

# **The Role of Academic Libraries in the Formation of Information Resources in the Field of Architecture and Construction in Azerbaijan**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose.** The purpose of this paper is to describe the influence of academic libraries in the formation of information resources in the field of architecture and construction in Azerbaijan Republic. This paper will describe funds, electronic resources, bibliographic databases and also electron catalogs which are available in academic libraries about this field.

**Methodology.** The article uses complex methods that complement each other. At the same time, documents in the field were analyzed, taking into account the method of systematic approach, attention was paid to the theoretical and practical analysis of the literature on the problem under study. Statistical and chronological methods were used for researching how many academic libraries are available in Azerbaijan and how they are working with the fields of architecture and construction science.

**Findings.** Initial findings indicate that there are some important libraries that were established in the last century and their activities are at the level of modern requirements. They also work with huge international databases.

**Practical applications.** As in the case in all areas, the study of document and information flow related to architecture and construction is directly related to libraries. Thus, the library is one of the main and historically original information institutions that provide public access to socially important document information, one of the producers of information products and services.

**Originality/value.** Nowadays as the importance of architecture and construction science is increasing, there is no doubt that information resources in this field also become valuable. That is why we need to collect, organize, and create a repository so users will have access to these data. Academic libraries fulfill its mission.

**Keywords** Academic libraries, electronic catalog, new technologies, information resources, Azerbaijan

## INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of the construction sector in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the adoption of state programs on architecture and construction and the inclusion of provisions in these programs, as well as the implementation of extensive construction and design work by international companies influence construction corporations in their country. As a result of the formation of a system of basic higher and secondary special education in the field of construction, the document-information resources related to this field are increasing. In this regard, the role of academic libraries is very important.

Located at the crossroads of European and Asian cultures, Azerbaijan has established a powerful architectural school that combines the synthesis of national features with the world's leading traditions of architecture (Amanzade, 2013).

As is the case in all areas, the study of document and information flow related to architecture and construction is directly related to libraries. Thus, the library is one of the main and historically original information institutions that provides public access to socially important document information, and is one of the producers of information products and services.

The limited resources of the written sources make it difficult to study ancient cities and settlements; therefore, the results of archaeological excavations, which provide important material evidence of the life of cities and settlements of Caucasus Albania, are of particular importance.

Researchers began to pay special attention to the study of archeological monuments in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, the ancient material items found in Azerbaijan in the 19th century were being transported to museums in Tbilisi, Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Paris.

Since 1958 extensive archeological excavations have been carried out in Azerbaijan to study the history of Azerbaijan, particularly Caucasus Albania. The Xinisli, Gabala, and Torpakkala expeditions were organized to gain valuable information on the history and culture of Caucasian Albania.

The works of the ancient authors - Strabon, Plutarch, Ptolemy, Dion Cassi, and others contain extensive information on Atropatena and Albania.

The article describes the role of academic libraries in creation, formation, and current state of library information resources in the field of architecture and construction, as well as the influence of new technologies to this work.

## ACADEMIC LIBRARIES OF AZERBAIJAN

The work on the creation and use of bibliographic databases in Azerbaijan attracts the attention of high school libraries. Thus, since 1999, the work on creation of electronic catalogs in the scientific libraries of Baku State University (BSU), ADA University Library, Khazar University, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction has been carried out. The activities of the Central

Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan in the direction of enrichment of libraries and information resources on architecture are of particular importance.

The Scientific Library of Baku State University is one of the richest libraries of Azerbaijan. Baku State University was founded in 1919. The Library was created in the same year and played an important role in the structure of the university. Today the Scientific Library is the cultural and spiritual center of the students and teachers, which works with 49 universities of 21 countries in the exchange of information.

The ADA University Library is the most modern library in Azerbaijan which has a state-of-the-art technology infrastructure. The library operates on the basis of the standards of the Library of Congress and the American Library Association. Its collection consists of more than 44,000 resources in English, Azerbaijani, Russian and other languages. Readers use more than 500,000 e-books and various full-text scientific periodicals. The Millennium Automated Library-Information System used in the library has been replaced by the new OCLC WMS Library-Information System, and now all information processes of the library are automated through this system (Cooperation between libraries, 2018).

