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The integration of theory and practice as a segment of the modernization of higher library education (from experience of Separated Subdivision « Mykolaiv branch of Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts »)

SS «Mykolaiv branch of Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts» is the leading university among educational institutions of culture and a major center of higher library education in the South of Ukraine. It was founded in 1971 as a department of cultural-educational work of Kiev State Institute of Culture. Since the 1st of February, 1999 the branch operates as a separate unit in the structure of the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts.

For 45 years the Department of Documentation and Information Systems has been training specialists in library-informational sphere. Multiplying the best traditions and achievements, the staff of the department is successfully working on the strategy of reforming higher library education. Special attention is given to improvement of the quality of library professionals training considering the maximum possible approaching to the needs of the practice and focus on the European model of vocational training. The current conceptual model of formation of library education is based on the principles of development and strengthening of partnership between the university and the libraries of the South of Ukraine. In particular, the introduction of the experience of social partnership agreements into the practice of educational process provides libraries with a common training model of a practice-oriented librarian of new formation. Permanently is carried out the work as to the implementation of the innovative performance of the libraries in the classroom, participating librarians-practitioners in the development of practical educational modules on professional disciplines, as well as the maximum involvement of students in practical activities of libraries in the region. The important subjects of innovation in this area are: University, student, library. These efforts should be consolidated as much as possible.

Implementing the strategy of library education updating in the context of the modern information society, creating a positive image of library branch specialists, the department staff introduced a number of initiatives and projects. A large-scale Forum of librarians of the South of Ukraine «Library of the XXI century: educational and practical vectors» was held on the 3rd – the 5th of March, 2015 in Mykolaiv, Kherson and Odesa. The initiator and organizer of the Forum is SS «Mykolaiv branch of KNUCA» The partners of the Forum are: Odessa National Scientific Library named after M. Gorky, Scientific-educational library of Mykolaiv, Mykolaiv Regional Library for Youth, Mykolaiv Regional Children's Library named after V. Liagin, Kherson Regional Youth Library named after Boris Lavrenev and Kherson library for children named after Dnieper Chaika.

Forum organizers set a goal to integrate library education and modern innovative practices to improve the library branch of the South of Ukraine and a professional librarian's status in modern society, which was successfully achieved.

During the Forum was examined the complex of issues relating to ways of modernization of library education; use of new technologies in the educational process; practical aspects of modern librarian training; formation of professional competence of library staff; strategies for creating a positive image of library professionals; development of librarianship in the South of Ukraine; innovation practices in modern libraries; project work of libraries.

Functional integration of educational and library activities allows libraries to be for modern students a kind of habitat of new ideas, concepts and technologies assimilation, and it is an effective communication medium that allows you to transfer innovative library experience gained in practical terms into the reality of the educational process. The Department of Documentation and Information Systems of SS «MF of KNUCA» traditionally holds joint events with libraries in the region, namely, conferences, round tables and seminars. Systematic is organizing and conducting training workshops and Mykolaiv and Kherson chief librarians' masterclasses for students of the speciality "Book science, library science, bibliography". Honorary for the university is the fact that the students of this field of study are the members of the youth sections of Mykolaiv Regional Library Association and Mykolaiv regional branch of the Ukrainian Library Association.

Getting and accumulating such experience, the SS«MB of KNUCA» has the ability to design a new system of relationships between the university and libraries, between theory and practice, traditions and innovation. Broadening of professional library communications areas and filling them with a new content is a dominant strategy of modernization of higher library education.

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