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The university library as a center for patriotic education of students

Abstract. The article analyzes the activities of the university library as one of the key tools for patriotic education in higher education institutions and examines the conditions for actualizing its unique potential. As a socio-cultural institution, the library is capable of instilling in students a deep respect for the history and culture of their country, a sense of civic responsibility, and readiness to serve the motherland. Achieving this goal requires active cooperation with other departments of the university and the use of modern information technologies. As a result of the analysis, it was found that the library possesses educational and upbringing potential, which is realized through cultural programs and interaction with the teaching community.

Keywords: patriotic education, traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, national and cultural identity, national pedagogy, university library, civic consciousness, patriotism, patriot.

Currently, all educational institutions of the Russian Federation place particular emphasis on the patriotic education of youth. In accordance with Federal Law No. 273-FZ of December 29, 2012 “On education in the Russian Federation”, educational activities must be aimed at “the formation of students’ sense of patriotism, citizenship, respect for the memory of the defenders of the Fatherland and the heroic deeds of the Heroes of the Fatherland, law and order, the working person and the older generation, mutual respect, careful attitude towards the cultural heritage and traditions of the multinational people of the Russian Federation, as well as nature and the environment” [5].

Contemporary Russian pedagogical thought examines the issues of youth patriotism formation both from a historical perspective and as a pedagogical problem, which is discussed at forums, conferences and pedagogical readings held in various regions of Russia. An example of this is the Makarenko readings, among the materials of which stand out the articles by E.A. Emelyanov “The problem of personality's civic consciousness”, N.F. Yakovleva “Experimental study of value attitude to patriotism among modern students of a pedagogical university” and A.G. Belov “Patriotic education of students in a technical college”.

The issue of forming civic consciousness is addressed in the works of the faculty of the Russian university of traditional art crafts. Thus, V.F. Maksimovich, in the article “Traditional art crafts as a relevant trend in contemporary culture”, and

I.I. Kurakina, in the work “The potential of Russia’s traditional art crafts in the education and enlightenment of children, adolescents and youth in the context of 21st-century culture”, emphasize the necessity of familiarizing the younger generation of Russians with the culture of their homeland and fostering a respectful attitude toward traditional art crafts as a splendor of Russia’s artistic heritage.

In the modern educational process, pedagogy addresses issues of teaching and upbringing, while library science ensures access to information and organizes cultural leisure activities. The integration of these two fields enables the creation of a harmonious educational environment where students acquire the necessary knowledge and skills, and develop both intellectually and spiritually. The university library serves not only as a repository of books but also as a tool for implementing state programs aimed at shaping worthy citizens.

Information technologies exert a significant influence on the formation of students' civic identity. In its activities, the university library can utilize electronic library resources, including the “Nestoriana” digital library – a resource providing full-text access to historical and patriotic literature as well as periodicals. This is the first library in Russia whose electronic collections were established in fulfillment of the directives of the President of the Russian Federation, V.V. Putin, regarding the development of digital and multimedia projects aimed at the patriotic and spiritual-moral education of children and youth.

Educational activities at the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys, which implements secondary vocational and higher education programs, are an integral part of the educational process and are carried out in accordance with the priorities of state policy in the field of upbringing. An important aspect of the university library’s work is the formation of a literature collection, including works dedicated to the history of Russia, its culture, prominent personalities and achievements in various fields. The library also compiles recommended reading lists.

In 2025, marking the Year of the defender of the Fatherland and the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the library of the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys has prepared a recommended reading list titled “Tell me about the war”, which includes fiction by contemporary Russian and foreign authors about the Great Patriotic War. Currently, a recommended reading list on the life and work of Galina Lvovna Dain, who dedicated her life to the study of Russian toys, is being compiled.

A significant area of activity for the university library is educational work, which includes delivering lectures and discussions, organizing book exhibitions, film screenings, literary evenings and other events. It has become a tradition at the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys to hold round tables and “Lessons of courage” dedicated to the Days of Military Glory and memorable dates of Russia.

For example, during the “Lesson of courage: from Red Square – into history”, dedicated to the Day of the 1941 military parade on Red Square, students learn about the tragic events of the early Great Patriotic War, watch documentary footage, explore works of art and share their impressions. The main objective of the event is to demonstrate that the parade on Red Square became a turning point in the history of Russia and the Great Patriotic War: the entire world saw that the Red Army and

the Soviet Union were fully determined to defend their Motherland under any circumstances.

The lesson of courage “On the fiery Moscow frontiers” is dedicated to the heroes of the battle of Moscow: Viktor Talalikhin, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, the 28 Panfilov guardsmen and the Podolsk cadets. The feats of these heroes are recounted by students who are members of the student scientific society (Fig. 1¹¹¹).

A particularly significant date for students and staff of the Russian university of traditional art crafts is the Day of the complete liberation of Leningrad from the nazi siege. On this day, a lesson of courage “Remember this city – Leningrad” (Fig. 2) is held. Students learn about the severe trials endured by the residents of besieged Leningrad: hunger and cold, unbearable living conditions, meager bread rations, the “Road of life”, constant bombings and shelling. They also become acquainted with the diary of the Leningrad schoolgirl Tanya Savicheva and, through documentary films, discover the sports and cultural life of the besieged city.



