



## **Accommodation of activities of Ukrainian libraries under marital law**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the article is to provide an argumentative identification of a qualitatively new direction in the activities of Ukrainian libraries under martial law – socio-productive. The methodological basis of the article is based on general scientific methods such as abstract and logical, analysis, cognitive, and synthesis. Dialectical, objectivity, systemic, and structural-functional approaches to scientific knowledge are applied. The scientific novelty of the article consists in revealing the peculiarities of the functioning of Ukrainian libraries under martial law. Such traditional areas of activity in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, as information and communication, information and advisory, scientific, socio-cultural and local studies, should be supplemented with socio-productive ones. The proposed material enriches the theory of modern librarianship about the changing role of libraries in society under the influence of socio-political processes, determining the new quality of the Ukrainian library institute as an active participant in nation-building processes. The practical significance of the obtained results lies in the application of the acquired best experience of library practice in the activities of library institutions of all systems and departments in order to positively strengthen their image and reputation. **Conclusions.** In the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the library social institute immediately reacted to the events in the state, changing the algorithm of its functioning with a reorientation to socio-political requests. Among the main traditional areas of activity, the socio-productive one definitely stood out. That is, the library has shown itself as an adaptive system that rationally transforms the work algorithm in order to maintain the optimal state in accordance with the changing conditions of the external environment. The genesis of the strategy for the development of the Ukrainian library and information sphere is consistent with the strategies of national economic, social and humanitarian development

**Keywords:** library science; library and information sphere; library; areas of activity of libraries; martial law

### **Relevance of the research topic.**

Public libraries of Ukraine are an integral part of the information and communication system of the state, therefore, from the moment of gaining independence, they developed their activities as basic centres for the provision of various services to all categories of users, successfully implementing their mission “to provide the activities of society as a whole and a specific person with integrated and synthesised knowledge, accumulated by humanity in the process of historical development” (Slobodianyuk, 1995). By the accommodation of the activities of the libraries of

Ukraine in the conditions of martial law (lat. *assommodatio* – adaptation), we understand their expansion, which resulted in the ability to adapt to social and political changes in the state and became a procedural mechanism of the institutional functioning of the library institution. “At each specific historical stage of development, the functions of any social institution, including libraries, are inevitably improved and adjusted in accordance with the socio-cultural situation, socio-political, economic life of society” (Bashun, 1999).

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## **Analysis of current research and publications**

The issue of studying the main areas of library activity is outlined in the publications of Yu. Artemov, O. Bashun, O. Vasylenko, T. Vylegzhanina, O. Voskoboynikova-Guzyeva, I. Vrublevska, S. Garagula, I. Davydova, V. Dobrovolska, V. Zagumenna, O. Klymenko, T. Koval, L. Konoval, O. Kuzmenko, N. Kunanets, K. Lobuzina, O. Maryina, Yu. Palekha, O. Pestretsova, O. Serbin, O. Sokur, G. Soloidenko, V. Soshinska, L. Cherednyk, G. Shemayeva and others. Theoreticians and practitioners of librarianship analyse the peculiarities of the functioning of libraries in the information society and knowledge society, characterise the traditional and innovative areas of library activity.

According to H.V. Shemayeva (2013), the mastering of modern information technologies by libraries had a fundamental effect on the expansion of the functional and content range of library activities, and contributed to the strengthening of communication interaction. The researcher singled out modern directions of cooperation of the library as an institution: library-user, library-library, library-social and communication structures, library-government, library-business. O. Voskoboynikova-Huzieva (2014) revealed the content and features of social partnership, stressing that the cooperation of book collections with state and local authorities, enterprises and organisations, public associations and individual citizens under modern conditions is an important factor in solving urgent problems of the library industry. The scientist proposed an effective concept for the development of social partnership in the library and information field.

O. Mariina (2012) considered the directions of library development taking into account the drastic changes that are taking place in the information infrastructure of society. O.Z. Klymenko & O.L. Sokur (2023) emphasise that the genesis of the library and information activity of the libraries of scientific institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in the system of scientific communications results in the use of modern technologies of electronic data processing and helps the harmonious combination with full-text databases to increase the efficiency of information search, in particular, contributes to the elevation of the intellectual and spiritual potential of Ukrainian society through the dissemination of scientific knowledge of Ukraine and popularisation of the assets of Ukrainian science in the world in general. S. Harahulia (2015) analysed the current trends in the processing of electronic sources of scientific information, revealing the methodological principles and models of integration of electronic sources of scientific information in scientific libraries.

Positive examples of library cooperation using the example of corporate cataloguing of regional universal scientific libraries of Ukraine within the framework of the successful project of the Yaroslav Mudry National Library of Ukraine "Culture of Ukraine" were highlighted

by T. Vylezhzanina (2013). The researcher concluded that the successful operation of Ukrainian libraries requires the creation of conditions for their effective interaction within the framework of the development of powerful corporations in order to ensure high-quality service to the modern user. T.M. Koval & L.O. Turovska (2016) developed and presented various user service models that were formed under the influence of the introduction of modern technologies in the scientific library.

