

PROJECT-GRANTING ACTIVITIES OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES IN UKRAINE

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Abstract. The article describes the key areas of grantmaking activities of modern Ukrainian libraries. Ukrainian libraries have not escaped the challenges of today, which is expressed in the need to find them new forms and methods of work. It is the project activity that will allow reorganizing and modernizing libraries. Examples of programs for 2021 are considered, practical advice is given. The role and importance of project-granting activity in the innovative development of the modern library are analyzed. In recent years, project activities of libraries have risen, particularly due to the transition to the digital sphere. The publication's analysis showed an increase in the proportion of spending in the budget of projects to purchase technology and equipment. Outlined the dilemmas on the way to project implementation, given the limited funds traditionally allocated in our culture, it is noted that each Ukrainian scientific library is assigned to search for its funding. The article analyzes the experience of libraries in writing projects and implementing the results in the practice of work. The current projects' tasks, main directions, and effectiveness are considered. The article is intended for librarians, officials of regional culture departments, teachers, and students at specialized universities.

Keywords: project, library, contest, application, grant, donor, sponsor, budget, funding.

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INTRODUCTION

The emergence of non-state charitable foundations in the domestic knowledge market in the early '90s of the XX century promoted the rapid development of a new direction of the scientific community - activities aimed at obtaining grants. For academic libraries, an important consequence of introducing a grant system of research funding is the emergence of printed publications with the support of foreign funds and the opportunity to receive grants for the implementation of their own library projects. Under the conditions of insufficient funding of libraries' activities, the project-granting activity of libraries becomes more and more fundamental as a basis for developing new directions of work, expanding the range of services, and improving their quality, a way to establish new partnerships. In this regard, this article aims to substantiate the project-grant activity of scientific libraries in Ukraine to analyze the possibilities of improving this direction of activity of domestic libraries.

RESULTS

During the decentralization reform, she made her "cardinal contribution" to the situation of library institutions. The library should now become the main library of the territorial community, with the sole responsibility for the further development and coverage of library services for the population. Perhaps it is not possible now to change libraries systematically, to make them a single coherent mechanism like the centralized Soviet libraries. This is due to a number of factors, first of all, different environment, material, and technical basis, the contingent of users and readers, their needs and expectations of workers, the mentality of those who work and use the library.

Taking into account the limited resources traditionally allocated for culture in our country, every Ukrainian scientific library has to search for its own funds. These are such extra-budgetary sources as

international and domestic funds, programs, and grants (Bogush, 2018).

One of the defining activities of modern libraries became actions and projects aimed at encouraging reading activity, development of the worldview and increasing the intellectual capital of society. These can be quests, meetings with readers, competitions, games, etc. Project activities allow libraries to become more competitive, attract new users and retain the interest of those who have long been using their services, become more attractive and receive support from society and benefactors.

The peculiarities of project activities of libraries in recent years are marked in particular by the transition to the digital sphere. The analysis of publications on the problem showed an increase in the share of spending in the budget of projects for the purchase of technology and equipment. It is important to understand that the project activities are not only connected with the informatization but innovation can also be considered as projects, development ideas, strategic guidelines, which will be vital for this or that library, even if most libraries have passed the stage. Subjects of projects are diverse due to the intersection of users' interests and opportunities of librarians.

It is clear that in order to engage in project activities, one must be able to write project proposals, clearly justify the necessary costs and illuminate the end results.

New ideas for development: project activities; Methodological Councils

Before starting to create a project, it is necessary to find out the content of such theoretical definitions as project, grant, project activities and to learn the methodology of writing library projects. It is also worth mastering information about possible donors and understanding the reality of obtaining such a grant in Ukraine nowadays. The Law of Ukraine "On Culture" (№ 2778-VI from December 14, 2010) defines the term "grant" as "financial

resources provided on a non-repayable basis to an entity engaged in cultural activities for the implementation of a cultural and artistic project" (Bogush, 2018; V.G. Korolenko Kharkiv State Scientific Library, (n.d).

