The year 2003 for the National Library of Russia (NLR) was filled with many events, two of which should be emphasized as the most important ones:

– Official opening of the New building of the NLR in the presence of the President of Russia;
– Participation of the Library in the actions devoted to the 300th anniversary of St.Petersburg.

V.V.Putin's visit to the NLR on the 12th of April is very important to the Library itself and to the librarianship of the country. The Head of the State visited the National Library for the first time after the October Revolution.

The second of the important events is the 300th anniversary of the city, in which the NLR took part with its numerous actions.

In the course of preparation to the anniversary the Library accomplished the first step of the large project on creation of "The Centre on Study of European Culture of the 18th Century (Voltaire's Library)". M.M. Kasjanov, the Chairman of the Government of Russia, and J.-P. Raffarin, the Prime Minister of France, took part in the Centre opening ceremony. The project realization is intended to have several steps. Creation of the "Voltaire's Study" – material and technical basis ensuring the safety of great philosopher's library – became the result of the first step.

The Library realized one more joint project, a project with Dutch institute in St.Petersburg. Restoration of the second and third volumes of "The Atlas of Cities of the World" of 1581 from the cartographical collection of the NLR by the strength of Dutch and Russian specialists was carried out within the project.

The NLR Cartography Division has published the unique CD-album "The 300 Years of Petersburg in Plans and Maps" presenting material (118 items) referring to all the periods of city development. The CD has a great success and won the medal of Russian Geographical Society for the first time in Russian library history.

New York Public Library using the NLR consultation support prepared the book and illustration exhibition of Russian culture treasure "Russia Attracts the World".

The Library of Göttingen University in Germany using the NLR support prepared the book and illustration exhibition devoted to the history of St.Petersburg, which had a great success.

Some important actions were directed at reader service improvement:

– Early in the year the ceremony of grand opening of the Junior Reading Room, which returned from the building in Bolsheokhtinsky Prospect, was held in the White Column Hall of the NLR building at 36, Fontanka Embankment. The Junior Reading Room founded in 1950 more than 25 years worked in the rented building in Bolsheokhtinsky Prospect during the capital repairs of the building of former Catherine Institute (36, Fontanka Embankment). Now its return into the native

precinct took place;

– A language laboratory was opened in this hall in May;

– – Application of the <u>unified reader's card</u> from February 1, 2003 became an important event.

Digital library

Electronic and web-based materials are becoming increasingly important. For the Library to remain relevant in the digital age we need to capture this material for the benefit of future generations.

Organise the work

Digital Technologies Department, organised in 2003 (derived from Subdivision of electronic resources, Automation Department)
Staff: 10 fte.
Scanners used: ZBE Satellite, Phase one, Bookeye color, UMAX power look, AGFA DuoScan
Digital Object Management (DOM) system used: self-developed software

DOM functions

∗ ∗ pre-registration of the items to be digitised;
∗ ∗ logical automatic digital objects naming and determination the electronic collection to be included in;
∗ ∗ forming "table-of-contents" files for CD-Rs for archival storage;
∗ ∗ verification the correctness of archival CD-Rs shelf-marks and volume labels;
∗ ∗ archival CD-Rs registration with extracting inner technical data from graphic files;
∗ ∗ automatic creation of core record for collection entry;
∗ ∗ import bibliographic records, if exist from electronic catalogue
∗ ∗ new bibliographic records creation and editing;
∗ ∗ cross-collection(s) search and navigation (OPAC).

In a whole it covers main processes: planning, description creation, inventory, stock-taking, storage and access.

Facts and figures

Digital library today: about 10000 items (8615 of them – self digitised)
Digital masters storage volume: 1100 CD-Rs (by July 2004)
Annual digitisation: about 15000 leaves or 4500 items
Access to digital collection: <u>xls file</u>

Digitisation 2003 statistics

Totally digitised 4962 items
Among them:
∗ ∗ 3448 Art graphic materials
∗ ∗ 454   Maps
∗ ∗ 557   Manuscripts
∗ ∗ 9   Music scores
∗ ∗ 247   Standards
∗ ∗ 140   Books

∗ ∗ 107 Others

Digital highlights

Two large format volumes from Department of cartography collection have been prepared for special purposes (high demand of printed origins and inconvenience of use) as separate electronic editions with navigation function and made out on separate compact discs for local patrons use. You can see samples (1, 2) from NLR web-site:

Working together

Project "Meeting of Frontiers"

Meeting of Frontiers is a bilingual, multimedia English-Russian digital library that tells the story of the American exploration and settlement of the West, the parallel exploration and settlement of Siberia and the Russian Far East, and the meeting of the Russian-American frontier in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

The project grew out of discussions in 1997-98 between members of Congress, in particular Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, and James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress.

