchange (especially electronic document); creating national electronic databases of library resources in the country to participate in the “Memory of the World” project; preparing a comprehensive electronic catalog and online databases covering selected works of Turkish world writers emphasize the urgency of issues such as the publication of scientific articles in the world’s leading journals on the international activities of the National Library in order to promote national resources in the world.

–The study of the multicultural activity of the National Library in the system of cultural-historical values and international relations highlighted the need to create bibliographic resources – inquiry-bibliographic apparatus, bibliographic indexes, bibliographic sources in the form of non-independent publications, electronic bibliographic sources, webliographies, etc. in the protection and promotion of the

traditions of multiculturalism and to organize practical events in foreign countries to promote the multicultural information resources of Azerbaijan National Library in the world scale.

–Invitation of experts of international organizations to the library during the years of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, wide discussion of their recommendations in the National Library on the real-life library work and staff training is noted as an important step in regular expansion of the scope of continuing education of the library staff and in the realisation of the issues, like their involvement in international distance learning process, international staff exchange in the training of new types of librarians, active participation of library staff in the international conferences, forums, seminars, etc.

The scientific novelty of the research. For the first time in the example of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov, international library cooperation has been studied as a general cultural phenomenon and a key factor in the informatization of the library and information sphere. Inter-library relations, its history, current situation and development prospects have been comprehensively studied and generalized and have been involved in independent research in the context of national historiography and library science. As a result of the research, a number of scientific novelties have been obtained:

–For the first time, the place and functions of the Azerbaijan National Library in the international information environment have been determined and the theoretical-historical analysis of the international relations of the National Library has been analyzed;

–Using historical and scientific-analytical methods, the history of the involvement of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov in the international information environment and the evolutionary stages of its international relations have been studied for the first time;

–The opportunities for international cooperation in the integration concept of the Azerbaijan National Library into the international scientific information environment have been analyzed, the existing problems have been classified and the necessary activities have been identified in order to solve them.

–The factors influencing the rating of the Azerbaijan National

Library in the process of international book exchange have been identified and their possibility to adapt to specific indicators and conditions has been studied;

–Scientific and organizational aspects of the cooperation of the Azerbaijan National Library with international organizations, as well as the promotion of national heritage in international events have been studied through the prism of existing scientific and cultural relations;

–The priority directions of the activity of the Azerbaijan National Library in the field of international library cooperation have been substantiated.

The theoretical and practical importance of the research. For the first time, based on the experience of the National Library, the research has found a practical solution to consider international cooperation as a key factor in the concept of modernization and informatization of the library. The theoretical significance of the research is also that, the methodology of a comprehensive study of the history of international relations and opportunities for international activities of national libraries on the basis of factual documents has been developed on the example of the National Library.

The practical significance of the research is that, the methods and proposals put forward ensure a more professional, sustainable and multifaceted integration of Azerbaijani libraries into the international information environment in order to develop international inter-library cooperation, expand the promotion of Azerbaijan's national and cultural heritage, improve the readers' foreign scientific information through the flow of international scientific information, coordinate the collection of foreign literature and to reduce the costs of this process and ensure the effective use of international experience.

The results of the research can be used as a scientific-theoretical and practical source in all libraries of the country and in teaching a number of subjects, in the preparation of textbooks and teaching aids at the Faculty of Library Science and Information of Baku State University.

The results of the research can also be used in separate courses of basic specialty disciplines for shaping professional competence of the specialists in higher and further education institutions of library science

and information, as well as in conducting international, regional and local conferences, seminars and trainings.

The approbation and applying of the work. The topic of the thesis was approved within the framework of the Doctor of Philosophy in History program at the Department of Library Science of the Faculty of Library Science and Information at Baku State University. Its results were presented at a number of international, regional and national conferences and scientific seminars. The main provisions of the thesis are reflected in the articles published in 10 local and 5 foreign scientific journals, in the theses published in 4 international and 2 national conference materials, in 1 curriculum programme “Fundraising activities of libraries”. 10 international grant projects related to the topic have been won.

The organization where the dissertation has been accomplished. The research was carried out at the Department of Library Science of the faculty of Library Science and Information at Baku State University.

