

The Russian State Library in 1999

1. Management of the Library

In 1999 in compliance with the "Strategy of Modernization of the RSL" work on further refinement of the management system and elaboration of the optimum ways for carrying out the main principles of the activities of the RSL as a national library of Russia went on.

As of December 31st, 1999 the RSL was composed of 60 departments, 9 centres, 11 directorates.

The organizational structure of the library, in particular its research complex, have suffered considerable changes.

Three research departments focussing on related directions and processes were organized, service grades of the uniform tariff scale have been partially raised. Unfortunately, the library has failed to completely settle the question of bringing the labour force up to the full strength, including managers.

By way of carrying forward collective methods of framing and decision making, work on reorganizing and setting up new consultative bodies has been continued.

At present 20 permanent commissions and councils are at work in the RSL.

In organizing the planning the RSL has carried out a miniature research into information and statistical needs of its managers and specialists with a result that a new structure of main indicators of the RSL activities has been advanced, the design of materials has been renewed, the complex of tables adding up to main indicators has been perfected.

In connection with the introduction of new forms of the federal statistical control the report documents of the RSL for 1999 were compiled with due regard to them.

On the basis of the current planning and report documents of the RSL units the list of information services and forming data bases of the library has been specified.

Work on legal and information support of the activities of the library is going on.

Proceeding from an analysis and correction of the effective guidance work has been done on elaborating and implementing an automated system for organizational and administrative documents processing.

2. Handling of electronic publications and formats

1. In connection with the purchase of software ALEPH 500 that works in USMARC format, this format was translated into Russian for normative records

and the guidelines for creating machine-readable bibliographic records in USMARC format were prepared for books and serial publications.

2. The Dublin Core international initiative was supported for organization of the catalogue of Russian Internet resources. The Dublin Core format was translated into Russian. Web-site on implementation of Dublin Core in Russia was built.

3. Funding

Last year allowed to expand and lay the solutions' bases for the set of major problems, which the library has been facing during recent years. This became possible due to the 100% financing, which arrived for the first time since 1993, and due to augmentation of involved non-budget funds.

The policy of finance resources' expenditure was based and realized according to the necessity of solving the most urgent problems, facing the library complex, namely:

- improvement of the collections' storage conditions and possibilities of its wider accessibility to readers (expansion of storage space, maintenance of temperature- humidity conditions);
- improvement of the labour conditions of the staff (repair of premises, improvement of office-technical equipment: providing with telephone and facsimile connections, computers and printers, supplies).

In particular, factual augmentation of financing allowed:

- to increase salary of the employees in 1,5 times (since the 1st of April, 1999); to purchase supplies, partly clear off debts on communal payments;
- to realize considerable capital repair works of the main building, subsidiary buildings, single rooms, including working cabinets, the canteen and medical first aid post;
- to resume the reconstruction works of buildings for the Centre of Oriental literatures, to start realization of the project with the French firm "Cunin" on reconstruction of engineering systems of the main book-storage;
- to maintain everyday activity of the library in major directions.

However, the RSL has still a lot of problems It continues to suffer difficulties, connected with the less financing and its irregularity.

Even fully financed salary was late for a month. And irregular quarter receipts kept the library stressed, led to the loss of partners in the country and abroad as well.

The acquisition and loan departments suffered mostly. Receipts of big sums at the end of the year do not present the opportunity to use them rationally too.

In 1999 they succeeded to increase involving of non-budget funds, the main sources of which were the following:

- charging for services (2 times more than in 1998)

- business activities
- grants

Gained funds were spent on improvement of technical equipment, maintenance of the current activities of the library and financial stimulation of the employees, who deal with paid services.

4. Legislation

No changes.

5. Buildings

In 1999 budget financing on capital repairs of buildings and premises of RSL including engineering networks and communications was realized on 85 %. This allowed to solve primary problems :

- to replace four transformers and to complete conversion of tension to 380/220 V in all buildings, to renovate and to renew morally and physically outdated heat engineering equipment with modern energy saving equipment;
- to conclude a contract on inspection of the buildings and constructions of RSL, working out the project of reconstruction of the heat station, delivery of equipment and other works; to realize 50 % of repair works of roofing (about 10000 square meters);
- to introduce into practice extra spaces for collections' storage, space of which is 300 sq. m. and to start re-equipment of another space area of more than 300 sq. .m. for the same purpose .

