Data base project

Introduction

It may seem as though information resources on the subject of children and adolescents would be limited. But the Institute on the History of Children's Literature's experience over the last several years has shown that there are many excellent resources dealing with this subject have developed. This is because this subject is a subdirectory of areas such as literature, arts, sociology, economics and medicine. The new Iranian children's literature, particularly, was shaped after the Constitutional Revolution and has become more and more developed in each era since then.

Establishing the possibility for quick access to correct and complete information about children and adolescents' literature in Iran will fulfill the information needs of Iranian researchers and assist researchers in other countries approach comparative research with a global and historic perspective. This will allow researchers to and consider and evaluate all resources so that the lack of information doesn't lead to great errors in research results or to the omission of Iran's name as a country with a rich record in the area of children's and adolescents' literature.

Goal

Design of a system that helps coordinate and establish the gathering, organization and exchange of information about children and adolescents' literature in Farsi-speaking nations. Implementing this project will help expand comparative research and studies in Farsi-speaking countries as well as other nations. For example, if it is decided to conduct comparative research on children's literature in Iran and Sweden, written, audio-visual and audio resources will make it possible to conduct a complete and accurate historical and contemporary inquiry. This project's ultimate goal is to strengthen culture and develop children's literature, and teaching and involving women and children with the rich ideas behind culture, democracy and progress.

Purpose

1. Identifying existing sources of information in Farsi-speaking countries.
2. Strengthening the identification and understanding of the roots and importance of the mother culture.
3. Assisting comparative studies and research on children's literature in Farsi-speaking nations and other nations and cultural exchanges between them.
4. Identifying historical and cultural exchanges between Farsi-speaking countries and other nations (like Scandinavian countries).

Audience

First targeted audience: Farsi-speaking children and adolescents (in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan) and children and adolescents in European nations, the U.S. and other countries—especially children and adolescents in Scandinavian countries. Second target audience: librarians, teachers, educators, educational planners and administrators, those conducting programs and research projects, professors, students, the mass media and specialized publications in Farsi-speaking nations.

Coverage of Subject

All information sources with two perspectives, "about children and adolescents" and "for children and adolescents," .The subjects covered would include: the history of children and adolescents' literature; oral literature (legends, Fables and lullabies); written literature; identifying characters in children's literature; international children and adolescents' literature in Iran; children's cultural centers, and related subject areas such as: education (education theory and great educators), games and hobbies, printing and publishing, biographies, information centers and education centers.

Time Covered

Beginning with the Constitutional Era to before revolution. (1850-1979).

The Language of the Site

The information bank's primary language will be Farsi. Between 3-5 percent of the information will also be available in English and will include introducing the information bank, the resource subject keywords and their index. If the funding becomes available, all descriptive and analytical material and summaries can be translated into English, Swedish, German and other languages.

Project Timeline and Implementation Stages

History of research in Iran:

No similar research or project exists in Iran.

History of research in Other Countries:

No database with the comprehensive structure that this project proposes exists. The existing databases mainly introduce books that have been awarded literary or artistic prizes. Some of these databases include:

1. The Swedish Institute for Children's Books: www.sbi.kb.se/samleng.html
2. Database of Award-Winning Children's Literature: www.dawcl.com
3. Children's Literature: www.childrenlit.com
4. National Art Library Computer Cataloge: www.nal.vam.ac.uk/nalcoct.html

Informational data

All the gathered data are catagorized according to the time period, subject, and type of sources. The information would be descriptive and analytic.

Time Period

The time periods for the available data are divided to:
Ancient Times
The Islamic Period
The Constitutional Era: 1840-1920
Modern Time: 1920-1960

Subject

■ Primary sources of children's literature:
   1.Folk or oral literature: Folktales, lullabies, nursery rhymes (in Farsi and other ethnic Iranian including Turkish, Kurdish, Armenian and Asyrian).
   2.Modern children's literature: In Farsi and other ethnic languages including Turkish, Kurdish, Armenian and Asyrian.
   - Fiction (original and translated).
   - Non-fiction (original and translated).
   - Poetry
   - Drama
■ Secondary sources of children's literature
Biographies and interviews:
   Writers, illustrators, translator, researchers and experts
■ Informational sources:
   - Academic centers
   - Workshops
   - Exhibitions
   - Prizes
   - Publishers
   - Seminars

Type of sources

All the data would be presented in the one or some of the following formats:
Books (typography and lithography books and manuscripts), articles, publications, theses (dissertations), documents, reports, research projects, pamphlets and brochures, posters, pictures and photographs, films, audio cassettes and CDs.

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