

Russian Federation

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A. Users and content

The national policy of cultural and scientific heritage digitisation, digital heritage preservation and sustainable access is still not clearly worded and announced.

The Federal Programme "e-Russia 2002-2010" is more concentrated on e-government issues and originally did not include digitisation and development of cultural and scientific information resources. In 2005 the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications has completed a framework agreement with the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade to co-operate in e-Russia Programme.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has adopted a Federal Programme "Development of United Educational Information Environment (2006-2010)". The strategic goals of the Programme, among others, are enhancement of educational content and technologies; development of digital educational resources; development, optimisation and management of the federal educational portals system. The educational portals system includes federal portals for different educational levels and subject areas, standards for multimedia educational products, unified access to distributed e-libraries, Internet environment for support of talented children and other ambitious projects. Informatisation of education is also one of the priorities of the National Project "Education". The goals are the Internet access for 100% of schools and development of digital educational resources available on the Internet to cover the school curriculum by the end of 2007.

The Ministry for Culture and Cinematography of the Russian Federation has adopted a Federal Programme "Culture of Russia (2006-2010)". The strategic priorities of the Programme are preservation of cultural heritage; development of united cultural space and creating basis for open access by all citizens to cultural services and information resources; creation of conditions for preservation and development of cultural potential of

the nation; integration into the world cultural process; adaptation of the cultural area to market environment. Development, implementation and deployment of new information products and technologies in the sphere of culture and mass communications is one of the goals of the Programme. The Programme is oriented to overcome the existing technological lag of museums, libraries and archives, lack of digital cultural products and collections security. The importance of digitisation of library and archives holdings and information exchange through global computer nets is underlined. The Programme will support several ICT projects, namely, the State Catalogue of Museum holdings of the Russian Federation; National Electronic Library; United Catalogue of Library holdings of Russia; United State Register of Historical and Cultural Monuments of Russia; Development of Digital Catalogues and Databases of Archival inventories; support of the Federal Internet-portal "Archives of Russia"; modernisation of the information technologies for book publishing. The National Electronic Library project lead by the Russian State Library <<http://www.rsl.ru>> is based on partnership of institutions interested in regular development of a digital library of the national scale to integrate full text digital collections of libraries, publishing houses, research, educational and academic institutions, public foundations etc. The project will integrate local digital resources accumulated in regional resource centres. The Russian State Library together with other largest libraries of the Russian Federation is going to become a national depository of digital collections. The Russian State Library and the National Library of Russia <<http://www.nlr.ru>> have agreed to develop and support the Register of Russian full text and bibliography resources and the Navigation system on science and technology resources. Association of Regional Library Consortia (ARBICON: <<http://www.arbicon.ru>>) will participate in the navigation system development and linguistic issues of digital libraries. An important part of the project is co-ordination of regional resource centres

activities and digitisation planning to avoid duplication. The most successful programme of the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications "Creation of all-Russia Network for Public Centres on Legal and Municipal Information in public libraries" was awarded with the State Premium in January 2006. In the framework of this Programme 2500 centers were opened, mostly in public libraries of Russia, but also in some other institutions (prisons, for example) providing open access by the citizens to the essential legal information.

Russian legislation to protect IPR complies with international requirements though current copyright laws do not completely take into account contemporary technological reality, and are not always adequately employed when applied to electronic documents. The implementations of the legislation do not always conform to world standards.

In April 2004 a serious problem arose for non-commercial (free) electronic libraries, to find effective mechanisms of legal protection and foundation of their operations. With support of "KM Online" company four authors sued six largest Russian-language Internet libraries for alleged violations of copyright, to the tune of 500,000\$ in total.

Among the alleged "pirates" - Maxim Moshkov, the creator of widely known Lib.Ru library, where according to the current legislation all works are published either with the author's permission, or under the licensing of Russian Society for Multimedia and Digital Networks; any work is also immediately removed on the first request of the author or the rights holder. In practice, this scheme turned out weak, since Maxim has relied on spoken agreements with at least some of the writers. The authors themselves sometimes forgot about these agreements, and signed away other, written agreements transferring exclusive rights for Internet publication, for example in partially commercial Internet library LIB.KM.RU, owned by "KM Online".

The situation is further worsened on April 22nd when the State Duma has approved a second reading of amendments to the Law on Author's and related Rights. The amendments ask digital library holders for protection from copying the content by the users, and these clauses put under risk not only the very existence of online libraries, but also all activities connected with digital documents in traditional offline libraries.