In connection with the started works on re-construction of engineering maintenance systems of major book-storage according to the joint project with the French firm “Cunin” the considerable preparing work was held (external colouring of buildings, repair of roofing, etc.)

Unfortunately, this is only the small part of works on putting in order the RSL complex of buildings, which are partly in an emergency state and need to be immediately repaired.

The lack of financing, repeated every year, aggravated the situation, while every year it is demanded more funds on this purposes.

6. Staffing matters

Russian State Library is an intricate personnel mechanism, which has traditions of its own to its credit and which has been cultivating its own procedure of the handling of the personnel for many years running.

In 1999 the staff appointment scheme of the RSL numbered 3060. 2265 posts were filled. There were 795 vacant posts. Constant inflation and unstability in Russia affect the personnel policy of the Library. Posts are not filled, the staff tend to age (over 20 per cent are past 55 years), the staff appointment scheme is formed in the spontaneous way, labour is fluctuant (mainly, among young people of 18-25) – these are the main problems of the personnel policy, with low salaries and rather arduous working conditions in the departments of library services being the principal causes.

In spite of these difficulties the library has arranged services to users in two shifts, the working schedule without days off has been reinstated, the extent of equipment of work places with computers and copying appliances has risen.

Highly trained specialists are employed with the library, with the bulk (64.2 per cent) having University education. They include eight doctors of sciences and 121 candidates of sciences. 10.6 % have special training, 21.6 % have secondary education, with the rest having incomplete secondary education. These indicators have been stable for ten years.

By tradition the RSL pays due attention to training processes and the following programmes for staff training without dropping work are on:

1. Professional training

- evening purpose groups of Moscow State University of Culture and Arts on the RSL basis; 14 librarians from various departments studied in their first year and 16 librarians studied in their fourth year.
- post graduate studentship – the RSL has reopened its post graduate education with specialties "Library science and bibliography" and "Book science", with the subjects of theses by post graduate students being part of the RSL research work

2. Professional additional training

- higher library courses – 20 specialists with University education but without any library training have received professional additional training at the higher library courses (618 academic hours) and this year special courses oriented towards students' professional needs have been included in the programme.

3. Improvement of professional skill

In 1999 571 persons studied at:

- foreign language courses, including courses of colloquial English and French, courses of intensive learning of English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, the course of improving the knowledge of English.

This year the courses have completed the transition from two year study to stage by stage study. Each stage consists of 120 academic hours to wit six teaching months from zero to the advanced level, which presupposes students' ability to read complicated texts and to speak using expressions, typical to the native speakers.

- training seminars in mastering the computer knowledge.

135 persons from 37 departments studied according to 20 hour programmes at three express courses:

- course of the fundamentals of the computer literacy (an elementary course)
- the same (advanced) course

- Internet for librarians

Seminars for new employees:

- a. with secondary education (10 hours)
- b. with higher education (44 hours)

– short-term subject seminars

- a. "Library advertising" (20 hours)
- b. "Business correspondence" (44 hours)

4. In-job training

The Library carries on training work for its employees, other organizations and institutions on restoration of documents (160 hours).

The training department plans that next year short-term thematic courses, business meetings, consultations by the RSL specialists will occupy a large place within the system of the qualification upgrading.

7. Information technology and networks

Within the frames of the pilot project "The Integrated automated library system for the Russian State Library" (TACIS programme) the library received equipment: server, personal computers and software ALEPH 500.

In 1999 the library opened the Internet Reading Room where readers have full access to electronic documents and Internet resources. The room can fit 40 users at a time.

The Russian State Library electronic catalogue available through Internet consists of 700,000 bibliographical records on books, thesis, abstracts and maps.

On the basis of interactive forms published on the Library's web server the catalogue of the Russian Internet resources is built based on Dublic Core format. The standard software was developed for its dissemination among Russian libraries.