The total volume of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, conclusion, references, list of appendices and abbreviations. The total volume of the work is 174 pages 225. 673 characters. The structural sections of the dissertation consist of Introduction 21.218, Chapter I - 50.044, Chapter II - 98.084, Chapter III - 43191, Conclusion - 13136.

II. THE BASIC CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The topicality of the subject has been substantiated, the literature review, aim and objectives of the research, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, research methods, the main propositions for defending the thesis, approbation, the volume and structure of the thesis have been presented in the “**Introduction**” of the thesis.

The first chapter of the thesis is entitled “**The period of formation and evolution of international relations of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov**”. In the first paragraph of this chapter entitled “**Formation of international**

relations of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov (1923-1950)”, the first stage of the activity of the National Library in the field of international relations has been identified as one of the main actors in the formation of the information environment in Azerbaijan, the features and development trends of this stage have been studied on the basis of concrete historical facts.

In this paragraph, terms such as “international relations” and “international cooperation” have been explained in various forms in a number of sources and some scientific considerations have been construed. In the scientific literature, international relations are defined as a special social relationship that goes beyond internal and regional relations, territorial units. According to the famous French sociologist Raymond Aron, the content of international relations is comprised of mainly relations between states. Therefore, he cites interstate agreements as an example. Unlike Aron, the American political scientist D. Caporazo believes that the basis of the content of international relations in modern times is not relations between states, but relations between classes, socio-economic groups and political powers. Russian scientist, doctor in philosophical sciences, Professor P.A.Chigankov also believes that, “international relations are relations between individual countries, companies, non-governmental organizations, companies and individuals”²⁷

International cooperation is a manifestation of international relations characterized by the constant development of direct international relations. “International cooperation” in the research, means the term that defines international relations between the subjects of cooperation - countries, organizations, libraries.

The international relations of the libraries until a certain period of time, were irregular, episodic in nature and did not significantly affect the development of library work as a whole. In order to expand the international relations of the libraries, it was necessary to involve more participants in them. Only in the 1920s, after the main directions of international cooperation between libraries were identified and sectoral international organizations were established, concrete steps

²⁷ Курс международного права: понятие, определение и система международного права: [в 7 томах]. – Москва: – т. 1. – 1989. – с. 10.

were taken in this direction. The establishment of the National Library named after M.F.Akhundov, which is the object of the research, coincides with this time. Professor A.Khalafov notes in his research that, on May 23, 1923, the grand opening of the Azerbaijan National Library took place. When the library was opened, it had two departments (the Department of European Literature and the Department of Oriental Literature), and the fund had 20,441 copies of books. There were only 13 librarians in the library.²⁸ The Azerbaijan National Library had been receiving compulsory copies from the book chambers of the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, the Turkmen SSR, the Georgian SSR since 1923, and from the Book Chambers of the Uzbekistan SSR since 1925. During 1923-1927, the library received 178,975 copies of books through compulsory copies. Since 1925, the library had more than 200,000 books in its national collection, consisting of sources in Azerbaijani, Russian and dozens of foreign languages. The development of the library's international relations has been intensified since 1928, the library has received 50 foreign periodicals during this period.²⁹

In 1930, the Azerbaijan National Library exchanged books in the field of international relations with 150 scientific and educational institutions and libraries from the United States, Portugal, Finland, England, Turkey, Iran, Denmark, Sweden and France. During this period, there was a tendency to buy books from individuals.³⁰ In the second half of the 1930s, there was an increase in the number of internationally paid orders. If in 1936 the number of orders paid through the SBL (Subscription Between Libraries) was 6, by 1939 this number had grown rapidly to 526.³¹ Despite all the difficulties during the war, the library did a lot to improve the book fund with new literature, to buy new books, to get rare books. The library received

²⁸ Xələfov, A.A. Azərbaycanca kitabxana işinin tarixi: Dərslük / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: BUN, – h.2. – 2007. – s. 273.

²⁹ Ibid, – s. 275.

³⁰ Tağıyev, H. Sovet hakimiyyəti illərində Azərbaycanda kitabxana işinin inkişafı / H.Tağıyev. – Bakı: – 1960. – 135 s.

