

# The Role and Development of Libraries in Samarkand Region during World War II: A Comparative and Historical Study

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## Article information:

**Manuscript received:** 02 Apr 2025; **Accepted:** 03 May 2025; **Published:** 17 Jun 2025

**Abstract:** This comprehensive article examines the evolution, functions, and ideological mission of libraries in the Samarkand region during World War II (1941–1945), within the broader Soviet context spanning 1917 to 1991. Drawing on more than 100 multilingual scholarly references, including dissertations and academic articles in Uzbek, Russian, English, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Chinese, and Korean, the study addresses the libraries' role in literacy campaigns, political propaganda, gendered labor, wartime mobilization, and post-war transformations. The focal point is the A.S. Pushkin Regional Library in Samarkand, whose development is compared with institutions across Uzbekistan and Soviet Central Asia. The article also identifies underexplored aspects of Soviet librarianship.

**Keys words:** Samarkand libraries, Soviet Union, World War II, literacy campaigns, propaganda, bibliobuses, Uzbek SSR, Central Asia, multilingual education, archival research.

**Introduction.** The role of libraries in the Soviet Union extended beyond education and into the ideological and cultural spheres. During World War II (1941–1945), libraries in Samarkand region, particularly the A.S. Pushkin Library, served not only as repositories of knowledge but also as hubs for literacy, propaganda, and wartime communication. This study investigates the development of these libraries, their roles during the war, and how they compared to those in other regions of the Uzbek SSR and broader Soviet Central Asia. The historical context from 1917 to 1991 offers insight into their continuous transformation.

Until now, the activities of Samarkand regional libraries during World War II have not been studied separately in the available scientific sources. This article aims to fill this gap and sheds light on the experience of Samarkand region on a historical and analytical basis by comparing it with other regions and neighboring republics.

**Material and Methods.** This research uses a historical-comparative methodology grounded in qualitative content analysis. Primary sources include archival documents from the Samarkand Viloyat Davlat Arxivi (SVDA), official Soviet decrees, and more than 100 academic references in multiple languages (Uzbek, Russian, English, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Chinese, and Korean). Secondary sources were reviewed to analyze patterns and roles of libraries across the USSR. The article also applies comparative analysis with other Soviet republics and regions.

**Results.** The Samarkand region experienced a significant transformation in its library infrastructure during World War II:

- Over 25,000 books were distributed to front-line soldiers.
- Bibliobuses and mobile libraries served hospitals, factories, and refugee centers.
- Libraries hosted literacy classes, political readings, and correspondence-writing stations.
- A majority of the librarians were women (over 75%).
- Libraries played a role in integrating deported ethnic groups and supported services for injured veterans, including Braille materials and audiobooks.

Compared to other Uzbek regions (Tashkent, Bukhara, Fergana) and Soviet republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Georgia), Samarkand's libraries exhibited both similarities and unique innovations.

**Discussion.** The findings underscore the centrality of libraries in Soviet wartime strategy and social engineering. Samarkand libraries exemplified the Soviet model but with distinct local implementation. Factors such as multilingual education, ethnic integration, and gendered labor roles show a more nuanced function of libraries. Some underexplored areas, such as services for the disabled and ideological censorship during the Stalinist purges, deserve further academic attention. The revival of Uzbek-language literature in the 1980s also marked a critical turning point in cultural policy.

**Conclusion.** Samarkand's libraries were instrumental in both wartime resilience and long-term ideological formation. Their multifaceted roles during and after World War II reflect the Soviet Union's strategic use of cultural institutions. Comparative insights show that while the Samarkand region mirrored broader Soviet trends, its library practices also adapted to local needs and conditions.

**Acknowledgement.** This research was made possible through support from the Samarkand Viloyat Davlat Arxivi and numerous scholars who provided access to dissertations and historical documents. Special thanks to multilingual academic contributors and peer reviewers for their insights.

**Historical Background (1917–1941)** Between 1917 and 1941, the Soviet government implemented literacy campaigns such as "Likbez" (liquidation of illiteracy), leading to the establishment of public libraries in both urban and rural areas. By 1939, Samarkand had over 300 libraries, rapidly growing to 370 by 1941. Policies promoting Uzbekization of literature and centralization of information were critical in shaping the identity of these libraries.

**Wartime Library Mobilization (1941–1945)** During WWII, Samarkand libraries, especially the A.S. Pushkin Library, became hubs of cultural resilience and ideological reinforcement. Libraries:

- Distributed over 25,000 books to soldiers at the front.
- Organized propaganda events, readings, lectures, and literacy classes.
- Acted as centers for writing and receiving letters from the front.
- Introduced mobile libraries (bibliobuses) for factories, hospitals, and refugee centers.

#### **Regional and Republic-Level Comparisons Uzbek SSR Regions:**

- Fergana, Bukhara, and Khorezm used mobile libraries and folklore reading circles.
- Tashkent launched a wartime publishing initiative distributing literature to the provinces.

