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The System of Personal Bibliographic Aids in the Field of Literary Studies

Abstract

The article provides detailed information about personal scientific and auxiliary bibliographic resources in the field of literary studies, which constitute an important component of the national bibliographic resource of Azerbaijan. It also analyzes personal bibliographic publications compiled and published by the main centers of bibliographic activity — the M. F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan and the Central Scientific Library of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The article examines the ideological and thematic orientation of these resources and outlines their characteristic features. The role of these bibliographic resources in ensuring bibliographic information support for subject specialists is interpreted based on factual sources.

Keywords: Azerbaijan, Literary Studies, Personal Bibliographic Activity, Bibliographic Resource, Document and Information Resources

Bibliyografya Araştırmaları Alanında Kişisel Bibliyografik Yardımlar Sistemi

Öz

Makale, Azerbaycan'ın ulusal bibliyografik kaynağının önemli bir bileşenini oluşturan bibliyografya araştırmaları alanındaki kişisel bilimsel ve yardımcı bibliyografik kaynaklar hakkında ayrıntılı bilgi



vermektedir. Ayrıca, bibliyografik faaliyetlerin ana merkezleri olan Azerbaycan M. F. Ahundov Milli Kütüphanesi ve Azerbaycan Milli Bilimler Akademisi Merkezi Bilimsel Kütüphanesi tarafından derlenen ve yayınlanan kişisel bibliyografik yayınlar da analiz edilmektedir. Makale, bu kaynakların ideolojik ve tematik yönelimlerini incelemekte ve karakteristik özelliklerini ana hatlarıyla ortaya koymaktadır. Bu bibliyografik kaynakların konu uzmanları için bibliyografik bilgi desteği sağlamadaki rolü olgusal kaynaklara dayanarak yorumlanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Azerbaycan, Bibliyografya Çalışmaları, Kişisel Bibliyografik Faaliyet, Bibliyografik Kaynak, Belge ve Bilgi Kaynakları

Introduction

Bibliography, as a scientific discipline, occupies a fundamental position in the organization, management, and dissemination of knowledge across all fields of science. It provides structured tools and methods for cataloging and describing publications, which facilitates researchers' access to accumulated scientific information. In the context of the humanities, and literary studies in particular, bibliography assumes an even greater significance, as the field itself is deeply rooted in textual analysis, historical research, and critical interpretation, all of which rely heavily on the availability and systematization of bibliographic data. Personal bibliographic indexes represent a specialized segment within bibliography focused on compiling comprehensive lists of the works produced by individual scholars, researchers, or authors. These indexes go beyond mere cataloging, serving as critical instruments for documenting the scientific legacy of researchers and tracing their intellectual contributions over time. For literary scholars, whose work often encompasses a variety of publication types—including articles, monographs, critical editions, translations, and conference proceedings—such indexes are indispensable for both self-presentation and scholarly evaluation. The creation and maintenance of personal bibliographic indexes offer multiple advantages. First, they systematize a researcher's body of work, making it accessible for peers, institutions, and future researchers interested in similar or related topics. Second, they provide a reliable basis for assessing the quantity and quality of scholarly output, which is crucial in academic environments for purposes such as funding, promotion, and collaboration opportunities. Third, these indexes contribute to the establishment of scientific networks by revealing patterns of collaboration and thematic intersections between scholars. Despite their evident utility, personal bibliographic indexes also face certain challenges. The diversity of publication types, the variability in citation standards, and the constant emergence of new digital formats require ongoing adaptation in

bibliographic practices. The development of digital technologies and online databases has introduced new possibilities for creating dynamic, searchable, and interconnected bibliographic records, enhancing the visibility and impact of scholars' works. However, this transition also demands rigorous standards for data accuracy, metadata consistency, and interoperability between systems. In the field of literary studies, where the interpretation of texts and contextualization within cultural and historical frameworks are central, having a precise and comprehensive personal bibliographic index is crucial. It not only documents the scope of a scholar's research but also enables a deeper understanding of the intellectual currents and scholarly debates within the discipline. Consequently, studying the significance, duties, and functions of personal bibliographic indexes in literary studies is essential for advancing the discipline and supporting its practitioners. This article aims to analyze the role of personal bibliographic indexes in literary studies, highlighting their importance in organizing scientific activity, outlining their primary duties, and describing their functional roles in modern research environments. Special attention will be given to the impact of digital transformation on the development and utilization of these indexes, as well as their contribution to enhancing scholarly communication and collaboration.

