

Children's Book Council: Keeping up with the Times

Noushin Ansari, University Professor, educator, and secretary general of Children's Book Council of Iran / The Children's Book Council, also known as IBBY Iran, was founded by a group of educators and artists in 1962. CBC joined the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in 1964 and has acted as the National Section for Iran to date. I joined CBC a year after its start, and have greatly enjoyed this long association both as a member and as CBC's Secretary General from 1979 to date.

It is with pride that I look upon its growth as a nationally respected NGO with more than one thousand members carrying on many different activities, with no government support, relying only on voluntary work, donations, workshops and royalties. As a librarian (MLS McGill 1968) I fully relate to CBC's aims and objectives which are the promotion of quality literature, and bringing children and books together. When invited to write the lead for the iBulletin I felt honored and thought that it might be interesting to share some of our experiences during

recent months when we have been faced with the challenges of the corona crisis.

What I guess surprised me most was the quick, almost natural reaction of colleagues to shift activities into virtual space. CBC's book reviewing committees with some two hundred members in 19 groups studying Iran's annual publication suddenly disappeared from the usual scene.

On the CBC premises no more crowds, no more heated discussions, no more hugs... I was however assured that work was going on online! The committee's report based on about one thousand books was recently posted on the CBC telegram channel, I must confess that reading the report at my pace was more rewarding than the usual

oral presentation at the CBC Anniversary Celebration in March. While dwelling in the bibliographic world, a timely decision by colleagues was the posting of retrospective subject bibliographies on the telegram channel. In these grey times it was a good



reminder of our paper book heritage, and a return to reading some of these quality works. The subjects included works on environment, discrimination, immigration, peace, disability, etc.

Another major CBC activity is the book launch of every new volume of the Encyclopedia for Young People (EYP) at its Anniversary Celebration. This year however volume nineteen did not get the chance for a standing ovation, but instead the good news was spread through social media.

When some forty years ago Touran Mirhadi, one of the main founders of CBC, proposed the compilation of EYP to the CBC EC, most of us wondered how we could tackle this monumental task! The basic questions were how an NGO working in such a small space, with no government support and faced with a weak infrastructure of school and public libraries, could succeed? Eventually she won by convincing us that the supportive hand of civic society should not be underestimated and this support would take us through as she said "an arduous mountain climb".

Two recent documents are testimonies to her willpower and dedication. In a paper presented by Leila Maktabi-Fard at the 36th IBBY Congress in Athens, she drew a comparison between Yella Lepman, the founder of both IBBY and The International Youth Library (IYL) in Munich, with Touran Mirhadi as the founder of Farhad Education Complex and CBC, both deeply dedicated to the cause of providing quality literature for the younger generation.

Articles based on ... [continued to Page 4]

Iranian winner of ASIS&T Award

Head of the International Affairs Committee of the Iranian Library and Information Association, the winner of ASIS&T, 2020 InfoShare awards, was also selected as one of the seven members of the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III). These goals can be achieved through the publication of a specialized journal, workshops, seminars, and information consultations by ASIS&T professors." Fatemeh Pazooki said. "This international association has different working groups on various issues. Unfortunately, due to both the thematic scope and the high cost of membership, the members of this association are often from developed countries. So a few years ago, the international section of the association offered an award called Infoshare for developing countries. Hence, 7 to 9 professionals from developing countries will be selected and their professional and verified educational activities will be supported materially and spiritually by ASIS&T." She added although due to banking constraints, money transfers was difficult, it was hoped that with this cooperation, Iranian professionals would be able to get the most out of the services and facilities of this specialized association and also to assist in developing knowledge and putting it into practice in their profession. She invited those interested in participating in international interaction to contact her via Email.



Iranian Nominate for the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award

The Children's Book Council (CBC) will nominate Khanian as a nominee for the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen World Award.