8. The digital library

The programme "Open Russian Electronic Library (OREL) has started. It includes the collecting of full texts in Russian, independent scanning of the Library's books and their publishing on Internet.

The wide-scale digitizing of the Russian State Library collections has started for their future presentation on Internet.

The digitizing of 12,000 pages of the first Cyrillic-script books is completed. These books are available on Internet (<http://sun450.agir.ru/memory>).

The service of electronic documents delivery "Russian Courier" is organized for fast provision of copies made from the Library's materials. This service carries out requests through Internet in 24 hours.

9. Legal Deposit of materials

In September 1999 the Russian State Library hosted the all-Russian conference "Carrying out the Federal law 'On the legal deposit of documents': state and prospects". Over 100 people-leaders and specialists of the foremost federal and

regional libraries, bodies of the scientific and technical information, archives, publishing houses – attended the meetings of the conference. The final document of the conference envisages a series of measures designed to raise the quality possibilities of the system of the deposit copy. The participants in the conference have sent the State Duma of Russia the following proposals.

1. To introduce additions into the valid legislation on the setting up a state body assuring control of the delivery and exhaustiveness of the deposit copy of all kinds of documents.
2. To introduce amendments into the administrative code with regard to the stiffening of the responsibility of producers and to the applying of the penal sanctions for the violation of the delivery of the deposit copy.
3. To advise the subjects of Russia to use the main principles and tenets of the model law of a subject of Russia "On the legal deposit of documents" when drawing up and finishing off regional legal acts.
4. To request the Ministry of Press, and Mass Media to apply to the Ministry of Communications with the suggestion to stiffen control of the carrying out of the 15th clause of the federal law "On the legal deposit of documents" (delivery by post of the deposit copy).
5. To activate as much as possible the national system of exchange of bibliographic data between the Russian Book Chamber and regional library hubs for the sake of control of the exhaustiveness of the deposit copy.
6. To carry out the scientific elaboration of the issue of electronic documents (definition, typology, criteria of the selection for the system of the deposit copy)
7. To turn over in the legislative way the right to receive the electronic publications and the right to copy the electronic publications circulating in the network mode to the national libraries of Russia (the Russian State Library and the Russian National Library).
8. To make more active continual joint work of the leading libraries - depositories of Russia and the Russian book chamber in identifying and filling gaps in the deposit copy of documents
9. To include the Russian state archive of cine-photo documents and the Russian state archive of the photo documents in the list of recipients of the federal set of free deposit copies of the audiovisual production; and the regional and municipal archives - in the list of recipients of free deposit copy of a subject of Russia and of a local copy.

RSL employees are members of the standing group drawing up the draft law "On introduction of amendments and additions into the federal law "On the deposit copy of documents". The attitude of the library has found its expression in proposals regarding the enlargement of the deposit copy set owing to the audiovisual production and electronic publications, the change of number of copies and number of deposit copy recipients, the specification of definitions, the drawing up of the law enforcement acts.

10. Acquisition

The acquisition policy of the system of stocks of the library is designed to ensure a relative exhaustiveness of the forming flow of new additions.

Being a national library the RSL revises the acquisition policy of its holdings in reference to the system under formation, the shared library stock of Russia under conditions of the development of the telecommunication networks. Proceeding from the preservation of documents in book chambers, archives, depositories on the federal, regional, municipal levels the library deems it inexpedient to keep certain kinds of publications. The library coordinates the list of categories with the Russian book chamber as national archives of press. It is suggested to distribute duties in gathering, keeping and using some groups of publications in accordance with legal acts or accords between the national libraries and other libraries and institutions. The programme "Assurance of the exhaustiveness of the stocks of the RSL" is in the process of implementation and, within its framework, the reciprocal action with the press archives and the Russian national library in mutual exchange of information on publications missing in the deposit copy set and of their full text duplicates has become more active for the purpose of filling gaps in the stocks of the national library.

Acquiring electronic publications is a burning problem for the RSL. For this reason it is engaged in defining basically new approaches towards inclusion of new information carriers into the stock and in developing criteria for the selection and in drawing up standard documents on their acquisition.