The state and public bodies introduce proposals for the

amendments to the Russian legislation that may help to overcome the existing situation and to balance the interests of the right holders and the users.

B. Technologies for digitisation

The Centre on Information Society Development "RIO Centre" supported by the Ministry for Information Technologies and Communications started a project "Russian IT-Foresight" aiming at identification of the ICT priorities for 15-20 years, the impact of ICT on social and economic development of Russia and identification of perspective research and technology developments to be supported by the federal budget. The project presupposes organisation of open and active dialogue between science, state and business. The project will be based on "National Technology Foresight" methodology.

C. Sustainability of content

In Russia almost all heritage institutions are state bodies. Thus the role of the Government in cultural sector is of major importance. The sustainability and reliability of cultural content and services of libraries, museums and archives are based mostly on the state funding of two levels, federal and local.

Non-commercial charity organisations play some role in funding of digital culture projects. For example, the Vladimir Potanin Charity Fund was established for the implementation of socially significant long-term projects in the sphere of domestic education and culture. It is a private fund financed with the personal assets of Vladimir Potanin and those of the "Interros" Company. Grant Contest "A Changing Museum in a Changing World" was jointly launched in 2004 by the Vladimir Potanin Charity Fund and the Association of Culture Managers. The Contest aims at supporting and promoting the best projects and managerial solutions in the museum sphere, which facilitate active development of the social and cultural landscape of the respective regions. The total amount of grants allocated for the contest in 2004/05 was raised up to \$285,000 with the maximum amount of a single grant being \$25,000. One of the projects supported in 2005 was the "Virtual Museum of Russia"

<<http://www.virtualmuseum.ru>> – under development). This is a long-term project initiated by the

State Tretyakov Gallery to design an open portal for virtual exhibitions of Russian museums.

An interesting example of public-private partnership is the above mentioned Moshkov library <<http://lib.ru>>, the most known free digital library in the Russian Internet sector (Runet) opened in 1994 on private initiative of Maxim Moshkov. Now the library keeps over 5.1Gb of full-text books: fiction, fantasy, policy, history, philosophy, poetry, humour, technologies, tourism etc. The library is enlarged every day by the users and the authors. The Moshkov library has several mirrors in Moscow, Saratov, Vladivostok, Perm, Ukraine, Byelorussia, USA, Germany, and Estonia. The Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation-Russia) gave a grant in 1998 to buy a server, now several important Russian Internet providers support hosting and traffic, the Federal Agency for press and mass communications also gives some support to this non-commercial project. Maxim Moshkov library is a result of many years of unpaid work of hundreds of volunteers, and first and foremost it's primary creator and maintainer.

An example of a business project is KM Online <<http://www.km.ru>>, a Russian-language content-provider and Internet publisher. The company is the developer of multi-portal KM.RU and partially commercial online library LIB.KM.RU; it is a part of a holding "e-Style group" consisting of such companies as "Cyril and Mefodius", NMG, ComputerPlaza, "KM online", TravelShop, e-Style ISP and e-Style SoftwareHouse. e-Style Group is a division of the R-Style group of computer companies which is one of the biggest computer holdings in the Russian Federation. All these business models do not fully provide sustainability of digital content.

D. Digital preservation

For the last 20 years a number of institutions in the field of culture, science, mass media and industry have been creating and holding extensively developed and numerous digital information resources, accessible for public. These institutions have already faced the necessity of making special efforts to preserve digital information resources and provide sustainable access to them. Institutions, preserving cultural and scientific heritage, cannot and do not have to solve all the problems concerning digital heritage preservation and sustainable access in wide, including archiving the information

resources available on the Internet in the whole. They are only able to control issues of the inventory, acquisition and holding of the digital information resources, which are in the framework of their competence and their own policy of the holding acquisition.

In spite of that, before 2002 the Government or professional communities did not consider the preservation issues at all. As an example, the digital resources preservation issues were never included into the agenda of the annual Russian Internet Forum <<http://www.rif.ru>>, which is organising the 10th event in March 2006 and gathering the leading experts of the rapidly developing IT industry.

The National Federal Programme "E-Russia (2000-2010)" <<http://www.e-rus.ru/>> doesn't put the digital heritage preservation as a goal, nor does the programme "Development of the Unified Educational Information Environment (2006- 2010) <<http://www.russia-gateway.ru/content/>> or the Federal Programme "Culture of Russia"(2006- 2010).