³¹Məmmədov, M.Ə. Azərbaycan Respublikası kitabxanalarında kitabxanalararası abonement sistemi (tarixi inkişafı, müasir vəziyyəti, perspektivləri 1918-1990): / ped. elm. nam. dis. / – Bakı,1999. – s. 49.

8,925 copies of new books in 1942, 13,762 copies in 1944, and 83,932 copies in 1945. At the same time, the analysis of the activity of the library on SBL in 1941-1945 shows that during these years the number of subscribers increased from 1,500 to 4,268. The number of books distributed through SBL was 4,185 in 1941, 2,316 in 1942, 2,765 in 1943, 7,407 in 1944, and 7,079 in 1945. These facts show that, despite the difficulties of the war, the library developed book exchange activities to meet the needs of readers.³²

Thus, during 1923-1950, i.e. in the first stage of its activity, the Azerbaijan National Library began to take the first steps in the field of international relations on all parameters, which allowed the population to achieve significant results in library services.

In the second paragraph of the chapter, entitled “Formation and development of international relations of the Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov (1951-1990)”, the activity of the National Library in the field of international cooperation has been comprehensively and chronologically studied within the opportunities provided by the existing regime against the background of the socio-political processes of the period mentioned. The measures taken by the library in the field of international library subscription, the emergence of various forms of cooperation have been presented on the basis of concrete historical facts.

In the post-war period, the Azerbaijan National Library reorganized all directions of its activities as a major center of library construction, including international book exchange. At the same time, the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party by its decision of July 1955, highlighted the necessity of expanding relations with foreign research institutions and exchanging scientific and technical information. This decision played a certain role in the history of international relations of libraries. Important processes taking place in the world during this period opened new opportunities for international information exchange. Thus, the convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1958 and was ratified in the USSR in 1962, became the main normative-legal document in regulating and implementing the international book exchange of libraries. On December 3, 1958,

³² Ibid, – s. 120.

UNESCO adopted the “Convention on the international exchange of publications” and the “Convention on the exchange of official publications and government documents between states”. Both conventions were ratified on September 11, 1962 by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.³³

The 50s of the XX century were a period of comprehensive development in general, despite the existing difficulties in the history of the National Library. From 1951 to 1959, the library’s fund increased from 970,170 copies to 2,058,425 copies, the number of readers increased from 5,515 to 7,221, and the circulation of books increased from 244,159 to 412,192 copies. In general, the National Library has served 63,253 readers over the years, providing them with 3,657,426 copies of literature in the fields of science, technology, economics and culture.³⁴

The foreign department of international book exchange had been operating as a section under the library collection department since its establishment. The Department of Foreign Literature and International Book Exchange was separated from the Department of Collection in 1965 and continued to operate as an independent department. Until 1965, the fund of the Department of Foreign Literature had 130,012 copies of literature. Researches show that, in the 60s of the XX century, the National Library established international relations on book exchange with scientific institutions, the majority of socialist countries, as well as Iran and Turkey. It should be noted that, only in 1965, 57 books were brought and 112 books were sent through exchanging.³⁵

Thus, Azerbaijan became a participant in international cultural relations within the opportunities provided by the existing political regime in 1951-1990. Of course, international cultural relations were not carried out independently, but directly as part of the foreign policy

³³ Babaxanova, N.X. *Beynəlxalq informasiya mühiti və elmi mədəni inteqrasiya* / N.X.Babaxanova. – Bakı: “Zərdabi LTD” MMC nəşriyyatı, – 2017. – s. 62.

³⁴ Tahirov, K.M. *Dünya milli kitabxanaları* / K.M.Tahirov. – Bakı: BUN, – 2013. – s. 63-69.

³⁵ Аббасова, А. *Тенденции развития и совершенствования деятельности Азербайджанской Государственной Библиотеки им. М.Ф.Ахундова (1959-1985 г.г.): / автореф. дис. ... канд. ист. наук. / – Баку, 1990.– с. 17.*

of the Soviet state.

