

ACTIVITIES OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Silvia HABASESCU

Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, habasescu@lib.ase.md

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-7054-4466

The library is undoubtedly an important socio-cultural institution for society that needs to be developed. Currently, university libraries in the Republic of Moldova are facing various challenges. There are several reasons for this: global changes and crises, the rapid development of innovative technologies, which entail the widespread use of the Internet and the rapid dissemination of information. The combination of these factors indicates the need to revise the overall strategy for the development of libraries and improve its conservative structure to match the modern information society.

The scale and depth of the necessary transformations of libraries in the Republic of Moldova are due to the challenges to the education system associated with the growing role of information technology in all spheres of life, the growing influence of the professional community and public organizations on the requirements for the modern education system.

Increasing the pace of creation and dissemination of information, the invention of new methods and means of its storage and transmission, the change in the principles of interaction between people in the process of exchanging information has led to the unification of two components - telecommunications infrastructure and information resources. Therefore, at this stage in the development of society, libraries need to determine a new development strategy in order to adapt to crises.

The article deals with the problems of functioning of university libraries during the pandemic period. The purpose of the study is to draw lessons from the experience of the extreme mode of operation of the entire higher education system during the pandemic for its adaptation during the period of sanitary restrictions and further development.

The experience of the Scientific Library of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova in organizing activities during the crisis period is analyzed, the process of information service for library users in these conditions is considered. The results of user surveys, analysis and assessment of the degree of satisfaction of library users with information services in a crisis are presented.

Keywords: crisis conditions, global pandemic, academic libraries, information users, online information services

JEL Classification: A29; G01; I23