

The National Library of Russia

Annual Report for the CENL

1998/1999.

The National Library of Russia

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Collection by January 1, 1999 - 32 324,3 thousand items

Major innovations during the year.

On January 14, 1998 the New Building repository was opened and the staff started moving the stocks.

The NLR experts completed working out the RUSMARC format and through the Russian Library Association it was approved as the National Standard for all libraries in Russia.

The main part of the Library departments and users received access to the Internet, the NLR homepage was designed.

The national authority file is presently being worked out by the staff of Cataloguing department.

Finance and funding.

For the year 1998 the Library received only 33% of the sum estimated by the State budgets signed by the President. That was influencing the NLR activities in the whole during all the period concerned.

Role of the National Library in the national library network.

According to its Status as indicated in the Federal Law "On Library Service" the National Library of Russia is participating in the process of the state politics on librarianship. The work is carried out in collaboration with the Russian State Library and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

The NLR is the leading organization in the field of formation of legal background for the librarianship. It was participating in the compiling, organization of the discussion and approval in the State Duma the Federal Laws "On Library Service" and "On Legal Deposit Copy of Publications". The Law defined the backgrounds of the State policy on librarianship, strengthens social-economic, legislative and organizing conditions and guaranties for the activities of libraries.

The NLR is assisting in the library laws implementation into practical life, it also serves as research-methodical and consulting center for Russian libraries. It is participating in defining the priorities of the State policy on librarianship.

As a research and methodical institution the Library is working out the scientific base for the development and acting of Libraries. In cooperation with the Russian Library Association it compiles professional norms, standards and ideology.

As a methodical and consulting center the NLR is assisting in the formation of the legislative base of libraries within the subjects of the Russian Federation. At present the local library laws are approved in 13 subjects of the Federation and are worked out in 20 of them. The NLR task force designed RUSMARC format which was adopted and developed the national standard for all regional libraries in Russia.

Legal deposit

The legal deposit copy acquisition increased with regard to the previous years, which might be explained by a certain revival of publishing activities in Russia. However, after crisis of August 17, 1999 seems that the amount of legal deposit would decrease again.

Building and plant.

On January 14, 1998 the New Building repository was opened and the staff started moving the stock. Since the NLR had several repositories from which the stocks had to be moved out, the Technology Department designed various ways of transportation, bearing in mind peculiarities of each repository.

On May 27, 1999 we started offering services to users in several rooms of the New Building. Simultaneously the people from Technological Department made General plan for premises of the Main building which would be occupied by collections of manuscripts, prints and maps after the main part of book collection is moved to the New Building.

The building next to the Main (20, Sadovaya Str.) which also belongs to the NLR is presently under general renovation.

Acquisitions

During the last years the Library have not been receiving the funds necessary to purchase the needed amount of literature. Twice has the NLR received special support from the President of the Russian Federation, in the sum of 2 million Russian rubles.

During 1998 the Library received 185 thousand books, 134 thousand magazines and more than 9 thousand serials and periodicals.

The legal deposit copy acquisition increased with regard to the previous years.

It should be mentioned that about thirty one thousand books were gifted to the Library by authors and publishers.

Among the outstanding new acquisitions should be mentioned the manuscripts, such as diary by the Crown Princess Maria Nikolaevna (the daughter of the last Russian Tzar), manuscripts by Sykorsky, several manuscripts dating back from the 17th-18th cent., etc.

Conservation/preservation of collection.

The Federal Center for Restoration was established on the basis of the NLR Restoration & Conservation Department. Thus, the extremely high appreciation of the staff skills was recognized. Both researches and practical jobs were included in the plan of its activities. In

1998 more than 43 thousand items were rebound and a great amount of works on various fields of restoration of books and manuscripts was performed.

Microfilming of the NLR General Alphabetic Catalogue was completed and now the master copy of the Catalogue is available.

IT & new technology

Experimental works in digitizing maps, prints and manuscripts started in 1998.

