

CALIMERA AZERBAIJAN COUNTRY REPORT: INFORMATION ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES, LOCAL MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

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1. ORGANIZATION

1.1 Public Libraries

Azerbaijan is located on the coast of the Caspian Sea and has an area of 86,6 sq. km. 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan is occupied by Armenia. As per January 2004 statistical data, total population of the country is 8,265.700. 51,5% out of it live in regions and 48,5% in cities. Currently, approximately 1 million Azerbaijanis are refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled or were forced by Armenians to leave their homes between 1988 and 1993.

Azerbaijan was a part of the Russian Empire from the early 19th century to 1918. The first Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established in 1918 and was occupied by the Soviet Army after 23 months of its existence. In 1991 Azerbaijan re-established its sovereignty.

Azerbaijan shares all the formidable problems of the former Soviet republics in making the transition from a command to a market economy, but its considerable energy resources brighten its long-term prospects. Country has only recently begun making progress on economic reform, and old economic ties and structures are slowly being replaced. The main obstacle for continuing and stable development of Azerbaijan is Armenian occupation of Azerbaijan territories and outcomes of this conflict.

The windfall of oil revenues brings economic growth of the country. According to major financial institutions such as IMF, EBRD and ADB, the GDP of Azerbaijan will be tripled in the coming three years. This economic growth indicator is one of the highest in the former Soviet Union countries.

Potentially, this positive economic development will have an impact on development of other areas, including libraries, museums and archives.

Library Network

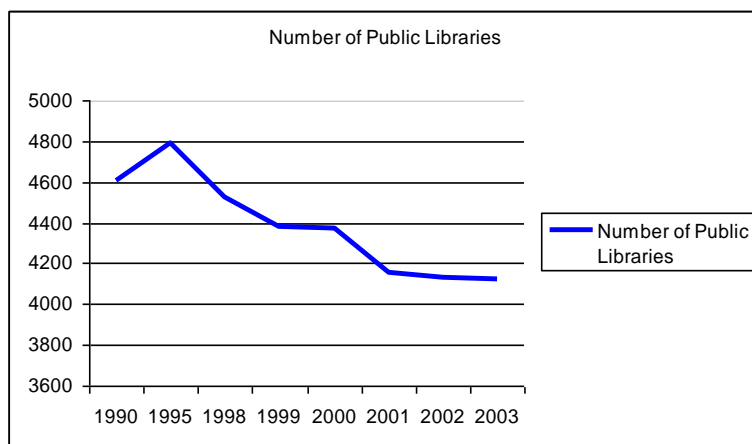
The Library system of the Azerbaijan consists of different types of libraries, such as academic, public, and special, which belong to the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and other government and non-government institutions. As per 2003 statistical data, there are 4,124 public libraries in Azerbaijan, 661 of them are located in cities. The libraries in Azerbaijan are facing the hardest time in their history. A number of them were destroyed in territories occupied by Armenia and there is no information on the status of these libraries.

The State Strategic Development Program of Culture in Azerbaijan (SSDP) for 2004-2007 outlines development of public libraries along other areas of the arts and culture.

A number of international institutions, such as Open Society Institute, The Eurasian Foundation, US Embassy in Baku, IREX, provide various programs involving public libraries.

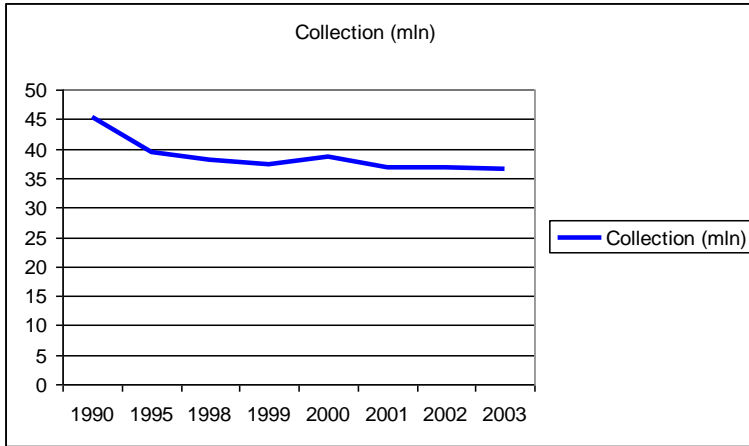
The system of public libraries can be considered as “traditional”, which consists of centralized network of city and regional libraries with their branches in villages. The Azerbaijan State Library after named M.F.Akhundov (the National Library) serves as methodological and coordination unit for regional public libraries. There are 3,989 regional public libraries serving over 1,2 mln users.