#### **Soviet Republics:**

- **Kazakhstan:** Industrial reading stations and agitpunkt centers for factory workers.
- **Kyrgyz SSR:** Created correspondence and literacy centers in rural areas.
- **Tajik SSR:** Focused on highland literacy campaigns and youth reading rooms.
- **Turkmen SSR:** Led gender-oriented reading clubs and village reading halls.

- **Armenia and Georgia:** Developed multilingual collections and libraries for deported ethnic minorities.

### **Understudied Dimensions of Library Work (1941–1945)**

- **Gender Roles:** Over 75% of library workers in Samarkand were women.
- **Disability Services:** Braille collections and audiobooks for injured soldiers.
- **Propaganda:** Libraries were used to distribute anti-fascist materials and suppress religious literature.
- **Integration of Deportees:** Libraries played a role in cultural integration of deported ethnic **groups** like Volga Germans and Crimean Tatars.
- **Language Policy:** Uzbek-language collections decreased during Stalinist purges, replaced with Russian texts.

### **Post-War and Cold War Developments (1946–1991)**

- 1950s: Libraries rebuilt and restructured after wartime damage.
- 1960s: Emphasis on technical literacy and access to scientific literature.
- 1970s: Introduction of microfilm technology and bibliographic networks.
- 1980s: Revival of Uzbek-language publishing and children's libraries.

**Contributions from International and Regional Scholarship** Over 100 references from academic journals and dissertations have examined Soviet librarianship. The research draws from Uzbek, Russian, English, Korean, Chinese, Turkish, and Azerbaijani sources. Key themes include:

- Political control of reading material.
- Role of libraries in national identity.
- Literacy campaigns in Soviet Asia.

### **Appendices**

- Annotated bibliography of 100 scholarly references (Uzbek, Russian, English, Turkish, Korean, Chinese, Azerbaijani).
- Archival documents from the Samarkand Viloyat Davlat Arxivi (SVDA).
- Decrees from the Soviet Central Executive Committee on literacy and libraries (1920s–1980s).
- Photographic evidence of wartime reading halls and traveling libraries.
- Comparative charts of library growth in Soviet republics and Uzbek SSR regions.

The year 1940 was an important stage in the development of the Samarkand Regional Library named after A. S. Pushkin, marked by significant progress in the main areas of library activity. During this period, both quantitative and qualitative growth of library work was observed, which is confirmed by a number of changes in the activities of the institution <sup>1</sup>.

One of the most important achievements is the establishment of a reference and bibliographic department for the first time on a large scale. The launch of this department significantly improved the quality of library services. In addition, the appointment of a separate staff member for collection formation made it possible to systematically implement this important area <sup>2</sup>.

In addition, the number of visits to the library and the number of book loans significantly increased, far

<sup>1</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 1.

<sup>2</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 1.

exceeding the planned figures. This clearly confirms the significant changes that have occurred in the work of the library.

The number of readers, visits, and books issued are recognized as the main criteria for assessing the effectiveness of library activities. The table below allows for a comparison of the changes observed in these indicators over recent years and is of particular interest <sup>3</sup>.

	1937	1938	1939	1940			
				Plan	In practice	In % of plan	in % compared to 1937
Participation	55,500	71,300	92,000	100,000	132,800	139	240
Book to give	118,800	128,600	149,400	150,000	181,600	121	152

#### Library of activity growth and organization works ( 1940 )

1940 for listed in the library report data on student performance noticeable to the extent increased shows . This is especially true of the general population library to the funds was of demand sharp in growth expression It will be . Such the dynamics of the population's increasing interest in reading books means that with together library of activity activated and his/her due to the increase in the scope of work evidence gives <sup>4</sup>.

Two added to the report table from 1940 library of activity reflect the main aspects gives :

1940 in Table 1 from the library More than 4600 students who have used it description includes .

Table 2 is given to students of books various departments shows the distribution of .

Emphasis OK , the library work by its very nature divided into <sup>5</sup>two parts :

#### I. Preparatory works

##### 1 . Direct student service to show

Preparatory work, that is, internal work carried out by highly qualified staff within the library, is the main link in the entire library activity. The preparatory work carried out by the library is of great importance in providing quality service to readers and meeting their ever-increasing demands, and is an important factor in the successful implementation of the library plan.

In the reporting year, special attention was paid to these works. Including :

#### I. In 1940 to do increased works :

##### 1. Books working :

1) From scratch come fallen and first undeveloped more than 9000 books from the funds schematized , cataloged and library in the style formalized .

2) Tropovsky system reclassified on the basis of - about 2000 books (sections 0, 1, 7 and partially 3 and 6).

3) Same this b deaths A systematic catalog was compiled for .

##### 2 . Completing

The reporting year is from April starting library to the state special an assembly worker was accepted. Until then, it 's in the library the books completion works done without a system, left to its own flow will be increased was Completing department manager's appointment this very important direction-oriented system and order input possible gave .

<sup>3</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 1.

<sup>4</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 1.

<sup>5</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 1.

1) Reporting year during library for about 8,000 books purchased ( their departments and languages distribution is shown in Table 4 ) <sup>6</sup>.

2) All bibliographic publications regularly out of sight forgiveness was set in motion .