Usually, a project is understood as a whole set of measures necessary to achieve a clearly formulated goal within a set period of time and for a specified amount of funds (expenses). International donors have developed project management methodologies. These requirements differ, but there is a single universal format for writing a project proposal. It recommends including the following sections in the application:

A title page with the title and a summary of the project;

- Introduction and statement of the problem;
- Goals and objectives, methods of achieving them;
- Target groups, assumptions about risks;
- Expected results, assessment of the viability of the project;
- Implementation plan and reporting on its implementation;
- Budget (remuneration of performers, direct and indirect costs);
- Annexes (International programs, competitions, grants).

No doubt the library needs projects, but who will write them and waste time (unaccounted for in work plans)? Larger libraries find it easier to engage in project activities because there are more full-time staff, and there is an opportunity to redistribute the current workload (5 Techniques for Writing Effective Grant Proposals, n.d.; Grantwriting Practices: First About the Basis, 2021).

The problem of how to teach librarians how to write projects and what to do with them next is now being addressed both at the national library level and at the level of organizing training seminars based on

educational organizations, administrations, etc. But theory is not always the only pointer. No exception is the fact that even if there is an interesting idea, there is a potential opportunity to raise money in the library budget, but do not know exactly how to formalize the idea. That is why the problem of preparing project documentation is a surprisingly common phenomenon in the library, because the same specialists, who have had a positive experience, have gained confidence in their abilities, and they know what to emphasize in the application, how to distribute time, how to defend the project, to argue its relevance and importance. Amidst the variety of "grant" proposals, it is surprisingly easy for a newcomer who has not had a positive experience and is prone to overestimate the difficulties associated with preparing an application for cash grants to become confused. Beginning grant-seekers should remember that the sympathy of the experts of state funds-grantors invariably remains focused on applications that meet the real social and cultural needs of socially and economically disadvantaged categories of the population and persons in the category of social risk.

It would be appropriate to mention some of the libraries' UCF grant projects in 2021. Summing up the results of this season, the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, which is a donor of project programs for libraries, notes the following: "Of the 21 projects submitted for consideration, two were supported and implemented. Let's take a brief look at some of these project applications".

1. The Chernihiv Regional Library for Youth proposed a project called "Women's Discourse". Three artists from Chernihiv wished to express the role of women in art by creating their own paintings and holding their exhibitions in the library.
2. Dnipropetrovsk Regional Universal Scientific Library, named after the first Slavic teachers Cyril and Methodius, gave an original name to its project

proposal - "From the Scythians to the stars". The aim of the authors was to republish the book "Seven Wonders of the Dnipropetrovsk Region" in print and electronic format, with AR realization and subsequent transfer to libraries around the world.

3. The staff of the Odessa National Scientific Library conceived to create a Summer Reading Room "LITERA" to renew the leisure time of local communities and young people (a hub with comfortable conditions).
4. The "Open Air Library" project of the Lutsk City Centralized Library System also aims to organize a mobile open-air reading room.
5. Zaporizhzhya Regional Universal Scientific Library wishes to write an "Oral History of the Russian-Ukrainian War" based on the memories of veterans from 2014 (Programs, Projects, (n.d.); Belous, 2014).

For example, the V.G. Korolenko Kharkiv State Scientific Library has prepared a number of grant projects over the past few years, the most interesting of which we will consider below.

1. In 2020, the project "Library Interactive: Digital Tools for Education and Self-Development" was implemented. It was supported by the European Union through its House of Europe program. The project included the All-Ukrainian online school "Multiplatform Library Journalism" and the online class "Internet for the Elderly".

2. The project "Electronic collection of literary and art magazines of Kharkiv of the first third of the twentieth century" is aimed at digitizing and providing access to studies of historical and cultural value, including small periodicals of the early twentieth century [6].

Also, the programs and projects of the Ukrainian Library Association should not be overlooked, namely:

1. "Developing Libraries as Hubs for Active Citizens."

