

Trends and Changes in Library Education in Russia, Ukraine and Baltic States before and after the Fall of USSR/

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Abstract

Social, political and economical changes that occurred during the glasnost period in the USSR reached the culmination point after the USSR collapse and after the Soviet regime came to the end. The independent republics, which constituted the FSU, went through a dramatic transformation from communist, totalitarian and centralized society to a free and decentralized society based on the principles of democracy and liberalism, providing to its people political freedom and human rights, freedom of the speech and the press. Moreover, the existing economy was replaced by free market economies and relationships with the Western world were established, modern technologies have been implemented and the people have experienced the revival of national culture, literature and language, in particular in those republics subjected to in the past to suppression of the communist regime.

These changes resulted in a different attitude to the library and the librarian in the society. Hence the object of the present study is to examine the impact of the above changes on the studies of library science in the institutes of higher education in the USSR during the glasnost period and lately in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Baltic States.

The study is based on the analysis of information, such as the Library and Information Science curricula of the institutes of higher education in Ukraine (Kharkov State Academy of Culture and Rovno State Institute of Culture), the Baltic states (Tallin Pedagogical University, Vilnius University and University of Latvia) and in the Russian Federation (Kazan State Institute of Arts and Culture); The appendices to the diplomas of the graduates of library sciences schools issued in the USSR, the Russian Federation and independent Ukraine are different and so are the national standards for the higher education in library science and

In general the result of the study is that in fact the trends and changes occurred in the study of library science in the USSR during the years of glasnost and in the post-Soviet period in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Baltic States reflected to a great extent the cultural, economical and political changes and transformations occurred in these states along with technological progress and establishment of relationships with the Western world, as well as the drastic changes occurred in the librarian status in the society.

The study is the first of its kind in the field and the question whether these trends are reflected also in the library science curricula in other institutes of higher education in the Russian Federation and other states of the FSU is yet to be answered. Moreover, the comparison of the Library and Information Science curricula in the institutes of higher education in the states of the FSU and the Western countries are the subject of much current interest.

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