3) Book and journal funds according to desiderata ( req to be done literature list ( to create ) to their work started .

4) In rural areas a number of publishers Contacts were established with . Through these contacts, local stores not coming the books sell to take opportunity appearance it happened This measure at the death of subscription b artistic literature with to provide quite a bit improved .

### 3. Bookkeeping and subscription

1) 1940 library by elimination of students' debts for season ticket b verb on the subject big works take went B in addition to death two state units allocated (technical librarian and letter carrier ). This home is in the air organization to the nature owner a series of events to do increased .

These measures positive fruit gave , but completely eliminate the debt to do achieving did not divide . For example , in 1939, 789 books were lost by students , in 1940 This number is 453 . It fell <sup>7</sup>.

2 ) Subscription and in bookkeeping departments regularly in a way outdated book restoration of copies to do increased .

3 ) A total of 768 books were covered <sup>8</sup>.

### 4 . Reference-bibliographic works

1 ) 1918–1940 between analyzed more than 300 copies of journals , each with a brief bibliography description given and some articles have been annotated <sup>9</sup>.

2 ) 12,000 cards were written .

3 ) Central Republic and articles from local newspapers were collected and analyzed ( newspapers the list is in parentheses cited ).

4 ) The following topics according to card files composition works continue added <sup>10</sup>:

1. Classics of Marxism and Leninism
2. History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)
3. Party and government decisions
4. Third five annual plan
5. Uzbekistan
6. Library work
7. Book and bibliography within the journal
8. Bibliographic indicators
9. History
10. Literature history , theory and criticism
11. Artistic literature

<sup>6</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 2.

<sup>7</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 2.

<sup>8</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 2.

<sup>9</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 2.

<sup>10</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 2.

5 ) Exhibitions and important date and events for literature and illustrative materials collected .

II . Service to students to show in the department to do increased works

Preparation In addition to their work , they serve students directly to show in the direction of the following works done :

1. As mentioned earlier , 181,000 books to 132,000 students copy given <sup>11</sup>.

2. 4600 people regular student service was shown , in addition to the service for one- time ( random ) guests shown ( mainly through the newsroom ).

3. Reference-bibliographic works

To the requests of readers according to 370 references prepared , it is 49 references from 1939 with when compared big growth shows <sup>12</sup>. Topics according to references are distributed as follows:

History of BKP (b) - 61

2 . Socio-political — 80

3. Natural-mathematical subjects - 24

4. Literature 77 items

5. History - 35

6. General topics - 93

10 questions failed because relevant literature exists not was .

4. Exhibition works

1 ) Important date and 76 exhibitions dedicated to events organization done They covered the following topics :

History of BKP (b) - 4

2. Socio-political topics — 26

3. Literature topics - 23

4. Newly arrived books - 8

5. Main topics - 15

2 ) Exhibitions 20 assembly works for done .

3 ) Two large exhibition organization done :

"I.V. Stalin's life and on the subject of " activities " .

« Alisher " Navoi " on the subject .

4 ) At the military conscription point big exhibition organized .

5 ) During the vacation in the 37th school "A.S. Pushkin's life and on the theme of creativity exhibition organization done <sup>13</sup>.

5 . Mar u za work

A total of 14 lectures conducted . More than 1500 listeners participated in them . Lectures The topic is

<sup>11</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 3.

<sup>12</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 3.

<sup>13</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 3.

divided as follows <sup>14</sup>:

- 1 ) Socio-political — 6
- 2 ) Literary - 5
- 3 ) Scientific - 3

Students' meeting with writers L. Leonov and K. Levin meetings passed .

6. In enterprises take visited work

In 1940 the library is in 3 enterprises of the city activity conducted by <sup>15</sup>:

Factory "Kolkhoznik".

Power station

"March 8" factory

these enterprises exhibitions organized , books distributed, books giving went , interviews were held . In particular , from the "Kolkhoznik" plant 63 people to the library constantly engage the student done .

### III. Methodical cabinet activity

Methodical cabinet library is of particular importance in the plan and he/she works directly with the students Although not related to q , the library is one of the important branches of work . In 1940 , the following works were carried out by the methodical cabinet to do increased :

#### 1. To libraries service to show

a number of reasons in the reporting year to the districts trips to do it was not increased , only to Pastdargom district one trip organization done There are 8 libraries in the city from inspection was held .

#### 2. Course activities

1 ) Reference-bibliographic work a 26- hour seminar was held on There are 12 people in it the listener participated <sup>16</sup>.

2 ) Low to qualify owner employees for cataloging organized a 37- hour seminar on 20 people the audience attended.

3 ) Kattakurgan water cultural warehouse construction service with of city libraries in providing One city methodological meeting was held on the participation .

#### 3. Methodical letters and bibliographic indicators.

1 ) Library by all important date and bibliography dedicated to events indicators and methodical recommendation letters regularly city and in the province all by sending it to a network of libraries It is going . of materials the main part is the republican methodical cabinet by sent , but their some library by filled and edited , and in some cases without fail library himself by There are also developed materials .

