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Development of Public Libraries in Mongolia (1921-1990)

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ABSTRACT

The victory of the people's revolution in Mongolia in 1921 became the basis for the rapid development of modern science. One example of this is the public library. ("Historical Bureau – National Library of Mongolia" 2021) In 1924, the First Great Khural of the State convened, adopted a new constitution, and declared the country as the Republic of Mongolia, which marked a new stage of development.

Mongolians are with a tradition of valuing books since ancient times. The Mongolian library tradition is inextricably linked to the development of Mongolian book publishing and originates from the home library (Bazar 2000, 30). The Mongols established libraries in Central Asia in the 8th century and in Asia Minor in the 13th century (Tsagaach 1995, 12). Later, from the end of the 16th century to the end of the 19th century, library collections in Mongolia increased, especially the number of libraries near temples. Since this time, the problem of spreading, popularizing and reporting books has become quite intense (Tsezen 1999, 154).

The victory of the people's revolution in Mongolia in 1921 became the basis for the rapid development of modern science. One example of this is the public library. ("Historical Bureau – National Library of Mongolia" 2021) In 1924, the First Great Khural of the State convened, adopted a new constitution, and declared the country as the Republic of Mongolia, which marked a new stage of development.

By the decision of the State Conference, on November 19, 1921, when The Institute of Sutra and Scripts was established, a library with about 2000 books was established next to it. Since its establishment, the library has been working in the field of spreading knowledge and providing information services to the people.

The proof of this is that, at the tenth meeting held on November 24, 1923, the members of the Institute of Sutra and Scripts decided that "if anyone wants, they will sit and read the rare books and scriptures of the National Institute from ten to four o'clock at the Institute's place and sign their names" (Bayanzul M. 1991, 10-11). The document is considered to be the first news that modern library services have started to be accessible to the public.

In addition to intensifying the work of the library, there was talk of establishing a branch of the library in the locality. For the establishment of a library at the People's Stadium in Altanbulag, 110 books of 17 titles were delivered from the library of the Institute of Scripture along with official letters.

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In the official letter, "Institute of Sutra and Scripts is sending a letter to the library of the people's stadium in Altanbulag city. In the library established in Altanbulag city, sixteen items were prepared from the books published by our Institute of Scripture, and the names were listed and delivered to the library of the people's stadium of Altanbulag city free of charge. We sent it is a token of inquiry to be received and answered as soon as it arrived. Fifteen year. Eighteenth of six months. Number 80. Chief Jamiyan" (M, NCA, TBA, P23, D.1, HN. 66 1925, p.76-78)

11 years after that, in 1936, a library named "Conference Reading Room" was established in Uvs province under the Provincial Education Department. Since 1938, the library began to serve the people with more than 700 volumes of books and one full-time employee (Brief introduction of the Central Library of Uvs province, 2013), in 1938, a reading room with about 500 volumes and one employee was established in Khovd province under the name of "Reading room" (Public library introduction of Khovd province 2021) became the beginning of the development of public library in the locality.

In 1940, at the administration conference of the Institute of Science, the rule of the library was approved, and the library was called the "Public library". By increasing the staff and staff and budget of the library, the scope of providing services to the public has expanded.

At a time when the war was raging in the world and the country was going through difficult times, the government was doing a lot of work to improve the culture and education of rural and local people.

In the resolution of the sixty-sixth meeting of the leaders of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, dated September 21, 1942, "Reorganizing and improving the work of the Palace of Culture as a place of education for young people" it was stated that the palace of Culture should be a place to spread culture and education to young people".

In accordance with this goal, it was decided to make the following organization, including: b) to establish library and reading center in locality (Resolutions and Decisions of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party: 1940-1947, 1985, p.135). As a result, many libraries and reading centers were built in the Red corner and Palace of Culture of Soums.

In the resolution of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party approved on May 11, 1944 "on the state of political and enlightenment work in the country and the measures to be taken to improve it"

In order to expand the work of politics and enlightenment among the masses and to improve its quality, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party shall establish:

4. transfer the below-mentioned official organizations and activities to the General Office for Political Affairs and Enlightenment. It includes:

a) All clubs, red gher, red corners working in provincial and soum.

It shall be determined that the work of the clubs affiliated to trade unions and other organization, as well as the red corners of any official organization or industrial department, shall be generally managed by the General Department of Political and Enlightenment Affairs.

ə) Eradication of illiteracy among adults

н) Organization and management of central and local libraries

o) These are local cinemas in provincial centers and works of other organizations of public interest. (Resolutions and decisions of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party: 1940-1947, 1987, p.240-243) aimed to spread culture and enlightenment by establishing and managing libraries in central and local areas. As a result of the resolution of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Political Bureau of the Mongolian People's revolutionary Party, public libraries began to operate in local areas.

For example: the public library of Bayankhongor province was established in 1944 under the Department of education with about 300 volumes, one librarian, and the name "Reading Center" (The library of Bayankhongor province, 2021)

The Central library of Dornogovi Province was established by order No.28 of the Ministry of Culture of the Mongolian People's Republic dated February 28, 1945 (Introduction 2022)

The Central library of Dornod province was established by the order No.146 of the Heads of Choibalsan province on February 27, 1946, with 300 books and one employee (Central library of Dornod province, 2021)

The library of Sukhbaatar province was established in 1947 by the decision of Head of Javkhalant Sharga province under the Department of Education with 1 staff and 300 books (Brief Introduction of Public library of Sukhbaatar province, 2017)

The Central library of Bayan-Olgii province was established in 1949 by the decision of the provincial conference with a collection of 750 books (The Central library of Bayan-Olgii province, 2021)

In order to improve the development of the library, to fulfil the growing demand and to increase the access to culture of the work to be implemented in the following years was decided at the state policy level, which was reflected in the resolutions and guidelines issued by the party congress at the time.

