

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



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<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES OF THE MUSEUM NETWORK IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF UZBEKISTAN

Xosiyatov Khurshid Otaqulovich

Independent Researcher at State Museum of the History of Uzbekistan under
the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Associate Professor of the Department of Social and Humanitarian Sciences,

Karshi State Technical University.

E-mail: xurshid3107@gmail.com

Abstract:

This article provides a historical and scientific analysis of the institutional development processes of the museum network in the southern regions of Uzbekistan. It examines the establishment of museums, management systems, legal and regulatory frameworks, and the main directions of their activities. Special attention is paid to the role of state policy, socio-economic factors, and scientific expeditions in the formation of regional museums. The study reveals the stages of development of the museum network and its importance in preserving cultural heritage. As a result, scientific conclusions are proposed to improve the museum system.

Keywords: Museum network, institutional development, southern regions, museum management, legal and regulatory framework, state policy, scientific expeditions, socio-economic factors, cultural heritage, regional museums

Mazkur maqolada O'zbekiston janubiy viloyatlarida muzeylar tarmog'ining institutsional rivojlanish jarayonlari tarixiy va ilmiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Unda muzeylarning tashkil etilishi, boshqaruv tizimi, huquqiy-me'yoriy asoslari hamda

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faoliyatining asosiy yoʻnalishlari yoritiladi. Shuningdek, hududiy muzeylarning shakllanishida davlat siyosati, ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy omillar va ilmiy ekspeditsiyalarning oʻrni koʻrib chiqiladi. Tadqiqotda muzeylar tarmogʻining rivojlanish bosqichlari va ularning madaniy merosni saqlashdagi ahamiyati ochib beriladi. Natijada, muzey tizimini takomillashtirishga oid ilmiy xulosalar ishlab chiqiladi.

Kalit soʻzlar: muzeylar tarmogʻi, institutsional rivojlanish, janubiy viloyatlar, muzey boshqaruvi, huquqiy-meʼyoriy asoslar, davlat siyosati, ilmiy ekspeditsiyalar, ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy omillar, madaniy meros, hududiy muzeylar

Аннотация:

В данной статье проводится историко-научный анализ процессов институционального развития музейной сети в южных регионах Узбекистана. Рассматриваются вопросы создания музеев, системы управления, нормативно-правовой базы и основных направлений их деятельности. Особое внимание уделяется роли государственной политики, социально-экономических факторов и научных экспедиций в формировании региональных музеев. В исследовании раскрываются этапы развития музейной сети и её значение в сохранении культурного наследия. В результате сформулированы научные выводы, направленные на совершенствование музейной системы.

Ключевые слова: музейная сеть, институциональное развитие, южные регионы, управление музеями, нормативно-правовые основы, государственная политика, научные экспедиции, социально-экономические факторы, культурное наследие, региональные музеи

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INTRODUCTION

In the first half of the twentieth century, the formation and institutional development of the museum network in the southern regions of Uzbekistan emerged as an important historical process. During this period, socio-political transformations, new directions in state policy, and the intensification of scientific research significantly influenced museum activities in the region. Museums were regarded not only as institutions for preserving cultural heritage, but also as instruments for shaping historical consciousness and promoting educational activities. In particular, materials collected through archaeological and ethnographic expeditions enriched museum collections and enhanced their scientific significance. At the same time, the establishment and administration of the museum network gradually began to be regulated on the basis of specific legal and normative frameworks. This study is aimed precisely at revealing the essence of these processes[1].

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The processes of institutional development of the museum network in the southern regions of Uzbekistan were comprehensively analyzed, resulting in a number of significant scientific findings and extensive discussions regarding their essence and characteristics. First of all, it was determined that the formation of the museum network in this region during the first half of the twentieth century was not accidental, but rather a systematic process shaped by the interaction of socio-political, economic, and cultural factors. In particular, the centralization of cultural policy associated with the establishment of Soviet statehood played a crucial role in determining both the organization of museums and the directions of their activities. As a result, museums began to function not only as scientific institutions, but also as ideological instruments[2].

The findings of the study indicate that, during the initial stage of the formation of the museum network in the southern regions, primary attention was devoted to

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the collection and systematization of archaeological and ethnographic materials. In particular, artifacts discovered during scientific expeditions conducted in the regions of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya constituted the foundation of museum collections[3]. This significantly strengthened the scientific orientation of museums and reinforced their role as research centers. At the same time, new exhibitions were organized on the basis of materials gathered through these expeditions, enabling the historical and cultural characteristics of the region to be widely presented to the public.

The research further demonstrates that the institutional development of the museum network in the southern regions of Uzbekistan evolved systematically and gradually. According to the analysis, the first museums in the region began to be established during the 1920s–1940s, while by the 1930s their number had increased considerably. For example, in certain areas, between three and five local museums had already begun operating, whereas by the 1940s this number had risen to eight to ten institutions[4]. This development was directly connected with state cultural policy and the growing intensity of scientific research activities[9].

The results also reveal that archaeological and ethnographic expeditions played a decisive role in the formation of museum collections. Between 1925 and 1935, more than ten scientific expeditions were organized in the southern territories, resulting in the collection of thousands of exhibits. In particular, archaeological artifacts discovered in the Surkhandarya region accounted for approximately 40–50 percent of museum holdings[8]. This significantly enhanced the scientific importance of museums. Furthermore, the study established that legal and normative frameworks occupied an important place in the development of the museum network. On the basis of resolutions adopted during the 1930s, museum activities increasingly came under a centralized system of administration. Consequently, nearly 70–80 percent of museum activities were organized according to unified methodological approaches. However, this process also led

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to the insufficient consideration of regional characteristics and local specificities[5].

The issue of professional personnel was likewise identified as an important factor. During the 1920s, the number of specialists working in museums remained extremely limited, with some museums employing only two or three staff members. By the 1940s, however, this number had increased to approximately ten to fifteen employees[7]. This development substantially improved the scientific quality of museum activities. The discussions also revealed the influence of socio-economic factors. In regions with low levels of financial support, museum development progressed slowly, whereas in territories supported by state funding, the number and activities of museums developed 1.5–2 times more rapidly. At the same time, it was determined that exhibits donated by local residents constituted approximately 20–30 percent of total museum collections[6].

Overall, the results of the study demonstrate that the development of the museum network was a multifactorial process. Quantitative analyses confirm that the interaction of state policy, scientific expeditions, personnel training, and material resources served as the principal factors in the formation of the museum system. Therefore, in the development of the modern museum system, it is of considerable importance to take historical experience into account, to use existing resources effectively, and to introduce innovative approaches[10].

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