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**АМЕРИКАНСЬКА БІБЛІОТЕЧНА АСОЦІАЦІЯ – ОСНОВНИЙ  
ЕЛЕМЕНТ УПРАВЛІННЯ ПРОФЕСІЙНОЮ ОСВІТОЮ  
БІБЛІОТЕКОЗНАВЦІВ ТА ІНФОРМОЛОГІВ**

*Анотація.* У статті здійснюється історичний та педагогічний аналіз стану та розвитку бібліотечної освіти у США, а також впливу Американської бібліотечної асоціації на неї.

**Ключові слова:** Вища бібліотечна освіта, Американська бібліотечна асоціація, інформологія, бібліотекознавство.

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**АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНАЯ АССОЦИАЦИЯ –  
ОСНОВНОЙ ЭЛЕМЕНТ УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫМ  
ОБРАЗОВАНИЕМ БИБЛИОТЕКОВЕДОВ И ИНФОРМОЛОГОВ**

*Аннотация.* В статье производится исторический и педагогический анализ состояния и этапов развития библиотечного образования в США, а также влияния на эти процессы Американской библиотечной ассоциации.

**Ключевые слова:** Высшее библиотечное образование, Американская библиотечная ассоциация, информология, библиотековедение.

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**AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION – CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN  
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE EDUCATION  
MANAGEMENT**

***Annotation.** This article provides historic and pedagogical analysis of the library and information science education in the USA and American Library Association influence on it.*

**Key words:** *Library and Information Science higher education, American Library Association, Information Science, Library Science.*

**Statement of the problem.** Current legislation of Ukraine on Higher Education, adopted in 2002 (Закон України «Про вищу освіту») defines the main aim of higher educational establishment as «providing necessary conditions for people receiving higher education, and providing qualitative training of future specialists»<sup>1</sup>.

Educational process is multileveled and complicated activity which consists of different stages. Self-study stage is considered to be one of the most important components of modern education; and libraries should be regarded as main supporting institutions which focus on keeping and disseminating information, necessary for educational process. We need to take into consideration that librarians – are very important participants of the education process, so, we should pay attention to their professional training.

We also cannot but analyze positive international experience in order to improve the quality of professional training in general and librarians' training in

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<sup>1</sup> Закон України «Про вищу освіту» (2002 р.) / [Електронний ресурс]. – Режим доступу: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2984-14> — Назва з екрана.

Ukraine in particular. The question of higher education quality in Ukraine is closely connected to the study of international experience. Talking about library and information science (LIS) we need to admit an influence of progressive ideas and technologies developed in the USA. Ukrainian education system differs a lot from the American but, as modern world progresses every day, we need to think about education as global and overwhelming process.

The history of library and information science education development in the USA constructs a good example of professional training inspired by American Library Association (ALA). Topicality of our research lies in analysis of American experience in reforming the system of LIS education with the aim to apply the best innovative practices in Ukraine.

**Analysis of research and publications.** The issue of LIS education in the USA has been actively investigated by Ukrainian and world researchers. However, since the BA degree in LIS has been abolished in 1992 in the USA, several researches covered this issue. Especially the high interest poses the question about the reasons of BA degree in LIS abolishment and the effect which that abolishment has made on the LIS education in the USA in general.

**The object of an article** – is to uncover the LIS history of formation and development in higher educational establishments in the USA.

**Literature review.** Great interest among Ukrainian LIS experts and researchers is caused by some aspects of library work in the USA: principals of managing public libraries, principles of LIS education etc. Mobile services in public libraries – are some of the most popular questions regarded today by Ukrainian library experts. Talking about new services we cannot but mention that library personnel should be prepared and properly trained in order to provide customers with the best quality of these services<sup>2</sup> p. 16.

A. Barret, M. Dewey, R. Rubin – world library experts who studied important problems of LIS in the USA. Melvil Dewey (1851 - 1931) can be

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<sup>2</sup> Пашкова В. Публічні бібліотеки: виклики XXI століття / В. Пашкова // Бібліотечний форум України. – 2010. - №4 (30). – С. 16 – 19.

considered as American library and information science initiator, founder of American Library Association, the first editor of American Library Journal (later – Library Journal). Dewey dedicated a lot of his works to the issue of library education in the USA<sup>3</sup>. Current Canadian LIS researcher Andy Barret has analyzed information – seeking behavior of library users but also indicated the importance of librarians in this process [8]. Professor Richard Rubin, well-known library expert and the author of MA students' in LIS textbook Foundations of Library and Information Science<sup>4</sup>.

Thorough studies on library and information science education and development in the USA has been provided by Russian famous library expert E. Sukiasian. He studies the structure and network of higher educational establishments in the USA where library and information science is crucial discipline. He also describes the peculiarities of further career development after receiving MA in LIS in the USA<sup>5</sup>.