The reasons for this election, while emphasizing the prominent and influential role of his works in the process of the new formation of Iranian Children and Adolescent Literature, are as follow:

- 1) Emphasis on human issues today, such as war, migration, discrimination, loneliness, death, intergenerational reading, association's members' crises, identity, indigenous life expenses, and specific cultures, exceptional attention to an urban middle-class lifestyle, peace, empathy, friendship, love, respect for others and family;
- 2) Achieving a specific writing style by em. Their form, technique, aesthetic aspects of narrative language and dramatic dialogues, paying particular attention to the character as well as arousing curiosity, questioning, and the development of critical and philosophical thinking of the audience;
- 3) His works have received numerous domestic awards and honors such as Book of

the Season, Book of the Year, Twenty Years of Literature Award, Special Award for a Quarter of Century, Literature in the Adolescent Novel sections, Playwriting and Artistic Research by institutions such as the Children's Book Council, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, the Book House, Flying Turtle, Mehr Taha, the Isfahan Literary Award, children's and youth literary magazines and the Fajr International Theater Festival.

He has also received many international honors, such as "The beautiful heart of Babur," a book on the White Crow list (International Youth Library in Munich) in 2005; The IBBY Honour List 2012 for "Seventh Floor West" and 2014 for "Younes's Ballades in the Fish's Stomach" as well as some of his plays selected for theatrical festivals in Germany, Baku, and Moscow.

In 2018, Khanian was also nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award by the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth.

He was also nominated for the same award in 2020 by the Children's Book Council.



Rank A for ILISA: 6th consecutive year

The Iranian Library and Information Science Association (ILISA) is a non-governmental organization, which is represented by the library and information society and its related institutions and processes. The first professional association of librarians in Iran was established in 1965. The association mainly aims to promote the position of librarianship and information in society and to provide a suitable space for the scientific and professional development of librarians, informants, and those involved in this field in the country. The first evaluation period of scientific associations began in 2007. All scientific associations in various specialized fields, which have received their license from the Commission of Iranian Scientific Associations, can be evaluated in the index compiled by the Commission of Iranian Scientific Associations. Iranian Library and Information Science Association in the last evaluation of the scientific associations' performance of the Ministry of Science in 2018, scoring 1066 out of 1500, attained the A rank for the sixth consecutive year. Based on ministry of science, research technology more than 2900 scientific associations are active in Iran.



'With Books at Home' Campaign

The movement of "With Books at Home" in Nowruz 1399 (2020), based on a plan from Cultural Studies and Book Reading Office, Deputy for Cultural Affairs of Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance started working with the cooperation of the Book House, the network of book-loving cities and villages, and the Culture and Islamic Guidance Offices of all provinces. In this campaign, children and adolescents all over Iran, in a two-minute clip that they shared on social networks, introduced the book that they had read in family quarantine spaces. After reviewing the works submitted to the secretariat of the festival, the judging panel of the "With Books at Home" campaign selected 200 careers based on factors including creativity in performance, providing a suitable model for promoting reading, audio and visual appeal, proper timing, and attention to the promotion of individual and social health.



Iran in the Governing Board of ISSN

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health and social measures imposed by several national authorities, the ISSN Governing Board and the ISSN Member Countries voted to cancel all in-person meetings and the International Conference to take place in Paris in April 2020.

Instead of the General Assembly in-person meeting, the ISSN International Centre organized an Online meeting for the 23rd General Assembly.

In this meeting, Memari, Senior Administrator of ISSN National Centre of Iran, was elected as a governing board member. ISSN's governing board consists of UNESCO members, the French Government, and ten selected candidates from member countries.

The new governing board comprises members from Germany, Spain, Iran, United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, Tunisia, Sweden, and Croatia.



Cleaning and Disinfecting IranPLs

Due to the coronavirus outbreak and the need to prevent the spread of pathogens, Iran Public Libraries Foundation disinfected the public libraries in accordance with the health instructions of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education. Since February 22, Public libraries, as the social and cultural bases, which were in charge of educating and informing library members and patrons in order to prevent the spread of the disease since the onset of coronavirus in China, were closed, which was coincided with school and university closures.

One of the most important Iranian librarians' achievements in Iran was the preparation of the document of Guidelines for reopening libraries entitled: Iran Public Libraries responding to COVID-19". To prepare this document, 20 librarians from all over Iran compose an electronic group and provided some guidelines for reopening public libraries and providing services following health protocols. This document was confirmed in the evaluation by IFLA and placed in the IFLA Library.



The most exquisite Quran in NALI

Qazvini Quran, every page has extraordinary gilding, is one of the artistic masterpieces in the world of Quran gilding.

