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Introducing the Reference Library of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults

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Introduction

In the course of history, libraries have functioned as centers that offer data and knowledge to the lovers and seekers of science. The rapid evolution in the different domains of science would be hard to imagine without the existence of knowledge providing centers. The Reference Library of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, widely known as "The Reference Library", is one of the largest research libraries and the main source of information in the field of children and young adult literature, art and culture in Iran.

Before the Islamic revolution, there were two libraries in the central building of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults located in Jam Avenue: one was The Clerks' Library, and the other was The Reference Library of Children.

Book provision for the Institute's libraries would go through the following procedure: publishers sent a sample of their books to the institute, the institute would consider them and decide to buy the appropriate books.

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The books that were considered inappropriate for children and young adults would be submitted to The Clerks' Library that was launched in July, 1969.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, The Clerk's Library and Abraham Lincoln Library (the library of the former Iran –America Society) were merged and a new library was established which became known as The Reference Library. At the beginning, the library lacked a written codified by-law until 1993, when an internal by-law got codified and approved according to which the library became a specialized research library with a sharp focus on the literature, art, culture, education, psychology and reading materials for children and young adults. Following the change, all the books which were not compatible with the objectives of the library were taken out of the collection.

At the present moment, The Reference Library is one of the most important specialized research libraries in this domain throughout the world, offering services to scholars, researchers, writers, illustrators, film makers, playwrights, and all those who are one way or another involved in activities for children and young adults, as well as students majoring in art and literature.

Having up to date sources is one of the most important qualities of The Reference Library. After being catalogued, classified, indexed, abstracted and prepared, the sources are ready to be offered to the users.

The Activities of the Reference Library:

1-Making collection and compilation of the sources:

- Research books with the subject of literature, art, culture, education, and psychology in Persian and non-Persian languages are kept in two sections: the reference department and the lending department
- Books for children and young adults are written in Persian and non-Persian languages:
- ❖ Persian books include all "the books published for children and young adults written in Farsi in Iran"(except for textbooks, educational help books, and coloring books) and all "books published by the Institute from the beginning to date". This collection is considered to be an archive of

national publications in the field of literature for children and young adults.

- ❖ Non-Persian books form a collection of fictional and non-fictional books for children and young adults in 25 languages from all over the world. The language becomes distinguished and specified by colored polkas stuck to the spine of the book.
- ❖ Persian and non-Persian books selected for national and credibly international awards are kept in separate shelves with explanations about the award and its date inserted to the title page of the award winning book .
- Persian and non-Persian periodicals include two parts: periodicals "about children and young adults" and periodicals "for children and young adults."
- ❖ With regard to the objectives and working policy of the library, the best and the most suitable periodicals about children and young adults published in Iran and in the whole world are selected and bought. After going through an examination, their appropriate articles are chosen, indexed and abstracted.
- ❖ All the periodicals published in Iran for kids, children and young adults (including independent periodicals, special issues or attachments to periodicals and newspapers) are prepared and kept in the library.
- ❖ A selection of non-Persian periodicals for kids, children and young adults from all over the world, covering a variety of subjects (literary, scientific, entertaining, historical, cultural and ...) for the age category of 0 to 18 years is ordered and bought. The Reference Library is the only library in Iran that has the up-to date version of the non-Persian periodicals for children and young adults.

The last issue of each periodical is put in the display section and the former issues are moved to the periodical section and archived to be offered to users.

- Theses
- ❖ A number of Persian and non-Persian theses with the subject of children and young adults.

- ❖ A number of scanned thesis abstracts, accessible in the library's portal software.
- Compact disks
- ❖ Persian and non-Persian CDs and DVDs produced either independently or along with books and periodicals, and archived in a separate section.

Organization

This section includes the cataloguing, classifying, indexing, abstracting and preparing of the sources according to international standards. This library is one of the few specialized libraries in Iran that indexes and abstracts its Persian and non-Persian articles, a service which is an effective help to researchers and experts.

Dissemination of Information

After conducting a search in the software, users can get access to the sources in the open shelves directly, and indirectly with the help of the librarians.

The website of the library at (<http://lib.kanoonparvaresh.com>) can give the researchers access to the bibliographical information of the sources.

Education

- This section makes it possible for colleagues and students to use academic theses (MA and PhD).
- It is possible for a limited number of practitioners from different universities majoring in librarianship to get trained annually in this section.
- There are also pre-service and in-service training courses offered to colleagues.

Events

- Holding forum sessions about "promoting book reading culture for children and young adults" on the last Monday of each month for the trainers, experts and those who are interested.

- Holding subject-based exhibitions of books and periodicals every month.
- Holding exhibitions of the works produced by artists illustrating books for children and young adults in seven frames
- Displaying the most recently bought Persian and non-Persian books to disseminate information about the new sources.
- Holding bimonthly subject-based exhibitions of books for adults, kept either in the reference section or the lending section. They are called "on-the-table exhibition".

Publications

- *Lasting Leaves*: bibliography of the award winning books for children and young adults from 1921 to 2012

It is a research work that has introduced all the state, private, national and international awards, their judging procedure and their time schedule. The bibliography is arranged in alphabetical order and besides each book title, the name of the award it has won and the year the award has been received and the reason for which it has been endowed are registered. Having a subject-based catalogue and an annual indexing is the distinguishing feature of *Lasting Leaves* which would make it easier to search and extract information. This bibliography was published in 2014.

- **Eska Thesarus**: A book of idioms published by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults

In order to homogenize the indexing process of documents and facilitate the retrieval of information, a collection of controlled and ordered words, including specific idioms has been made. These idioms have been collected simultaneously with the indexing process of articles since 1991 to date. With the help of this book, researchers can use the most correct idiom to retrieve their required documents.

Terms for membership

To become a member of the library, all the users of this library can offer a sample of a published work, and the students of humanities and art can offer

their student id card and a photo of themselves, and fill the required form and pay the membership fee. Students are temporary members and should study the books inside the library.

The number of existing sources

Currently, this library has about 110000 Persian books, and 97000 non-Persian books, almost 80000 issues of Persian and non-Persian periodicals, 70000 Persian and non-Persian articles that have been indexed, 210 theses, 1300 Persian and non-Persian compact discs and 100 proposals. 17 experts are working in this specialized library and the number of members counts almost to 6000.



The Study Room



The Reference Section