

Russian State Library in 2000.

Annual Report

To the Conference of European National Librarians – CENL.

1. Library Management: performance indicators, planning, decision making, appraisal, formulation of the mission.

At the beginning of the year 2001 the RSL holdings number 42.8 million units. In 2000 the RSL received 357.8 thousand copies of documents, including 90 thousand foreign items. The volume of the electronic catalogue has gone up to 709.7 thousand entries. 135.6 thousand readers visited 22 reading rooms, having 2103 seats according to the design. To assure the reconstruction of the supply mains of the chief building in the latter half of 2000 the decision was passed to curtail the issue of literature from the main book storage. It made some performance indicators decline as against the last year concerning services to readers (the issue of literature to the reading rooms diminished by 25 per cent, the issue of documents through the interlibrary loan and the interlending decreased by 35 per cent, attendance at the reading rooms fell by 15 per cent), but it made it possible to carry out repairs to a sizable extent.

2. Work with electronic publications and formats, including the new legislation

A project of the state bibliographic standard "Bibliographic description of electronic resources", an adopted version of the international standard ISBD (ER) has been drawn up.

Transfer of the electronic catalogue to the new software ALEF 500, operating on the basis of the USMARC format, has been started.

The compilation of the catalogue of the Russian resources within the Internet on the basis of the format Dublin Core has been concluded.

3. Finances

The state financing has nearly doubled as compared to 1999, now it amounts to 251.1 million roubles (about \$ 9,1 million). This has allowed to increase the capital repairs expenses, expenditures for acquiring goods and expendables for acquisition and preservation of stocks, publishing activities and others. Owing to non-budget sources of financing (receipt of grants, rendering of paid services, enterprising activity and so on) the library has been able to receive another 23.1 million roubles, which makes up 9.2 per cent of the RSL budget.

4. Legislation

There have been no changes in the legislation.

In 2000 were prepared: the new statute of the Russian state library, proposals concerning the change of laws of Russia "On librarianship", "On information, informatization and protection of information", "On the legal deposit copy of documents".

An interdepartmental working group on changing and amending the law of Russia "On the copyright and contiguous rights" has been set up.

5. Building

In June 2000 the RSL began to reconstruct the engineering communications of the main 19-tier book storage for 28 million units of storage (electric, heat, ventilation mains, fire-prevention system were replaced, optical fiber lines were laid). The facade of this building was renovated, the old window frames were substituted for new ones. For the first time in the library practice the work was carried on without moving the stocks somewhere else, with them being hermetically sealed on their storage places.

In 2000 the RSL began to renovate and improve the technology of maintenance of buildings and library edifices. The focal heat point has been completely reconstructed: the obsolete equipment of 1938 to 1940 has been substituted by new contemporary equipment. The reconstruction of the power supply has commenced (the old transformers designed for 220/127 Volts have been substituted by new ones designed for 380/220 Volts). Roofing of buildings making up 23904 square meters has been substituted and repaired. The inner reconstruction of buildings and premises covering about 600 square meters has been concluded for installing high technology equipment.

Insufficiency of budget means for the capital repairs and restoration of buildings has remained the main problem which does not allow to eliminate the sharp deficiency of space for storing books.

6. Staff

The personnel of the library amount to 2135, with the workers of the library departments accounting for 62 per cent, the staff of the research departments accounting for 19 per cent, the workers of the auxiliary services accounting for another 19 per cent. The RSL employs specialists with the scientific degrees of doctors of science (11) and of candidates of sciences (127). Women make up 87.2 per cent of the total number of employees.

The low salary of the workers of the budget sphere is the chief problem. The average salary in the RSL rose by 8.8 per cent in 2000 with account taken of all sources of financing and now it amounts to 1415 rubles (about \$ 50.5 a month). According to the data of trade union organizations this is 50 per cent of the subsistence minimum in Moscow. Two thirds of the RSL staff are members of the labour union. The acuteness of the social issues is somewhat mitigated by the address social assistance: granting vouchers for medical treatment and rest to the staff members and their children, organizing additional nourishment of those engaged in handling harmful substances and factors, rendering pecuniary aid to the needy. The administration along with the trade union are busy solving questions of industrial safety and of protection of health of the staff. Collective agreement between the labour collective and administration is in operation.

The RSL shares in the educational programme of vocational education for those with university education. 296 RSL employees and from other libraries have had the opportunity of raising their educational level and research skills on the basis of the university vocational education. In 2000 the post graduate course in the research specialty 05.25.03 "Library science, bibliography and book knowledge" was inaugurated.

