

RUSSIA

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF RUSSIA

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

The NLR's strategy for the year 2006 was based on the following goals:

- improving and fostering preservation of NLR's unique collections and access to them;
- revising federal laws and regulations related to libraries in Russia;
- strengthening and enlarging digital collections; and
- improving provided services and working conditions for users.

The major achievements within the stated goals are briefly presented in this report.

PRESERVATION

The NLR organised the Fifth International Conference "Preserving the National Heritage: Traditional and Non-Traditional Approaches". It attracted the attention of experts in the country and abroad. The conference proceedings were published as a book and as a special issue of the journal "Na veka" ("For Centuries to Come").

The first Russian Center for Mass De-acidification was opened at the NLR in collaboration with the Secco Pontanova Foundation (Germany). The Center will serve the needs of the NLR, libraries and archives in Russia.

The NLR accomplished work on the Center of Reprography, which has been officially opened in 2007. The Center will allow the NLR to create master microfilm and digital copies to preserve its unique collections. The facility will also serve the needs of the NLR patrons.

The Library joined the European Register of Master Microforms (EROMM), and supplied the first portion of its records to the database. This places the Library into the international search and retrieval system of electronic documents and microforms, providing information and access to its digital collections.

REVISION OF FEDERAL LAWS

In 2006, the NLR's experts participated in revision of two Federal Laws: the Legal Deposit Law, and the Federal Library Law. The work has been done in collaboration with the Russian Library Association. The amended laws have been passed on to the State Duma for further discussion.

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS, SERVICES, AND ACCESS

By the end of 2006, the NLR's collections reached 34,763,500 volumes serving 1,184,814 users visited the NLR in the past year.

An analysis, registration and full description of all NLR stacks and collections has been updated for the first time since a similar project in 1940. Each stack and collection received a detailed description, which included the history, content and current conditions of the materials.

The Main Reading Room (for 288 patrons) was opened after major reconstruction and historical restoration. Open access to current and major reference publications was made available in this reading room. Another new service, the Business and Legal Information Center, was begun on the NLR premises, answering the needs of citizens of the city and other regions. LG Reading Room for Electronic Resources was another facility for patrons, with its modern computer and telecommunication equipment.

In 2006, retrospective conversion of the NLR periodical collections was completed, that improved access to the Library's collections for patrons.

DIGITISATION PROJECTS

The NLR signed an agreement with the Library of Congress for the World Digital Library - Planning and Prototype. NLR experts and officials took part in the Paris UNESCO Meeting where the future of WDL was discussed.

The NLR Digital Library has been enriched with two major collections: the Collection of PhD theses (120,000 documents) and the Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In September 2006, the NLR hosted the Annual Meeting of the Conference of European National Librarians. 76 participants from 31 countries of Europe and North America attended the event.

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