

Special Libraries in Kazakhstan: an Overview

AnarDautova (Nazarbayev University)

PerizatUtebaliyeva (Eurasian National University)

Joseph Marmol Yap (Nazarbayev University)

Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia where a lot of state and industrial developments are still ongoing as a result of a transition from a Soviet regime. As such, libraries as institutions remain to be a part of its professional reformation. The predominant known types of libraries are categorized as public, academic, or school libraries and library professionals are not aware of the existence of the concept of

special libraries. As libraries continue to improve, cultural and information and knowledge about special libraries are left behind and there is no single association which directly monitors the status of these repositories of knowledge. Hence, information about special libraries are very scarce and no survey has been done to count and know the status of existing special libraries in the country.

There are various types of special libraries depending on its subject specialization. Descriptions on the different types of special libraries were enumerated by the San Jose State University's School of Information (2018) and examples of those may also be seen in Kazakhstan. The list below will provide a glimpse of how diverse special libraries are prevailing in Kazakhstan.

Table 1

Types of special libraries in Kazakhstan

Type of Special Library	Example	Classification	Status
Medical	NUSOM Library	Special-academic Library	Operating
	UMC Hospitals	Hospital library	Needs ocular visit
Legal	KAZGUU Law School Library	Special-academic Law Library	Operating
	Academy of Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan Library	Law Library	Operating
Corporate (Both profit and non-profit)	Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law Library	Non-Government Organization Library	Online
Government	East Kazakhstan Regional Special Library for Blind and Visually Impaired Citizens	Government Library	Operating

	Library of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Leader of the Nation	Personal Library	Operating
	Library of the Parliament	Government Library	Operating
Military	Ministry of Defense Library	Military Library	Needs ocular visit
Cultural	American Corner Library at ENU	Cultural Library	Operating

Based from the table above, we can say that special libraries in different types are present and that special librarians may be working in those institutions.

Meanwhile, the special academic library of Nazarbayev University School of Medicine (NUSOM) and the cultural academic library of the American Corner housed at the Eurasian National University (ENU) would qualify to be active special libraries. Here's a glimpse of these libraries and their great contribution in the Kazakh society.

Nazarbayev University School of Medicine (NUSOM)

The Nazarbayev University School of Medicine was formally established in 2014 and the inaugural class of students started

in August 2015. The school collaborates with the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine and the library development directly benefits from this collaboration.

History

The Nazarbayev University School of Medicine Library was established in June 1, 2017. The Library offers a wide array of information services and resources in print and electronic format to faculty, students, and researchers.

Collection

There are around 6, 000 print books that encompass the following fields of medicine: Public aspects of medicine, Pathology, Internal Medicine, Surgery,

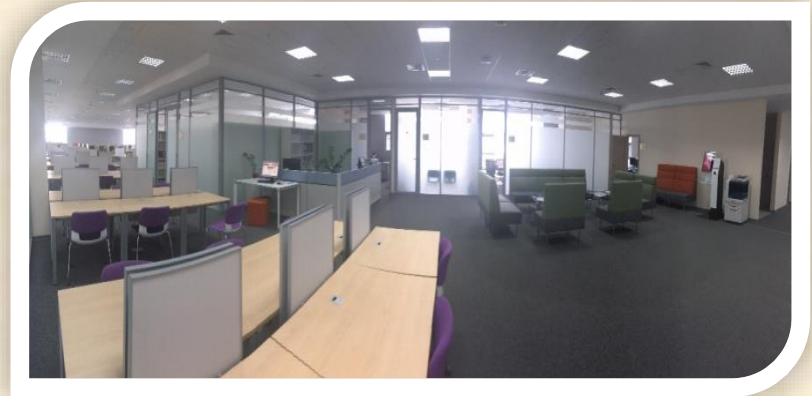
Ophthalmology, Otorhinolaryngology, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Dentistry, Dermatology, Therapeutics, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Nursing, Botany, Thomsonian, and Eclectic Medicine, Homeopathy, and other fields of medicine.