Since 1998 some NLR data bases have been available via Internet, such as Catalogue of Russian books, thesis, scientific & technology documents, cartography.

Creation of Russian book electronic catalogue started in 1998, i.d. all books in Russian have been processed. We received access to Internet, arranged Internet-classes to teach our users, started jobs on retro conversion of the Catalogue, created local Intranet server and designed the NLR homepage.

Services to readers

During 1998 the Library was visited by 1 481 thousand readers.

More than 13 247 thousand items were supplied.

The NLR reference department started providing access to CD data bases and also via internet.

More than 893 thousand photocopies have been made according to users' requests.

The new services were offered to readers, such as CD data bases and services in 2 Internet Classes.

The service of electronic document delivery was launched in 1999.

Exhibitions

The NLR held 419 exhibitions and 991 exhibitions of new acquisition in its premises.

During the year the NLR took part in various exhibition in France, Luxemburg, Israel, the USA, etc. The exhibits from the Manuscript, Print and Rare Book departments were on show. Among them the exhibition of the Irish Gospel in Luxembourg was an outstanding cooperation between two National libraries, because restoration of the manuscript had been paid according to agreement with the National Library of Luxemburg.

Publishing

The NLR Publishing house published 34 items. Unfortunately, it suffers from the lack of budgets.

Cataloguing and other technical processes

Microfilming of the NLR General Alphabetic Catalogue was completed and now the master copy of the Catalogue is available.

Creation of Russian book electronic catalogue started in 1998, i.d. all books in Russian have been processed.

The bibliographical standard for inner use NLR-MARC for newspapers, hand press books, maps, and prints, and manuscripts was being designed.

The NLR experts completed working out the RUSMARC format.

Series of programs was made up on bibliography data input for new acquisitions of books and serials in order to compile bibliographical data base and print cards. Besides, the works were held on OPAC-R adapting.

The national authority file is presently being worked out by the staff of Cataloguing department.

Library cooperation

The interaction based on the previously concluded agreements is carried out with the National libraries of Chekh and Poland.

We have special program of cooperation with the New York Public Library.

In 1998 the NLR was actively working in European library projects. Since 1992 the Library is a member of LIBER. Since 1996 the members of the NLR staff have been participating in 4 professional sections of the organization. The Library is also a member of CERL. Since November 1996 the Director of the NLR has entered the Council of CERL Directors. In May 1998 the CERL Workshop for Russian and the CIS States librarian was held in the NLR and was a success.

The NLR is preparing the Russian volume of the multi-volumed edition in the frames of the project lead by Prof. B.Fabian. In 1996 the NLR joined the CENL. At present we are joining the GABRIEL project.

The Library is also a member of IFLA, CDNL and Bibliotheca Baltica.

The year 1998 was the most unsuccessful year in the field of international book exchange. All activities have been actually interrupted. By January 1, 1999 we had enormous amount of parcels with books ready to be sent to our foreign partners. Unfortunately, we did not receive the money for mailing, so the books cannot be mailed to addressees.

More than 70 thousand books were lent through the interlibrary loan.

Staffing matters.

The NLR staff was foreseen to be of 2 000 employees.

By January 1, 1999 there were 1 687 people on the staff.

Major innovations required a new approach to staff training programs. Classes on Librarianship are provided for those holders of university degrees who do not have any experience in librarianship. There were designed special training programs on RUSMARK and Internet. Classes on foreign languages (English, French, German & Finnish) are operating for the staff members. About 50 members of the NLR staff are preparing their doctoral dissertations.

Major celebrations.

On January 14, 1998 the New Building respiratory was opened and the staff started moving the stacks.

On May 27 the All-Russian Day of Libraries was celebrated in the National Library of Russia and the New Building started providing services to readers.

According to the Decision of the Ministry of Culture the Federal Center for Restoration was established on the basis of the NLR Restoration & Conservation Department.