Therefore, Ukrainian scientists and practitioners state that with the introduction of the latest technologies, which were rapidly integrated into library processes, they gave a tangible impetus to all areas of the library industry. Improvement of service work in libraries – traditional centres of public preservation and use of information – made it possible to significantly expand the circle of users, including outside book collections. A conceptually new information environment requires a worthy response from the modern library to the challenges of the age – the age of social upheavals (the introduction of large-scale quarantine restrictions caused by the spread of the infectious disease Covid-19, the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against independent Ukraine and the introduction of martial law in the country). Now we are talking about the transformation of the library as a social institution.

The purpose of the article is the argumentative identification of a qualitatively new direction in the activity of Ukrainian libraries under martial law – socio-productive.

## **Presenting main material**

Ukrainian librarianship has been enriched by scientific studies on theoretical-methodological, scientific-applivative, and organisational-technological directions of library functioning. As N.E. Kunanets (2014) emphasises, "the analysis of the processes of library activity in the context of social communication is complicated by the need to study their impact on the external environment, but it allows us to consider the book collection based on different levels of its perception – individual characteristics, social status and the role played by the book collection in the social environment".

The influence of external factors (globalisation, informatisation, the European vector of Ukraine, decentralisation among others) and internal factors (the introduction of the latest information and communication technologies into library practice, the transition to a remote form of work, online reference and bibliographic and information and advisory services) caused the expansion of tasks, filling functions with new content, which resulted in the introduction of innovative forms, types and methods into library practice. "The implementation of new communication service strategies involves the formation of new advantages through the definition of target groups of online users, the study of their information needs and the individualisation of

library services, the determination of priorities regarding the fullness of content and the selection of network channels for the provision of information products and services, the introduction of creative forms and methods of library services in order to support constant communication and interest of the Internet audience" (Yarema, 2022).

The development of the information society, and today, widespread digitalisation, have a positive effect on the processes of library practice. "Ukrainian library science and practice attests to the perspective of the formation of the national information space through integration as an integral component of the global information technologisation of Ukrainian society" (Klymenko & Sokur, 2023). According to S. Harahulia (2015), "technical and technological modernisation of library activity ensured the strengthening of the information function of the modern library".

In the modern socio-economic conditions of the transition to new economic relations and, above all, martial law, "the library social institution appears as an active component of public communications, global information exchanges and informational influences; the emergence of research dedicated to the scientific and informational support of branch science <...> in the conditions of European integration and globalisation processes; research of the library from the standpoint of media space, in particular in the system of public use of social media, or as an equal partner in its creation; increasing attention to interaction and coordinated formation of consolidated information resources of libraries, archives, and museums" (Voskoboinikova-Huzieva, 2014).

The occupation of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014 became the beginning of a great and long war of Ukraine for a sharp turn towards the states of the democratic camp, the development of which is based on universal human values and principles of humanism. "But it is precisely the conscious European choice of citizens, the support of the country's movement towards the European Union, the establishment of European identity in Ukrainian society that is an extremely important component of Kyiv's entry into the European community, the return of Ukrainians to the European family of nations" (Klymenko & Sokur, 2023).

The implementation of the norms of international law into national legislation, the reform of all branches of Ukrainian society, the entry of librarianship into the information industry, increasing the information potential of libraries, integration into the global cultural-educational-scientific space prompted a change in the paradigm of librarianship and the search for new strategies for the development of the country's library and information sphere. "Today, the activities of libraries are enriched by the content of <...> functions that

contribute to interaction with the external environment, the establishment of democratic and humanistic principles of development, and the provision of free access to information" (Kuzmenko & Zahumenna, 2021).

The full-scale invasion of the troops of the Russian Federation on the territory of independent Ukraine on February 24, 2022 changed the life of every Ukrainian forever and divided the world into democratic people-centered countries and totalitarian ones that secretly or openly support the ethnocide of our people and the destruction of unique Ukrainian cultural heritage. "A large number of people who are getting education were forced to go abroad. However, the need for access to electronic information resources has become more acute, and the only such window is the library website. In view of the demand for electronic information resources, which has increased significantly, in connection with events in the state, library websites must meet the requirements of users" (Rzheusky & Kunanets, 2023). The task of protecting the intellectual, spiritual and cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people became particularly urgent.

In extremely difficult conditions, having recovered from the first weeks of hostilities and huge losses, the librarianship of Ukraine continued to function, fulfilling the tasks assigned to it as fully as possible, to which were added the struggle for the information space, countering fake information, increasing media literacy of the population, support and possible social protection of internally displaced persons, assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and so on. "Librarians mobilised, adapted and optimised in the context of adequate response to difficulties and problems that, unfortunately, accompany our present in real time" (Serbin, 2023). In this way, the Ukrainian library social institute immediately reacted to the events in the state, changing the algorithm of its functioning with a reorientation to social and political requests.