At the moment, there is no national structure in Russia that would take a responsibility for the preservation of the digital cultural and scientific heritage, though the problem has been widely discussed inside professional communities in publications, at conferences and workshops. For example, the preservation issues were discussed at EVA2003 and 2004 Moscow <<http://www.evarussia.ru>>, at CRIMEA 2003-2005 international conferences "Libraries and Information Resources in the Modern World of Science, Culture, Education, and Business" <<http://www.gpntb.ru>> etc. Clearly worded, the issues of digital cultural and scientific heritage preservation in Russia were stressed by the Russian Committee of the Unesco Programme "Information for All" on the basis of the Unesco *Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage*, a set of events were organised.

The two largest libraries, the Russian State Library (Moscow, <<http://www.rsl.ru>> and the National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg, <<http://www.nlr.ru>>) are the leading research-and-methodology centres in the field of the library science in Russia. They have developed strategies and guidelines on creating and keeping electronic libraries, which include, in particular, regulations for the preservation of digital information resources. The Russian State Library is concentrating on digital libraries, the National Library of Russia deals more with physical preservation of carriers.

According to federal laws and resolutions of the Government of the Russian Federation, the National Registration of information resources is a responsibility of the Scientific and Technical Centre "Informregistr", under the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Russian Federation. The Centre <<http://www.inforeg.ru>> has a status of the national information Centre on digital publications and provides the functioning of the National Repository for digital publications. The Centre registered more than 12 thousand databases during the last 6 years. It has been working extensively on updating the information about existing electronic databases, on methodology, on contacts with Russian regions. In the framework of activities on national registration, the Centre regularly undertakes research, focused on the navigation, development and usage of the meta-data for different types of information resources, including the Internet resources. It is also responsible for the improvement of the National Register activities, using the Internet technologies and processing network information resources. The Centre has been developing new software for the net registration. Projects focused on development of departmental and functional systems for the information registration (scientific, educational, etc.) have been developed. The Federal Repository for Russian electronic publications have registered, tested and accepted for holding more than 1,5 thousand titles of electronic publications. All its owners have received certificates. To meet demands of the additions to the Federal Law "On the Obligatory Copy of Documents" and according to the adopted "Order for the Registration of the Network Electronic Scientific Publications", the modernisation of standards and technologies for the Federal Repository has been undertaken. Traditional state museums in Russia are not yet dealing with the preservation of the contemporary media art and providing sustainable access. However, media artists, media art associations and the organisations, professionally involved in media art, are trying to find approaches to preserve media heritage. There are two examples of the best practices. Multimedia publishing house ARTINFO <<http://www.artinfo.ru>> has been maintaining the largest in Russia database on fine arts "From Russia with Art" for more than 10 years. By January 2006 the database

contains 286 institutions, 1268 authors, 7 557 images, including animation, cyber art, media-art etc. Being aware of possible challenges and risks, concerning the preservation of media art objects, the ARTINFO regards its activities as museum activities with the mission to preserve and provide access to the cultural media heritage. The ARTINFO pays special attention to those media-art works the main idea of which is a process and therefore it is not possible to divide it to a number of visualised objects.

The Centre of Culture and Art <<http://www.mediartlab.ru/>> «MediaArtLab» was established in 1995. In 2004 the Centre of Art and Culture "MediaArtLab" in partnership and with the support of the company "Internews" has established the Mediateque, which is a resource Centre for media art and culture based on new technologies. The basic collection (more than 1,500 objects of art) contains works of art that were created in the framework of international projects, initiated by the Centre. It also includes pieces of media art from the largest Western audiovisual archives and festivals of digital art. The collection of the "MediaArtLab" includes experimental cinema, video art, media installations, multimedia art (games, soft-art), network art, CD-ROM art, and TV programs.

E. Monitoring

There is no monitoring system of digital cultural resources growth on the Federal level. The state statistics gathers and analyses data on computerisation, Internet access and the volume of digital catalogues of cultural institutions. The Moscow Government has led the IT monitoring of local cultural institutions in 2004-2005; the federal museums and libraries located in Moscow were not included into the survey.

Aggregation of actions and strategies on national level are concentrated around the project of the National Digital Library.

NRG and MINERVA results at national level and their impact on the institutions

New National initiatives based on MINERVA results
The Russian State Library initiated and supports a non-profit partnership "Electronic Libraries"

<<http://www.elibra.ru>> with the main strategic goal to develop united structured digital documents space in the Russian segment of the Internet on the basis of the effective co-operation of the institutions generating digital collections and of other institutions interested in this process and supporting it technologically. The institution will act in the framework of the National Digital Library project.

