



Mgr Tatiana Ostapenko



Mgr Svitlana Naumenko

Kijów – HHMBY (NNMBU)

INTERACTION OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES IN UKRAINE FOR INFORMATION PROVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICAL HEALTH CARE

The network of medical libraries in Ukraine began to develop back in the 30s of the last century. Originally, regional medical libraries were founded in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Stalino (Donetsk), Vinnytsia and Chernihiv. Later – in Poltava, Mykolayiv, Zaporizhia. By 1938, formation of a network of medical libraries in Ukraine had been completed. It numbered 178 libraries with regular library staff, and 900 library centres with no regular staff librarians which were supervised by regional scientific medical libraries.

For many years, three schools of excellence, based on Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad and Rivne regional scientific medical libraries functioned in the network of medical libraries of Ukraine. Librarians not only from Ukraine, but also from other republics of the former Soviet Union arrived here to study, 200-250 librarians improved their professional skills there every year. This form of advanced training was recognized as the most effective in the system of advanced training of medical library workers for that period.

In 1975 the State Scientific Medical Library (SSML) was approved as the branch depository of medical literature. In 2006 it was granted the status of the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine.

At present, the network of medical libraries in Ukraine, headed by the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine (NSMLU) – methodical centre of medical libraries of our country – includes over 600 medical libraries of all levels. In addition to NSMLU, regional scientific medical libraries, which are methodological centres for medical libraries in their regions (there are 22 of them in Ukraine) provide library and information support to medical workers in Ukraine. Scientific libraries of medical universities, colleges and medical research institutes provide information support to the educational and scientific processes. More than 400 hospital libraries render services to the practitioners of healthcare institutions in Ukraine. Since the attainment of independence in 1991 and intensive development of new electronic technologies, library work in Ukraine has been gaining a new quality.

There is a combination of traditional library working methods with the new ones, using computer technologies. Schools of excellence were gradually transformed into schools of professional skill, master classes, seminars. Annual international scientific and practical conferences where the directors of regional scientific medical libraries and those of higher educational institutions are introduced to new progressive ways of development of libraries in Ukraine and foreign countries, became traditional. They acquaint themselves with the best work experience, introduction of new information technologies in library practice, promising areas of library and information provision for users. Such measures are not only popular with the specialists in the network of medical libraries; library workers of the Ukrainian scientific libraries of other systems and departments, libraries of Belarus, Poland, Tatarstan, Uzbekistan share their problems and developments. As a rule, materials of the conferences are covered in the theses of the reports and placed on the library-organizer sites.

Virtual forms of providing information have become commonplace at the RSML and libraries in medical educational institutions. Automated workplaces have been arranged here, electronic directories are formed, their own databases are accumulated and remote ones are used. Regional scientific medical libraries investigate and analyze the information needs of health professionals in their regions and level of their provision by organizing the work so as to maximize service coverage of all regional medical institutions that are in need. On the website portals libraries reveal their funds and services, publish information products, open their pages on the sites of medical institutions which expand the possibilities for remote servicing of users, provide library and information support for scientific conferences, congresses, symposiums.

Taking into account huge modern information flows, high cost of the editions, libraries join their efforts creating corporations that allow to use not only their information product, but also resources of other corporation members. Back in 2004, with the assistance and participation of the SSML of Ukraine, organizational and methodical work was started on the establishment of the Medical Libraries Corporation for featuring and scientific

processing of medical periodicals. Even then, the basis for creation a single database «Consolidated electronic subject catalogue of medical libraries of Ukraine» was laid.

Within the framework of the project System of scientific electronic editions in Ukraine “Library for society” and with the aim of integrating library and bibliographic resources, NSMLU carries out processing of periodicals for filling a single database “Abstracts of scientific editions in Ukraine” at the National Library of Ukraine named after V.I. Vernadsky (NLUV), on the basis of which Ukrainian abstract journal “Dzherelo” is formed. NSMLU, jointly with the National Scientific Library named after V.I. Vernadsky and Association of Libraries of Ukraine is releasing a CD of the “Medical Sciences” series.

Also, medical libraries closely collaborate for the reproduction of the history of medicine of our country. More than 40 years ago the regional history database “Healthcare in Ukraine” was launched, information to which is provided by medical libraries of Ukraine. On its basis, NSMLU issues bibliographical indexes of the series “History of Medicine and Healthcare in Ukraine”, an integral part of the national bibliography of Ukraine. Bibliographic indexes and other editions, dedicated to life and activities of the renowned doctors of the area are issued in cooperation with the network libraries. So, in 2014 NSMLU, together with the library of the Vinnytsia M.I. Pyrohov National Medical University published a book about a talented poet and translator, a doctor, founder of the healthcare system, the forerunner of social medicine on the southern coast of the Crimea “And I am seeing the living world again...” dedicated to the 180th anniversary of Stepan Vasylyovych Rudansky. By the way, this edition was awarded Stepan Rudansky All-Ukrainian Literary and Art Prize. There are many examples of joint cooperation.

Also, Ukrainian medical libraries enter the information space in partnership with the libraries of other countries, international organizations and foundations, foreign embassies. One of the most effective areas for cooperation between the NSMLU and medical libraries of the network is international book exchange, which is carried out with the libraries of the foreign and the former Soviet Union countries (more than 30 countries the world). Libraries from Poland, Belarus, Armenia, Latvia, Estonia, Tatarstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and others are the partners of NSMLU.