Seven librarians from Ukraine, Armenia, Romania, and Moldova (Black Sea Region) are involved in implementing this project. Ukraine has the strongest representation: the UBA, the Lugansk Regional Academic Library, and the Lviv Central Library. All participants will share their progressive experiences in engaging local communities in developing a democratic environment and creating partnerships between public organizations and public libraries.

2. "The Four Spaces of the Library: An Innovative Model of Activity."

The authors of this project imply the following: a space of learning, a space of inspiration, a meeting place and a space of events, their services in the conditions of transformation. The specialists of the National Library will prepare a manual in an electronic edition, and everyone will be invited to its online presentation and online forum (Fig. 1).



Fig.1. The innovative model of a modern library

3. As early as the middle of last year, the project "God's Libraries Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030" was launched. (Fig. 2).

While its goal is to increase the capacity of the number of libraries in

Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the project is funded by foreign countries such as Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland.



Fig.2. An interactive whiteboard in this library will remind readers of the goals of the UN

Librarians will teach the community's interests in their work for the betterment of the community. The plans for these libraries' events will become more relevant, and the project's 12 international partners will help.

4. The issue of academic virtue culture: the role of libraries has become incredibly relevant today, as expressed in the title of this project.

It was founded by the Ukrainian Library Association (ULA) and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. What is it about?

It is no secret that the practice of copying has spread in Ukraine, from pupils' and students' term and graduation theses to professors' candidate and doctoral theses. The aim is not to conduct honest scientific research and achieve good results but to get a diploma or a degree. Libraries

should actively engage in the fight against imitation, plagiarism and corruption in Ukrainian education and science to restore the process of education (Lahuta, 2021). According to the recommendations given on the portal "Public Space" "How to write a project for a grant for the library" the following stages of work on each project can be distinguished:

- first stage (needs) - formulate the relevance of the problem and the urgency of its solution, make an approximate budget;
- the next step (finding sources of resources) is to start with open grant competitions with small amounts of funding. To do this, you should actively monitor the websites of relevant organizations and should choose only those that are fully congruent with the activities of your library.

- and finally, the last stage (preparation of an application in accordance with the donor's requirements, sending it to the grantor and a real meeting with representatives) - start looking for funding in advance because writing a well-written application is not a day's work! In general, write concisely and easily in the donor's own language. Don't forget that you need to win. Feel like partners, even knowing that, according to statistics, only every tenth application is funded (57 topical grants, competitions, and opportunities for your community, 2021, March 23; Dolhushyna, 2021).

Common disadvantages associated with planning costs for the implementation of a non-commercial project in the field of culture, in particular, projects of scientific libraries at the expense of the grant funds, are: unreasonable description of the amount of the subsidy requested from the donor, in accordance with the maximum grant amount established by the terms of the competition as a result of which costs appear in the estimate that are neither directly nor indirectly related to the implementation of the project; insufficiently convincing justification of the cost plan, which is reflected, in particular, in the absence of price lists and commercial proposals in the annex to the application that adequately reflect the average market cost of services for which the applicant is requesting funds; the content of the project is not properly coordinated with the profile of the statutory activities of the applicant (legal entity), the applicant for the grant funds carried out a biased assessment of the state of his own personnel and material

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and technical base, which, according to his calculation, will be involved in the resource support of the project (Course "Writing design application", n.d.); the applicant gives "stereotyped", clichéd arguments in favor of the relevance; the applicant sets out "stereotyped", clichéd arguments in favor of the relevance of the project, avoids references to specific facts, reliable statistical data, successful experience of previously implemented projects of a similar orientation to confirm their ideas, avoids references to specific facts, reliable statistics, successful experience of previously implemented projects of a similar focus to confirm your idea and a number of others.

We hope that the reasoning and recommendations described in this article will be useful to workers in scientific libraries in Ukraine engaged in the development and implementation of their own sociocultural projects and considering participation in competitions for the distribution of grant funds in order to receive subsidies in cash for their implementation.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that participation in project activities, the ability to present the library, the desire to inform about themselves and their institution - the motivation for further project activities. Knowledge of the principles, functions, and technologies of project management is one of the keys to accelerating changes in libraries, the latter's development, and integration into the world information space.

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