The majority of public libraries do not have up-to-date and current resources to serve their community due to budget constraints. That is why in some places they were simply closed down. As per 2003 statistics, the number of public libraries decreased from 4,605 to 4,124 for the period of 1990- 2003.

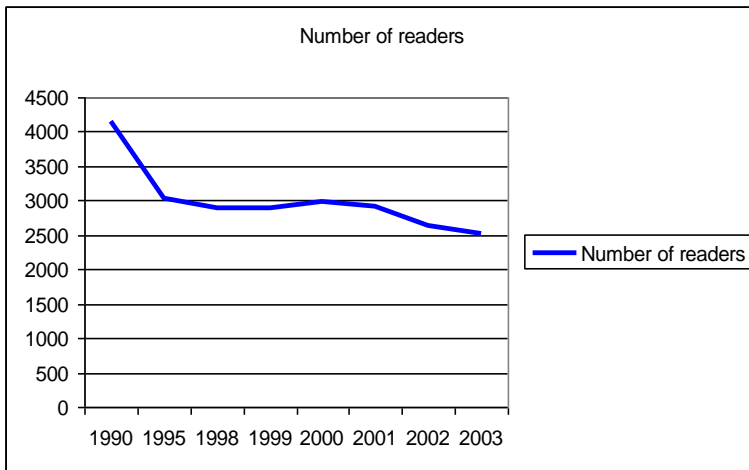


Collections

Due to limited budget provided for collection development, majority of libraries have little to offer to their users. There is centralized system of collection development, which mainly provides state published publications. In fact, budget of regional public libraries depends on regional executive body's budget allocated to "culture", including museums, archives, theaters, and etc.



As statistics shows, poor collection affects the number of users of public libraries: for the period of 1990-2003 the number of users decreased from 4,145 to 2,517.



In 2001, Open Society Institute's Assistance Foundation in Azerbaijan launched a pilot project on development of public libraries as

community information centers, which was expanded by the US Embassy to cover about 20 regions of Azerbaijan. Currently, it is the only program for public libraries to revitalize their increasingly important role in the society.

In the “Culture and Art” chapter of “Poverty Reduction and State Program on Economic Development 2003-2005” important measures for development of the infrastructures assisting library and museum expansion were envisaged. According to this report, 1134.6 thousand US dollars was allocated for modernizing the National Library, the Republic Library for Blinds and the State Arts Museum.

Jurisdiction on Methodological Centers

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the regional public libraries, wherein budget is distributed through regional executive bodies. The program on development of public libraries and update of continuous education programs/trainings for library and information specialists has not been widely implemented yet.

The Azerbaijan State Library after named M.F.Akhundov carries out the responsibility of methodological center for regional public libraries.

Funding

Public libraries are funded from the state budget, through the Ministry of Culture and regional executive bodies. There are some alternative sources of funding which comes from grants, corporate and individual contributions. The library services are free of charge, but some of the libraries charge for using copy machines and printers.

Professional Development

The library staff consists of professionals with degree in Library and Information Science and professionals with other related and non-

related degrees. Since 1947 the Baku State University's Faculty of Library and Information Science provides a degree program in Librarianship. The Faculty of Library and Information Science provides two degree programs: Bachelor and Master. The Bachelor Program with two majors in Arts and Book Science, and Publishing; and Master Program with major in Library Science and Bibliography.

There were three projects providing training for library and information specialist funded by the US Embassy in Baku and Open Society Institute: Information Resource and Training Center for Librarians, Azerbaijan State Library after named M.F.Akhundov training program for librarians and Khazar University Center for Continuing Education for Librarians and Information Specialists. Currently, there is no training program provided for librarians. The Ministry of Culture within its Upgrading Center together with the Council of Europe and UNESCO provides special training and retraining courses for professionals in culture, including librarians and workers of museums.

There are two library associations in the country: The Azerbaijan Library Development Association, and Azerbaijan Library Society.

1.2 Museums

Museum network

In the beginning of 2004 Azerbaijan had 159 museums and 30 picture galleries. Of these, 150 museums (including 21 branches) operate under the Ministry of Culture, and 4 under the National Academy of Sciences and other government institutions.