At this stage of the Russian-Ukrainian war, libraries are actively engaged in information-communication, information-advisory, scientific, socio-cultural and local history activities. "The main activity of libraries is the demand of readers (real and potential) for various types of library and bibliographic services and products. Thus, the work of libraries is evaluated not by the number of assortments produced, but by the number of services and products demanded (used) by readers" (Bashun, 1999).

From the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, libraries were co-participants in nation-building processes. In our opinion, the national-orientalist content of the activity of the Ukrainian library institute is based on the social production function and the function of public welfare. Today, its scientific basis is serious multi-faceted scientific research, scientific conferences of various levels (other events on the functioning of the library and information sphere of Ukraine in conditions of

war), numerous publications in professional periodicals of librarians practitioners reveal the issues of peculiarities of work in conditions of active hostilities and occupation, destruction of funds and loss of cultural objects, which confirm the transformation of the modern scientific doctrine of librarianship.

We consider it expedient to single out a new direction in the activity of Ukrainian libraries – socio-productive, aimed at consolidating the people of Ukraine to fight against the Russian occupier, which proved their institutional stability in the conditions of the modern Russian-Ukrainian war. The socio-productive direction includes the following tasks:

- memorialisation of wartime events (collection of documents about destruction and losses);
- volunteer movement and charity (various one-time actions and long-term projects);
- support of internally displaced persons and migrants;
- assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine (weaving of camouflage nets, production of masks for helmet wearers, tailoring of adaptive clothing for the wounded) (Serdiuk & Herasymov, 2022);
- eradication of Soviet narratives.

It should also include the work of a library institution as a safe space, a temporary shelter, a comfortable place to work on a computer (for the purpose of distance learning for students, schoolchildren or remote work for new lands and those who have currently lost their property). Libraries have become community centres for the collection and distribution of “humanitarian aid, distribution and delivery of humanitarian aid, food preparation points for temporarily displaced citizens and refugees” (Novalska, 2022), which significantly positively strengthens the image of institutions, because it is focused on raising national consciousness and pride for its people, who came out against the tanks with their bare hands and flags. The scientific novelty of the article lies in the disclosure of the peculiarities

of the functioning of Ukrainian libraries under martial law. Such traditional areas of activity in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, as information and communication, information and advisory, scientific, socio-cultural and local studies, should be supplemented with socio-productive ones. The proposed material enriches the theory of modern librarianship about the changing role of libraries in society under the influence of socio-political processes, determining the new quality of the Ukrainian library institute as an active participant in nation-building processes. The practical significance of the obtained results lies in the application of the acquired best experience of library practice in the activities of library institutions of all systems and departments in order to positively strengthen their image and reputation.

## Conclusions

In the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the library social institute immediately reacted to the events in the state, changing the algorithm of its functioning with a reorientation to socio-political requests. Among the main traditional areas of activity, such as information-communication, information-advisory, scientific, socio-cultural, and local studies, the socio-productive one definitely stood out. That is, the library has shown itself as an adaptive system that rationally transforms the work algorithm in order to maintain the optimal state in accordance with the changing conditions of the external environment. The genesis of the strategy for the development of the Ukrainian library and information sphere is consistent with the strategies of national economic, social, and humanitarian development.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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## Акомодація напрямів діяльності бібліотек України в умовах воєнного стану

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**Анотація.** Метою статті є аргументоване виокремлення якісно нового напрямку у діяльності бібліотек України в умовах воєнного стану – соціо-продуктивного. Методологічну основу статті становили загальнонаукові методи абстрактно-логічний, аналізу, когнітивний, синтезу. Застосовано діалектичний, об'єктивності, системний та структурно-функціональний підходи наукового пізнання. Наукова новизна статті полягає в розкритті особливостей функціонування українських бібліотек в умовах воєнного стану. Такі традиційні напрями діяльності в умовах російсько-української війни, як інформаційно-комунікаційний, інформаційно-консультативний, науковий, соціокультурний та краєзнавчий, аргументовано доповнити соціо-продуктивним. Запропонований матеріал збагачує теорію сучасного бібліотекознавства про зміну ролі бібліотек у соціумі під впливом суспільно-політичних процесів, визначення нової якості українського бібліотечного інституту як активного учасника націєтворчих процесів. Практичне значення одержаних результатів полягає у застосуванні набутого кращого досвіду бібліотечної практики у діяльність бібліотечних закладів усіх систем і відомств задля позитивного зміцнення їхнього іміджу та репутації. Висновки. В умовах російсько-української війни бібліотечний соціальний інститут одразу відреагував на події в державі, змінивши алгоритм свого функціонування з переорієнтацією на суспільно-політичні запити. Серед основних традиційних напрямів діяльності достеменно виокремився соціо-продуктивний. Тобто бібліотека проявила себе як адаптивна система, котра раціонально трансформує алгоритм роботи задля збереження оптимального стану відповідно до зміни умов зовнішнього середовища. Генезис стратегії розвитку української бібліотечно-інформаційної сфери узгоджується зі стратегіями загальнодержавного економічного, соціального та гуманітарного розвитку

**Ключові слова:** бібліотекознавство; бібліотечно-інформаційна сфера; бібліотека; напрями діяльності бібліотек; воєнний стан