1. Main part

*The Importance of Personal Bibliographic Indexes in Literary Studies

- Systematization of Scientific Heritage: Personal bibliographic indexes allow comprehensive and structured collection of a scholar's scientific creativity. This facilitates easy access to previous works during the research process (Balginova, Maydangalieva, Satygalieva & Mahammadli, 2018).
- Evaluation of Research: Bibliographic indexes play a significant role in assessing the quality and quantity of scientific activity. For example, they help identify scholars' specialization, research directions, and scientific innovations (Ismayilov & Bayramova, 2022b; Ismayilov & Khalafova, 2023).
 - Establishing Scientific Connections: Based on authors' scientific publications, their collaborations, intersections of research topics, and scientific relationships are determined. (Bayramov & Məhəmmədli, 2025).
 - Formation of Information Databases: Libraries, information centers, and scientific institutions utilize personal bibliographic indexes to create broad and accurate information databases. (Heydar, 2023).

- *Duties of Personal Bibliographic Indexes
- *Collection and Systematization of Data

Accurate gathering and classification of all works written in the field of literary studies (Ismayilov, K.Ismayilov, N & Mammadova, 2019).

- Analysis and Evaluation of Scientific Activity: Comprehensive assessment of scholars' scientific legacy through bibliographic data analysis.
- Ensuring the Accuracy of Citations: Systematic and correct referencing in academic texts.
- Information Provision: Facilitating researchers' access to scientific information. (İsmayılov, Mahammadli & Gasimli, 2023a).

Functions of Personal Bibliographic Indexes

- Information Function: Collecting and presenting data about scholars' scientific works. (Ismayilov & Aliyeva, 2023).
- Organizational Function: Structuring data according to specific methods and standards (Ismayilov, Mahammadli & Khudiyeva, 2022).
- Analytical Function: Analyzing publications by content, subject, and impact.
- Educational and Research Function: Providing a foundation for researchers to utilize existing knowledge and generate new ideas. (Ismayilov & Khalafova, 2022b).
- Evaluative Function: Assessing scholars' activities and determining their scientific reputation (Ismayılov & Khudiyeva, 2023).

The national bibliography of Azerbaijan possesses a rich system of resources, reflecting various types of printed materials aimed at different purposes and audiences, which constitute part of the cultural and spiritual heritage of the Azerbaijani people. (İsmayılov & Məhəmmədli, 2024). One of the stable and long-term components of the bibliographic resource system is personal bibliographic information sources. The M. F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan and the Central Scientific Library of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences have made significant contributions to the compilation of personal bibliographic indexes.

A key direction of the M.F. Akhundov National Library's multifaceted bibliographic activity is the compilation and publication of personal scientific and auxiliary bibliographic resources (Ismayilov, Mahammadli & Gasimli, 2023b). Based on the object's form and content features, one of the significant areas of bibliographic activity is considered to be personal bibliography. This is

because the process of creating personal bibliographic sources directly involves works authored by a specific individual and literature written about that individual.

Thus, personal bibliographic aids dedicated to prominent figures provide useful bibliographic search opportunities not only for accessing the works of those individuals and related literature but also for exploring the scientific field in which they worked (Karabalina, Maydangalieva, Satygalieva, Ahmetalina & Mahammadli, 2018). As such, they comprehensively meet the bibliographic information needs of users interested in that person or in the associated field of science. Therefore, personal bibliographic indexes related to outstanding figures in science, culture, and the arts should be regarded as an essential component of the bibliographic resource system in their respective fields. In fact, these resources help lay the foundation of the bibliographic information support system for the corresponding scientific discipline.