Khazar University LIC as the intellectual heart of the university community, provides quality support for teaching, learning, and research through their staff, collections, programs, spaces, and services.

The Library of Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, created in 1977, is the largest specialized institution in the library information support system for architects in Azerbaijan. At present there are 547 285 copies of literature, magazines and abstracts. The university also has an electronic library for students, teachers and other readers.

In recent years, the library has joined EBSCO, IEEE Xplore, Cambridge Journals, Oxford Reference, Emerald, IOP Publishing and POLPRED. The Library of Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction has established its activities at the level of modern requirements. The main task of the library is to promptly meet the information needs of university students through traditional and electronic libraries and provide them with comprehensive information (Annual reports 2015).

The Central Scientific Library is a custodian of rich scientific literature, an excellent documentary fund on architecture, a source of development of scientific thought, as well as an integral part of the infrastructure of architectural science. The Central Scientific Library played a great role in the development of Azerbaijani science and architecture, training of scientific personnel, specialists and professional architects during its activity for about 90 years.

Today, the Library as a magnificent book temple is the largest scientific library in the country in the fields of natural sciences, technology, social, economic and architecture, and currently has more than 4 million information resources in 50 languages. This rich treasure includes scientific monographs, rare and

valuable publications, dissertations, periodicals, maps and atlases, information publications, fine arts materials and electronic publications published in the languages of Azerbaijan, Eastern and European peoples from the Middle Ages to the present day, reflecting various fields of science and architecture.

According to the decision of the Presidium of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, the Library has been preparing personal bibliographic indexes from the series «Figures of science and culture of Azerbaijan» since 1964, dedicated to the scientific achievements of Azerbaijani scientists, as well as prominent architects, and their life and works. In the '60s and '70s of the last century, prominent architects such as S. Dadashov, A. Gasimzade, MA Useynov and others had bibliographic indexes prepared for them.

During this period, the Library prepared about 100 personal bibliographic indexes, including Sh.Fatullayev, J.Giyasi, R. Afendiyev, K.Kerimov, A.Salamzade, J. Jafarov and others.

There is a great deal of literature on the problems of modern architecture development. Their authors made a significant contribution to the study of the dynamics of modern architecture in Azerbaijan during the 1920s up to 2010s including the nature of its development (Amanzade, 2013).

Parallel with the extension of the experience of architecture and urban planning in Azerbaijan, systematic scientific research was also carried out. As a result, the country's architecture has been extensively studied with scholars discovering the valuable architectural heritage of Azerbaijani people in large-scale works of S.A. Dadashov, M.A. Huseynov, L.S. Bretanitsky, A.V. Salamzade, G.M. Alizadeh, and E.A. Gasimzade. Features of the evolution of creative searches and the features of architectural planning in this period were also included.

For a long time, the issues of bibliographic information support of architecture have been studied in other bibliographic disciplines. However, in the last quarter of the 20th century there was a need to distinguish bibliography of architecture as an independent field of bibliographic sciences and this direction was formed. Architectural bibliography is closely linked to the areas of science and practice. The documents available in this area can be distinguished by a number of features. The content and direction of development of scientific research on architecture also influences the content of documents in this area. This development is primarily due to the dynamics of the development of architectural science itself. The dynamics of architecture development are constantly changing and evolving. Sometimes over a period of time, rapid improvement and development in a separate area is noticeable. Of course, the flow of documents in this area is also increasing (Petersohn, 2014).

Another characteristic feature of architecture is that the specifics of question literature, vocabulary and encyclopedias are very high in the flow of documents in this area. For example, scholars make extensive use of questionnaires in the field of restoration and reconstruction of monuments, technical passports of the field, various tables and schemes.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES ON ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE IN AZERBAIJAN**

It has become clear that the architecture of Azerbaijan can be classified into the following types:

### **1. Studies devoted to the history of Azerbaijan architecture:**

The main purpose of these works is to thoroughly study and evaluate the past architectural heritage in order to identify the future ways of its development based on the progressive traditions of Azerbaijani architecture. Such works are usually devoted to the history of architecture, to different periods and to the history of the development of architectural schools.

Such works, considered serious research in the study of the history of Azerbaijan architecture, are of particular importance in the documentary mass of our architecture due to the issues covered, the rich material and the richness of the content.

