

TEMPLATE FOR COUNTRY REPORT

Name of Country: The Russian Federation

Name of Library: The National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg

Name of Chief Executive: Dr. Vladimir N. Zaitsev, Director General

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

The National Library of Russia (NLR) hosted two major national library events in 2007: the Conference for Directors of the Federal and Central Regional Libraries, and The First All-Russia Public Libraries Forum. The main issues discussed were: government policy on librarianship, revision of the federal and local legislation related to libraries, advanced library development, and social partnerships.

As a national library, the NLR provided information support and proposals to the Legislative Committee on Library Development regarding amendments to the existing Library Law of the Russian Federation. The NLR worked closely with the committee on Copyright, and provided assistance to librarians on dealing with copyright issues. This collaborative work resulted in the publication of a book "Libraries and Copyright" by the NLR in combination with the State Library for Science and Technology. NLR experts also provided materials for the Federal plan "The Concept of Library Development in the Russian Federation from 2007 to 2015".

2007 was the year of the 950th Jubilee of "The Ostromir Gospel" (1056-1057), the world's earliest dated East Slavonic book to date. Written in the Old Russian language using Cyrillic alphabet, the Ostromir Gospel played a major role in introducing Christianity to previously isolated and pagan East Slavonic tribes. The NLR, which holds the Gospel in its Department of Manuscripts, initiated a number of research and public events commemorating the national treasure. The celebration was attached to the Easter Festival. For the first time a fragment of the Ostromir Gospel was offered for public display at the State Hermitage and the St. Isaac Cathedral in St. Petersburg, and it attracted an enormous volume of visitors and worshipers. Along with traditional display, the NLR created a virtual exhibit of the Ostromir Gospel on its website.

The Department of Rare Books turned 150 this year. Nearly 20 research events at the NLR and other city institutions marked this date.

The newly created Center of Business and Legal Information was opened for the public at the New Building in February. Equipped with modern technology and information resources, it became one of the most popular and heavily used library resources in St. Petersburg. The Center provides reference services both in-house and online.

The Virtual Shared Reference Service was started in 2007. Under the leadership of NLR, it combines staff and resources of 10 central regional libraries of Russia.

In 2007 the NLR joined the European Library as a full member, which will allow wider access to its resources. It continues its participation in the World Digital Library.

The NLR increased its digital collections and resources through in-house digitization and outsourcing. In 2007 the NLR Digital Library offered a complete set of Laws of the Russia Empire since 1649.

The NLR started renovation and historical restoration of the two main reading rooms and public places in the Old Building. At the same time, construction started on the addition to the New Building in 2007. Together renovation and construction require many efforts and adjustments in order to offer regular services for patrons and continue internal library operations.

Some key numbers reflecting the NLR's growth and development are: by the end of 2007 the total holdings were 35,067,459 items (growth since 01.01.2007 - 303,959); expenditures on collection development were 107,598,000 rubles; 78% of all new Russian acquisitions came as legal deposits; the number of records in OPAC reached 2,800,000 books in Russian (19th-21st centuries) and 110,000 in foreign languages; and the number of walk-in visitors was 1,149,900, while "virtual" visits were 3,843,052.

Address:

National Library of Russia
18, Sadovaya street
St. Petersburg 191069

Telephone:

+7-812-310-2856

Fax:

+7-812-310-6148

Web address of Library:

www.nlr.ru

Email contact for library:

Uch.sec@nlr.ru

e-mail address for submission of reports: secretariat@cdnl.info