

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL – 2009

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1. General overview of recent major developments

In 2008 the main directions of library development were: further improvement of user services, growth of the digital collections and online resources available for the public, and construction of the extension to the new library building. The Library joined the European Library as a full member, participated in the World Digital Library project, and took part in creating digital content for the Presidential Library in Russia, which is to be officially opened in May 2009.

In 2008 the Library hosted the IXth International Symposium of Bibliotheca Baltica, organization of librarians from the Baltic states.

2. Note on the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations

The NLR received the status of the national library on 27 March 1992 by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation. Its missions, rules and regulations are formulated in the Statutes of the National Library of Russia (2001). The official name of the Library is: Federal Institution "The National Library of Russia". The two main laws which directly affect library development are: "The Library Law" of the Russian Federation (1994), and the "Federal Legal Deposit Law" (1994). Very important for current library operations is The Copyright Law (18.12.2006 N 231-ФЗ).

The history of the NLR goes back to May 27, 1795 when Empress Catherine II gave her formal approval to create the Imperial Public Library in St. Petersburg. The Library was officially opened on January 14, 1801 by Catherine's grandson Alexander I. Before 1917 the Imperial Public Library functioned as the national library of Russia. After the October Socialist Revolution of 1917 the Library's status changed. It was renamed as the State Public Library, the main library of the Russian Federation (one of the 15 USSR republics). It continued to receive legal deposit of all publications on the territory of the USSR. The NLR holds the largest (by title) collection of Russian books, as well as books on Russia/in Russian, published abroad. The Library collects books and other documents in all subject areas. It works in close collaboration with the Russian State Library in Moscow (formerly, the Lenin State Library, the main library of the USSR) under the guidance of the Council on Cooperation. Both institutions work together on national cataloging codes, classification schemas, national union catalog, national authority files, and in many other areas of library development.

3. Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc.)

By the end of 2008⁶ the NLR's collections number 35,358,000 items, of which 15,320,000 are books, 622,516 newspapers, 132,527 maps, 318,833 sheet music, and 460,708 manuscripts. Total acquisitions in 2008 were 427,539. To the Library's OPAC there were added 99,644 new bibliographic records of books, and 40,775 serials. The number of visitors to the Library was 1,143,500, to the Library's server - 3,672,564. 50,000 new library cards were issued in the past year. The Library employs 1,793 people, including part-time specialists and contract workers. The budget for library operations and collection development, which was received from the Government, amounted to 636,650,000 rubles. 43,000,000 rubles were added to the budget through grants, projects and fee based services. The Department of Information Services answered 289,061 reference questions to patrons in person, and 4,500 online and by email.

In 2008 the Library organized 28 research conferences and 100 exhibits of books and other materials

4. New developments in creating and building digital collections

The NLR participated in creating electronic resources for the new Presidential Library of the RF, and through this project significantly increased its own digital content. Most of them document legal and government work of the Russia Empire, Soviet State, and Post-Soviet Russia. Significant amount of old newspapers and periodicals were added to the NLR's Digital Library. In the past year the NLR worked on upgrading the Digital Library's interface.

5. New developments in managing print collections

The Library started revision of its collection development policies. The first two documents in 2008 were "Statement on the NLR's Collections" and CDP for the operational stacks (materials which are received in addition to the legal deposit, and not designated for permanent holding), and a position paper on acquiring of tangible electronic resources.

The Federal Center of Conservation and Preservation, located at the NLR provided restoration services for the NLR, as well as for the libraries and archives of the Russian Federation.

6. New developments in providing access to the collections

In the past year the NLR completed the new version of its OPAC – OPAC Global, which significantly improved access to information on library collections. In 2008 the 3rd part of the International Union Catalog of Russian Books was completed, and the records became available on the NLR's website and in OPAC. Due to the RECON project with the ProSoft Company, the number of records in the OPAC reached 3,5 million (in MARC format) and 8 million (scanned).

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives, museums)

The NLR collaborates with the Russian State Library (Moscow) in creating the National Digital Library. Through the LIBNET network the NLR participates in cooperative cataloguing with libraries of the Russian Federation. The Department of Information Services coordinates online reference service KORUND in collaboration with 12 major regional and academic libraries. The Federal Center of Conservation and Restoration provides services and educational courses for specialists from libraries, museums and archives in Russia. In 2008 the NLR was the main organizer of the All-Russia contest on the best research work in the area of Information and Library Studies.

8. Examples of international cooperation

The NLR is a member of such international projects as: The European Library, EROMM, The World Digital Library, and the project for the Hand Press Book website by the Consortium of European Research Libraries, Research Libraries Group and OCLC. As a member of the Bibliotheca Baltica it hosted the IXth International Symposium of this organization. With the British Library, the Leipriz University Library and the St. Catherines Monastery the NLR participated in reuniting the entire manuscript of Codex Sinaiticus in digital form and making it accessible to a global audience for the first time www.codexsinaiticus.org . In collaboration with the national libraries of Poland and Slovenia the NLR worked on creating a complete digital version of the Codex Suprasliensis, which is now available on the Memory of the World website. With the National Library of China and the Shanghai Library the NLR worked on increasing its Chinese collection. The project in discovering the books from the private library of the Von Hardenberg family was provided with the Central and Regional Library on Berlin and the Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow. The NLR's Center for Conservation and the NLR's Department of Professional Development on a regular basis provide educational courses for librarians from the CIS countries. The NLR has several international partnership agreements with the national and other libraries which result in annual professional exchange programs.

St. Petersburg, May 8, 2009