The Quran of Zayn al-Abidin Qazvini is an exquisite and precious Qur'an of the Qajar period in which 600 different gildings have been used. About four kilos of pure gold and precious stones have been used in gilding this exquisite Quran. This exquisite Quran was written in the city of Shiraz in 1219 AH, and several art masters and painters were working on it for several years. This magnificent work has 547 pages with 600 pieces of gilding and painting. There is also separate gilding and school of gilding that has existed in Iran used in this Quran, which has turned it into a unique work. The unique features of this Quran persuaded some Saudi and English collectors to buy it in any way possible and at an incredible price. Fortunately, the owner's commitment, national, and religious prejudice prevented this, and finally, in 2008, this immortal work was entrusted to the NLA.



NLAI & Azerbaijan

On May 10, 2020, Broujerdi, head of the National Archives and the National Library of Iran, met with Bunyad Huseynov, Azerbaijani Ambassador. In this meeting, referring to the corona pandemic situation, Broujerdi stressed the importance of studying historical documents and records of the epidemics in the past Iran faced with and said, "A committee has been set up to compile the experiences related to coronavirus disease in which all information on the social, economic, political and cultural sectors of the country should be uploaded including the mental and medical complications of coronavirus disease, which must be collected with the help of the Iranian Medical System Organization, so that it can be used for the future and to transfer the experiences." Referring to the memorandums of understanding between the National Library of Azerbaijan and the NLAI, Broujerdi stressed the possibility of scientific exchange between scientists and experts of the two countries. She also stressed the digital services during Corona times. Referring to the merger of the National Archives and National Library in Iran, the Azerbaijani ambassador said that this had not happened in Azerbaijan and that these two institutions were separated under governmental organs. He also referred to the possibility of NLAI cooperation with the Baku State University in the field of Oriental Studies and added that in this university Persian was also taught. Huseynov also described Iran's activities in the field of oral history as a valuable experience saying, "I believe that the memories of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will be of valuable works for the future because complex negotiation with six countries of the world is not easy and this art of negotiation should be included in Iranian textbooks.

NLAI & Malaysia

On May 19, 2020, Broujerdi, NLAI President, had a video call with Ismail, Deputy Director of General National Library of Malaysia. Referring to the NLAI activities during the outbreak of Covid-19 disease, Broujerdi, in this meeting, pointed out, "In continuation of digitalization processes, 10 million sheets of documents, 150 thousand volumes of books, including 23 thousand volumes of children's books and 37 thousand volumes of manuscripts along with 110,000 volumes of student dissertations were uploaded on the website of the NLAI, to be available to the members." She also referred to the country's economy changes following the outbreak of Covid-19 and the change in people's lifestyles. She mentioned, "With the formation of the Corona Committee in the NLAI, the information received and produced on the subject of Corona are documented and maintained for future use." Ismail also explained the NLM, which closed for many days due to the outbreak of Covid-19, would resume operations on June 9. Welcoming the exchange of experience and information between the National Libraries of Iran and Malaysia, she continued that Iran's measures during the outbreak of the Coronavirus to digitize a large number of resources and making them available had been significant, and according to Iran's experience in this regard, information exchange could be appropriate. Ismail, referring to the digitization of 13 million documents (1000 Title) in the National Library, added that the NLM had about 2 million members; in the last three months, 300,000 members had an online interaction with the National Library. She considered the use of technology in the current situation to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus. She pointed out that the best way to avoid in-person services in libraries was to separate the returned books from other books for a 24-to-72-hour period.

NLAI & ICA

Broujerdi, head of the NLAI, on May 27, during an online interview with Fricker, president of the International Council on Archives (ICA), explaining about the NLAI archival activities during the Corona, emphasized the expansion of scientific and archival cooperation between the two organizations. Broujerdi initially said that the sanctions in Iran postponed the ICA membership. Now, given the world's current state in the context of the Corona pandemic, a new space has been provided for establishing and expanding communications online in cyberspace. Broujerdi continued that in this regard, a committee had been formed to document information and scientific issues in the field of corona disease, which aimed to review local information and consolidate experts' discussions to record documents for the future. Referring to ICA's mission and responsibility to monitor documentation and archives standards, the NLAI President said Iran also welcomed ICA's proposals to improve performance in the current context for further development. Referring to the NLAI website being active during the Corona days and online services to clients, Broujerdi also said that NLAI had been busy during the Corona days. People who had not had access to the organization's information before the Coronavirus outbreak were given access. According to the statistics, about 14 million people visited the NLAI website in the first two months of the pandemic. Fricker, the ICA president, appreciated Iran's participation in the ICA council and pointed out that Iran had played an important role in the Adelaide Summit in Australia since 2012. He added that the next generation would be indebted to information resources, and through historical documents and digital resources, we could get families and students interested in archiving [information].

