

Report

The National Library of Russia

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Annual Report to CENL 2004

Legal framework

The State Duma of the Russian Federation (the lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia) formed a working group for revision of the Library Law of the Russian Federation (adopted in 1994)

Library Buildings

The renovation of the medicine and technologies reading room in the historical building of the Library started. It is the largest reading room in the Library (350 places). The room was damaged in 1940-s during the siege of Leningrad and restored in 1950-s. This will be the first renovation of this room for the last 50 years.

The reconstruction of one of the historical library buildings started. After the reconstruction the building will accommodate management and directorial offices.

Information technology and networks

The total number of records in the electronic catalog at the moment is over 2 million.

More than 851000 searches of our web catalog were made in 2004.

There is also the electronic set of the scanned cards of general alphabetic catalog, which contains about 7 million records. In 2004 in this catalog 2 million 938 thousand searches were made.

In 2004 the retrospective conversion of the "Rossica" collection was completed and the "Rossica" catalog (124581 records) became available in our website. The collection includes translations of Russian authors into European languages and works about Russia published outside the country. The earliest publications in the collection are of 16th century the latest belong to 1930s.

Digital Library.

Digital library today: about 20000 items

Digital masters storage volume: more than 1500 CD-Rs (by May 2005)

Annual digitisation: about 4500 items

On the 17 of December 2004 General Directors of both National Libraries sign the final version of the "Concept of the National digital library", which determines the scope, main principles and some other aspects of the project.

The joint project with the Library of Congress "Meeting of Frontiers" was successfully completed. "Meeting of Frontiers" is English-Russian digital library that contains materials on the American exploration of North of American Continent, Siberia and the Russian Far East, and the meeting of the Russian-American frontiers in Alaska.

The joint project of the National Library of Russia and the Russian State Library called "First Russian newspaper "Vedomosti" (1703-1727)" was completed.

In 1702 Peter the Great signed a decree on starting the Russian newspaper "Vedomosti" (News), which was published partly in Moscow partly in Saint Petersburg. There is no physically a complete set of all the early issues of the newspaper anywhere. Thus the

product of the project is the first electronic complete set of the newspaper. The collection consists of 727 electronic full text items, each of which is provided with detailed bibliographic record.

The digitalization of the 17th century manuscript on the icon of Our Lady of Tikhvin was carried out. The manuscript contains the collection of stories about the celebrated wonderworking icon of Our Lady Odigitria of Tikvin. During the World War II the Orthodox Community of Riga (capital of Latvia) took the icon of Our Lady of Tikhvin from the Tikhvin Our Lady Dormition Monastery. After the war it was transported to USA (Chicago) where it was kept till the 2004. In 2004 it was brought back to the town of Tikvin. The publishing of the digital copy was devoted to the return of the icon. The digitalization was carried out in collaboration with the "Russian Symphony" Publishing House.

Acquisition in 2004:

366528 items (in Russian).

15149 books in foreign languages, which is the largest annual acquisition of foreign books for the last ten years.

2387 titles of foreign serials.

The Library currently participates in the international book exchange with 1073 institutions in 71 countries.

Preservation & Conservation

Currently the work in the Federal Centre of conservation of library collections of Russian National Library has two trends

1. Mass books conservation with poli- para- xinen covering
2. Restoration of the documents by mechanical restitution of the missing parts of paper using the aerodynamic formatting

The joint project of the National Library of Russia and Helsinki University Library (National Library of Finland) has two objectives. The first one is the preservation of collection of the National Library of Russia. The other objective is submitting to Helsinki University Library copies of documents (microfilms and digital copies) made during the project realization.

On the first stage of the project it was planned to make microforms of a number of items the National library of Russia collections. In almost two years 4170000 cadres of microfilms was made. Among the materials microfilmed there were sets of Russian newspapers, serials, dictionaries and reference books, published in 19th and 20th centuries, the newspaper in Ugro Finnish languages published after the October revolution, manuscripts (including several Jewish manuscripts from the Firkovitch collection). At present we are cataloguing the microfilmed materials and afterwards they will be stored in the new building of the Library.

The second stage of the project includes digitalization Russian serials published in years 1800 – 1999 and also some separate titles of newspapers in Ugro-Finnish languages, and also Jewish, Arabic and some other languages. On this stage no less 62 500 scanned images were produced.

At the moment an objective of cataloguing and storage of the materials is set.

Statistics for 2004

Collections 34.150.096 items (6.176.335 items in foreign languages)

Visits 1551652

Exhibitions – 388

Conferences, Lectures 287

User services

In 2004 we had 1 million 551 thousand visits to the library, the loan was 11 million 981 thousand items from the library collection.

40225 persons received new passes to Russian National library. It includes both the passes given to new readers, and the passes given instead of expired ones.

Total number of registered readers at present is about 250 000, including 1657 foreign persons from 96 countries.

At present testing free access is provided to some recourses of the e-libraries World Bank, to 38 databases of CSA (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts), Lexus Nexus Professional database, EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit), Keesing's Record of World Events (KRWE8) and other recourses. After testing the subscription for some full text resources was realized. Access was organized to a number of new electronic full text resources of Russia.

The online service "Ask a bibliographer" was organized in our website. To December of 2004 the service had about 1300 queries.

Cooperation International relations:

National cooperation:

Federal core program "Culture of Russia (2001-2005)"

National Digital Library

National Informational Library Centre

National Format of Bibliographic Records (RUSMARC) (Russian Library Association)

Russian Library Informational Consortium

The Project "Cataloguing before Publishing"

The Project "Names came back"

The Project "Longevity of Printed Matter and Manuscript"

Union Catalog of Russian Serials (1801 - 1825)

List of the Full-Text and Bibliographic Resources for Libraries

International cooperation

Participation in international organizations:

IIFLA

CDNL

CENL

CERL

LIBER

Bibliotheca Baltica

International conferences hosted by Library

Conference "UNESCO program "Information for Everyone" took place in June of 2004

The LIBER General Conference took place in June - July of 2004. For the first time the conference was organized in Russia. 228 participants from 30 countries were registered, which was a largest number of the participants in the history of LIBER.

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