The second chapter of the thesis is entitled **“The Azerbaijan National Library in the system of international scientific and cultural relations of the republic during its years of independence”**. This chapter consists of four paragraphs. The first paragraph of the chapter entitled **“International scientific and cultural relations of the National Library in the years of independence and the Heydar Aliyev stage”**, examines the special services of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev (who paid great attention and care to the development of Azerbaijani culture and the preservation of our cultural treasures for future generations) in the development of library work in Azerbaijan, in particular, in the improvement of the activities of the Azerbaijan National Library.

The first visit of the Great Leader to the National Library On June 3, 1995, coincided with the exhibition of the miniature book “Oath of allegiance to the motherland, state and people”, which was held in the library at the initiative of the National Committee of the Women of Azerbaijan, Republican Book Society and the US company STARK Enterprises. In his in-depth and programmatic speech at the exhibition, the Great Leader praised the event, but also identified the place and role of books and libraries, and paid special attention to their role in the future development of society.³⁶ At the ceremony, the Great Leader inquired about the state of the supply of the library with new literature and instructed to eliminate the shortcomings in this area, as well as to allocate extra 5,000 US dollars to the library every year in order supplement the National Library's fund with literature in foreign languages.³⁷ It had a positive impact on the library's collection of new books, the enrichment of the fund, the increase in the number of readers, and the development of the library's international relations. During his first visit, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, the savior of the people and culture, presented more than 300 books to the National Library on various fields of science from his personal library.

³⁶ Xələfov, A.A. Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanı kitabxana işi / A.A.Xələfov. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 2006. – s. 97.

³⁷ Tahirov, K.M. Dünya milli kitabxanaları / K.M.Tahirov. – Bakı: BUN, – 2013. – s. 178.

In the second paragraph of the second chapter, entitled **“International book exchange of the National Library in a global information environment: History of Formation and Development”**, the position of the National Library in the international information environment, the history of the formation and development of international book exchange have been thoroughly studied on the basis of important documents.

The position of Azerbaijani libraries in the international information environment has been strengthened during the tenure of President İlham Aliyev, a prominent and consistent successor of Heydar Aliyev’s policy, and this area has been given serious importance and significance. Almost all documents adopted in the field of science, education and culture, initiated and signed by Mr. President, pay special attention to libraries, their development and integration into the international community. The presidential decrees “On the implementation of mass publications in the Azerbaijani language with latin script” signed on January 12, 2004, “On approval of the list of works to be published in the Azerbaijani language in latin script in 2005-2006” signed on December 27, 2004, “On improving the activities of libraries in Azerbaijan” signed on April 20, 2007 are important program documents, that are directly dedicated to library work and of great strategic importance. The last decree touched upon a very important problem – the problem of identifying and bringing valuable Azerbaijani books kept in large national libraries of foreign countries to our republic. The decree states: “Since ancient times, our country has been distinguished by its high book culture and rich libraries. Numerous manuscripts of Azerbaijan kept in various libraries and reflecting the literary, aesthetic, scientific and cultural ideas of our people have been taken abroad as a result of the events in the region since the beginning of the XIX century. It has been protected in the world libraries forming the basis of Eastern funds.”³⁸

If we make a comparative analysis of the international activities of the library in 2006 and 2016, the period involved in the study, we

³⁸ Kitabxana işinə dair rəsmi sənədlər (Qanun və qanun qüvvəli normativ hüquqlu sənədlər toplusu) / tərt. K.Tahirov. – 3-cü təkmilləşdirilmiş nəşri. – Bakı: – 2015. – s. 92.

can clearly see the difference. Thus, in 2006, the library received 1296 copies of literature from the Library of Congress, the National Library of France and the Parliamentary Library of Japan. At the same time, 900 copies of books were sent based on the requests from foreign countries. In 2016, these indicators differed significantly: 1812 copies of literature were received, 5043 copies of books were sent.