A total of 24 letters were distributed, including district party offices in addition to district libraries and parts of the Red Army (via the DKA library ) are also available letters with provided <sup>17</sup>.

#### 2) Date specified and events calendars

3 ) All to libraries Public reference-bibliographic departments by The developed "Notable Data

<sup>14</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 3.

<sup>15</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 3.

<sup>16</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 4.

<sup>17</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 4.

Calendar " was distributed <sup>18</sup>.

4 ) Libraries bibliographic from publishers methodological literature available with provision continue was made . A total of 10 titles the book was distributed.

#### 4. Consultations

1 ) 1940 June public education of the district departments political-educational inspectors group consultation was held <sup>19</sup>for

2 ) Library of work 139 individual consultations were given in all areas .

3 ) One how many written consultations were also provided .

#### 5. Various events

1 ) " Library " by the methodical cabinet " passport " has been developed and is valid for the entire distributed to the library network, unfortunately , many from libraries this passport was not returned .

2 ) City and in the province all library taking account of employees It's gone.

3 ) In the methodical cabinet special methodological library regularly in a way new books with filling went .

4 ) " The XVIII Congress of the CPSU and A poster was prepared <sup>20</sup>on the topic "About Libraries " .

5 ) In Moscow Library from the institute cataloging received <sup>21</sup>an album on .

#### 6. Economy works according to to do increased works

1 ) Study hall 45 tables were purchased for

2 ) A drum was built at the main gate of the library .

3 ) 3 large catalog shelves (bureaus) with 90 sections were purchased .

### **A.S. Activities of the Samarkand regional library named after Pushkin in 1941**

The activities of the Samarkand Regional Library in 1941 can be conditionally divided into two periods: before the war and after it. In the first half of the year, the library worked in peacetime, according to a previously approved plan. However, with the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War, the library radically changed its activities, adapting them to the requirements of the war.

The annual work plan was revised and directed to the implementation of new tasks. Especially in the second half of 1941, the library's activities expanded significantly. This was primarily due to the evacuation of citizens, research institutions, universities, and other organizations from the territories temporarily occupied by the Nazis to the city of Samarkand<sup>22</sup>.

One of the most active departments was the subscription department, that is, the department for home delivery of books. About 200 new students were registered every day. However, due to the limited stock of fiction, difficulties arose in filling this department. In this regard, the library management limited the issuance of only one work of fiction per subscription. From the beginning of December 1941, in order to better serve the previously registered students, the registration of new students was temporarily suspended<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 4.

<sup>19</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 4.

<sup>20</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, sheet 4.

<sup>21</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 12, 4  
-sheet

<sup>22</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 1.

<sup>23</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 1.



Due to the great importance attached to mass cultural work during the Great Patriotic War, the library further intensified its activities in this direction. Based on the new social and ideological conditions, the methods and techniques of mass work were redeveloped and improved.

#### Public library work during World War II

During the Second World War, mass-educational activities gained special importance in the libraries of Samarkand region. Newspapers of the central republic and local regions were regularly placed in the library's special glass showcase. In the lobby of the library, the latest news of the Soviet Information Bureau was announced every day, and information from "TASS windows" was published every other day<sup>24</sup>.

The public section of the library paid special attention to patriotic and ideological education of the population. The main focus is on the following issues:

1. national defense,
2. strengthening the rear front,
3. study military work,
4. PVCO (anti-chemical and anti-aircraft protection),
5. GSO (civilian sanitary protection),
6. international situation,
7. the heroic past of the Russian people,

Development of agricultural and industrial potential of Uzbekistan.

For this purpose, the following activities are regularly and systematically organized:

1. book and magazine exhibitions,
2. photo and illustrative exhibitions,
3. Calendars decorated with slogans and quotes (from Marxist-Leninist classics, famous writers, politicians, and military figures)<sup>25</sup>.

The mass department worked in close cooperation with the methodology office and the information and bibliographic department. The information department expanded its activities and provided students with:

1. references,
2. recommended bibliographic lists,
3. thematic albums,
4. presented excerpts collected from newspapers.

The most requested topics were:

1. Heroes of the Second World War,
2. The activities of our heroic aviation,
3. Partisan movement,
4. Labor Front,
5. Women are heroes and others.

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<sup>24</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 1.

<sup>25</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 1.

The library actively provided services through mobile funds to provide 8 hospitals with fiction and popular science literature<sup>26</sup>.

In the second half of 1941, the interlibrary loan activity of the Samarkand regional library expanded significantly. This was due to the fact that dozens of higher educational institutions and research institutions were evacuated to Samarkand from the regions at risk due to the outbreak of World War II. These organizations actively used the book collection of the regional library through interlibrary loan.

The library reading rooms were open every day from 8:30 to 22:00 and were filled with a new contingent of students - academicians, professors, researchers, university students, and secondary school students. All of them were served attentively and responsibly by the library and reading room staff. One of the two reading rooms was specifically designated for researchers<sup>27</sup>.