NLAI & Mellat Library

Broujerdi, the head of NLAI, attended the inauguration of the Mellat Library in Turkey. This 24-hour library located in Ankara is 125,000 square meters and has been designed with traditional Seljuk, Ottoman, and contemporary architectural motifs. It was inaugurated by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. On the sidelines of the ceremony, Broujerdi met with Uğur Ünal, the head of the Archives of Turkey, and referred to the 2017 Memorandum of understanding signed by the Presidents of the two countries and mentioned, "The cultural relations of the countries, along with the political relations, present a perspective to the nations, based on which we can increase the knowledge of two nations of Iran and Turkey of each other." Ünal mentioned Iran and Turkey as two nations and governments with ancient and historical roots and added, "Both countries have large archives and in these archives not only are there documents related to their own country but also old documents from other countries are maintained. " Broujerdi pointed to the possibility of exchanging digital documents between the two countries and said, "Currently, there are a significant number of documents related to the Ottoman kings in Iran, and many of these documents and letters of the Ottoman kings were written in Persian." Ünal emphasized that history is not just about friendships and joys, it includes war, grief, and tragedy, but it is our duty to preserve history and utilize it because accurate historical information is revealed in such a situation. He also stressed the mutual close cooperation and friendship in the field of archives and expressed his hope that this cooperation would be more and better.



Abdolhossein Azarang [Writer and researcher; Member of the Great Islamic Encyclopedia]

The questions I am trying to inform you of their answers are as follows:

- Since when has editing been used in Iran?
- hadn't Iranians been familiar with the editing technique and art and learned it from others?
- Is the statement that "Iranians were not familiar with editing until relatively recent years", which has been repeated in various ways here and there, a true claim?
- Is it true that "Iranian society has acquainted with editing, or new editing through the contrastive analysis of translations in several publishing institutes since 1950"?
- Talking about "new editing", is there a specific time for the "old editing" so that the time interval between the two and the difference between them can be understood?

There is no ancient civilization in the world that has no history of editing, although the civilizations do not have the same share in developing the theory of editing or its topics. Iran is one of the oldest civilizations in the world and some samples of editing can be found in the history of Iranian civilization.

In many Persian writings, it has been stated that new edition, and sometimes even, in general, editing has started since 1950s. This claim is incorrect. A new approach to editing translation started during this decade; This is a histori-

History of editing in Iran (Part1)

cal fact, but editing in its broadest sense and not based on the common non-technical notion that confines editing to spelling and writing corrections, and especially on the basis of a comprehensive and precise definition of editing, has a long history in Iranian civilization that will be mentioned. This point should also be considered that definitions can change dates and histories. With a change of definition of any activity, the date of the activity inevitably changes as a result.

Editing in its broadest sense refers to the set of operations performed on a message - any kind of message - to be transmitted from sender to receiver in the most appropriate way, either in an acceptable way, or in a way that has been agreed upon in advance. Even activities and operations that lead to a new message - a message that did not exist before - are other forms of editing. For example, a founder's or publisher's proposal to produce a work that has not yet been created and even its idea has not been formed in the creator's mind is a kind of publishing editing. Editing in produced and created works, of course, as a metaphor, must do what a lens or eyeglass lens does: it must neither reduce nor increase the light, but perform the act of focal focus. Editing in this broad sense is based on several main variables, the most important of which are the four variables of subject, audience, application and media; surely, there are other variables involved in editing, such as the variables of time, place, situation, occasion, and other things, which will not be explained in detail here.

Let me give you a simple example. If I write the word "psychology" in the form of "psychology" for the journal you are the editor of, you will separate the component of "psycho" from the "logy". But if the same text is to be read on the radio, does separating the two components

interfere with the transmission of the message? Therefore, the media variable can affect editing and its type and process. The other variables also affect editing and its type in their own place. Considering all the effective variables is one of the main necessities of editing and strategic thinking about it. At the same time, these variables show us what effect they have had on editing and how it has evolved over the centuries.