Russian library expert Natalia Spesivtseva in her article states that the first public libraries in the USA appeared in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1854 with Boston Public Library opening, the process of involving public libraries into education system has started. American librarians played crucial role in the process of lifelong learning in the USA in 20-s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This approach grounded on E. Thorndike's (Columbia University) research results that testify the ability of human being to learn at any age. So, we can say that the role of library education and the role of a librarian in adults' education always have been connected.

**The main material.** Historically, library education in the USA has been closely related to science development, state of economy, education development. As R. Rubin states «early American Libraries were small and relatively

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<sup>3</sup> Дьюї М. Професія / М. Дьюї, пер. П. Голубоцький // Бібліотечний вісник. – 1993. - № 1/2. – С. 31 – 32.

<sup>4</sup> Rubin Richard E. Foundations of Library and Information Science. – New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers , Inc. , 2004. – 495 p.

<sup>5</sup> Сукиасян Э. Р. Библиотечное образование в США Ч. 1. Учебные заведения: сеть, структура, организация работы // Библиотечное образование и библиография за рубежом: – СПб. – М., 1993. - Вып. 132. – С. 3-31.

unsophisticated. In most libraries, if staff existed they were very small in number and often functioned in a custodial capacity. Scholarly librarians did exist in the mid-nineteenth century. They were usually found in more sophisticated academic institutions and were invariably male»<sup>6, p. 352</sup>. Till the 1850 – there were no necessity even to talk about professional library education. Only in period 1850 – 1875 the first articles about librarianship appeared in some educational journals and then in special editions dedicated to the library science. The history of library education in the USA is very interesting issue considering the rapid tempo of its development (see table 1). In his book R. Rubin indicates that «Education had to accommodate many people and provide a more generalized approach, employing the general principles and practices the job required. A classical education was inappropriate, and apprenticeship was too inefficient. The rise of technical schools and the vocational emphasis of these educational institutions fit well into the needs of libraries».<sup>7</sup>

*Table 1.*

**The main events considering LIS education implementation in the USA**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Main events in LIS education history</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> half of the 17 <sup>th</sup> century	The first public libraries appeared in the USA
1850 -1875	Prerequisites of LIS education in the USA
1876 -1923	Forming of general LIS education foundations in the USA
October, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1876	The establishment of ALA
1876 -1877	American Library Journal creation
1887	The establishment of the first Library School at Columbia College in New-York
1915	American Library Schools Association establishment
1923	Library education gains modern traits
1923 -1933	The implementation of Library Schools' accreditation
1923	The implementation of BA and BS degrees in Library science
1947-1948	The implementation of MA and MS degrees in Library science

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<sup>6</sup> Rubin Richard E. Foundations of Library and Information Science. – New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers , Inc. , 2004. – 495 p.

<sup>7</sup> Rubin Richard E. Foundations of Library and Information Science. – New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers , Inc. , 2004. – 495 p.

1992	The abolishment of BA and BS degrees in Library science
January, 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	ALA standards on LIS Schools and MA programs accreditation implementation.

General foundations of library education in the USA were established in the period of 1876 - 1923. Librarians did not step aside educational issues. American Library Association was deeply concerned by the question of education in general and library education in particular. Hereby, in 1924 ALA created a Commission on Libraries and Adult Education, thus involving libraries to the lifelong learning process<sup>8, p. 111</sup>. That testifies the importance of a library as an institution and a librarian as a professional in modern education system.

The notion of «Library education» appeared in the USA at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as a response to the requirements of time. Professional librarianship with the support of American Library Association made a decision on establishing professional training. Nowadays many library managers and employers pay considerable attention to the education which their staff received in library schools; especially they are concerned with the ALA accreditation of Master's degree LIS programs<sup>9</sup>. ALA accreditation process provides necessary level of professional training, required by the majority of employers in library and information service sphere. Almost each MA in LIS contains the following disciplines:

- cataloguing,
- circulation,
- acquisition,
- automation<sup>10, p. 8</sup>.

Among the most prominent library science enthusiasts we cannot but mention Melvil Dewey, famous American Library scientist who developed the Dewey Decimal Library Classification (also known as DDC).

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<sup>8</sup> Спесивцева Н. Развитие образования взрослых в библиотеках США: исторический аспект / Н. Спесивцева // Вестник ТГПУ (TSPU Bulletin). – 2013. - № 1 (129). – С. 111 – 114.

<sup>9</sup> Directory of ALA-Accredited Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/directory>. — Назва з екрана.

<sup>10</sup> Библиотеки и библиотечное дело США : комплексный подход / Под ред. В. В. Попова. - М. : Информ-Система, 1992. – 294 с.