The methodological office at the regional library also revised its activities. It began to actively study city and district libraries, provide consultations, and hold meetings with library staff. The main goal of these activities was to reorganize library work in accordance with the tasks set by I. V. Stalin in his radio speech on July 3, 1941<sup>28</sup>.

The activities of the Samarkand regional library team during World War II

During World War II, the staff of the Samarkand Regional Library responded promptly and responsibly to the instructions and orders of the party and government aimed at strengthening the rear, providing assistance to the front, expanding the library collection, and defending the homeland.

The library staff completed air and chemical attack defense courses, organized and revived the activities of departments of defense and public organizations such as Osoviyakhim and MOPR. The library paid off the national debt bonds issued in the third year of the third five-year period and transferred them to the national defense fund<sup>29</sup>.

As part of its patriotic and humanitarian activities, the library staff sent letters and gifts to soldiers at the front, and also provided sick and wounded soldiers with fiction and educational literature and served hospitals.

The following tables and the comments attached to them fully reflect the main directions and scope of the library's activity in the past year and describe it as an active cultural and patriotic center of the region.

Table 1 attached to the report provides complete information on the activities of the subscription department, including students and books issued to them.

During 311 working days, 3,815 new readers joined the library, a total of 40,744 people visited the subscription department and were given more than 60,000 copies of books. 1,816 people made up a quarter of the readers, and as of January 1, 1942, the total number of readers was 3,815<sup>30</sup>.

In the first half of 1941, 27,773 copies of books were issued, and in the second half, this figure was 32,263. Tables 2, 3 and 4 cover the activity of the library's study hall - the period before the war and the situation during the first 6 months after the start of the Second World War.

A total of 2,462 users were registered for a reading room subscription in 1941. Information on national composition, gender, party affiliation, education, and social affiliation is presented in Table 2.

In the first half of the year, 36566 people visited the study hall, and in the second half of the year, this figure was much higher and made up 46370 people. During this period, 82,112 copies of books were

<sup>26</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 1.

<sup>27</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 2.

<sup>28</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 2.

<sup>29</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 2.

<sup>30</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 2.

issued, 5,216 of which correspond to defense literature. In the second half of the year, the number of books issued was much higher, making up 110,831 copies, among which defense literature made up 20,700 copies, which is 4 times more than the figure in the first half<sup>31</sup>.

In addition, 47,100 copies of newspapers were distributed to students in the first half of 1941, and 65,785 copies in the second half. Thus, a total of 112,885 copies of newspapers were distributed during the year<sup>32</sup>.

Subscription activity between Peredvijka and libraries (mejbibliotechnyy abonement) was carried out as follows. In the first half of the year, a total of 1,495 copies of books were issued in this direction. However, in the second half of the year, the library began to serve 8 objects through a shuttle bus, and books were delivered to universities, research institutes and other organizations visiting Samarkand through subscriptions between libraries. The number of books issued during this period was 8337 copies (Tables 3 and 4).

Table 5 shows how the regional library was replenished in 1941. According to it, a total of 7,808 books were purchased. Of these, 6,599 were in Russian, 1,104 in Uzbek, 87 in Western European languages, and 18 in other languages<sup>33</sup>.

It should be noted that, due to military conditions, the library received books from the fourth quarter of 1941.

Library processing, cataloging and systematization of books is an important component of the complex and responsible work that library staff perform every day. Timely processing of books, replenishing alphabetical, systematic and subject catalogs with cards for new literature is one of the most important conditions for providing quality services to readers.

In 1941, the Department of Cataloging and Systematization of Books continued the reclassification of the collection of the socio-economic department of the library according to the Tropovsky system. During the reporting year, 6,022 copies of books were reproduced. 7324 copies of current receipts were processed. In total, 13,346 copies of books were cataloged and systematized by this department<sup>34</sup>.

Among them:

in Russian — 6219 copies,

in Uzbek — 1064 copies,

in other languages - 41 copies.

(See Table 6)

As noted at the beginning of the report, the activities of the reference and bibliographic department were expanded in 1941 and changed in content, taking into account the requirements of the war period. The work of this department was closely connected with the activities of the mass department.

Lists of books and journals were compiled by this department, citations were selected for exhibitions, calendars, historical dates and defense-related events, short biographies and annotations were prepared. Similar materials were selected and presented for 9 more unplanned exhibitions.

A total of 636 references were issued, of which 249 were issued in the first half of the year<sup>35</sup>:

On the topic of society and politics - 98

On literary topics - 53

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<sup>31</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 2.

<sup>32</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 2.

<sup>33</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 3.

<sup>34</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 3.

<sup>35</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 3.

20 on the historical topic

In other types - 78

In the second half of the year, a total of 387 references were issued, of which 167 were on defense topics. Out of the total number, 24 requests were not fulfilled due to the lack of relevant literature. Due to the lack of literature on these topics, work was completed on compiling a list of journals available in the library's collection (1918–1939). The list is presented together with a brief bibliographic description of each journal and a list of articles in them<sup>36</sup>.

Articles from local history journals and collections were described in Sections S 0–6. Descriptive works of pre-revolutionary magazines (between letters A-I) have been started.

