

## Public Access to National ISBN Agency Book Collection

National ISBN Agency Book Collections is part of a growing collection of Khazar University Library & Information Center (LIC) within the Khazar University library and publishing sector. The comprehensive collections of Azerbaijan publications formed in this way provide the means for research into all aspects of Azerbaijan life, culture, and artistic, commercial, technical and scientific endeavor.

LIC environments, in which open shelves are just one of a variety of other library services, ISBN book collection open shelves could continue to have a major contribution to the study environment in future library spaces. Librarians use the shelves to provide access to ISBN publications that users prefer in paper format. Especially scholars value the open shelves with books in LIC, as long as the information in these shelves is easily findable, coherent and up to date. This is strongly related to their reading needs. In general, students and scholars often read long texts and intensively, for which they consider the paper format more suited than the digital alternative. Obviously, this might change in the future as e-books, and the devices that are needed to read them, improve. But, in our opinion the foreseeable future, monographs should be preferably made available both in electronic and paper format. Then, users could use the digital version if easy, location independent access is important to them or if they want to look up information. And users who, for instance, don't want to read large parts of a book from a screen can use the paper format.

ISBN public access not only allows fellow researchers, potential collaborators or interested and curious individuals from anywhere in Azerbaijan and in the world to gain free access to essential information and insight but it also provides the researcher with a breadth of demonstrable tools, experiences and skills. Open access publishing not only provides students and researchers with viable methods to disseminate their work but it also expands the opportunity for anyone, anywhere, to gain access to essential inspirational and educational material.

There are increasing demands from the wider research environment for scholarly research to be available and accessible to public, private and professional audiences as well as the traditional academic sector. Khazar University Publishing Press together with LIC focuses on addressing the requirements of the research environment by providing an open access platform that is enriched by a high level of scholarly community activity and support. It is important to recognise that high quality community support requires both investment in systems/platforms, as well as investment in infrastructure. More than important to implement new ways in which analytics can help to identify relationships between online communication activities and article.

In that respect, it is quite striking that most open shelves are still primarily meant for paper publications only, although library collections consist of both paper and digital publications. There are some possibilities to provide library visitors information on print and digital ISBN publications via [Khazar University digital catalogue](#) and [Institutional Repository](#) by DSpace platform. This might be a way to make sure that the information in the open shelves is coherent and up to date, even when many publications are only available in digital format. Besides, this would make it possible to better integrate the paper and digital collection of ISBN publications and to invite visitors of Khazar University LIC not to limit the literature they use to one format, as currently is the case with the digital oriented students. Open access shelves with DSpace provide the opportunity to exhibit both paper and digital literature in the library space.

The emergence of the internet and the advances in information and communication technology have brought unprecedented changes to higher learning and research which reinforced the need for rethinking their future as well as their response to changes of the academic environment. Khazar University LIC reshaped their development plan and vision following the lessons learned from foreign academic libraries and their response to changes of their environment. However, their future depends

on the development of educational and research process at university and the recognition of academic library as an important factor to affect educational and research outcomes of higher education.