

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2009

Name of country: **Russian Federation**

Name of library: **The National Library of Russia (NLR), St. Petersburg**

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

The status of the Library has been re-instituted by a Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, No 1191 of December 31, 2009, and a revised new Charter of the NLR has been granted to it. The Charter has several amendments not changing the national status of the Library and its right to receive legal deposit of all published and electronic materials produced on the territory of the Russian Federation.

The Library received a substantial amount of money from the Government to begin construction of the addition to its New Building, which will significantly increase storage space. The construction took off at a fast pace.

The historic restoration of the two major reading rooms in the Main Building was completed and the rooms were inaugurated.

The Library held in its premises the two national professional meetings: the Annual Conference of the Directors of the Federal and Regional Libraries (October 2009), and the Second Russian Public Libraries Forum (December 2009). The NLR worked on the organization of these conferences together with the State and the Presidential Libraries of Russia.

The Library issued and disseminated the Electronic Directory «Libraries of Russia on the Verge of the XX and XXI Centuries» (on CD), which contains brief information on 52,350 libraries in the Russian Federation.

The NLR took an active part in celebration of the Year of France in Russia and preparations of the Year of Russia in France (2010), which were officially announced by the government of both countries in 2009. The NLR organized several exhibits and conferences in St. Petersburg, and took part in preparation of the major event of the year 2010 – the Exhibition «Holy Russia and Russian art since ancient time up to the Peter the Great Epoch» to be held in Louvre (Paris) from March 2 to May 24, 2010.

One of the major international projects “Codex Sinaiticus” has been completed. The NLR was one of the partners with the British Library (the chief institution), the Leipzig University Library and the St. Catherine’s Monastery (Sinai, Egypt). Given the importance of the project to the world culture, the NLR organized the public presentation of the electronic site of the Codex Sinaiticus, which had wide media coverage. The international research conference «The Codex Sinaiticus: Manuscripts in the Digital Age» was held in the NLR on November 12-13, 2009. It attracted major scholars in old manuscripts and their digitization.

NLR organized a number of international exhibitions and conferences to commemorate major jubilees of the Russian and international writers: Anna Akhmatova, Edgar Allan Poe, Knut Hamsun.

In collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, NLR held an exhibition on the History of the Russian Diplomacy.

The NLR signed an agreement with the National Library of Kazakhstan to reconstruct the Kazakh national written heritage. According to the Agreement, the NLR will digitize and provide to the NLK the old Kazakh books from its collection. The NLK in return will present to the NLR a collection of the Kazakh classics published in the 21st century.

2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, 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. The two main laws regulating the NLR's services and activities are: The Library Law of the Russian Federation (1994), and the Federal Legal Deposit Law (1994), and The Copyright Law (12/18/2006 N 231-FZ). The NLR received its New Statutes on December 31, 2009 (Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No 1191).

The NLR takes an active part in all government and public discussions and hearings on library related legislation. The Director General of the NLR is a member of the Council on the State Cultural Policy at the Federal Assembly of the RF.

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

By the end of 2009, the NLR's collections number 35,718,383 items (in 2008 – 35,358,000) of which 15,552,537 are books, 629,435 newspapers, 133,519 maps, 319,981 sheet music, and 461,340 manuscripts. Total acquisitions in 2009 were 477,693 items. To the Library's OPAC there were added 156,040 new bibliographic records of books, and 74,751 serials. For January 1, 2010 the National Library of Russia maintained a book-exchange with 851 organizations in 67 countries of the world. The number of visitors to the Library was 1,093,144, to the Library's server - 4,653,369. 38,065 new library cards were issued in the past year. The Department of Information Services answered 332,745 reference questions to patrons in person. In 2009 the Library organized 34 research conferences and 76 exhibits of books and other materials.

Total operating budget: 1 666 575, 1 thousand rubls.

The Library employs: 1,857 people, including part-time specialists and contract workers.

4. New developments in creating and building collections.

The current collection of the NLR amounts to 35,718,383 items. The 2009 acquisitions were larger than in 2008 by 50,000 copies of print materials.