By type, these museums break down as follows:

Museums (01/01/2004)

Memorial museums	33
Historical and local museums	79
Art museums	38
Other	9
TOTAL	159

In the years following independence, a lot of attention has been paid on the museums by the government, mainly as a way of weaving and reinforcing national identity.

As per statistics of 2003, the collections in the largest museums of Azerbaijan held over 1,650 million cultural assets. Among these museums are the National Museum, State Museum of the Arts, State Carpets and Applied Arts Museum, State Historical Museum, Shirvanshah Palace Complex, State Theatrical Museum, State Museum of Musical Culture, State Literary Museum and others.

Their collections could be classified in two main groups, with percentages:

- **Culture history** (ethnography, history, etc) - 86%
- **Art** (fine arts, folk arts, carpets) - 14%

The social, political and ideological changes in 1990s also led to changes on the museum activity: some museums were renamed, and some other museums devoted to various Soviet statesmen, such as the museums of Lenin, Phioletov, Kirov, etc., were closed down. In spite of the problems raised by the transition, the network is still growing. In the last decade, 21 new museums have been opened.

Azerbaijan has great potential for development of tourism industry due to its ancient cities, castles, palaces, mausoleums, mosques, forts, and caravan-sarays. Development of cultural tourism centers is one of the priorities of the State Strategic Development Program of Culture in Azerbaijan (SSDP) for 2004-2007.

One of the important museum institutions is International Council of Museums (ICOM), National Committee of which was established in 1992 in Azerbaijan, and has since played an active part in the life of the museum community.

Concerning the fate of museums and museum collections in the territories occupied by Armenia, the Ministry of Culture and the ICOM National Committee have repeatedly urged UNESCO to consider status of museums. Two fact-finding missions were sent to Azerbaijan in 1994 and 1995, but no progress was made on this matter.

Pursuant to the state programs on preventing disability and rehabilitation, the executive bodies develop and carry out set of measures in the framework of their authority in the field of the museums. A decree guaranteeing the free entrance to museums for disabled people was issued.

As a whole, museums in Azerbaijan have serious problems of development. Most museums have poor technical facilities, and lack temperature and humidity control, air conditioning and special lighting; many of them don't have security and fire emergency systems. They have no transport vehicles, and rarely have access to modern packaging materials. Their storerooms are often overcrowded, and they suffer from lack of equipment. Not all museums produce their own publications and promotional materials. Common problem for all museums is restoration and conservation of exhibits.

The medical-social aid can be supplied by state institutions and non-state healthcare systems, as well as by the social security systems for museums. Augmentation in 20% is intended for the employees of two

institutions – the Scientific-Reconstruction Center of Museum Heritage and Memorial Things, and the State Carpet and Applied Art Museum attached to the Ministry of Culture, where working condition is considered harmful and difficult.

Activity

The activities focused on exhibit organization increased slightly, but the main museum activity indicators are getting better than the public libraries.

According to the statistics of 2003, in Azerbaijan number of organized exhibits for the period of 1990-2003 was increased by 9,3%.

Recently, new initiatives have been launched in the following museums: The Museum of Musical Culture, setting up a unique twelve-player ensemble, performing on reconstructed medieval instruments; the exhibits from the State Museum of Carpet and Applied Art collections have been demonstrated in more than 50 countries; Azerbaijan State Museum Center and “Qiz Qalasi” Gallery were the main venues of exhibitions and video-shows, such as, “Watching Movement” – video art exhibition.

Conservation is one of the most important concerns of the museums. All the items in the national museum collection are recorded in standard inventories, which are kept by each museum. A total of 1,151,000 items have been registered. Currently, there is no museum database. The range of services they provide (expert reports on works of art, souvenir sales, etc.) is expanding.

Private-sector services are also gathering momentum. New galleries, souvenir shops, design offices, etc. are springing up. Above all, such traditionally public aspects of culture as heritage conservation are facing “competition” from private museums.

Museum of Miniature Book, which was officially registered in 2000, is the first private museum. The collection of the museum (4000

mini books from 47 countries of the world) is well-known not only in the Azerbaijan, but word-wide.

Museums can solve some of their problems by attracting donors. As a whole, this assistance is not significant and cannot make a positive affect on common development of museums.

Many projects, such as “Museums of Baku – Museum Center” by ICON-Azerbaijan, “Project on Support of Cultural Heritage”, “New Development Program” (2003), have been accomplished.

Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage

One of the major priorities of the cultural policy in Azerbaijan is conservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Azerbaijan co-operates closely with UNESCO’s World Heritage Center. Baku’s historical center, with the Shirvanshah Palace and the Maiden’s Tower, was included on the World Heritage List in 2000.

Restoration and conservation works are mainly funded by the government, foreign and international organizations, as well as, through budget of local authorities and donations of individuals.

Long-term credit agreement for reconstruction cultural heritage on the territory of the Shirvanshah Palace (XIV-XV centuries) was signed between the Government of Azerbaijan and the World Bank in 1999.

Azerbaijani specialists in the field of preservation and restoration of historical and cultural monuments systematically participate in international conferences and sessions, conducted by UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICROM and other organizations.

One of the important recent trends is the strengthening of national ethical renaissance. In 2003 Azerbaijan mugam was included into the List of Masterpieces of the Oral Intangible Heritage of the Humanity. In this regard UNESCO in cooperation with Azerbaijan is developing the Action Plan of protection and promotion of the mugam heritage for 2005- 2007.

One of the most urgent requirements in protection of heritage is the introduction and application of new technologies in museums and restoration.

Professional development

Fundamental researches, preparation of training and methodical means are developed in the higher education institutions, such as University of Arts and Culture, Academy of Arts, Baku State University, University of Architecture and Construction, and also in the institutions of the Ministry of Culture, such as Scientific-Methodical Center on Culture and National Scientific-Methodical Center on Museums.

The State University of Arts and Culture established a department n “Museum and Cultural Work” in 1991, and started to provide courses on museum management and monument conservation.

1.3 Archives

The system of state archives in Azerbaijan is organized on a centralized basis.

The state archive services are comprised of the National Archive Department under Central Directorate of Archives at the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic, 7 state archives, State Archive of Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan and fifteen regional archives.

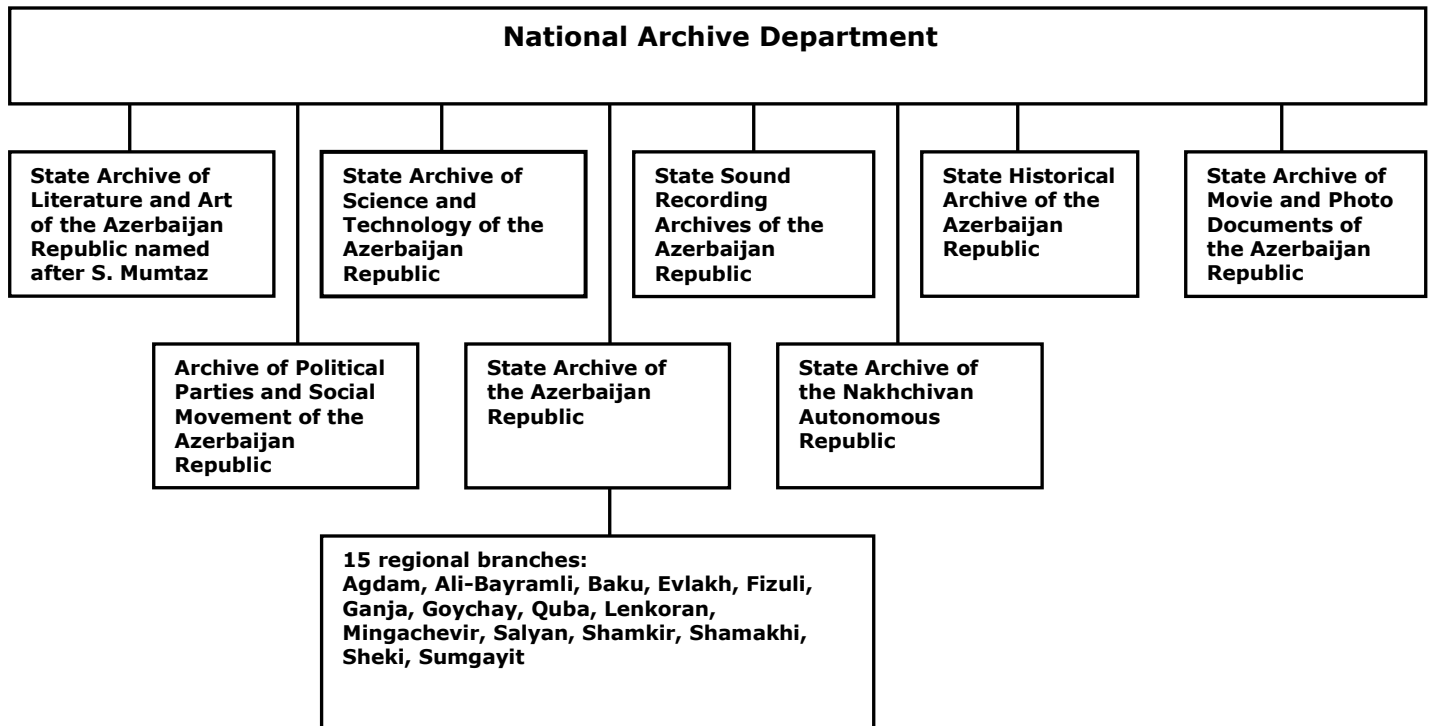
Azerbaijan archive system is responsible to ensure preservation and access to the Azerbaijan Archival Fund in order to secure the lawful interests of citizens and state institutions, to grant provision of information to the public and to preserve national identity in cultural heritage entities. The activities of state and regional archives are funded mainly from the state budget.

