

# BIBLIOMIST | БІБЛІОМІСТ

Helping libraries better serve their communities through training and technology.



**Bibliomist aims to foster the development of a modern public library system in Ukraine through a country-wide system of public Internet access at libraries.**

A partnership between IREX, Global Libraries, the Ukrainian Library Association (ULA), national and local governments, and libraries throughout Ukraine, Bibliomist will help libraries better serve their communities through training and technology.

**BIBLIOMIST** will help libraries better serve their communities through training and technology by:

- Equipping libraries with technology so citizens have better access to information.
- Training librarians in how to use new technology to provide better services to library visitors.
- Helping develop the capacity of the national library association to advocate on behalf of libraries and librarians.
- Fostering government support for the recognition of the essential role of libraries in a society.



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Bibliomist program will support initiatives in four key areas:

### EQUIPPING LIBRARIES:

**Establish a network of library Public Access Computer (PAC) facilities:** Bibliomist will support libraries that are prioritizing public access to information and demonstrate a willingness to share the costs of providing new public computing and Internet facilities. By equipping more than 1,000 libraries across Ukraine with new technology, Bibliomist will facilitate free access to information for millions of Ukrainians.

### TRAINING LIBRARIANS:

**Provide library service training for participating librarians.** Bibliomist partners will design training materials and create training facilities to address new services and foster innovation in the library system. Training will help librarians become actively engaged in their communities and update the image of libraries as a place to access information.

**Establish an IT training infrastructure for Ukrainian librarians.** Training centers at central libraries in each region will offer courses in technology skills that help librarians provide better computer and Internet guidance to library users.

### BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

**Partner with the Ukrainian Library Association (ULA).** Bibliomist will strengthen the ULA, helping the organization build sustainable administrative structures that can continue supporting modern libraries and provide useful services to librarians throughout the country into the future.

**Assist Ukrainian librarians and their association in developing and organizing locally-relevant content that serves all library users.** Bibliomist will bring together stakeholders in government and local institutions to organize content so that it meets the needs of citizens. Through a needs assessment, IREX and its partners have identified specific information content needs in the areas of healthcare, economic and rural development, and education and culture that are not currently being addressed.

### FOSTERING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:

**Engage with government to adapt policies.** To match the investment of new resources into libraries, Bibliomist partners will work to promote the increased relevance and importance of libraries to today's Ukrainian society and the need for the commitment of resources to match libraries' new role.



## Contact:

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## IREX

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX works in more than 50 countries with a staff of over 500 professionals worldwide. IREX has been selected by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to implement Bibliomist in Ukraine.

## ULA

The Ukrainian Library Association was founded in 1995, and has members in nearly all of Ukraine's regions. The ULA has taken the lead in representing Ukrainian librarians' interests on a national level, conducting training in new areas, publishing professional development materials and advocating for changes in the national library law.

## LIBRARIES IN UKRAINE

There are currently nearly 18,000 public libraries in Ukraine serving a population of more than 46 million, though fewer than 10% currently have public access computers or Internet.

## GLOBAL LIBRARIES

The Global Libraries Initiative is a program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Computers and the Internet connect people to crucial information that can improve health, education, and employment opportunities. Incredibly, the vast majority of the world's population—more than 87 percent, or 5.5 billion people—lack access to these powerful, modern tools. To address this disparity, Global Libraries, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, forms partnerships with select countries to help public libraries provide free access to information technology. Global Libraries is helping to transform public libraries into vital tools that can advance the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Bibliomist is supported by the following organizations:



ULA



Ukraine Ministry of Culture