In 1999 things took a turn for the better regarding the financing of the acquisition of the stock as against the year before. The library was active in buying books for its stocks and for the purposes of the international book exchange. The library was successful in carrying out subscription to periodicals in its entirety. Nevertheless the library is not in a position to talk about financing being adequate. The system of auxiliary stocks of the reading rooms has not been fully provided with actual literature, the stocks of the reference literature have not received data bases on branch subjects, the library has failed to procure sufficient publications for specialized stocks. The library has acquired 64 rare and precious publications dating back to the 17th-18th century ranged in the category of book monuments. Among them there are unique copies, which have not been reflected in bibliographies, for instance "Chasovnik", Moscow, printed in V.I.Burtsev, April 25, 1640,"Psalter", Lvov,typ.fraternity, 1692,"Mesyatseslov", Moscow,synodal.typ.,March 1774 and others.

11. Preservation and conservation of collections

The Library is giving special attention to the strengthening of preventive measures (to protect documents from premature deterioration), this includes:

- strengthening of the control of documents' storage regime
- increase of the amount of preventive repair works for editions that have minor defects

To achieve the goals the following actions are undertaken:

- A special collection control group of the Scientific-Research Centre on conservation of documents (the Centre) does monthly selective checkings of stacks.
- Three times a week the Centre climatologists go around the stacks and record temperature and humidity readings
- Specialists-restorers work directly in the stacks
- The Centre's premises are being renovated

The following equipment and instruments were purchased:

- A dust-cleaning chamber
- 30 stationary and one portable humidity and temperature registers
- pH meter
- Five vices and three sewing machine made to individual order

The Research work has started to develop new technologies for strengthening the colour layer and preventing (slowing down) deterioration by ferum-gallic ink. The development of preservation and conservation activities is going on in agreement with the previously developed and accepted programmes directed on preservation and on the Centre's development.

The staff training for work in the field of preservation and conservation is carried on for internal needs and also for outside organizations on the base of the Centre. In 1999 the Russian State Library started a course "Conservation of Documents" with further issue of state certificate of the second higher education. Besides, the Centre carries on training courses for the improvement of staff qualification. Restorers who have already got some practical experience can improve their knowledge and skills, whereas beginners have the possibility to get basic education in this field. Training can be done in groups or individually, in accordance with the programmes and with due attention to students' present knowledge and work specifics. In 1999 four specialists from outside organizations and 15 librarians from the RSL improved their qualification through this individual training programme in the Centre.

In the past year 12 specialists-restorers received certificates in the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. Their works were presented in the Competition of binders' restorers and took all the prize positions. These works were also shown at the art exhibition "TRIENALE" where they received special diplomas.

The Centre works in close cooperation with its colleagues from other centres and departments. Together with the specialists from the Russian National Library they reviewed the state standards "Conservation. Terms and Definitions" and "Conservation. General rules". On request of the Standing Committee of IFLA's Section on Preservation and Conservation the Centre specialists together with their colleagues from the Russian National Library and the Library of Foreign Literature translated and designed for publishing the Dictionary of book and paper conservation terms.

12. Services provided to users

As in the past year the policy in the field of chargeable services was directed on the widening and improving of library-bibliographical services especially in automated regime. It is connected with the opening of the new reading room for access to Internet and electronic documents.

For the first time the Russian State Library has got a reading room for 40 users that provides access to all types of electronic resources: Internet, optical compact discs, the RSL electronic catalogue and other databases built by the Library. Currently there are 15 equipped work stations. With the purchase of more equipment the reading room will work fully.

It is important that the reading room has already justified hopes on covering its equipment costs. From November 11, 1999 until December 20, 1999 (257 hours) it served 1,548 users. The cost of the service depends on the type of used resources and the time of use. There are discounts for people with limited possibilities.

The prices are determined on the base of providers' costs. They are considerably smaller than in commercial Internet-cafes.

The Loan Department considerably improved its service for distant Russian and CIS users in comparison with the previous year.