There wasn't any archive in Azerbaijan till the beginning of the 20th century. The state archive fund was established in 1920.

In spite of the origin, security place and property forms, archive documents of Azerbaijan Republic are included into National Archive Fund. Archive funds of state property and archival documents comprise a part of National Archival Fund of state. Archive funds and documents, which don't belong to the state, form the part of non-governmental National Archive Fund.

In 1993, the Government of the Azerbaijan set up the State Film Archive, allocating premises and budget. As one of only two film archives in the former Soviet countries, it joined International Federation of Film Archives in 2000.

System of State Archives



2. POLICIES AND STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

The Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic provides for citizen's rights on freedom of thought and speech, freedom of information, including its gathering and dissemination. The State guarantees freedom of mass media, arts, scientific and other kinds of creative activities (Article 47).

2.1 Public Libraries

The Law on Libraries was passed in 1999. The law sets principles of library system, defines financing and state regulations, and determines relations between libraries and international cooperation. The law states citizen's right to use libraries freely. It also stipulates provision of free depository copies of each printed item to designated libraries. The Law on Copyright and Related Rights was introduced in 1996. Librarians as intermediaries should ensure that the rights of authors and users are not violated. Other relevant legislation includes: The Law on Culture, Law on Information, Informing and Protection of Information, Law on Authors and Related to it Rights.

The Ministry of Culture defines the strategy of public library development. The Ministry of Culture is the institution authorized to regulate state administration of cultural institutions, including public libraries in Azerbaijan.

There is a Department of Cultural Policy within the Ministry of Culture defining strategic areas of development of culture in Azerbaijan, which carries out the State Strategic Development Program of Culture in Azerbaijan (SSDP) for 2004-2007, National Information and Communication Technologies Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2003-2012) and National Action Plan for ICT development for 2004-2012 (culture applications).

Recently, "the State Strategic Development Program of Culture in Azerbaijan (SSDP) for 2004-2007" has been developed by the Ministry of Culture. SSDP covers legislation, funding, and scientific-methodological support for modernization in the field of library and museum system.

2.2 Museums

Basic Law on Museums in Azerbaijan was adopted in March, 2000. It aims to facilitate the preservation and enlargement of museum collections established since 1919, improve museum activities, promote protection, conservation, development and enrichment of museum collections, and encourage creation of new museums, including private ones.

The Constitution and the Culture Act both proclaim that every citizen has a duty to preserve the country's monumental heritage. More specifically, the Act on Conservation of Historic and Cultural Monuments regulates listing, study, conservation and use of these monuments. In 1998 a special Law on Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments was adopted.

The rules on conservation are based on relevant international conventions – the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954), the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972), the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 1972) – and of recommendations and other texts adopted by UNESCO and other international organizations (ICOM, ICOMOS, ICCROM).

Big problems in the sphere of monuments' protection have been caused by lack of protecting system, although its necessity underlined in the law. The Ministry of Culture deals with defining protecting monuments' zones, which is a very complicating issue due to local specific peculiarities.

2.3 Archives

Regulations concerning management of records and archives issued by Azerbaijan Archive Department are obligatory for all public institutions.