The library is also subscribed to specific databases such as Access Medicine, Clinical Key, UptoDate, Medline Complete, BMJ, USMLE Easy, Bates' Visual Guide to Physical Examination, and Cochrane Library.

Some of its activities include workshops and trainings, individual consultations, orientation programs, library tours, and professional seminars.



The NU School of Medicine



The NU Medical Library

American Corners in Kazakhstan at Eurasian National University

There are 11 American Corners in Kazakhstan. They can be found in major regions and cities of Kazakhstan. American Corners, also called American Spaces, provide American fiction and reference books on U.S. government, history, and culture. The collection is free and open to all residents of Kazakhstan (US Embassy & Consulate in Kazakhstan, n.d.).

History

The American Corner was opened in Eurasian National University in 2015. Today, the American Corner is equipped with modern facilities and up-to-date information resources. For more than two and half years, its activities have become a

comfortable and attractive space for educational, cultural, and leisure services (Daribayeva&Utebaliyeva, 2018).

Collection

There are more than 1,000 books included in their collection, mostly donated by the American Embassy.

Databases

elibraryof USA provides access to four scientific databases namely: Academic OneFile, JSTOR, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, and Research in Context. Currently, the library has also access to Press Reader, an online repository of global newspapers.

Activities

Aside from books and databases, the center also has game boards and other forms of learning technologies like 3D technology and other innovative practical exercises. The corner has a Makerspace lab where 3D printers are available. The corner is also fortunate to have a generous partner through Chevron by augmenting some of the corner's need.

One of the opportunities the American Corner provide for learning and improving English is the American English live webinars offered by the Regional English Language Office (RELO) in Astana under the auspices of the Office of English Language Programs in Washington, D.C. This is a single virtual platform for teachers of English, where they share their experience and the knowledge they learned about their teaching activities.



American Corner at Eurasian National University

Students Use eLibrary USA

The Future Ahead

Although both special libraries are still young, they were able to fulfill their mandate to feed the information need of their patrons. A number of students have graduated from NUSOM. The medical librarian played a vital role in teaching the students in

organizing a systematic review of medical literature. Similarly, students from ENU have learned a lot of skills to improve their English language as well as to develop their thinking skills through the Makerspace. It is hoped that special librarians in the country could meet in the future and establish their own library association that will focus on

their needs and competencies. Currently, there are two active library associations namely, the Library Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Association of University Libraries in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstani librarians are looking forward to be part of a diverse group of special librarians.

References

- Daribayeva, G. G. & Utebaliyeva, P. T. (2018). Lifelong learning: A benchmark for personal growth and new opportunities for university library modernization. 7th International Conference on Emerging Global Trends in University Library Development (Library Connect 2018), Astana, Kazakhstan, 23-24 May 2018 (38-49). Nazarbayev University Library & Eurasian National University. ISSN 2616-597X
- Nazarbayev University School of Medicine. (n.d.). History. Retrieved from http://nusom.nu.edu.kz/nusom/About_us/History
- San Jose State University School of Information. (2018). Types of special libraries / information centers. Retrieved from <http://ischool.sjsu.edu/career-development/career-direction/environments/special-libraries/types>
- US Embassy & Consulate in Kazakhstan. (n.d.). American spaces. Retrieved from <https://kz.usembassy.gov/education-culture/american-spaces/>
- AnarDautovais the Expert-Manager, Patron Services Department of Nazarbayev University Medical Library, Astana, Kazakhstan.
- PerizatUtebaliyeva is the American Corner Librarian from Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Joseph Marmol Yapis the Subject Librarian for the Graduate School of Education and the Foundation Program & Expert-Manager, Reference Department, Nazarbayev University Library, Astana, Kazakhstan. He is currently a member of the Awards Committee and Membership Committee of SLA Asia. He is also the Country Representative of SLA Asia in Kazakhstan.

Revision of Categorization of Government Libraries: Latest Development