The oldest written record of translation editing in Iran can be seen in the Behistun Inscription dated 519 BC, in 3 languages: Ancient Persian, Elamite and Babylonian, in 14 columns on one of the stone walls of Mount Behistun, near Kermanshah city, in western Iran. The text of this inscription was first written in Elamite, which was the official language of the time, then the Elamite text was translated into ancient Persian and Babylonian, and these translations were rendered by those who were fluent in the source and target languages. Then the translations were engraved on the right, left and bottom of the stone carving of Darius Shah and the rebellious captives on the stone wall. The way the Behistun inscriptions were placed and arranged on stone was so skillful that as if the inscription editor like an architect or orchestral leader were supervising the arrangement of the inscription columns and their aesthetic proportion to the inscription. The inscription and the aesthetic appropriateness of their recognition of the supervising role. The inscription was translated into several other common languages in the Achaemenid Empire, and the exact text of Darius Shah's message was sent to different parts of the empire to inform the rulers and officials, and perhaps others.

Another noteworthy record is Avesta, a collection of ancient religious texts from various times that were codified and written in the Achaemenid

era, but were either scattered during the invasion of the foreign army, or parts of it were destroyed. During the Parthian period, some pieces of Avesta that had been preserved and also oral narrations were collected and written, which is itself one of the best examples of mastery in collecting and compiling resources, which is considered as one of the main branches of editing. The compilation of Avesta, in order to reach a definitive and last version, continued in the 3rd century AD during the Sassanid era. According to the narrations, they followed every sign and trace they came across in a very precise and systematic way in order to reach the full text of Avesta. Then, what was found and collected was examined based on the criteria they had at that time regarding the precision and accuracy of the text, and in the 6th century, the final text was translated into Middle Persian. In the translation process, according to the time criteria, the maximum possible and necessary accuracy in editing translation was ensured.

Another example from the pre-Islamic era is Kalilah and Demneh, whose stories were selected and translated from various sources. In its translation, adaptation two elements of audience and application were considered. In the Sassanid era, this text was translated from Hindi to Middle Persian.

The Middle Persian translation was rendered into Syriac, then from Syriac into Arabic, and finally, after Islam, from Arabic into Persian. This translation is not only a brilliant example of translation, but editing changes were also made to adapt the text to the cultural environment of the target language. Thus, it is clear that in those times, the method we now call "editing" was well known, although they did not have a naming system, nor did they establish or perpetuate a tradition in this field. [To be continue...]

QS World University Rankings 2021

According to the latest QS world university rankings 2021, 5 out of 1002 universities are from Iran. Dehghani, President of ISC, pointed out that in QS rankings 2021, Sharif University of Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran University, Science and Technology University and Shiraz University were ranked first to fifth, respectively, which demonstrates a 12-step and a 50-step promotion for Amirkabir University and Tehran University compared to last year. In addition, they both have experienced ranking promotion as well. Shahid Beheshti University, which joined the ranking in the band of 1000-801 last year, is absent in the QS rankings 2021.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology, Oxford University, Zurich Institute of Technology, Cambridge University, Imperial College London, University of Chicago, and UCL University are the top ten universities in the QS world university rankings 2021, respectively. It should be noted that the National University of Singapore (NUS) is ranked 11th in the world. The QS ranking is conducted by the "Quacquarelli Symonds" Institute in the United Kingdom and has been practically evaluating the world's universities since 2010.



The Statement on Conference of the Social Role of the Profession and Libraries in Critical Situations

A webinar on the social role of professions and libraries in crises was held on June 11 by ILISA. This webinar was held in three panels on education (learners, librarians, users, and library administrators); future literacy (new techniques and methods, Identifying signs of change in planning for environmental and social changes, innovation); user orientation and service orientation (library, social interaction, social and individual psychology).

The issues raised at the individual and group, psychological and social, educational and research, intra-organizational and extra-organizational levels, were considered critical situations and unforeseen events. Essential guidelines in this forum for planners and information science and knowledge, health information technology, medical librarianship experts are as follows:

- Participation of departments of information science and knowledge and management and medical information in virtual courses with the methods of teaching e-learning and

educational preparation and psychological fields of faculty members and students;

- Involvement of national institutions and associations in strategic planning and preparation of crisis management instead of individual and scattered programs;
- The necessity of training librarians in skills such as media and technology and information literacy in equipping the necessary skills to identify fake and inaccurate news and information in connection with critical community situations due to the community's trust in libraries and protection against fake and inaccurate information in archives and libraries sources, as well as librarians' familiarity with new information and communication technologies, including blockchain and cloud computing, and taking advantage of their capabilities;
- Playing the role of public libraries in promoting individual and social awareness;
- It is expanding scientific communication on social media and emphasizing the provision of virtual library services in times of crisis.