Legal Basis is the Law of Azerbaijan Republic on National Archive Funds (1999). According to this law all juridical and physical individuals of Azerbaijan Republic have the right to use documents stored in the State Archive.

New requirements concerning storage and use of national archives, the need to determine the ownership status of state and non-state archives and documents, and the absence of any legal basis for management and use of this immense intellectual resource were the main inspiration behind the National Archives Act, which regulates all aspects of their compilation, preservation and use, and improves the social security position of archive workers.

There are also the following related EU documents:

- Council of Ministers Recommendation to the Member States on the policy concerning access to the archives. Adopted by the Council of Ministers during the meeting No.717. July 13, 2000.
- Council of Ministers Recommendation to the Member States concerning access to the official documents. Adopted by the Council of Ministers during the meeting No.784. February 21, 2002.
- Council of the European Union Resolution 2003/C 113/02 on Archives in the Member States. May 6, 2003.

3. STATISTICS

3.1 Public Libraries

The State Statistics Committee provides yearly statistical data on public libraries. Since regaining independence, the statistics of public libraries has been diminishing. Obviously, occupation of territories by Armenia and situation in the country have an impact on the status of public libraries.

According to statistics (1/01/2004), almost all indicators of library activities fall down in comparison with 1990s, as mentioned above. This tendency is characteristic to child libraries too. For 1990-2003 number of child libraries decreased 8,2% and number of their readers – 10,1%. In fact 1/3 of public library buildings have bad technical conditions.

Main indicators of public library activities in Azerbaijan (01/01/2004)

Libraries	Urban libraries	Rural libraries	Total
Number of libraries	661	3463	4124
Collection (mln. copies)	18,3	18,2	36,5
Readers (mln. persons)	1,3	1,2	2,5
Loans (mln. copies)	21,6	23,3	44,9
Loans per reader	17	19	18

Staff	3867	3867	8047
Technical conditions of public library buildings:			
- need for capital repair	189	952	1141
- emergency situation	7	48	55

Allocations from the state for culture is 2,5% of the state budget. High percentage of this centralized expenditure went on four libraries and fifteen museums of national importance, subsidies to restoration of the cultural monuments, creation of new monuments, and other cultural organizations and events.

It is up to higher officials to approve or turn down library budget. Varying from library to library, 64% to 70 % of funding goes to salaries and other social payments, and 18-28 % for maintaining. Only 7-12% goes to collection development.

Considering very small budget allocated for acquisitions and high price of books and resources, majority of libraries cannot update their stocks. Poor material-technical base and staff shortages due to low wages cause serious problems in libraries.

3.2 Museums

Some positive and negative tendencies regarding activity of museums have been observed during 1990-2003. On the one hand, number of museums increased by 22% and number of articles of museum main funds – by 18%. On the contrary, numbers of visitors, number of

lectures in the country museums and number organized excursions decreased by 2%, 44%, and 16% respectively.

Museums in Azerbaijan are losing their attraction to the public, because they are adapting themselves to new policy requirements (i.e. programs that would correspond to public needs) very slowly. This happens in spite of the fact that many new museums have been opened in the last decades.

The country's museums employ a total of 2,297 people, of whom 963 are curators, scientific assistants and guides. The most important statistical data reflecting museums activity indicators are as follows:

The main indicators of museums activities in Azerbaijan (01/01/2004)

Museums	No of museums	Number of main museums fund articles (1000)	Visitors (1000)	Staff
History	14	334	150	331
Memorial	33	82	176	348
Local lore	65	267	488	782
Art	38	202	265	544
Other	9	151	52	292
TOTAL	159	1036	1131	2297

At the beginning of 2004, museums in Azerbaijan attracted more than 1,1 million individual and group visitors, 4,248 lectures were delivered and 1,583 exhibitions mounted.

Total area of museums is 98 mln. m². Allocated area for demonstration of exhibitions is up to 51% and for reserved collection - 10,2%.

During the above mentioned period number of employees increased by 31%, mainly by considerable growth of the specialists approximately 1,8 times in 2003.

From total number of main museum funds, only 8% was required for restoration and 18% was allocated.

3.3 Archives

At the beginning of the 2004, system of archives of Azerbaijan consisted of 13,357 collections, including more than 8,4 mln. documents.

The largest archive of the country is the Archive of Political Parties and Social Movement of Republic of Azerbaijan, which consisted 4,884 collections. However, as per number of documents, the first place is taken by the State Archive of Movie and Photo Documents of Republic of Azerbaijan.