In addition to magazines, articles from the following newspapers in 1941 were described: "Pravda", "Izvestia", "Komsomolskaya Pravda", "Uchitelskaya Gazeta", "Literaturnaya Gazeta", "Trud", "Pravda Vostoka", "Leninsky Put", "Komsomolets Uzbekistana", "Kazakhstanskaya Pravda" and "Communist Tajikistan"<sup>37</sup>.

The card files established in 1939 and 1940 were gradually supplemented. In particular, in the following areas:

1. MARX-ENGELS-LENIN-STALIN,
2. History of the VKP,
3. Party and government decisions,
4. The third five-year,
5. Card file on local history,
6. Library work - articles, bibliography, journals,
7. Internal bibliography,
8. Bibliographic indicators,
9. Fiction,
10. Articles in magazines and newspapers on sections S 0–9.

A total of 15,172 cards were written.

In the second half of the year, articles from magazines on the following topics were described:

1. The Great Patriotic War,
2. Military work,
3. Fascism.

The public department of the regional library organized the following book exhibitions in the first half of the year<sup>38</sup>:

1. On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the birth of Lado Ketskaveli;
2. On the subject of the electoral system dedicated to the reports of deputies;
3. On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin;
4. On the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the birth of I. I. Shishkin;

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<sup>36</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 3.

<sup>37,37</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 3.

<sup>38</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 4.

5. On the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the death of V. V. Kuibyshev;
6. On the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the birth of Saltykov-Shedrin;
7. On the occasion of the 185th anniversary of Mozart's birth;
8. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Verdi's death;
9. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the birth of Romain Rolland;
10. On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of Babushkin's death;
11. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the death of A. F. Pisemsky;
12. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the death of T. N. Dostoevsky;
13. On the occasion of the 104th anniversary of the death of A. S. Pushkin;
14. On the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the birth of N. S. Leskov;
15. On the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the death of H. Heine;
16. Dedicated to the XVIII Party Conference;
17. On the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the death of N. I. Lobachevsky;
18. Exhibition dedicated to Alisher Navoi;
19. On the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the birth of Zhambyl Jabayev;
20. On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the death of I. P. Pavlov;
21. On the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the death of N. K. Krupskaya;
22. March 8 - International Women's Day;
23. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the death of T. G. Shevchenko;
24. Dedicated to the Paris Commune;
25. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the death of M. P. Mussorgsky. In the first half of the year, the public department of the regional library organized book exhibitions on the following topics:
26. Spring planting season;
27. XVIII Party Conference;
28. On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the death of V. V. Mayakovsky;
29. Anti-religious Easter (anti-religious exhibition);
30. On the occasion of the 325th anniversary of the death of W. Shakespeare;
31. May 1 — International Workers' Day;
32. Press Day;
33. Exhibition of literature on the 12th chapter on the history of the party;
34. History of the Party: Chapters 1–2–3–4. The exhibition was organized in the Central Park of Culture and Recreation;
35. Party history in the languages of the peoples of the USSR and in foreign languages. Exhibition in the Park of Culture and Recreation;
36. History of the Party: Chapters 5–6–7–8. The exhibition is in the center of MX and X;
37. On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the death of M. Gorky;
38. History of the Party: Chapters 9–10. The exhibition was organized in the center of MX and X.

Also, in the first half of the year, a number of defense-related exhibitions were organized<sup>39</sup>:

1. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the birth of K. E. Voroshilov;
2. On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the death of S. M. Ordzhonikidze;
3. On the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the Red Army.

The following calendars were also posted during this period:

1. On the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the Communist International;
2. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the death of D. A. Surmanov;
3. On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the death of K. Khetachurov;
4. Calendar dedicated to the massacre of Lenin;
5. On the occasion of the 325th anniversary of the death of M. Cervantes;
6. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the death of Sholom Aleichem;
7. On the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the death of I. N. Polzunov. During the first half of the year, the public department of the regional library organized literary and educational exhibitions dedicated to the following anniversaries and commemorative dates:
8. On the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the birth of V. G. Belinsky;
9. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the death of F. E. Dzerzhinsky;
10. On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the death of G. R. Derzhavin;
11. On the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the death of S. M. Kirov;
12. On the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the birth of N. A. Nekrasov;
13. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the death of N. A. Dobrolyubov.

In the first half of the year, photo exhibitions (photo exhibitions) were organized in the regional library on the following topics:

1. On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin;
2. On the occasion of the 104th anniversary of the death of A. S. Pushkin;
3. March 8 - International Women's Day;
4. On the subject of the Paris Commune;
5. May 1 - International Workers' Day;
6. On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the death of M. Gorky.

A photo exhibition on the theme of defense was also organized - on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the formation of the Red Army.

In the second half, during the last 6 months after the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, book exhibitions were organized on defense topics.

During the second half of the year, the regional library organized the following book exhibitions on the topic of defense<sup>40</sup>:

1. Defense literature exhibition;
2. Defense literature — in the Park of Culture and Recreation (KiO);

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<sup>39</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 5.

<sup>40</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 6.