One proof of this is the guidelines issued by the 13th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party regarding the three-year plan for the development of the national economy and culture of the Mongolian People's Republic in 1958-1960.

According to the guidelines, "Taking into account the growing cultural needs of the people, increase the number of clubs, red corners, libraries and cinemas"

It includes: a) by the end of 1960, to increase of clubs to 70, red corners to 513, libraries to 45, moving films to 354, of which to 336 in the provinces (Decisions of the General Assembly and Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party: 1921-1962, 1963, p.80-95)

and implemented a policy to improve accessibility by increasing the number of libraries. Not only the planning, but also its implementation, the results of the policy and the achievements were recorded.

In the resolution of May 6, 1964 of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, entitled "About the results of the Cultural offensive", it is stated that "the work of the cultural offensive organized throughout the country since 1959 ... played an important role in achieving the goal ... in the last two years, libraries and reading places have expanded, and the interest of workers in reading has increased dramatically.

In 1963, compared to 1961, the number of libraries increased by 3.4 times, and their book stock almost doubled. (Documents related to the history of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party: 1961-1970, 1970, p.147)

At that time, the Government paid a lot of attention to increasing the availability of library services, which was the Resolution No. 388 of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's republic dated July 27, 1962 "On the State of Library work and measures to be taken in the future".

According to the resolution, "Urban and rural libraries and reading centres are extremely inadequate in terms of material and technical facilities, and some of them are working in buildings that do not have the conditions to carry out their basic work."

"Because of all this, the majority of the population is not only outside the services of libraries and reading rooms, but also cannot get adequate help for independent study", which means that the availability of library services is insufficient. "In order to provide library services to urban workers, the number and location of new libraries to be established by 1963 should be determined, one library for every 20,000 people in the city ... one library for every 5,000-10,000 people in the provincial center. one library for every 1,500-3,000 people in the center of Soum" ("About library work and further measures" 1965, p.62) and so on, many measures to be taken in the direction of increasing access have been determined.

Rank of library was considered to be important in increasing access to library services, and the rank approved by Resolution 388 of 1962 was revised in 1974.

According to Resolution No. 342 of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, dated September 6, 1974, "On Some Measures to be Taken Regarding the Library" In order to strengthen the material base of the library and further improve the service of the library to the working people,

It was decided to rank the library from 1 to 5, taking into account the library's collection and number of citizens involved in the services.

Table No. 1 - Library ranks approved by Resolution No. 342 of 1974

Library ranks	Number of funds	Number of regular readers per librarian per year	Number of books to be read per year	Circulate a percentage of the fund
First rank	>150,000	1,500	18,000	30%
Second rank	90,000-150,000	1,300	15,600	40%
Third rank	40,000-90,000	1,100	12,200	50%
Fourth rank	20,000-40,000	900	10,800	60%
Fifth rank	5000-20,000	560	6,700	70%

This policy was effective at the time, as the library's rank affected many things, including staffing and salary provision. The 5th Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party defined the direction of reforming all spheres of social life, including the cultural sector.

In 1989, the Ministry of Culture was working on the development of "main directions for implementation in the field of culture, art, books and publishing".

Regarding public libraries in the main direction, "It is important to dramatically improve the role of libraries in serving workers with new books."

The results of the research show that the main interest of herders and farmers is not in enriching their personal collection by buying books, but most importantly in finding new books and reading them.

Therefore, it is necessary to test and use flexible and new advanced forms. it includes: to set normative of literary books for one soum according to the its population, to deliver books to as many people as possible through the library, to sell books at discounted prices to people who want to have personal collection, to rent for reading. Social-political, scientific and technical books will be printer in limited quantities, taking into the demand of the relevant library and reader, to deliver readers (Ministry of the Mongolian People's Republic 1989, p.1-2) issued such directions.

The government made many decisions to improve the work of the library and increase the availability of service, and actively implemented them at all stages. Mongolia began to develop democratically in 1990. In the beginning, due to the economic crisis and other factors, the public library function was completely disrupted.

In Mongolia, there were more than 400 public libraries in 1990, but in 2000, their number decreased to 181 public libraries. 165 Soum's libraries were merged with secondary school

libraries, and the reading centers of Children's Library and Ulaanbaatar public library were liquidated and privatized, which limited the citizens access to information, affect the number of customers in the library and interest and activity of children and youth in reading (State Great Khural, 2014). However, since 2000, the condition of public libraries has been improving.

CONCLUSION

The world has recognized that the public library is main centre for citizens to learn and improve their knowledge. Over the past 100 years, Mongolia has highly valued the role of public libraries in improving the knowledge, culture and education of its citizens and has paid considerable attention to its development. Especially since 1944, many public libraries were established, which made a valuable contribution to the culture and education of the people. All this was reflected in the resolutions, decisions and documents of the government at that time.

The directive of 1958 and Resolution No. 388 of 1962 show that the importance of increasing access to services, not just establish libraries, was emphasized. As a result of these resolutions and documents, a lot of work was done and implemented in the field of improving the culture and education of citizens through the public library, seen from the newspaper and magazine articles of that time. It reached the year 1990 with the implementation of government policies such as improving the culture and education of the people through the activities of public libraries, setting the structure, organization and ranking of libraries.

The victory of the democratic revolution brought many changes in economic and social life. Due to legal reform and the economic crisis, the public library function has suffered a lot in 1990-2000, but since 2000, there has been a lot of progress in the development of public library.

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