Archives (01/01/04)

#	Title of archive	Collection	Documents
1.	State Archive of Republic of Azerbaijan	1736	547438
2.	The Archive of Political Parties and Social Movement of Republic of Azerbaijan	4884	1120317
3.	State Historical Archive of Republic of Azerbaijan	756	244367

4.	Archive of State Science and Technology of Republic of Azerbaijan	149	173619
5.	The Archive of State Movie and Photo Documents of Republic of Azerbaijan	20770	303527
6.	The State Archive of Voice Recording of Republic of Azerbaijan		29712
7.	S. Mumtaz Archive of State Literature and Arts of Republic of Azerbaijan	695	88641
8.	State Archive of Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan	741	260992
9.	Regional Branches of State Archive of Republic of Azerbaijan	5134	941096
10.	Total	34124	3448717

4. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

4.1. Public Libraries

Today, Information and Communication Technology along with electronic resources are the main components of library. There is still a lot to do to bridge digital divide in Azerbaijan. Majority of public libraries do not have neither Information Communication Technologies, nor they provide access to electronic resources. There are several pilot projects of international institutions bringing technology and access to the Internet to public libraries covering about 20 out of 59 regions of Azerbaijan.

One of the successful public libraries in regions is the Centralized Library System of Ganja.

Library automation

In 2003 the Azerbaijan State Library after named M.F.Akhundov (National Library) acquired library software with the assistance of the US Embassy in Baku, Open Society Institute and the Eurasia Foundation. There is no integrated library system in the country. Yet there are academic and special libraries having their electronic catalogues, such as Khazar University, which is the pioneer of library automation in the country, Caucasus Research Resource Center - Azerbaijan, Library of the Azerbaijan Republic Presidential Administration and The International School of Azerbaijan.

All automated libraries have been using various library standards, such as RUS MARC, UNIMARC, and US MARC. There is no uniform standard adopted in the country.

Access to the Internet

Access to the Internet is provided mainly in academic, special and corporate libraries rather than public libraries. In 2000, Open Society Institute launched a project on developing public libraries as Community Information Resource Centers. Within this project, 8 public libraries were provided with computers and Internet access. This project was administered by local NGO Madat with further involvement of 8 more public libraries and with the support of other donors. Currently, this project is expanded by the Regional Development Project of the US Embassy in Baku to cover 20 regions in Azerbaijan.

Specialized Library-Center on Information Technologies was opened in 2000 under of the Information Technologies Organization in Azerbaijan "Galacak Namina".

Users are charged for the Internet services in libraries where there is no budget to cover Internet expenses.

Electronic resources and services

In 2003, Azerbaijan Library and Information Consortium was established to provide access to electronic resources for all types of libraries in the country. Due to poor infrastructure of public libraries, there is no public library providing access to online full-text databases. Unfortunately, public libraries lag far behind in providing up-to-date services even in comparison with other libraries of the country. Due to budget constraints majority of public libraries are in very poor condition.

Digitization

In 2003, the government of Azerbaijan adopted the National Communication Information Technologies Strategy for 2003-2012, which was developed with the assistance of UNDP. This strategy undertakes the development of ICTs in culture, including public libraries.

There are several digitization projects in Azerbaijan, namely Gutenberg project, Kitab.az, Azeribooks, Virtual Library under Azerweb.com portal, National bibliography, Childbook, and Musigi Dunyasi. These projects were developed by the National Library, academic and non-governmental organizations with the support of international donors.

Professional development

In 1999-2002, the U.S. Embassy in Baku funded the Information Resources and Training Center for Librarians (IRTCL), which was very successful in training Azerbaijani librarians in modern techniques and helping to start the process of automation of libraries in Azerbaijan. During this period, 1,058 librarians from 138 libraries took part in IRTCL training courses. Because no public library in Azerbaijan has

electronic catalog, in FY 2002, the IRTCL initiated, with the National Library of Azerbaijan, a joint program to establish OPAC of the National Library. This program will lay out the foundation for future automation projects throughout the Azerbaijan.

4.2 Museums

The most important aspects of the national ICT strategy related to the culture are to protect and popularize broadly people's historical, literary and cultural heritage including wide application of ICT in museums and archive work.

According to this policy certain steps in utilization of ICT were taken in Azerbaijan museums and archives. On the Internet, major Azerbaijan museums are represented by the website.