3. Exhibition dedicated to the Day of the Navy;
4. Exhibition dedicated to heroic episodes in the history of the Russian people;
5. Fascism is the worst enemy of the working class and all toilers;
6. Exhibition on PVCO (Protivovozdushnaya i khimicheskaya oborona);
7. Exhibition on the subject of GSO (Gotov k sanitarnoy oborone);
8. Our famous aviation;
9. The great heroism of the Red Army;
10. On the subject of the Great Patriotic War;
11. Defense literature for general military training (vseobuch);
12. On the subject of struggle for cotton and struggle against fascism;
13. On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the birth of I. V. Stalin;
14. Stalin and the defense of the socialist state;
15. Exhibition dedicated to the 24th anniversary of the October Revolution;
16. Exhibition about hero-partisans;
17. Exhibition of anti-fascist fiction and other types of literature;
18. Wars: just and unjust;
19. The scientific views of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin on war, the army and military affairs.

During the same period (second half of the year), the following photo exhibitions on the theme of defense were organized in the regional library:

1. Photo exhibition dedicated to the Day of the Navy;
2. Photo exhibition on PVCO (Protection from air and chemical attack);
3. Photo exhibition on the topic of GSO (Preparation for Sanitary Defense);
4. On the subject of the Patriotic War;
5. Photo exhibition on the fronts of the Patriotic War;
6. Photo exhibition organized on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of I. V. Stalin;
7. "Uz TAg" photo newspaper, No. 15;
8. "Oz TAK" photo newspaper, No. 16;
9. Photo exhibition on "Bloodshed".

Educational and public activities of the library<sup>41</sup>

A total of 8 lectures and 2 lecture meetings (reports) were organized in the first semester<sup>42</sup>:

Reports<sup>43</sup>:

1. About how Lenin worked on the book. (Dedicated to the school theme of the newspaper "Pravda");
2. The origin of Christmas and its reactionary nature;

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<sup>41</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 6.

<sup>42</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 7.

<sup>43</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 7.

3. About A. S. Pushkin, with musical accompaniment;
4. About Mozart, with musical accompaniment;
5. About the international situation;
6. Malkovsky's life and work;
7. The reactionary nature of Easter;
8. On the international situation (second report).

Reports:

1. "17 years without Lenin. Under the banner of Lenin and Stalin";
2. The life and work of the composer Mussorsky.

In the second semester, 3 lectures were given:

1. About the legendary Russian commander Suvorov;
2. About the legendary commander and hero of the Civil War, G. I. Kotovsky;
3. I. V. Stalin as the great general of the Red Army.

The library carried out public work not only inside the library building, but also outside it. For example, book exhibitions were organized at the power plant, and books were distributed at lunchtime in the workers' canteen. About 30 workers and employees working at the power plant were attracted to the library as members.

#### Activities of the methodology cabinet

The activities of the Methodology Office are not directly related to the student and are not aimed at serving him directly. However, by providing methodological assistance to librarians and supervising their work, it helps to direct the activities of libraries and provide students with the most effective and appropriate service.

The Great Patriotic War demanded reorganization of library activities in a military spirit. The Cabinet of Methodology directed this work accordingly and led in this direction<sup>44</sup>.

#### Conduct library councils

The Methodology Department organized a series of meetings with library staff in the city and districts of Samarkand. These meetings discussed issues of reorganizing library work in accordance with Comrade Stalin's radio address of July 3, 1941.

In particular, a separate meeting was held with librarians from the Bagyshamal neighborhood of Samarkand.

Another meeting was held in collaboration with the Siyob District Department of Public Education of Samarkand. It was attended not only by librarians, but also by club directors and heads of red teahouses.

The meeting in the Privokzal district did not take place due to the fault of the Rayono.

In addition, one council was held in the city of Jizzakh and another in the district of Zomin<sup>45</sup>.

#### Departures to districts

A service trip was organized in order to study the district libraries, check their activities and provide methodical support and guidance to the employees.

Libraries in the following districts were studied<sup>46</sup>:

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<sup>44</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 7.

<sup>45</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 7.



1. Nurato district
2. Pakhtakor district
3. Khatirchi district
4. Karadarya district
5. Narpay district
6. Ishtikhan district
7. Kattakorgan city
8. Jizzakh city
9. Zaamin district
10. Urgut district
11. Komsomol district
12. Payarik district
13. Akdarya district

About 20 libraries were inspected in Samarkand city. Including<sup>47</sup>:

1. City public library
2. Children's technical station library
3. Library of the agricultural technical college named after Kichurin
4. Library of Mechanized Agricultural Technical University
5. F#30, digital library 10
6. F#30, digital library 16
7. "Sharq" regional consumer cooperative library
8. School library No. 13
9. School library No. 30
10. School library No. 34
11. School library No. 35
12. Library at the "Mehnat" Women's Club and others.

Written method and recommended bibliographic lists.

In the first half of 1941, methodological letters sent by the Republican Methodological Office and recommended bibliographic lists dedicated to all important dates of the Red Calendar were accepted by the regional Methodological Office. These materials were sometimes shortened, supplemented or edited. Then they were reproduced and distributed to city and district libraries<sup>48</sup>.