In 1999 for the first time in past years the postal expenses were regularly covered from the Library's budget. The international postage was covered by coupons of International Postal Union independently by the Department. This allowed carrying out uninterrupted document supply through International Library Loan.

An important achievement of the year was organization of the number of professional actions by the Department and its participation in corresponding activities that proved the leading role of the Russian State Library as the national centre of interlibrary loan.

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing.

The celebration of Pushkin's two-hundredth anniversary was the main event in the cultural life of the country and RSL.

Four expositions were dedicated to the creativity of the great Russian poet. The major place belonged to the exhibition "Universal Pushkin" /April-June/, which was accompanied by publication of the anniversary catalogue. Commission, responsible for the celebration of Pushkin's anniversary, rewarded RSL with the Diploma for holding and preparing this celebration. The RF Ministry of Culture financed this event.

The exhibition "Pushkin abroad: results of the anniversary year" reviewed the celebrations of the great poet's anniversary. Russian Academy of Sciences, Pushkin's State museum, the RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian cultural foundation, Roszarubejcentre (Russian Centre abroad), All-Russian State Library of Foreign Literature took part in the preparation of this exhibition. There were shown books and materials, provided by Pushkin committees abroad, at the exhibition.

Since 1999 the Department of exhibition work passed on to the new organizational form of mass-cultural arrangements. There were worked out Contracts on holding musical and literary programmes on long-term base. Those programmes gave an opportunity to involve various public (according to the age and education) and also widely present repertoire of different art collectives.

- **Publishing policy. Innovations.**

In 1999 the publishing-house of RSL “Pashkov Dom” realized its activity according to the general concept on opening RSL collections. In 1999 traditionally producing professional of literature, the publishing-house “Pashkov Dom” worked towards broadening its themes, creation new series and types of editions. The aim of these publications is to represent and promote collections of the library, to disseminate knowledge.

In 1999 there were published three titles of magazines: “Library Science” №№ 1-12 (published since 1952), “Russian Culture without Boundaries” №№ 1-3 and “Oriental Collection” №№ 1-3 (published since 1999) (in 5 000 copies).

There were published 27 titles of books, among them is an illustrated catalogue “Universal Pushkin”, published for his two-hundredth anniversary. In thought to immortalize memory of Russian compatriots, who took their last refuge in strange land, the publishing-house published two volumes out of six planned “Unforgotten Graves: Obituaries 1917-1997”.

In 1999, with the support of the "Open Society" Institute (Soros' Foundation) a book “Postscriptum” by Raushenbakh was published and project “Author’s book. Lyrics” (“Baratynskiy – for the two-hundredth anniversary” edition) is carried on. The main source of financing of publishing projects is the budget. A number of editions are carried out with the support of investors. New types of publications are planned as self-repaid.

- **Major new publications**

In 1999 employees of RSL published and passed for printing 84 works. Publications appeared in such professional magazines as “Library Science” (27 publications out of its general number belong to the pen of employees of RSL), “Library”, “Bibliography”, “The World of Bibliography”, “Scientific Technical Libraries”, “Italics”, “Computart” and also in different collections, encyclopedias and other reference editions. Publications are generally presented as problem articles, which reflect theoretical ideas and experience of librarian work.

Considerable place in the RSL employees’ publications belongs to reviews connected with cultural innovations in general, library work, and bibliography in particular. Among review materials it is worth mentioning the following: “Culture of the 21st Century. New Publications on the turn of millennium”, “Collections of Scientific Libraries: Problems and Strategies of the 90ths”, “New Books About Books”, “National Library Today: For and Against”.

In 1999 RSL coped with such genre of publication as science seminar report. Materials of the 19 seminars, held in 1999, were presented in the magazine “Library Science” and were prepared for printing in the issues in 2000.

Participation of the leading specialists of the country in these science seminars gave an opportunity to present different ways of the development various tendencies in the field of library science, bibliography, to reveal the most important problems, which need consecutive scientific elaboration, and also it allowed to define the optimum ways of the problems’ solution.

Since 1999 a type of edition, which is new for the Library, was assimilated - Digest of current publications: "Library in the epoch of changes: philosophical, culture and informative aspects". This is an informative product of interdisciplinary character, which is addressed to investigators of the library work, teachers, and post-graduate students.