Fig. 1. Lesson of courage
“On the fiery Moscow frontiers”



Fig. 2. Lesson of courage
“Remember this city – Leningrad”

Victory Day in the Great Patriotic War is of immense significance. The library, in collaboration with the department of humanities and natural sciences, faculty members and the student scientific society, organizes round tables and poetry recitation competitions. For instance, within the framework of the round table “The feat of the people during the Great Patriotic War in the works of Soviet and Russian artists”, students prepared thematic presentations on artists of the wartime period and institute faculty members who were participants in the Great Patriotic War – M.I. Kudyukin and G.I. Galaktionov (Figs. 3–4).

The organization of screenings and discussions of documentary and feature films dedicated to patriotic themes plays an important role in the formation of such patriotic values as the preservation of historical memory, knowledge of history and the cultivation of pride in victories and heroes. In the Year of the defender of the Fatherland, students of the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys participated in the competition week of the IV International film festival “Victory Day”. In anticipation of the 80th anniversary of Victory, students watched and discussed films in the

¹¹¹ Figs. 1-10. Photo from the archive at the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys – branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts.

category “International competition of short feature films about the Great Patriotic War”. One of these films is “Medallion” by A. Androsov, whose plot is based on real events that took place in the Iznoskovsky district of Kaluga region.



Fig. 3. Round table: “The feat of the people during the Great Patriotic War in the works of Soviet and Russian artists”



Fig. 4. Competition “Poems of the wartime years”

The formation of ideas about the significance of the unity of the peoples of Russia, the development of interest in the history of the Fatherland and the cultivation of civic responsibility are facilitated by events dedicated to the celebration of National Unity Day. At the round table “My land – my Russia”, students presented presentations and reports: “Koz’ma Minin, prince D.M. Pozharsky and their role in the salvation of Russia in 1612”; “Avraam Palitsyn – participant in the liberation of Moscow in 1612”; “The role of the individual in history: the example of the actions of the leaders of the first people's militia during the Time of troubles”. The presented materials are connected with the history of Sergiyev Posad and the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius lavra. A significant component of local history activities is their research nature (Fig. 5).

On June 12, the country celebrates Russia Day. As part of the celebration, events are organized through the joint efforts of the department of humanities and natural sciences, the library of the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys and the student scientific society. Among them is the patriotic hour “Russia, we are your children”, attended by guests: S.A. Sinyavin, retired colonel of the Ministry of internal affairs, a participant in three wars, and M.N. Ilyin, a member of the public chamber of Sergiyev Posad urban district (Fig. 6).

For their assistance to the front, the the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys was awarded a letter of gratitude from the commander of the air defense units of the GRV “Sever”, guard major A. Patrikeev.

In 2025, students and teachers of the Sergiyev Posad institute of toys organized two humanitarian aid collections for SMO participants (Figs. 7-8). The campaigns were titled “The strength of Russia lies in the unity of its people” and “Say thank you to the defender!”. Students wrote letters to the soldiers and, together with a library staff member, carefully packed parcels, including handmade toys.



Fig. 5. Round table
“My land – my Russia”



Fig. 6. Patriotic hour
“Russia, we are your children”



Figs. 7-8. Gifts to the special military operation’s participants

On October 22, Russia observes the Day of white cranes. On this day, first-year students learn about the history of the holiday and the symbolism of the crane in different cultures. The famous song “Cranes”, performed by M. Bernes, is, of course, heard during the event.

In 2025, participants honored the memory of those who died during the SMO with a minute of silence. A slideshow displayed photographs of Sergiyev Posad residents who lost their lives in the SMO zone, including graduates of our educational institution: Andrey Sidorenko, Alexander Os’kin and Alexey Smirnov.

There are numerous criteria that define patriotic values, which are shaped both during the educational process and through extracurricular activities. One of these is respect and love for the native language. The annual organization of round tables dedicated to the Day of Slavic writing and culture serves as an effective means of civil-patriotic and spiritual-moral education. The main significance of this holiday lies in the awareness of the spiritual, linguistic, and cultural unity of the Slavic peoples, as well as in the preservation of Slavic cultural heritage.

One such round table held at the educational institution was titled “Slavic written culture as an invaluable heritage of the Slavic peoples” (Figs. 9-10). Students presented reports on the following topics: “Cyril and Methodius in the mirror of Russian culture”; “Great and mighty: the origins of Russian writing”; “Primer books: from the distant past to modern times”.



Figs. 9-10. Round table “Slavic written culture as an invaluable heritage of the Slavic peoples”

The university library, as a cultural, educational and information center, plays an active role in shaping civic stance and national identity within the context of the information society. This is ensured by the following advantages of the library as a center for patriotic education:

- the library is accessible to all students of the university;
- the library enjoys high authority among students;
- the library can serve not only as an information center but also as a venue for events, competitions and discussions.

The university library possesses the necessary resources and potential to fulfill its mission of fostering a strong civic stance, national identity and respect for the history and culture of the country among students. In the face of modern challenges, the library of a higher education institution contributes to the upbringing of worthy citizens of their Fatherland.

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