The Meeting of Frontiers site, hosted by the Library of Congress was unveiled in December 1999.

In 2003 in the National Library of Russia produced for project 5795 images (222 CD-Rs).

We will improve resource discovery, nationally and internationally, through collaboration. We recognise that successful partnerships enable organisations to achieve more by working together than they could do on their own.

"The Mirror of the world"

On September, 24 "The Mirror of the world: Five centuries of the geographical atlas" exhibition will take place in the new building of the Library. It will date for the termination of the project on restoration of the Netherlands atlas of 16 century. Restoration of two volumes of the "Civitates orbis terrarum" (the Atlas of cities of the world), 1577, 1581. The restoration work has been done simultaneously with digitisation in order to preserve physical items and provide the comfortable patrons access by NLR specialists. Netherlands Institute in Saint-Petersburg, Amsterdam, Leiden, Utrecht, Groningen and Nijmegen universities, Wilhelmina Jansen Foundation took part in the project as financial support organisations.

The development of more web-based catalogues will be the primary means of opening up access to the collections.

ARBICON

At the end of the year 2003 the National Library of Russia joins the Association of Russian Libraries' Consortiums (ARBICON), which unites over 160 libraries. The main goal of the ARBICON is creation of common Z39.50 networking space of Russian libraries by developing of bibliographic distributed databases with respect of RUSMARC format. ARBICONs' distributed catalogue now consists about 25 mln. bibliographic records, among them over 300.000 records from the NLR. One can examine NLR collections separately as well as via the common search interface.

To join the ARBICON we successfully installed the Z39.50 software and now one can connect to our Z39.50 by using the following address 195.239.75.26:210 (Login: ribk_u; Password: gr1et2).

Available NLR resources:

1. Digital library collections (search with thumbnails only)

2. Union Catalogue of publications in Finno-Ugric
3. Publications in Foreign Languages (1994 -)
4. Publications in Finnish
5. Foreign books of XVI century
6. ROSSICA
7. 1-st Military School collection

Our priority is to develop a coherent digitisation strategy that will state our criteria for selection of content and will contain business models for digital capture and access.

Russian libraries in the third millennium

The overall objective of the project Technical Assistance to setting up the network Russian libraries in the third millennium is to create a consortium of five largest Russian libraries to build up a distributed joint virtual catalogue providing access to their bibliographic and full-text resources.

British Council manages and co-ordinates this project funded by the European Union.

The project helps Russian libraries to integrate their human and electronic resources into the European library network. The libraries exchange knowledge and expertise in the following areas:

- • Integration of technologies in library processes
- • Use of technology in uniting libraries' resources
- • Capacity and partnerships building

You can find out further information about this project by visiting [project website](#).

Shaping the future

National Digital Library

The Russian Federation Ministry of Culture support two national libraries' project to build the National Digital library. Initial financial support for NLR is 100.000 euros.

Our vision is to create a true Russian library service that includes Russian libraries' electronic resources (digitized or digitally born). This proposed action, if successful, could be an important step in the direction of integration a full range of digital resources and services. The project will also involve staff in whole cycle digitisation including indexing, scanning and storing materials, as well as in interpreting and curating the collections for publication on the Internet.

The main goals of the project are: to develop and support diverse collaborations on digital projects both within the Russian Libraries and with partners in Europe; continue to establish and expand regional, national, and international collaborations; promote shared technology architectures and standards needed to achieve interoperability and integration of digital information resources; participate in collaborations to develop and implement digital library standards; provide a reliable and robust infrastructure for information technology throughout the Russian libraries; ensure the continuity and evolution of software assets by building and using modular, reusable, documented software components.

Now we start to create a comprehensive digital library program to provide a powerful, useful, and exciting environment for access to digital information and knowledge.