7. Information technologies and networks

The international conference "Managing the Digital Future of Libraries" was staged in April 2000 with more than 300 experts and officials from various regions of Russia and from other 19 countries taking part.

The participants passed Moscow Manifesto (<http://www.exploit-lib.org/issue6/moscow/>) on priorities of international cooperation in the field of information technologies.

The transfer of the automated information library system of the RSL to the new software has been the chief objective. Under the Tacis programme new software has been bought and the OPAC has been transformed to ALEF 500 software. New segments of the in-house computing network have been brought up to date and introduced. The Internet segment has been expanded.

Both new design and content of the RSL web site have been developed with the financial cooperation of the UNESCO.

The retroconversion of catalogues is in progress. Both the "Catalogue of the Russian book of the 19th century" and the general classified catalogue of the RSL have been scanned, now they are being transferred to the MARC 21 format.

8. Digital library

In 2000 the department of support of the digital library set to work. On the RSL site in the OREL library 1200 full-text documents have been placed. The creation of the digital library of the RSL is going on under the programmes "Memory of Russia" (on digitizing old Slavonic printed books of the 15th and 16th century), "Meeting of frontiers" (a joint project with the US library of Congress), "Electronic book" (together with the private limited company "Electronic book").

In 2000 the RSL rendered the following electronic services on users' request: electronic delivery of documents, scanning and identifying documents access to the Internet, access to the full texts of electronic documents, access to the OPAC and other data bases, as integrated with the RSL, as well as data bases on CD ROM and others.

9. Deposit copy.

The RSL does not receive any deposit copies of audial produce. No punitive sanctions have been applied against the violators. The question of inserting amendments into the legislation is under consideration.

10. Acquisition.

In recent years the financing of the acquisition has ameliorated, but to buy both audial produce and electronic publications and to pay for the access to data bases appropriations must increase.

The RSL is revising its acquisition policy aspiring to create a national shared stock in Russia: the RSL is enhancing interaction with national and central libraries of the subjects of Russia

responsible for the most complete storage of the national repertoire, it is giving up the storage of regional publications of little information value.

In 2000 the RSL acquired about 50 books classed as national "book monuments" – old printed publications from the 18th century.

A unique collection of "talking books" of journalist V. Svetlov has been received. "The library of the autographs rich in content" has been replenished by autographs and photographs of well known actors (S.V. Obraztsov, A.N. Vertinski, Yu.V. Nikulin, A.B. Freundlich, I.V. Ilyinski, G. Masina), scholars (D.S. Likhachov), by detailed writers' notes (M.A. Svetlov, A.I. Tsvetaeva, E.Ts. Chukovskaya, M.M. Zoshenko, A.M. Adamovich), by original artists' drawings (I.S. Glazunov, H. Bidstrup).

11. Preservation and Conservation.

Under the "National Programme of Preservation of the Library Stocks of Russia" (a part of the Federal Programme "Book Monuments" the electronic data base "Stocks of book monuments of Russia" is under preparation. In January 2000 130 specialists from libraries, archives, museums from 37 regions of Russia attended the all-Russian research and practical seminar "Problems of creating a united stock of book monuments of Russia".

The volume of the microphotocopying is up almost three and a half times.

In microcopying the literature two priority directions have been set: central newspapers in high demand and decrepit Russian newspapers brought out in foreign countries. The volume of the binding has appreciably risen, now it makes up 131.6 thousand bound units, which is a success of the year in the field of preservation of holdings.

With a view to assuring the physical preservation of documents 58 thousand books have been examined, the number of restored bindings of rare and precious old printed and handwritten books went up by 50 per cent.

The all Russian competition of masters of bookbinders' art has again reaffirmed the high skill of conservation specialists, with restoring artists of the Research Centre of Conservation of Documents of the RSL taking the first and second in the nomination of restoring the bindings. The annual research and practical seminar of the RSL on the conservation of documents has brought together 70 specialists from eight Russian cities and three countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Coordinating Council on digitizing the publications set up at the close of the year has commenced work on establishing priorities in choosing items for scanning with saving fading photographs and manuscripts with fading text being the immediate task.

12. Services rendered to readers.

The closure of the main bookstorage for the reconstruction in the main factor, which considerably influenced the services to readers in 2000. In consequence of this the attendance of the reading rooms dropped 14,3 per cent as compared to 1999, it made up 1387.8 thousand visits, the general issuance of books went down 23.9 per cent, it made up 9427.8 thousand units; the reference and bibliographic services fell by 31.9 per cent and they made up 209.3 thousand references.