Each prominent scientist or expert represents the scientific potential of their respective field. The works they have authored form part of the documentary base necessary for satisfying information needs in that domain (Kazimi & Mahammadli, 2021). Personal bibliographic resources possess rich informational potential and are considered important tools in meeting users' bibliographic information needs. The total body of personal bibliographic indexes dedicated to well-known and authoritative experts in a specific field has a positive impact on satisfying the bibliographic information demands of users in that field.

A substantial amount of experience has already been accumulated in Azerbaijan in the creation of personal bibliographic indexes (Kenzhebayeva, Urmurzina & Mahammadli, 2018). Beginning in 1965, the Central Scientific Library of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences launched the series titled "Figures of Science and Culture of Azerbaijan," through which numerous personal bibliographic indexes have been compiled and published to date.

*The Role and Challenges of Bibliographic Activity in Fiction Literature

The richness and diversity of fiction literature increase the complexity of bibliography. Nowadays, fiction literature is multifaceted: covering a broad spectrum from classical works to modern novels and poetry, even including electronic literature (Khalafova & Ismailov, 2024 a). Bibliographic activity has the significant task of comprehending, selecting, and presenting this diversity to users.

When compiling a bibliography of fiction literature, factors such as copyright, publishing information, and editorial changes must be considered. Moreover, challenges exist in aligning

bibliographic standards and applying international requirements (Kushzhanov & Dashgin, 2019a). In Azerbaijan's national libraries and information systems, reforms are necessary to address these issues.

*The Impact of Modern Technologies on Bibliographic Activity

The development of digital technologies and information-communication tools has improved the quality of bibliographic activity and expanded its possibilities. Electronic catalogs, digital archives, and online bibliographic databases simplify the information retrieval process for literary scholars and readers (Khalafova & Ismayilov, 2024 b).

Furthermore, artificial intelligence and machine learning create prospects for automated creation, processing, and analysis of bibliographic data. These technologies enable rapid and accurate classification of large literary databases.

*Prospective Directions of Bibliographic Activity

The prospects of bibliographic activity in literary studies and fiction literature can be summarized in the following main directions:

*Digitalization and improvement of information systems

Ensuring electronic storage and universal accessibility of bibliographic data (Kushzhanov & Mahammadli, 2019b).

*Adaptation to international standards

Integration of bibliographic standards, coding, and classification systems with international practices (Mahamadli,2018).

*Creation of interactive and multimedia bibliographic resources

Electronic presentation of literary works and expansion of interactive communication with readers.

*Application of artificial intelligence and automated search systems

More effective management of bibliographic data and presentation tailored to user needs (Mahammadi, 2024).

*Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage

The role of literary bibliography in intercultural dialogue and systematization of nationalcultural values.

Bibliographic activity plays a crucial role in the development of human culture and science (Məhəmmədli, 2024). Especially in the field of literary studies and fiction literature, bibliography is important for organizing scientific research, meeting readers' interests, and systematically managing literary heritage. In the modern era of information abundance and digitalization, new opportunities arise for structuring and improving bibliographic work. Therefore, the prospects of bibliographic activity in literary studies and fiction literature require a relevant and comprehensive approach.