M. Dewey started American Library Journal in 1876. It was the first professional library edition aimed at librarians and their needs. In 1877 newly created American Library Association made a decision to rename this journal, thus it received its new name – Library Journal <sup>11, p. 353</sup>.

After ALA establishment serious conversations on forming scholar approach to library profession had started. Hereby the question of professional training became one of the most important issues <sup>12, p. 353</sup>.

M. Dewey always paid attention to different professional practical skills of librarians but he also indicated the importance of moral principals and norms of ethics in librarianship. Thanks to this prominent library scientist the professional training of the librarians received a chance in the USA.

The first library schools appeared in 1879. But the official date of library education establishment can be considered the year of 1887 when Library School at Columbia College in New – York was opened. After Charles Williamson's report the library education in the USA acquired modern character <sup>13, p. 226</sup>.

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century LIS education in the USA undergone considerable changes. Nowadays, American education system is considered to be very multistage and divided into branches. There is a distinguishing between private and public; profitable and non-profitable educational establishments in the USA<sup>14</sup>. Despite of such a decentralization of educational processes in the USA, the content of education for future specialists in library and information science can be considered unchangeable.

Typical academic year in the USA lasts nine months and consists of three trimesters. Students must choose a certain number of courses for each trimester: each course costs certain number of credits.

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<sup>11</sup> Rubin Richard E . Foundations of Library and Information Science. – New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers , Inc. , 2004. – 495 p.

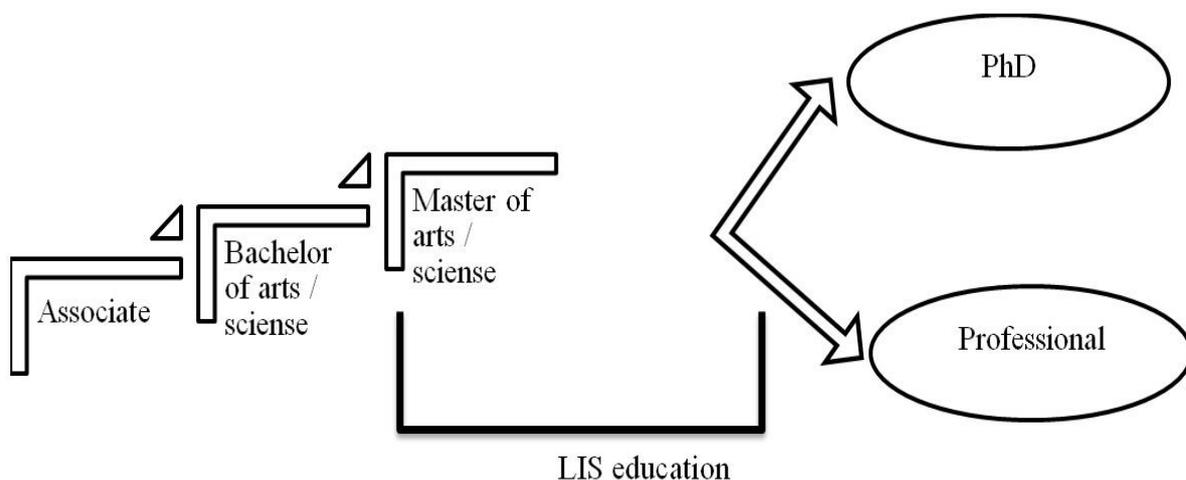
<sup>12</sup> Rubin Richard E . Foundations of Library and Information Science. – New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers , Inc. , 2004. – 495 p.

<sup>13</sup> Библиотеки и библиотечное дело США : комплексный подход / Под ред. В. В. Попова. - М. : Информ-Система, 1992. – 294 с.

<sup>14</sup> Structure of the U.S. Higher Education System / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: [http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/international/Documents/studentguide/sg8\\_structureoftheushigheredsystem.pdf](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/international/Documents/studentguide/sg8_structureoftheushigheredsystem.pdf). — Назва з екрана.

In average, for BA degree student needs to receive 120-130 credits, for MA degree this number is: 30-64<sup>151617</sup> (see figure 1 for more detail about LIS education place in the system of US higher education).

In Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Science it is indicated that library and information studies is a discipline which aimed at studying services and technologies of information and resource management. This discipline has to familiarize students with the principles on how to create, manage, disseminate, preserve, identify, describe, analyze, and evaluate information resources<sup>18, p. 7</sup>.



**Figure 1.** The Place of LIS education in US education system

Typical curriculum in library and information science in the USA includes the following disciplines:

- basic principles of reference service,

<sup>15</sup>Crosby O. Librarians: information experts in the digital age / O. Crosby. // Occupational Outlook Quarterly. — 2000. — № 1. — P. 3 – 15.