Active introduction of new information technologies is an asset for the service system: giving information through the electronic catalogue, assuring the access to Russian and foreign information resources through the Internet, using the optical discs. Thanks to new technologies both the nomenclature and quality of paid services have also been perfected. A new reading room of the electronic catalogue with 40 seats has been opened

The library has shifted from the branch principle of organization of services in the reading rooms based on fields of knowledge to the universal principle. Now the system of reading rooms is founded on the educational principle:

- Reading room N 1 – academicians, doctors of sciences, professors and so on;
- Reading room N2, N 3 – candidates of sciences, post-graduate students, specialists with university education, students working on graduation these;
- Reading room N 4 – readers without university education.

Such a system of reading rooms is provided for in introducing the automated system of services to readers too.

In 2000 in the reference and bibliographic services to readers 209.3 thousand bibliographic references were fulfilled, out of which 125.8 thousand references were fulfilled in the automated mode, with the federal bodies of state power and management of Russia forming the bulk of the users of references in the mode of priority services.

So far the closure of the main storage has failed to influence the activity of both interlending and interlibrary loan. Borrowers' orders are taken in the usual mode. Both auxiliary and specialized stocks are used in a more active way. The electronic delivery of documents has been set on foot with the cooperation of the service «Russian courier». In the year under review important work on carrying out the decisions of the all -Russian conference on the interlibrary loan and of «The agreement on the system of the interlibrary loan of the Commonwealth of Independent States» was continued. Draft methodological and standard documents were under preparation.

The Centre of legal information has installed eight leading legal systems, with all systems being brought up to date every week by the producing firms. The centre is likewise deep priority services to government bodies, embassies, national libraries and the Russian Foundation of Legal Reforms. The system of the priority services keeps on developing especially after a page has been opened on the Web site of the RSL.

Under conditions of reconstruction of the main storage the role of the reading room of microforms is sharply growing. It serves users of microforms of publications from the main storage. In 2000 it issues upwards of 51 thousand stills of microfilms

Library interaction concerning services to readers. In 2000 it was in the focus of attention. A meeting of the Council on cooperation between the RSL and the RNB has passed a decision on the putting through of the joint project "Compilation, creation and support of the cataloguing guide to the full-text , reference and bibliographic resources of the Internet".

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publications

In 2000 the RSL went on carrying forward traditions of a cultural and educational institution. 318 book and illustrative exhibitions were arranged, including "United Nations Organization: history and the present", "Slavonic world: sources, dictionaries, encyclopedias", "25 foremost Estonian books", personal exhibitions dealing with prominent persons of the Russian history, "The world Pushkin. Results of the Jubilee year", "Book and culture of peace in Russia", "At the turn of millennia. On the road to understanding the time phenomenon".

Meeting with A.I.Solzhenitsyn on May 16, 2000 became a vivid event of the year.

The RSL made a contribution to organising and holding the competition for the receipt of the National Prize in the field of public relations "Silver Archer" and to the all-Russian project "PR – Library".

In social and cultural events that took place in the RSL in 2000 elements of traditions and succession were conspicuous: the third communal festival of Jewish books was held, during the festival an exhibition of materials on Jewish reading at the turn of the 19th and 20th century came off, the Japanese language contest initiated by the Embassy of Japan in Russia, was held for the 13th time.

The RSL has carried out some commercial projects including the cycle "Return to the motherland: nine evenings with eminent personages of the Russian culture", the literary season ticket "Family readings", the musical season ticket "Musical culture of the world". The RSL publishing house "Pashkov dom" has considerably increased circulation of publication from 200 to 1000 copies (some titles).

19 publications have appeared, as well as 76 issues of information-analytical and abstract series on culture and arts. In 2000 the sale of the publishing produce brought in good returns amounting to 1.7 million roubles.

14. Library Cooperation

In 2000 the RSL was active in cooperating and strengthening partner ties along main lines of professional activities with Russian and foreign library, research, information and other institutions and agencies, including the foremost libraries, research institutes, institutions of higher education, the Russian book chamber and others.

The RSL is a member of the Russian Library Association. Under the "Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation Between National Libraries of Russia" the fifth session of the Council on cooperation between the RSL and the RNL was held in December 2000 in St. Petersburg. It summed up joint work, coordinated cooperation plans for 2001, passed amendments to the Agreement now under operation.