The NLR has been increasing its work on building digital collections. The focus has been placed on the rare and not easily reachable materials. Among the digital collections the major role belongs to the Digital History of Russia which is now freely available on the Internet, and contains Complete Code of Laws of the Russian Empire, historic maps and atlases, old periodicals, historic documents, photos and postcards. In 2009, the NLR put significant effort to migrate its database on the History of St.-Petersburg to a new platform and making it available on the Internet. The total size of the NLR digital collections amounts to 2 Tb. The number of digital items is 265,000.

5. New developments in managing collections.

Collection development policies for open access collections in different departments and reading rooms have been created. After opening of the newly renovated reading rooms, relocation of materials was scheduled to be completed in 2010. The Department of Automation together with the Stacks Management Group continued work on building an automated collection management system.

The NLR has in its structure the Federal Center for Conservation and Preservation, which serves the needs of the Library, and provides services and teaching courses to all libraries and archives in Russia and the NIS. In 2009 the Federal Center for Conservation and Preservation has continued the implementation of the new automated technologies of documents conservation and preservation such as mass neutralization of acidity and faze construction.

6. New developments in providing access to collections.

High priority was given to maintaining and completing the Library Electronic Catalogue. By the end of 2009 it contained 3,5 million records. In addition to them there were approximately 8 million scanned catalog cards, which were gradually digitized. In cooperation with the Libnet Center, the NLR has been building up the national union catalog and the system of corporate cataloguing. The cataloging format currently used by the NLR and most libraries in the RF is RUSMARC (a version of UNIMARC).

In the past year, the Library increased access to its rare book collection through adding new records to the International Catalog of Hand Press Books (CERL-OCLC).

In 2009 more of the digital collections went public on the NLR website. Among them: The Complete Code of Laws of the Russian Empire and the complete set of the first Russian newspaper "Vedomosti".

The virtual exhibitions (<http://www.nlr.ru/exib/>) have been an effective form of providing access to rare materials from the NLR. The number of virtual exhibits increased significantly in 2009.

Through participation in international projects - The European Library, the World Digital Library, Codex Sinaiticus, The Memory of the World - the NLR provides additional access points to its materials. One of the major technical developments to improve access to digital collections was the acquiring and installation of the OAI Protocol.

The Library constantly works on development of its WEB-site.

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

The Library has agreements with 23 national and research libraries of the world. They help to keep up professional exchanges, research fellowships, cooperation in mutual projects and organization of professional conferences and seminars.

The Library also started a program of assistance to the national libraries of the former USSR for filling the gaps in their national heritage collections. Historically those materials were well represented in the NLR.

In 2009 the NLR had a joint project with IFLA FAIFE. It organized two training programs for Russian librarians on providing effective access to the Internet resources and providing instructions to patrons.

The NLR plays a key role in development of librarianship in Russia and arranging national professional events. In that role, it collaborates with the State Library of Russia and the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library. On September 1, 2009, a Memorandum of Cooperation of the three Libraries was signed.

The NLR hosts the Headquarters of the Russian Library Association, and the Director General of the NLR is the President of the latter. This makes the Library a very active mediator among the libraries in the country.

The Library is a member of the major international associations: IFLA, CDNL, CENL, CERL, LIBER, IAML, Bibliotheca Baltica, and the Eurasia Library Assembly.

The NLR participates in the following international projects: The European Library, EROMM, The World Digital Library, the International Catalogue of Hand Press Books (CERL - OCLC).

One of the most successful international projects, completed in 2009, was The Codex Sinaiticus digital version and the educational website (it was described among major events in paragraph 1).

In cooperation with the National Library of Poland, the NLR is working on reconstruction of the Zalussky Library Catalogue. The Zalussky Library was one of the major private collections in 18th century Europe, and it was a foundation for the Imperial Library of Russia at the end of the 18th century.

In collaboration with the National Libraries of Poland and Slovenia, the NLR worked on creating a complete digital version of the Codex Suprasliensis, which was made available on the Memory of the World website.

The NLR provided its materials for international exhibitions in Greece, Armenia, Finland, Macedonia, France, Great Britain, Japan, and Norway.