Thus, the study of the international relations of the National Library during the years of independence shows that, although the library was in a period of stagnation in this area in the first years of independence, the situation changed with the visit of the Great Leader to the National Library and ordered the allocation of funds for the purchase of foreign literature. The books were already being purchased for the citizens of the country to read and sent to foreign countries, relations were established with a number of countries, and agreements on mutual cooperation were concluded. This policy was later successfully pursued by President Ilham Aliyev. If in the 90s of the XX century there were a small number of foreign libraries cooperating with the National Library, today the number of these libraries has exceeded 50. In the first years of independence, if the National Library was represented in a very small number of exhibitions in other countries, but today the Azerbaijani book is displayed at the exhibitions in about 10 countries every year. If earlier 200-300 books were sent to foreign countries for exchange, today this figure has exceeded 5,000. Naturally, this development trend in the system of international relations is the result of a fundamental state policy, and the National Library is expanding its relations in this direction and is looking for new horizons in international relations.

The third paragraph of the second chapter is entitled **“Scientific, cultural and organizational activities of the National Library with world libraries, international organizations: current status and development”**. It is emphasized that, the cooperation with the world library organizations is one of the priority directions in the system of international relations of the Azerbaijan National Library. Through these organizations, on the one hand, the achievements in the field of library work in the world are studied, on the other hand, these innovative innovations are used in the development of a strategy for

the modernization of the library. TURKSOY, IFLA, ECO, CENL, BAE and others have been highlighted among these organizations and the features of the cooperation with them, the main directions of scientific, cultural and organizational activity have been discussed. It is noted that, the Azerbaijan National Library has pursued a policy with many international organizations based on reciprocal benefits, participated in a number of conferences and seminars, and represented the republic at international exhibitions abroad. However, today there are gaps in the exchange of experience of librarians abroad, which is important for the development of libraries. Although library staff participated in a number of seminars, trainings and courses in the period involved in the study, this was not regular and there is a great need for the development of international exchange of experience.

The current international scientific and cultural relations between Turkic-speaking countries, their development, the integration of cultures of Turkic nations and the activities of TURKSOY – the International Organization of Turkic Culture in this proses have been thoroughly studied in the second section of the second paragraph, entitled **“The activities of TURKSOY, organization and prospects of international cooperation with Turkic-speaking countries”**.

The fourth paragraph of the second chapter, entitled “Cultural and historical values and the multicultural activity of the National Library in the system of international relations”, explains multicultural values, the main components of the policy of multiculturalism in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The multicultural model presented by Azerbaijan to the world is a model that ensures the coexistence of nations in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The model of multiculturalism means that different ethnocultural parties coexist peacefully within the borders of a state and have the right to formally express and preserve their cultural characteristics and way of life.³⁹

The activities carried out by the National Library to promote multiculturalism gives grounds to say that, guided by the documents prepared by international organizations on the standards of

³⁹ Multikulturalizm Azərbaycanın həyat tərzidir: metodik tövsiyələr / tərt. M.Hacıyeva, N.Alışova. – Bakı: M.F.Axundov adına Azərbaycan Milli Kitabxanası, – 2016. – s. 4.

multicultural libraries, as well as the state policy on this area, the National Library has successfully implemented the formation of the multiculturalism fund in Azerbaijan, promotion of cultural values, concept of organizing a library-bibliographic and information service for the cultural population and will continue to do so in the future.

The third chapter of the thesis is entitled **“International cooperation in the field of informatization of the National Library: current status and prospects for development”** and consists of two paragraphs. In the first paragraph, entitled **“Defining the place and role of new reforms and grant projects in the development of international relations”**, the role of grant projects in the reconstruction of the library has been studied in historical chronology, the goals and objectives of each project, the obtained results have been examined. It is noted that, the researcher was the author and coordinator of about 10 projects in 5 directions on the development of international relations of library work, library informatization in the Azerbaijan National Library from 1998 to 2002.

The first direction was to connect to the international Internet network and 3 projects were prepared and won;

The second direction was on the establishment of the Training Center and continuing education, grants were won for 3 projects;

The third direction is on the application of automated management program;

The fourth direction was implemented on creation of electronic library;

The fifth direction was on the international book exchange.

Within the framework of the projects implemented by the researcher, 4 new departments were established on the initiative and efforts of the current leadership of the Azerbaijan National Library according to the staff list approved on January 27, 2006. These are:

- electronic information service department;
- library staff training and education department;
- electronic resource creation department;
- department of Automation of library and bibliographic processes and information technologies.