In 2006, the M. F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan initiated the "Prominent Figures of Azerbaijan" series. The first personal bibliographic index in this series was dedicated to Mir Jalal Pashayev — an outstanding prose writer, literary scholar, pedagogue, and one of the founders of modern Azerbaijani literary studies. Subsequent indexes have been compiled and published on notable figures such as the prominent writer and public figure Elchin Afandiyev; renowned author and public figure Teymur Elchin; satirical poet M. A. Sabir; the great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi; classical poet Muhammad Fuzuli; literary scholar Teyyub Qurban; and world-renowned national poet Samad Vurghun. All of these personal bibliographic indexes possess rich informational potential (Muhammadli, 2023). Mir Jalal Pashayev, one of the founders of modern Azerbaijani literature, was a writer and scholar who revitalized literary creativity by harmonizing elements of folk art with the progressive traditions of classical literature. A prose writer, teacher, literary critic, publicist, and public figure, Mir Jalal Pashayev left behind a rich intellectual legacy comprising more than 1,500 works — including both his own writings and works about his life and creative activity. The study and investigation of this vast heritage is of great relevance for evaluating and understanding his role in the development of Azerbaijani literary studies (Nadir & Sevda, 2022). Significant work has already been done in this direction. Bibliographic resources reflecting the writer's legacy have been compiled, with the first personal bibliographic index published in 1968 on the occasion of his 60th anniversary by the Fundamental Library of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences as part of the "Figures of Science and Culture of Azerbaijan" series. This bibliographic index covers the writer's 40-year creative period (1928–1968) and includes bibliographic information on nearly 1,000 documents. According to this index, during the period under review, Mir Jalal published 57 books in Azerbaijani and Russian, authored 656 literary, critical, and journalistic articles, and there were also 2 books and 305 articles written about his life and work (Qasımlı& Məhəmmədli, 2024a). The next personal bibliographic index about Mir Jalal Pashayev was published in 1998 by the M.F. Akhundov State Library to commemorate the writer's 90th anniversary. Titled "Mir Jalal Pashayev: Bibliography (1908–1998)" (Compiled by R. G. Muradova; Edited by N.P. Naghiyeva), this work can be regarded as a continuation of the first index. It logically covers materials in various languages from 1969 to 1998, including works by and about Mir Jalal Pashayev. Altay Hasanov authored an introductory article entitled "Mir Jalal", offering a brief overview of the writer's life and creative path and highly valuing his contribution to the development of Azerbaijani literature (Qasımlı & Məhəmmədli, 2024b). The growing reader interest in Mir Jalal Pashayev's work has created a need for a new, more comprehensive bibliographic reference book that is more complete in terms of chronological coverage. The bibliographic publication titled "Mir Jalal: Bibliography" (Compiled by N. P. Naghiyeva; Scientific editor: Sh. A. Akhundov) is a universal reference book that presents a bibliographic model of the scholar's works and sources about him from 1926 to 2006. The index begins with a scholarly and factually rich introduction titled "Simplicity and Wisdom (Words About the Teacher)" written by People's Writer and Professor Elchin. In this piece, the author draws a detailed portrait of Mir Jalal with both professionalism and sincerity, highlighting the key traits of his personality and contributions (Ismayilov & Khalafova, 2022a). The first section of this bibliographic index is titled "Key Dates in Mir Jalal's Life and Work." This section presents bibliographic information about his life and creativity in chronological order. The most recent bibliographic resource reflecting Mir Jalal Pashayev's legacy was published in 2018 as part of the "Prominent Figures of Azerbaijan" series by the M.F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan. This work is titled: Mir Jalal (Pashayev Mir Jalal Ali oglu): Bibliography / compiled by M. Valiyeva and M. Ibrahimova; project manager: A. Garayev; scientific editor: K. Tahirov; responsible person: Sh. Akhundov; editor: G. Safaraliyeva. - Baku, 2018. - 496 pages (Kushzhanov & Dashqin, 2019c). The bibliographic resource was compiled in honor of Mir Jalal's 110th anniversary. In this edition, the materials have been significantly improved, with new sections and subsections added, and it includes content covering the last twelve years as well. The resource features Mir Jalal's books, his works published in periodicals, textbooks, and collections, books written for children, scientific-critical and journalistic articles, translations, edited publications, supervised dissertations, works published in Russian and other languages, as well as all publications reflecting his life and creative activity (Mammadov, 2022a). The bibliographic materials are organized chronologically and, within each chronological segment, arranged in alphabetical order. For the first time, the section titled "Mir Jalal's Works in World Libraries" presents documents that serve as clear evidence of the global dissemination of the immortal author's legacy. The "Appendices" section includes archival materials preserved at "The Writer's House" in Baku and the memorial house-museum in Ganja, which significantly enhance the scholarly value of the bibliographic resource. Notably, the materials in this edition are grouped into three languages: Azerbaijani, Russian, and English.

The most recent bibliographic resource dedicated to Mir Jalal also includes newly introduced sections and subsections, such as "Prominent Figures and Literary Peers about Mir Jalal", "Mir Jalal's Wise Sayings", and "Mir Jalal on Notable Personalities and Azerbaijani Literature."