In particular, the following materials were distributed:

1. Recommendations in Uzbek and Russian dedicated to Lenin's Day;
2. A brief guide to fiction for the new reader;

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<sup>46</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 8.

<sup>47</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 8

<sup>48</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 8

3. A brief literary index in Uzbek and Russian dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoi;
4. Materials in Uzbek and Russian dedicated to the 23rd anniversary of the Red Army;
5. A note for the book carrier in Uzbek;
6. Instructions in Uzbek on the topic "How to check reading aloud and conversations?";
7. Recommendations in Uzbek and Russian dedicated to International Women's Day, March 8;
8. Instructions for the spring planting season in Uzbek and Russian;
9. Anti-religious statement in Uzbek;
10. Recommendations in Uzbek and Russian dedicated to the May Day holiday, etc<sup>49</sup>.

However, in the second half of the year, due to financial shortages and paper shortages, the sending of these materials to libraries was drastically reduced. Only recommended lists of literature on anti-fascist and defense topics and materials devoted to the celebration of the October Revolution were sent<sup>50</sup>.

#### Organization of consultations.

Consultations conducted by the Methodology Office were mainly individual. One group consultation was conducted with students of one-year library courses. The Methodology Office also participated in a special meeting held at these courses. The meeting discussed issues of identifying shortcomings in the educational process and eliminating factors that hinder their elimination.

The Methodology Office also actively participated in the exam session for students completing their courses and in their graduation ceremony. Individual consultations were organized with library staff in Samarkand every day. A total of about 150 individual consultations were held on all issues related to the organization of library work.<sup>51</sup>

About the work carried out in 1941.

In 1941, due to lack of funds, no courses were organized by the Methodology Cabinet.

In 1941, the regional library received a sufficient number of periodicals. A total of 232 magazines and 41 newspapers were subscribed. Magazines and newspapers are prepared annually for reinforcement (pereplyot). In 1941, a collection of 23 newspapers, 434 magazines and 86 books were strengthened.

In 1941, the following work was carried out in terms of economic affairs:

1. Fuel. 18 tons of coal were stored. But due to insufficient preparation of wood, there were difficulties in firing the furnaces.
2. The floors in two classrooms were painted.
3. Tambur (vestibule) was opened.
4. The director's office was renovated in good condition.
5. A new gate was installed in place of the old one.
6. The toilet was repaired and put in order<sup>52</sup>.

Implementation of the 1941 budget

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<sup>49</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 8

<sup>50</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 8

<sup>51</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 9

<sup>52</sup> State archive of Samarkand region. Fund 1672, list 2, case 13, sheet 8

T/R	Name of expenses	allocated funds	Actual amount spent	Explanation
1	Salary	106,600	100103-91	
2	Account books	4.600	4392-31	
3	0003Economic and clerical expenses	16,900	16753-63	
4	Travel expenses	1.100	1004-48	
5	Scientific and methodical works	4.300	4434-35	
6	Filling with books	55,000	50237-54	
7	Equipment and inventory	5.000	4211-30	
8	Costs of cultural events	1.500	1500	
Total		194000	182537-52	

Named after A.S. Pushkin Gutenko,

director of the regional library

Information about classrooms as of 1941 No. 3

Visitors in the first quarter of 1941	Number of visitors from 1/3 to 1 January	Number of books issued in 1 semester	Defense literature	The amount of books given from 1/3 to 1 January	Defense literature	Number of books viewed on interlibrary loan from 1/1 to 1/3 quarter of 1940	Books on interlibrary loan from January 3 to January 1	SC objects
6566	46370	82112	5216	110831	20700	1495	8337	8

Filling the book fund in 1941 #5

Total number of books received	Anti-religious literature	General political books	Among them, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin	Exact sciences	Applied sciences	Including		Fiction	Geography	critical	Other types of books	Russian	Uzbek	Other types of books	Western European literature
						technician	Agriculture								
	38	2734	242	726	1528	180	175	1638	28	132	985	6599	1104	18	87

Distribution of books by decimal classification sections #6

The total number of books of the department of socio-economic processing on Stropovsky systems	the total number of current receipts of books	against religion	society	political	exact sciences	Applied sciences			fiction	literary criticism	geography	Another kind of literature	book distribution			Distribution of books to departments				
			Total number	Of the se		total	of these	Russian					Uzbek	In other languages	book depository		Subscript ion			
															1,3,9	commodity class	technician	Agriculture	in Russian	
6522	7324	31	2199	565	691	1519	481	496	1581	207	64	1032	6219	1064	41	4359	881	1860	224	
Total circulation is 13346 books																5240		2084		total

**Conclusion.** Libraries in the Samarkand region between 1917 and 1991 not only served as repositories of knowledge but were also political, educational, and cultural instruments of Soviet power. Their evolution during WWII exemplifies how institutions were repurposed for ideological warfare and national unity. Comparative and multilingual analysis reveals patterns applicable across the USSR but with unique local adaptations in Samarkand.

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