<sup>16</sup> Methodology: Best Library and Information Studies Rankings / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/2013/03/11/methodology-best-library-and-information-studies-rankings>. — Назва з екрана.

<sup>17</sup> Structure of the U.S. Higher Education System / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: [http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/international/Documents/studentguide/sg8\\_structureoftheushigheredsystem.pdf](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/international/Documents/studentguide/sg8_structureoftheushigheredsystem.pdf). — Назва з екрана.

<sup>18</sup> Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: [http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/sites/ala.org.accreditedprograms/files/content/standards/standards\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/sites/ala.org.accreditedprograms/files/content/standards/standards_2008.pdf). — Назва з екрана

- cataloguing,
- principles of acquisition,
- school library service,
- some minor courses e.g. archival service, management and philosophy of education.

There are also obligatory disciplines of informational character:

- data bases creating and management,
- web-design,
- information architecture.

Great attention is paid to students' research activities, thus during the evaluation process, this aspect is considered to be the most important one<sup>19</sup>. The research methods used by MA LIS program students:

- empirical;
- content analysis;
- historiography;
- interview.

As it was previously mentioned, research work is one of the most important aspects of LIS education. Among the main problems that actively researched by library and information scientists in the USA are:

- information – seeking behavior;
- copyright;
- rare editions digitizing;
- service analysis;
- web-design;
- collection management;
- «cloud» technologies;
- metadata description.

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<sup>19</sup> The North American Higher Education system / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: <http://www.universitiesintheusa.com/american-education.html>. — Назва з екрана.

Talking about Ukraine we need to admit that there is no such level of library education here at present moment. The main difference between US and Ukrainian LIS education systems is absence of BA degree in LIS in the USA, on the contrary – BA degree is still present in Ukrainian LIS education. There are no requirements to have practical experience before entering higher educational establishment to receive LIS education – at the same time in the USA it is obligatory to have practical experience before entering library school. As a result – American librarians receive better education and better preparation to real practical work. Ukrainian Library Association does not pose education standards for future library specialists, thus curriculum for LIS studies in Ukraine not always meets the requirements of modern library profession.

In the USA library school MA program has to provide students with necessary professional skills and competencies useful in their further professional activity: ability to think critically, ability to provide scientific research, communicative skills, understanding of library and information science and conterminous disciplines, understanding the role of professional ethics, ability to advocate for Open Access resources, knowledge on copyright, ability to provide customers with professional services of high quality<sup>20</sup>.

The majority of library schools give their students and alumni an opportunity to practice their professional skills during the internship in public, school, and scholar libraries either in real or in virtual form<sup>21</sup>.

During studies on MA LIS programs students receive necessary knowledge on copyright, personal data protection, professional code of ethics. These knowledge and competencies are very helpful in further activity of any librarian because they build a foundation of professional personality<sup>22, p. 265</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: [http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/sites/ala.org/accreditedprograms/files/content/standards/standards\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/sites/ala.org/accreditedprograms/files/content/standards/standards_2008.pdf). — Назва з екрана

<sup>21</sup> Directory of ALA-Accredited Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies / [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/directory>. — Назва з екрана.

<sup>22</sup> Rubin Richard E. Foundations of Library and Information Science. – New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers , Inc. , 2004. – 495 p.

Before choosing library school, American students are suggested to regard no more than three different educational establishments in the USA. They should get information considering the entry conditions and terms, future career perspectives, scholarship and financial aid possibilities, an opportunity to work and study simultaneously, professors and staff, life on campus, the number of students. The questions of the second importance are the questions of: accommodation, information and library access, assistantships.

So, even answering to themselves all mentioned above questions, students apply to several library schools at one and the same time. They pay special attention to the MA LIS programs which are accredited by American Library Association. These programs are available to the library schools students in the USA and Canada. MA LIS programs should meet the requirements and standards posed by ALA <sup>23, p. 69</sup>.

The accreditation of MA LIS programs means that ALA has checked the curriculum thoroughly and admitted that the program meets all professional and educational requirements and needs of modern world. Many libraries and enterprises working in sphere of information prefer to recruit alumni from library schools which programs have been accredited by ALA <sup>24, p. 10</sup>.

**Conclusion.** Library and information science education process in the USA has come a long way of formation, settling, and reforming. During our historic and pedagogic analysis we approach to the conclusion that the process of LIS education in the USA has been long, complex, and multistage. Very important role in this process has been played by American Library Association which affected LIS higher education in the USA considerably.

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<sup>23</sup> McCook K. Opportunities in Library & Information Science Careers. McGraw-Hill, 2001. –160 p.

<sup>24</sup> Педагогіка вищої школи : курс лекцій : модульне навчання / А. М. Алексюк. – К. : ІСДО, 1993. – 220 с.