Mir Jalal Pashayev, a distinguished representative of 20th-century Azerbaijani literary and artistic thought, played a vital role in the development of national literature and in enriching its thematic content. Known as a writer who revitalized Azerbaijani literature by synthesizing folk creativity with the advanced traditions of classical literary heritage, Mir Jalal was also a prominent literary scholar (Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan) (Mammadov, 2022b). Mir Jalal was one of the outstanding prose writers who bore the weight of Azerbaijani prose in the 20th century. Just as he was a naturally modest person, so too was his speech, his scientific discourse, and literary narrative — and the most important point is that the simplicity found in both his personality and creativity was by no means primitiveness, but rather a reflection of wisdom. (Elchin, People's Writer of Azerbaijan). In schools, "humanity" must be taught as a distinct subject. For Mir Jalal, humanity and the philosophy of being human became a life ideal. This theme ran like a red thread through all his writings (Ghilman Ilkin). Mir Jalal was truly a man of prophetic nature. Kindness was in his blood. He was a humanist and valued talented individuals. (Nariman Hasanzadeh, People's Poet of Azerbaijan). Mir Jalal himself also shared heartfelt and valuable thoughts about Azerbaijani literature and our poets and writers. The works of Mir Jalal Pashayev have always been relevant and remain so to this day. The bibliographic resource is a universal reference book that models the bibliography of the writer's own works as well as the sources devoted to him.

A prominent representative of modern Azerbaijani literature, a worthy successor of the contemporary literary-critical school, national writer, recipient of the "Istiglal" and "Sharaf" Orders, and Honored Art Worker of the Republic of Azerbaijan — Elchin Afandiyev is a literary

scholar with a rich and multifaceted body of work. He is an author deeply connected with the history, destiny, and literary-artistic heritage of the Azerbaijani people (Mammadov, 2013). Elchin Afandiyev's contributions to the development of Azerbaijani literature and culture, his prolific literary and journalistic output, his translations from world literature, dramatic works, screenplays, and socio-political activity have all contributed to the formation of a vast document and information base. Alongside primary sources, this wealth of documentation is also reflected in bibliographic resources. One such bibliographic resource dedicated to the study of Elchin Afandiyev's legacy was published in 2013 by the M.F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan as part of the "Prominent of Azerbaijan" *Figures* series: Elchin (Afandiyev Elchin Ilyas oglu): Bibliography / Specialist editor and responsible publisher: K. Tahirov; Editor: G. Safaraliyeva. - M. F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan. - Baku, 2013. - 560 pages. This newly compiled bibliographic index comprehensively covers Elchin Afandiyev's literary and public activity from 1959 to 2013. Unlike the previous bibliographic resource, this edition was restructured, updated, and presented with improved methodology and formatting.

*The index is divided into three main sections

Part I: Works – This section systematizes the author's books, publications in periodicals and collections, novels, short stories, scripts, plays, skits, radio works, literary-critical and journalistic articles, interviews, translations, edited and reviewed works.

Part II: Literature About His Life and Work – Includes books, dissertations and abstracts, articles published in periodicals and collections, coverage of dramatized and filmed works, Elchin's activity in the "Vətən" Society for Azerbaijani cultural relations with compatriots abroad, and his work as Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The materials in each section and subsection are grouped chronologically and systematized in both Azerbaijani and Russian (Askerova & Mammadov, 2025). The "Electronic Resources" subsection compiles online materials about Elchin. Within this part, 75 internet-based sources on Elchin Afandiyev are provided in chronological bibliographic description.

Part III of the index includes auxiliary indexes, such as:

- -Alphabetical index of Elchin's works
- -Alphabetical index of authors who have written about him

-Alphabetical index of materials by title

These sections are also presented in both Azerbaijani and Russian. The inclusion of these auxiliary indexes greatly enhances usability and saves researchers time.

The personal scientific and auxiliary bibliographic research work dedicated to the prominent writer and well-known public figure Elchin Afandiyev in the "Prominent Figures of Azerbaijan" series stands as a successful example of the bibliographic activity of the National Library of Azerbaijan. This bibliographic research publication is also a valuable contribution to the field of modern Azerbaijani literary bibliography.