Some of the main museums and popular exhibitions have their websites, such as the Azerbaijan State Museum of Arts, Azerbaijan Music Museum, Arms and Armor Collection of Azerbaijan History Museum, Archeology Collection of Azerbaijan History of Museum, The State Museum of Musical Culture, The Shirvanshah Complex, Exhibition of the Modern Art, and Ganja Decorative Center of Applied Art. Recently, a virtual museum – Museum of Miniature Book – was designed now have been implementing Virtual Carpet Museum.

According to the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development in Azerbaijan, in 2003, work on improving the State Art Museum was started. An electronic catalogue is being compiled as a part of modernizing the museum.

Electronic information resources and services in museums are based on CD-ROM services under with the support of mainly Open Society Institute and UNESCO.

Nowadays one of the main priorities is to create a centralized computer database and increasing usage of resources of other museums over the Internet.

4.3 Archives

Azerbaijan state system of archives needs adopting new technologies. There are no special programs on ICT implementation in country archives.

Now only one archive in the country – the State Sound Recording Archive of Azerbaijan Republic is available through multimedia website – “Discography of Azerbaijan (1900-1941)”. The State Sound Recording Archives have more than 50,000 recordings related to Azerbaijan, including audio tapes, CDs and videos.

State Archive of Movie and Photo Documents of Azerbaijan Republic has been creating its own database and provides electronic services for public users.

5. OUTLOOK

5.1 Public Libraries

On the whole, Azerbaijan has an extensive network of libraries, which help to raise the general educational level, train their staff, and promote democracy, civil society and the rule of law. Radical improvements are also needed, however. They include the basic steps: providing fair budget to public libraries, allowing to develop collection, setting up computers and Internet access, and providing continuous trainings for librarians. These initial steps of development would revive public libraries and lead to its further development.

5.2 Museums

The perspective for museums development foresees concrete measures to be taken to improve the condition of their infrastructures. They consist of preparing development conception for the museums, providing them with funds and their expositions with installations and equipments that will meet world standards, computerizing the museum systems, establishing a network – state e-catalogue, constructing new buildings to ensure protection of the art works, improving professionalism of museum staff and services in the museums.

In the near future, improved conservation depends on such important factors as: reviewing monuments currently listed, and preparing a new, up-to-date list matching international standards; completing registration of historical and cultural monuments; setting up a specialized conservation network; working out a program of utilization of monuments which ensure their preservation and protection; developing a purposeful preservation and restoration plan.

5.3 Archives

Reporting on current situation in Azerbaijan system of the State Archive, the following problems and needs have been found out: Formation the national archival description systems to the highest international standards; Automation of documents' acquisition, maintenance, use and preservation in the state archives; Formation of archival information resources assisted by the unified exchange formats; Archival preservation of electronic records; Provision of online access to computerized systems and information resources related to archival funds and documents; and Preparation, processing and presentation of archival materials in the Internet.

X ü l a s ə

CALIMERA-NIN AZƏRBAYCAN ÖLKƏ HESABATI: KİTABXANALAR, MUZEYLƏR VƏ ARXIVLƏR HAQQINDA MƏLUMAT

Lalə HACIBƏYOVA (*Asiya İnkişaf Bankı, Bakı, Azərbaycan*)

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Məqalədə əsasən ictimai kitabxanaların, muzeylərin və arxivlərin bugünkü durumunun dəyərləndirməsi verilmişdir. Bəhs olunan rəqəmlər və faktlar son statistikaya istinad edir. Müəlliflər həmçinin elektronik informasiyanın istifadəsi haqqında da məlumat verirlər.

Məqaləyə 2005-ci ildə Avropa Komissiyası tərəfindən maliyyələşdirilən CALIMERA (Cultural Applications: Local Institutions Mediating Electronic Resource Access) layihəsində iştirak nəticəsində toplanmış təcrübənin xülasəsi kimi də baxmaq olar.

Azərbaycanın mədəni irsinə dair hazırkı vəziyyətin təhlili yerli institutların (kitabxanalar, muzeylər və arxivlərin) fəaliyyəti üçün çox böyük əhəmiyyət kəsb edir. Eyni zamanda bu institutlar yeni texnologiyalar və strategiyalar tətbiq edərək daha əhəmiyyətli işlər görə bilər və öz xidmətlərilə adi insanların gündəlik həyatında çox yardımçı ola bilərlər.