### **2. Scientific Critical Works on the Problems of Creativity in Architectural Art in Azerbaijan:**

Books devoted to theoretical problems of architecture in Azerbaijan makeup the majority of the documents in architecture including critical works of deep scientific research that assist in development of the architecture of the relevant period, as well as analyzing and detailing the main creative issues of modern architecture, public content, form, crafts, and style issues in architectural creativity publications covering problems. In the documentary and information space of Azerbaijan architecture. Moreover, dozens of such works have emerged during the historical development stages of architecture; moreover, this rich theoretical heritage written by prominent architects and young researchers was closely involved in the development of Azerbaijan architecture.

### **3. Monographs on separate representatives of Azerbaijan architecture:**

In this type of material, depending on the personality, position, and role of the art in the history of the work, the main directions of its period, life and creativity, the scientific heritage, the stages of development of its creativity are summarized. The personal bibliographic indexes devoted to separate representatives of Azerbaijani architecture can also be considered as an important library-information resource in the field of architecture.

### **4. Information documents:**

Documents that are informative in nature include scientific, mass, and factual data in relation to one or the other sciences, fields of knowledge and persons such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, and reference books and etc. As in all areas, the effectiveness of scientific and practical activities in the field of architecture depends on the provision of information. The increase in the flow of documents on architecture, the intensification of library, and information needs have necessitated

the creation of new methods and technologies of bibliographic activity in this field, including bibliographic support (Aliyev, 2009).

The culture of Azerbaijani people with deep and different historical roots is a complex and inseparable part of the world culture. Azerbaijani scientists have made invaluable contributions to the study and systematization of these roots. Their works have led to the separation of the architectural heritage of Azerbaijan from scientifically unfounded, unscientific concepts that deny the originality of the cultures of different peoples, outside of time and space, as well as of an indeterminate nature.

The location of library and information resources on architecture in Azerbaijan is one of the important factors for the organization of scientific research in the field of architecture and bibliographic research in this field. Scientific-research activity on architecture in our republic is organized on the basis of sectoral-administrative division, and based on this division, the following components can be distinguished:

- Institutions and structural units within the State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture, Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Ministry of Emergency Situations engaged in architectural research;
- Institute of Architecture and Art of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences;
- Architectural departments (faculties) operating in public and private higher education institutions of Azerbaijan;
- Institutions and structural units engaged in architectural research in architectural non-governmental organizations and private research institutions also at production (business) enterprises, etc. As the institutions conducting scientific research on architecture in our country are diverse in terms of sectoral and administrative division, each of them performs two main functions in the field of document communication in this area, i.e. they both generate (create) and use (consume) information in the form of a document on the field.

## CONCLUSION

To integrate document-information resources in the field of architecture and construction in Azerbaijan into world information resources so it would meet world standards and modern requirements, it is expedient to address the following issues:

- Creation of a constantly updated electronic version of the bibliographic index to be compiled;
- Inclusion of permanent information from all regions of the republic in electronic resources and their use for general readers;
- Application of bibliometry;
- Establish a staff of highly qualified librarians and field specialists to implement the above.

The effective development of any science within the existing paradigm of science requires factual or empirical material to which quantitative calculation of certain qualitatively selected features of an object or process is concerned.

The most progressive way to optimize the formation of funds is to conduct bibliometric analysis. The information obtained from this analysis allows us to assess the effectiveness of the use of the fund and the information value of various types of documents (Petersohn, 2014).

It is advisable to use bibliometric indicators and reports in the fields of architecture and construction. Thus, bibliometry is a set of methods used to measure text and information. Bibliometric Methods are widely used in the field of library and information sciences. From the point of view of historical-chronological and publishing history, they play an invaluable role in many researches and studies.

At present, the use of modern information and communication technologies creates endless opportunities for the socialization of individual knowledge and the formation of collective thinking, forming a society based on knowledge and information. From this point of view, enrichment and systematization of document-information resources in the field of architecture and construction in our republic is one of the important conditions of modern times (Butler, 2006).

The research provides information about the fund and activities of academic libraries, so it can be useful for researchers in the field of architecture and construction, experts in the field, other groups of readers interested in the field, as well as those working in the field of librarianship, bibliography and information, and in general dealing with library fundraising, documentation, and information management.

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