The RSL is coordinator of the Library Assembly of Eurasia (LAE), it goes in for collaboration with libraries of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and of the Baltic states. In 2000 it carries out the following:

- First meeting of directors of national libraries of CIS (March, Moscow)
- International conference "Libraries for the younger generation of the 21st century"
- Second international conference "Libraries as a focal point of the dialogue of cultures" (September, the Ukraine, Simferopol)
- International conference on publishing library and information activities of institutions of higher education (May, Moscow).

In 2000 four issues of the journal "Newsletter of LAE" were prepared.

The RSL has bristled up interaction with international professional organisations (IFLA, ISO/TC 46, CENL, CDNL, IAML, Council of Europe and others).

A RSL delegation of 14 attended the 66th IFLA session on the theme "Information for cooperation: creating the global library of the future" held in Israel (in Jerusalem) in August 2000.

Being the Russian IFLA committee the RSL in 2000 compiled four issues of the "News of the Russian IFLA committee" with the total printing of about 1,000 copies and sent it out to libraries all over Russia.

At its 26th meeting held in Germany in Berlin in May 2000 with a RSL representative taking part the ISO/TC46 discussed organisational matters of the further work of the committee, including its location and possible new structure.

Director of the RSL Fedorov along with representatives of 36 national libraries from 34 member states of the Council of Europe attended the 14th annual session of the conference of

European national libraries held in San-Marino in September and October 2000. The participants of the conference backed the Moscow Manifesto (<http://www.exploit-lib.org/issue6/moscow/>) of April 2000 concerning the role of Russian libraries, museums, archives in the third millennium in the global exchange of information and knowledge. The RSL attended the annual conference of the International Association of Musical Libraries in Great Britain in Edinburgh in August 2000, Section of Map Libraries at the 12th International LIBER conference in Copenhagen in June and July 2000, as well as other international seminars and conferences on preserving documents, employing electronic formats in libraries, archives, museums and so on.

International cooperation in the domain of modernisation and informatisation was carried on under the TACIS programme (Technical Assistance to the Countries of the CIS). 2000 saw the completion of work on the project of the European community "Creating an automated system for the Russian state library.

Within the framework of the bilateral interlibrary cooperation the RSL concluded in October 2000 a Cooperation Agreement on work with the National Library of Estonia. On the basis of bilateral agreements and contracts and the RSL was engaged in cooperation with foremost libraries of Great Britain, Germany, Egypt, People's Republic of China, Latvia, Poland, Rumania, Singapore, the USA, the Czech Republic.

Representatives of the Slavic library of the national library of the Czech Republic, of the Berlin State Library "Preussischer Kulturbesitz" from Germany visited the Library on an exchange basis, while leaders and specialists of the RSL went to national libraries of the Czech Republic, Germany, China. In 2000 the RSL representatives made 67 business trips to other countries among other things for the language training work, for the study of library experience as well as for attending international book fairs.

Under the point project of the RSL and of the US library of Congress "Meeting of Frontiers" 500 books, photographs, maps, printed music and manuscripts referring to the history of exploring Sibiria, the Russian North, the Far East, Alaska and the Wild West.

In April 2000 the RSL and the Centre of documents and history of diplomacy of Iran signed a Memorandum on the joint publication of the catalogue of Persian manuscripts kept by the RSL.

In company with its foreign partners the RSL has brought off seven exhibitions and upwards of 40 excursions for 250 visitors from 19 countries.

15. Main festivities and dates (anniversaries and events)

The service department, founded back in 1925, is 75 now. Nowadays it consists of four reading rooms accommodating 1140 readers, the reading room of new accessions and the central acquisition stock.

In 2000 133.7 thousand readers called on the department 766.1 thousand times.

16. Other noteworthy information

On August 23, 2000 a meeting took place between the library staff and Minister of culture of Russia Dr. M. Shvydkoy and chairman of the State Committee of Russia on construction and housing and communal services Mr. Shamuzafarov on the problems of the development of the RSL.

In December 2000 the setting up of the National Digital Library on the basis of the Russian State Library was recognized an outstanding general national project of the year 2000 in the nomination "Cultural Project" instituted by the Russian Biographical Institute and "Who is Who" journal.

17. Organisational structure

Due to the expansion of its field of activity—establishment of the post graduate course and of the primary training in the library trade—the Educational Department has been elevated into

the Educational Centre (it has been granted the state licence in conducting educational activity in the field of teaching those with university education and of additional vocational training). The Department of classified and subject catalogues and the Department of library and bibliographic services have been fused into the Department of organisation and use of catalogues.

For the purpose of centralising the managerial functions and of rationally combining both traditional and new technologies a new post of deputy director in charge of technology has been introduced.