

RUSSIA: NL

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF RUSSIA

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

STATISTICS FOR 2003

Collections (January 1, 2004) 33,839,464 items (6,134,706 items in foreign languages)

Visits 16,800,000

Exhibitions 87

Lectures, Conferences 267

ADMINISTRATION

The year 2003 was marked for the Library with two main events:

On April 12 2003, the official opening of the new building and the first visit of the Head of the State to the National Library for the last century took place. The President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin mentioned in his speech the significance of libraries as the repositories of invaluable experience of many generations and especially emphasized their role in the creation of the intellectual potential of the nation.

In the course of preparation for the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, the Library accomplished the first step of a large project on the creation of, "The Centre on Study of European Culture of the 18th Century (Voltaire's Library)". As a result conditions for the arrangement of the Voltaire's library and manuscript collection, a unique monument of the world culture of the 18th century, were created. M.M. Kasjanov, the Chairman of the Government of Russia, and J.-P. Raffarin, the Prime Minister of France, took part in the Centre opening ceremony.

Many VIP visits to the NLR took place this year. Among them were the following: James Billington, Director of the Library of Congress of the United States, Ted Stevens, Senator from Alaska, Pilar del Castillo, Minister of Culture of Spain, Luis Alberto Rodriguez Blanco, Honorary Consul of Spain, and others.

READER SERVICE

Some actions were directed at reader service improvement:

Early in the year the ceremonial opening of Junior Reading Room was held in the White Column Hall.

Modification of the reader's card from February 1 2003 providing unified access to the NLR stocks of all categories, which essentially facilitated the library use conditions, became an important event.

Quantity of visits: 1,403,500 persons

New readers: 44,600 persons

Literature delivered: 12,194,900 items

ACQUISITION

Acquisitions in 2003:	431,553 items (in Russian)
..... Including:	
..... Books	180,460 items (8,433 items in foreign languages)
..... Serials and Periodicals	63,716 items

The Library actively participated in the international book exchange with 1,076 partner organizations.

In 2003, the donations of foreign literature totalled 1,129 books. Receipts from the German Scientific Society, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in St. Petersburg, and Dr. Karl Maurer (German reference publications to the amount of 15,000 Euro) can be mentioned among them. A gift of the Japanese Foundation included 68 publications. These gifts were marked with a special medal of the NLR.

In 2003, the quantity of electronic periodicals accessible via the Internet increased considerably: 10,000 titles including 7,000 full-text scientific periodicals.

At present, on-line access to the periodicals of 40 publishers such as Elsevier, Academic Press, Kluwer, Springer, Birkhauser Publishing, Blackwell Science, Pergamon, and others is provided. The subscription to electronic full-text periodicals of Karger publishing company for 2004 was realized.

CATALOGUING

In 2003, the NLR carried out the great work on the re cataloguing of foreign books of the 16th-17th centuries. Work on the retro conversion of the General Alphabetical Catalogue and on the formation of the Joint Catalogue of Foreign Books of the 16th century was continued. These projects are a part of the system of agreements of cooperation with the Russian State Library.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

In 2003, work on the creation of the NLR Digital Library was carried on, now consisting of 4,962 documents. These have all been copied, processed, entered in the registration database, recorded on CDs and entered in the database of electronic copies of publications. 311 CDs are recorded.

In 2003, work on the joint project with the Library of Congress, "Meeting at the Frontiers" was continued. Within the project 5,795 images were copied and 222 CDs were recorded.

LIBRARY COOPERATION

In November 2003, the General Session of CERL was held at the NLR. Work on creation of the European database of early printed books was continued under the aegis of this organization. A regular educational seminar took place.

Preparation for the LIBER General Conference, which will be held in St. Petersburg, has begun. A meeting of the Executive Committee of this organization took place at the NLR in 2003.

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