Ukrainian medical libraries collaborate actively and creatively with foreign libraries in organizing and holding joint conferences, round tables, professional in-depth training, mutual visits to libraries for the purpose of exchanging work experience. Thus, in 2012, as part of the Days of Culture of Turkmenistan in Ukraine, NNMBU hosted a presentation of the multivolume edition “Medicinal plants of Turkmenistan” by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov in Ukrainian language. The edition was donated to medical libraries of Ukraine.

Another example of successful cooperation is the Polish-Ukrainian project launched in 2011 whose goal is to create the Polish Medical Book Center in Ukraine on the basis of the NSMLU. As a result of fruitful cooperation, with the assistance of the Warsaw

District Medical Chamber and Embassy of Poland in Ukraine, the library received a big amount of literature in Polish and English, including private collection of the outstanding scientist, cardiac surgeon Zbigniew Religa. Within the framework of corporate agreements with the scientific library of the Warsaw Medical University, library staff took part in the XXXII International Conference of medical libraries "Library and its Environment in the Age of Google", where Tatiana Ostapenko, Deputy Director General presented a bibliographic index dedicated to the prominent Ukrainian scientist of Polish descent Volodymyr Vysokovych, and Raisa Pavlenko, Director General of the Library, Honored Worker of Culture of Ukraine, holder of the Order of Princess Olga made a presentation "Contribution of Polish doctors to the development of medicine in Ukraine". Represented by the Director General, the library staff was awarded for active collaboration a commemorative medal of Jerzy Moskwa and an honorary award of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, which the vice-Marshal Stanisław Karczewski presented to Mrs. Raisa.

Presentations of scientific publications of outstanding Polish doctors – Andrzej Szczeklik, a Polish therapist, Janusz Kowalski, a doctor-pulmonologist, and other editions of Polish publishing houses were repeatedly hosted in the library with the participation of representatives of the Embassy of Poland.

For many years, NSMLU has been a member of the Consortium of Ukrainian libraries on the EIFL Direct project "Electronic Information for Libraries" which provides access to electronic databases of one of the largest world publishers "EBSCO". Being a permanent member of the Consortium, the Library got the opportunity to use the resources of the company free of charge back in 2005, thanks to a grant from the American House in Ukraine.

Owing to the Informatio-Consortium and the consortium of the program INTAS participants, NSMLU makes extensive use of free test access to information resources Science Direct, ELSEVIER, EAST VIEW. As part of this project, the Library has an opportunity to provide information services and access to electronic versions of periodicals of Springer, Kluwer, Blackwell publishing companies.

Material assistance from the International Rotary Movement, Rotary clubs from Germany, Australia, Ukraine has become a significant support to the NSMLU on the way to creating an information and communication centre of the medical sector. Thanks to it, the Library obtained an opportunity to install modern equipment, create an information and computer center. Doctors of Ukraine gained greater access to the most up-to-date world information.

The Library has a long-standing friendly and business relationship with the Worldwide Health Organization (WHO). Since 2000, the Library has been included in the register to receive 2 titles and 6 series of the WHO publications on global health and environmental issues.

Many years of fruitful cooperation also tie NSMLU and the Ukrainian diaspora in the USA. In the framework of international book exchange, NSMLU sends magazines of Ukrainian publishers to their colleagues from the US; selects and processes information on achievements and events in the Ukrainian medical world and sends materials «Medical Life in Ukraine» for the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

Despite the difficult political and economic situation in our State, medical libraries in Ukraine become not only informational, but also cultural centres with a technically equipped complex of modern services, a place for learning, acquiring new knowledge, business and public meetings, they build their activities in line with world standards and use all methods available.

In the long term, we aim to create a single information industry portal which will host the resources of all medical libraries and the user will be able to obtain the necessary information and knowledge through a single point of access to resources and services.

Tatiana Ostapenko
Deputy Director General

Svitlana Naumenko
Chief Librarian of NSMLU

for Scientific Work of the National
Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine

We provide some photos illustrating the work of medical libraries in Ukraine.



National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine



Polish guests at the celebration of the 85th anniversary
of the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine (Kyiv, 2015)



Solemn opening of the Polish Medical Library in Kiev
at the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine (October 2016)



Solemn opening of the Polish Medical Library in Kiev
at the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine (October 2016)



XVI International scientific and practical conference “Medical libraries as centres for preservation and popularization of historical and cultural national memory” (Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, 2017) Raisa Pavlenko, Director General of NNMBU, Honored Worker of Culture of Ukraine, holder of the Order of Princess Olga, delivers a report



Mrs. Dr. Anna Wajszczuk-Religa and Marshal of the Rzeczpospolita Senate, Mr. Stanisław Karczewski, open a memorial plaque on the occasion of awarding the name of the prominent Polish cardiac surgeon Zbigniew Religa to the Polish Medical Library in Kyiv. October 2017



Mr. Ivan Soroka, President of the Ukrainian Medical Club “Pride of Medicine of Ukraine”, Honored Health Worker of Ukraine, presents the Honorary Award of the Club to Mrs. Dr. Anna Wajszczuk-Religa and Mr. Stanisław Karczewski, Marshal of the Rzeczpospolita Senate



Mr. Stanisław Karczewski, Marshal of the Rzeczpospolita Senate and Mr. Adam Balio, Head of the Polish-Ukrainian Fund named after Ignacy Jan Paderewski, present a portrait of the world-famous Polish cardiac surgeon Professor Zbigniew Religa to Mrs. Raisa Pavlenko, Director General of the National Scientific Library of Ukraine



Mr. Stanisław Karczewski, Marshal of the Rzeczpospolita Senate, presents the Honorary Award of the Senate of the Republic of Poland to Mrs. Raisa Pavlenko, Director General of the National Scientific Library of Ukraine