Travelogue of prominent people to Iran

"When Iranology emerged in the West in the 17th and 18th centuries, works in the form of travelogues were written by tourists who had come to Iran who are considered as good sources of Iranology today." Enayatizadeh, the head of Islamology and Iranology section in NLAI, said. Referring to the first studies of Iranology, he said, "The first studies of Iranology became popular with an emphasis on the centrality of linguistics and theology and the characteristics of the studies on Zoroastrian texts. Specifically, the study of Iranology expanded over time, so that Iranology in art, history, Geography, etc. was studied by western societies and other countries. Since Iran's relations with the west began in the Qajar period, the primary sources of Iranology studies pub. and in the west came to Iran with slowly. These sources were initially kept in the laces, including the Dar al-Fonun Library, the Library of the Ministry of Education, and the Roarel Liabrary. Since its establishment in 1937, the National Library of Iran has collected many collecting books on Iranology. There are 400 travelogues, as well as over 75,000 copies of books in the NLAI around Iranology and Islamology, which can be used by domestic and foreign researchers and enthusiasts."



Times World University Rankings System 2020

Times Higher Education World University Rankings determines the social and economic impact of universities using the criteria based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Mehrad, professor of Shiraz University and founder of ISC, stated that the 2020 edition emphasized the 17 goals of sustainable development, while the 2019 edition considered only 11 of them in the ranking of the influential universities. In this ranking, a total of 766 universities from 85



countries are evaluated based on a number of goals including ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, ending hunger and improving nutrition, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, ensuring equitable quality education for all, achieving gender equality & empowering all women & girls, ensuring availability & sustainable management of water & sanitation for all, ensuring access to affordable energy resources, promoting sustainable economic growth & providing job employment for all, building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive & sustainable industrialization & fostering innovation, reducing inequality within & among countries, making cities & safe human settlements, ensuring sustainable consumption & production patterns, taking urgent action to combat climate change & its impacts, conserving & sustainably using the oceans, seas & marine resources, sustainably managing forests & combating desertifica-

tion, promoting peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice, & strengthening the means of implementation & revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. In this ranking system, the universities of New Zealand & Australia had the best performance and occupied the first ranks. Japan also performed well with 63 universities in this ranking. Then, Russia with 47 universities & Turkey with 37 performed well. According to the latest

report, 17 universities from Iran are included in the 2020 edition of influential universities. Iran Uni of Medical Sciences, the first university in the country, occupied the 55th rank among the most influential universities in the world. The second & third places belong to Al-Zahra Uni, which joined the ranking in the band of 301-400, & Sistan & Baluchestan Uni in the band of 301-400. The national rankings of Amirkabir Uni of Technology, Babol Noshirvani Uni of Technology, Isfahan Uni of Medical Sciences, Mohaghegh Ardabili Uni, Shahid Beheshti Uni of Medical Sciences, Tabriz Uni, Tarbiat Modares Uni, & Zanjan Uni of Medical Sciences occupied the 4th to 11th national rankings & the international rankings of 401-600 respectively. The Shahid Madani Uni of Azerbaijan, the universities of Fasa, Kashan, Khajeh Nasir Industrial Uni, Kurdistan Uni, and Shahid Bahonar Uni of Kerman joined the ranking in the band of 600 and above.

A Special Library for Working Children

Simultaneously with the World Day Against Child Labour (June 13), the Khorasan Razavi Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, in cooperation with the Mashhad Municipality and Welfare Organization, launched a special library for working children.

This library was set up with more than 2,000 titles of books. Games and entertainment cost 120 million Rials for working children in the daily Support-Educational Center for Children and Families "Hamraz" (one of the welfare support centers in the suburbs of Mashhad).