Among personal scientific bibliographic resources, one of the most comprehensive and methodologically advanced is the bibliographic work dedicated to the great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi. Bibliographic sources play a crucial role in studying, promoting, and delivering Nizami's rich legacy to readers. His universal literary heritage is not only represented in literary and artistic sources but is also widely reflected in bibliographic information sources (İsmayılova, 2025). The creation of such bibliographic resources stems from the richness of Nizami's legacy and the continuous attention and admiration it receives. The leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan has always shown deep respect and care for Nizami's legacy, ensuring its preservation and promotion through the publication of his works and the organization of anniversary celebrations via official decisions and decrees (Takhirov & Ismaylov, 2011). Special bibliographic sources on Nizami's legacy began to be compiled in Azerbaijan starting from the 1940s. In addition to these specialized bibliographies, general bibliographic information resources have also reflected his creativity, scholarly discourse, and reprints of his works. These bibliographic sources began to appear as early as the 1920s–1930s. Throughout history, the legacy of Nizami Ganjavi has always been in the focus of attention of the Azerbaijani state. A striking example of this is the decision adopted on July 25, 1938, by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan on "Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of the Great Azerbaijani Poet Nizami Ganjavi."

This initiative, which began even before the Second World War, was significantly expanded in the early post-war years in connection with preparations for Nizami's 800th anniversary. As part of these preparations, the Nizami Institute of Literature of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences compiled and published a collection of essays titled "Nizami Ganjavi" in 1947 (Ismailova, 2025). In this context, the documentary corpus of Nizami Studies serves as a primary object in the bibliographic process, functioning as an essential information source. This includes not only the

literary works authored by the great poet Nizami Ganjavi himself but also books and periodicals on the history and theory of Azerbaijani literature, contemporary research, electronic publications, and other forms of information carriers. On December 23, 2011, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, issued a decree on the celebration of the 870th anniversary of the great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Nizami Ganjavi. The decree stated: "In 2011, the 870th anniversary of Nizami Ganjavi — a distinguished representative of world literature, a great Azerbaijani poet and philosopher — is to be celebrated." Based on this decree, the M.F. Akhundov National Library of Azerbaijan prepared and published the comprehensive bibliographic index "Nizami Ganjavi" as a tribute to the poet's anniversary. This scientific and auxiliary bibliographic index, compiled by the National Library, covers materials published on the life and work of Nizami from 1828 to 2012.

In the section "Prominent Figures on Nizami Ganjavi", thoughtful reflections from key personalities are included. These include the National Leader of the Azerbaijani People Heydar Aliyev, President Ilham Aliyev, People's Writer Mirza Ibrahimov, academician Hamid Arasly, poet-philosopher Alisher Navoi, Russian orientalist Y.E. Bertels, Azerbaijani poet and philosopher Muhammad Fuzuli, People's Poet Samad Vurgun, and other prominent figures. Among these, Heydar Aliyev's statements stand as a powerful testament to the nation's deep respect and admiration for Nizami. He said: "Nizami Ganjavi is such a great personality, such a genius, that his anniversaries should be celebrated not only every ten years or five years, but every single year." (Ismaylov, 2015). Today, in the ever-evolving cultural environment of Azerbaijan, Nizami's legacy, poetry, humanism, and wisdom have become a profound source of spiritual nourishment for society.

Conclusion

With the advancement of digital technologies, personal bibliographic indexes have expanded both in format and usability. Through electronic databases, online platforms, and automated systems, the scientific heritage of scholars in literary studies is managed in a more accessible and dynamic manner. This also facilitates the development of international connections and accelerates information exchange.

These personal bibliographic resources, published in various series, are valuable and rich sources of information that significantly enrich the bibliographic information system in the field of literary studies, and the broader Azerbaijani bibliographic landscape. They serve as crucial tools

for meeting the informational needs of users, supporting researchers and specialists, and ensuring the bibliographic information provision for the field of literary scholarship. Personal bibliographic indexes are indispensable tools in the development of literary studies and the organization of scientific activity. Their accurate, systematic, and modern preparation is essential for analyzing and evaluating scholars' work and directing future research. The application of digital technologies enhances the functionality of personal bibliographic indexes and eases their presentation to a wider audience.

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