

RUSSIA: RSL

RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY

VICTOR FEDOROV — DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

On November 19, 2003 the 175th Jubilee of the RSL as an especially precious object of the cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation was solemnly celebrated in the State Kremlin Palace.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has announced his gratitude to its staff, *For great input in the development of the culture and on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of its establishment.* On November 27, he also visited the RSL and conducted a meeting with its governing body. It was the first visit of the State Head to the Library since the Emperor Alexander II visit (1872).

RSL has received a large number of congratulations from the national and foreign statesmen, scientists and public figures, and among them the congratulatory epistle from the UNESCO Director General Koïchiro Matsuura.

The RF Government by its Order of August 27, 2003 has approved the plan of the development, reconstruction, restoration, and construction of the buildings complex of the RSL for 2003 –2010.

In 2003 for the first time in accordance the Federal Law *On introducing additions and alterations into the Federal Law «On the deposit copy of documents»» the RSL has begun to receive the electronic documents (CD, DVD).*

The centre of automatic registration of the users has started its activities.

The planned work at forming the Electronic Library of the RSL is going on. The pilot project, *The Open Russian Electronic Library (OREL)*, was put on the Internet (<http://orel.ru>) and has the highest users rating.

The digital catalogue was replenished with 2230 thousands of records.

The problem of the national authority files has been paid much attention within a project *International Virtual Authority File*.

In November the presentation of the project on establishment of the Virtual Union Catalogue of Electronic Recourses (bibliographic descriptions and full text documents) of the 5 largest libraries of RF (RSL, RNL, All Russian State Library of Foreign Literature, Moscow State University Library and Parliamentary Library) has taken place.

The RSL regularly publishes the journals: *Library and Information Science*, *Bulletin of the Library Assembly of Eurasia* and *Newsletter of the IFLA Russian Committee*.

Also, the non-commercial partnership, *The Library Assembly of Eurasia*, has changed its status and was officially registered in its new capacity on August, 20 2003. Its priorities are the harmonisation of the library legislation and activation of the work of the correspondents-points in all the countries-LAE members. The RSL Director General V.V. Fedorov was elected as the LAE President and the RSL Director for Research and Publishing Activities E.V. Nikonorova was elected as the LAE Director General.

The golden jubilee of the journal, *Library and Information Science*, – the 50th anniversary of its foundation – was marked by the National Award *Golden Lotus* under the motto *Let's preserve spirituality of Russia*.

The reconstruction of the new building of the Centre of the Oriental Literature (4000 sq. m) was finalised. Its inauguration took place on October, 13. The RSL possesses the richest collection of literature in languages of peoples of Africa and Asia.

The installation of the modern engineering communications was completed in the 19-tier storehouse of the Library without evacuation of its collections.

The Research Council of the RSL approved the conceptual documents *Statute on system of RSL library stocks* and *Statute on library-information stock of the Russian Federation*.

Re-established Dissertation Council and preparation system for a degree candidates and doctors es sciences in the field of Library and Information Science, Bibliography Science and Book Science.

To the RSL Dissertation Council were presented a few dissertations, among them representees of Mongolia and Kenya.

In December, the IX International research readings in memoriam Nikolaj Fedorov (1829-1903) took place celebrating the 100th anniversary of the *Moscow Socrat*, philosopher-cosmist, librarian of the Rumiantsev Museum and friend of Lev Tolstoy.

Among the organised exhibitions might be noted:

The Famous People of Russia – Libraries Readers (among them: Lev Tolstoy, the Rumiantsev Museum reader during 40 years, Fedor Dostoevsky, Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, Dmitrij Mendeleev).

300 years of Russian journalism – the huge exposition in Moscow manege, organised by the largest museums, archives and libraries, where publications from the RSL collections have been displayed.

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