Zerehsaz (Director General of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Khorasan Razavi), said, Most of the center's activities are book-based. The opening of this library can be the beginning of a movement to develop reading and attention to working children, and these activities should not be limited to occasions." Hagh-dadi, Deputy of Social Affairs of the General Department of Welfare, said, "1,000 working children in Mashhad were identified and supported by the Welfare Organization.

Child labor is one of the examples of child abuse. Last year, 3,000 cases of child abuse were reported in the social emergency. In Mashhad and the outskirts due to its special conditions, the problems are doubled. Working children were identified by the social

emergency, 137 municipalities, law enforcement, and non-governmental organizations, and we always faced problems in their identification, and many unidentified working children work in underground workshops, warehouses, and the Labor Office is mandated by this law to report accurately.

Mostly labor child and child abuse is perpetrated by families, and the law pays close attention to this issue. The library attracts a large number of working and street children to the daily welfare center, and the presence of books in this center also greatly increases the level of awareness of working and street children."

Iran's Labor Law prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15. Children aged 15-18, referred to as "young workers", are required to undergo regular medical exams by the Ministry of Labor in order to be eligible for partaking in the workforce.

Furthermore, employers are prohibited from assigning youth to "overtime work, shift work, or arduous, harmful or dangerous work".

However, the Labor Law allows businesses with less than 10 staff members to be exempted from certain provisions of the law, including maximum work hour requirements, overtime pay, and disability benefits. Iran has ratified the International Labor Office (ILO) convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.



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[continued from Page 1] ... this paper are fortunately available both in English (Bookbird, 2019, vol.57, no.3: p. 34-41) and German (Julit, 2018, no.4: p.75-81). On another front the EYP is the subject of a documentary by Rakhshan Banietemad and Mojtaba Mirtahmasb called "Touran Khanom" portraying the last four years of her life as chief editor of EYP, fortunately available online. (www.eventive.org) With her family stepping in to provide full support, during the past months EYP offices were kept open and running. At the moment of the foreseen 26 volumes, volumes 20, 21 and 22 are in different stages of preparation. A second edition - with minor updates - of the ten first volumes is well underway and CBC is planning for the virtual launch of EYP in the near future.

On the reading promotion side, we gained invaluable experiences. It was quickly found out that many of the reading activities, particularly those carried out in small groups, could be handled online. This of course was a blessing for women and children deprived of library services.

We were greatly concerned about our Bamdad Program serving several schools in the Sistan Baluchistan Province, where many young people - mostly girls - made such good use of their libraries. And also by the fact that many do not have mobile phones to use any digital services. Colleagues moved fast to launch the Bamdad Audio Library program and the House to House book distribution service. We were seriously committed to our international responsibilities. When word came that CBC needed to send a copy of our nominated book to the Catalog of Outstanding Books for Disabled Young People contest, we were faced with strict corona flight restrictions; but a social media

call brought a quick response. So the tactile (cloth) book by Samaneh Naderi, called Something's Here! (Yek Chizi Injast!) in-



spired by Mowlavi/ Rumi's famous parable of The Elephant in the Dark Room, made it to IBBY's headquarters in Basel. Based on

the electronic copy sent to Toronto Public Library (www.tpl.ca/Ibby), it was eventually selected to appear in the 2021 Catalogue! Another interesting development to be noted is the rising interest of woman in participating in CBC's online workshops -- for example on writing fiction and historical novels for young people. This is an interest and gained knowledge which will hopefully show its positive effects in the future.

Last but not least was my own first experience in addressing participants of CBC's workshop on "Introduction to Children's Literature" online! At first I was reluctant to accept, then I took the risk and spoke into my mobile phone for two whole hours! At the Q and A session I took questions from different parts of the country, and later I found out that some 130 participants had attended the session, a few even from outside Iran. This said, I must say that I missed the shiny eyes, the colorful scarves, the emotion-laden moments on both sides, the after-session chats, the expressions of readiness to help CBC in different ways, etc.

I guess many of the experiences gained during the corona period and during the lockdown are important and will change our ways of doing things.

But to sustain the vitality of an NGO, we greatly rely on direct eye-to-eye contact on the one hand, and on the other hand on the cultivation of the art of civic dedication at more personal levels.

As a family of Iranian cultural NGOs geared to the well-being of the young generation, we will indeed need to redefine our ways, review our principles and study our recently gained experiences to enter the post-corona period with the necessary incentive, knowledge and wisdom.

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