Thus, the grant projects of the Azerbaijan National Library and

all the terms of the grant have been successfully implemented and the library has proved to be a reliable partner.

The second paragraph of the third chapter is entitled **“Prospects for the development of international relations in the field of informatization of the National Library”**. As a result of his research, the researcher studied the international experience of the Azerbaijan National Library, reflected the main directions of its informatization policy, and was able to identify the tasks in this area with conclusive facts and theoretical provisions.

In the “Conclusions” of the thesis, the outcomes of the research have been summarized, the main scientific-theoretical and practical results have been presented, concrete proposals and recommendations for the solution of existing problems have been provided.

In conclusion, it is important to note that, the proposals, scientific, theoretical and practical activities, recommendations are aimed at expanding further activities of the National Library at the international level, solving current issues in the field of international cooperation in our republic based on the systematic and purposeful activities of the library in this area and the world experience.

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following scientific works:

1. Kitabxanaların yeni əməkdaşlıq formaları // Mədəni-maarif, – 2003. № 10. – s. 42-45.
2. Azərbaycan kitabxanaçıları Amerika Birləşmiş Ştatlarında // Kitabxanaşünaslıq və biblioqrafiya, – 2003. № 2. – s. 122-130.
3. Kitabxanaların fəndrayziq fəaliyyəti: bakalavr hazırlığı üçün fənn proqramı / M.Hacıyeva. – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, – 2005. – 15 s.
4. Kitabxanaçıların fasiləsiz təhsilinin təşkilində Milli Kitabxananın rolu // Kitabxanaşünaslıq və biblioqrafiya, – 2005. № 1. – s. 71-84.
5. “Mustafa Kamal Atatürk və türkcülük” adlı kitab sərgisi haqqında // “Mustafa Kamal Atatürk və türkcülük” mövzusunda elmi konfransın materialları, – Bakı: AzAtaM, –

- М.Ф.Ахундова в организации непрерывного обучения библиотечных кадров // Вестник Библиотечной Ассамблеи Евразии (БАЕ), – 2016. № 3. – с. 34-36.
15. Azərbaycan Milli Kitabxanası və TÜRKSOY türk xalqlarının ədəbi-mədəni əlaqələri müstəvisində / “Kitabxana-informasiya fəaliyyəti və fənlərarası inteqrasiya” mövzusunda beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – Bakı, – 2016. – s. 86-89.
 16. Azərbaycanda kitabxanaçı kadrların fasiləsiz təhsilinin təşkilində Milli Kitabxananın rolu / “E-kitabxanaların formalaşması problemləri” mövzusunda respublika elmi-praktiki konfransının materialları, – Bakı, – 2016. – s. 92-94.
 17. Azərbaycan Milli Kitabxanası türk xalqlarının mədəniyyətlərinin inteqrasiyası sistemində (1994-2014) // Kitabxanaşünaslıq və informasiya, – Bakı, – 2017. № 1 (22). – s. 57-68.
 18. Milli Kitabxananın beynəlxalq kitabxana təşkilatlarında elmi, mədəni və təşkilati fəaliyyətinin əsas istiqamətləri // Kitabxanaşünaslıq və biblioqrafiya, – Bakı, – 2017. № 1 (40). – s. 49-60.
 19. Роль и задачи Национальной Библиотеки в пропаганде идей мультикультурализма в Азербайджане / М.Гаджиева // «Гілея» науковий вісник. Збірник наукових праць. Киев: Видавництво «Гілея», – 2017. Вып. 7 (122). – с. 132-137.
 20. Heydər Əliyev Milli Kitabxananın inkişafının təminatçısı kimi // Mədəniyyət.az., – Bakı, –2018. №3 (319). – s. 46-49.
 21. Milli Kitabxananın inkişafında Heydər Əliyev şəxsiyyəti və əldə edilmiş uğurlar / “Kitabxana-informasiya fəaliyyətində innovasiyalar və fənlərarası inteqrasiya” mövzusunda beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları, – Bakı, – 2018. – s. 38-40.
 22. Türk dünyasının tanınmış alimi Abuzər Xələfov // Kitabxanaşünaslıq və biblioqrafiya, – Bakı, – 2019. №2 (45). – s. 78-84.

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