The Smolensk regional administration initiated a project "Red Book of Smolensk culture" supported also by the Russian Committee of the Unesco IFAP. The goal of the project is to install digitisation units in libraries and museums of Smolensk city and the region and to involve students into digitisation activities of heritage institutions. MINERVA Plus in Russia supports this important regional programme which was presented at a conference in Smolensk in June 2005 and at EVA2005 Moscow.

Kemerovo State University of Culture used cultural Website *Quality Principles and Guidelines* as a basis of cultural Websites research, typology and quality control. The Principles were the basis of the estimation system for the First contest of the Library Websites "New Era" <<http://konkurs.lib.ru>> organised by the Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography and by the Russian Library Portal in 2005, the results and the winners were presented at EVA2005 Moscow.

The Inspection of the European legislation regarding Intellectual Property Rights is studied and used for proposals for amendments to the Russian IPR legislation concerning digital resources in libraries.

Internationally

In co-operation with the Russian Committee of the Unesco "Information for all Programme" MINERVA Plus started fruitful contacts with IFAP. After the meeting with IFAP International board at Russian conferences Rossella Caffo continued these activities on the occasion of the meeting of IFAP board (20th October 2004) held in Paris. In May 2005 Russian MINERVA Plus team has organised a section "Policies of cultural and scientific heritage digitisation and preservation" at the International conference "Unesco between two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society", 17-19 May, Saint-Petersburg <<http://www.ifap.ru/ws/s/>>. The Recommendations <http://confifap.cpic.ru/conf2005/eng/info/str_166.html> elaborated and adopted by the Conference became a basis to formulate

the Unesco position at the WSIS in Tunis. The proposals on «Policies of Cultural and Scientific Heritage Digitisation and Preservation» for the Recommendations were adopted. Factual co-operation was established with the Jewish agency for Israel inside the multilingual WG.

Improving knowledge about the situation in other countries was based on the country reports study, participation in the MINERVA WG activities and in the international conferences. Russian situation on IT in cultural area was presented at EVA-MINERVA Jerusalem conference in 2004. Jewish National Archive activities on digital preservation of audio heritage were presented at ECHOLOT2004 Moscow. Israel activities and MINERVA PLUS participation were presented at the above-mentioned Unesco conference in Saint Petersburg in May 2005. Latvia and Estonia MINERVA Plus partners participated in the annual international conference EVA2005 Moscow

<<http://www.evarussia.ru>> where managing collections of memory institutions and increasing their accessibility in Estonia were presented. At EVA2005 Moscow E. Masci and B. Benedetti (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa - Consorzio FORMA) presented the Italian portal of culture and K. Fernie (MLA, UK) presented MICHAEL.

MINERVA plus Report

Dissemination of the NRG and MINERVA PLUS activities and results at national and international conferences and workshops

The NRG and MINERVA activities and results were presented and discussed at 20 national and international events. 3 articles in professional editions are published in Russian. MINERVA editions are in the collections of several the most important libraries of Russia.

Participation in MINERVA Plus working groups activities Six Russian working groups were organised:

- Development and Promotion of the Russian National Digitisation Policy
- Inventories, discovery of digitised content, multilingual issues
- Interoperability and service provision, IPR issues
- Identification of user needs, content and quality framework for common access points

- Identification of good practices and competence centres
- Digital Cultural and Scientific Heritage Preservation

Russian experts were the most active in MINERVA Plus multilingual WG, IPR WG, and Firenze Agenda.

Russian MINERVA Plus Website

The MINERVA Plus Website in Russian was opened 12 April 2004. It presents the information on the NRG activities, on history, structure, achievements, progress and special events of MINERVA and MINERVA Plus. Basic documents of the both projects are also available on the Website in Russian.

Translated into Russian and published on the Website:

- Lund Principles
- Lund Action Plan
- Firenze Agenda
- 5th Official Meeting of the National Representatives Group (NRG), Parma, 19th November 2003
- Charter of Parma
- Cultural Website Quality Principles
- Quality Guidelines
- Dynamic Action Plan
- Inspection of the European legislation regarding Intellectual Property Rights (WP4)
- What is thesaurus (terminology review)

English pages present Russian activities in MINERVA Plus and important events in Russia.

The site is updated once in a month. The site was visited 8,185 times from 12 April 2004 till 1 February 2006.