In the reported year work on a new genre of monograph reference book was continued: "Russian State bibliography (XVIII-XX)". This work was started in 1997 and was published chapter after chapter in the magazine "Bibliography". It is thought to publish materials in future as appendix of the magazine "Library Science". Innovation consists of the following: the library's functions are viewed from the moment of its birth and interpreted through separate historical facts. Works of bibliographical character, such as "The Book of Books- Bible", "Traditions of Russian Book-knowledge", etc. constitute a great part of library employees' publications.

The library coped with electronic publication of abstract-bibliographical character on CD-ROM, which includes 120 000 records about home and foreign literature, consecrated to the problems of culture and arts from 1989 to 1999. Russian publications, books, serials, articles from periodic editions, are fully presented. Partners in creation of CD-ROM are Library of foreign literature, Scientific musical library of Moscow State conservatory, National library of the Republic Tatarstan and others.

Publishing activity of the library will intensively develop. There was created a special department in RSL "Sector of Publishing and Exhibition Activity", the aim of which is to work on theoretical and practical problems of funds' opening through the system of publications, editions and exhibitions.

14. Library cooperation

Last year is characterized by considerable activization in the field of library cooperation, especially on the national level. More than 10 major events were carried out among which we would like to highlight All-Russian conferences and meetings, which elaborated national policy in development of various trends of library work:

- scientific-practical conference "Principles and directions of building the shared collection of the Russian Federation"
- meeting "On Legal Deposit of Documents" devoted to the state and prospects of the federal law realization
- seminar "Book Monuments of Russia: Problems and Directions of the Creation of United Collection"
- conference "Electronic Provision of Documents and Interlibrary Loan on the boarder of XXI century".

In cooperation with CIS and Baltic countries the Russian State Library was oriented mainly on the development of connections and cooperation with the national libraries.

Being the LAE (Library Assembly of Eurasia) Secretariat the Russian State Library was cooperating with the Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) of CIS countries and its Executive Bureau, the Ministry of CIS Affairs of the Russian Federation, Open Society Institute, the Russian Library Association, libraries, organizations and institutions responsible for international cultural and library cooperation.

The drafts of laws "On Bibliographical Records on Machine-Readable Carriers" and "On Book Monuments" were proposed to IPA CIS.

The Library hosted international symposium "N.P. Rumyantsev and Slavic Culture". An international seminar "Library is the Centre for Dialog and Cultures in Polyethnical Society" was organized in Simferopol (Crimea, Ukraine).

The cooperation with Baltic libraries was developing on bilateral basis, first of all in the fields of international book exchange and international loan. The signed agreement on direct cooperation between the RSL and the National Library of Latvia is devoted to joint work in different fields of library activities and will allow to widen mutual contacts.

In the field of international activities the Russian State Library continued close cooperation with IFLA and other professional organizations. An international conference "International and National Cataloguing Rules: Current Situation and Future Trends" was prepared and successfully carried out together with UBCIM programme and Section on Cataloguing. 13 countries sent their representatives there. A scientific-practical seminar "The Role of Libraries in provision of access for citizens to official publications and government information" was carried out together with the IFLA Section on Official Publications. This seminar was very important for the elaboration of development perspectives of legal information centres and regional work with official publications.

New agreements on bilateral cooperation were signed with the National Library of Singapore and the National Library of China.

The Library carries on two major cooperative projects with the Library of Congress. The Microfilming Project started in the previous year, within its frames RSL specialists are filming fragile materials from the collections of the Russian State Library. The Library of Congress provides financial and equipment support for the project and receives two microfilm copies of each filmed material. Another major cooperative longterm project officially is launched in December 1999 "The Meeting of Frontiers". It is to built on Internet an electronic collection of documents connected with parallel histories of Russia and USA (exploration, settlement and development of Siberia, Russian Far East and American West).

Three exhibitions composed from the Russian State Library collections were shown in, Mexico, Spain, Germany:

- The End of the Century: 100 Years of Architecture
- Children and Contemporary Art
- Neu Mensch