

Electronic Resources of Russian Libraries

Dr., Prof. Yakov Shrayberg

Director General, Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology

President, ILIAC

High development rate of computer and Internet technologies stimulated Russian libraries to creating and using their own electronic resources, including electronic libraries. Creation and use of electronic resources presupposes the following service procedures:

- Free access to library electronic catalog and receipt of an electronic copy of the document required.
- Free access to specialized electronic resource catalogs (catalogs of e-libraries), which serve as a supplement to library electronic catalogs, and receipt of an electronic copy of the document required.
- Electronic delivery of library-generated documents.

An integral part of the organization and use of electronic resources in Russian libraries is mandatory observance of Russian and foreign copyright laws and regulations. Russian laws, both already adopted and slated for introduction in 2008, provide a reliable warranty of copyright and intellectual rights protection in full compliance with the international law.

This presentation of mine will be focused on creation of library electronic resources and user services provided on their basis. I will describe the most significant Internet-available electronic resources of Russian libraries.

1. OPEN RUSSIAN E-LIBRARY

Owner: Russian State Library

Internet address: <http://orel.rsl.ru/>

Resource description

The collection of this library consists of (a) electronic documents that disclose the cultural treasures of Russian State Library and (b) electronic versions of the most significant global and Russian writings borrowed via Internet. Internet access to the library is provided on an uncharged basis.

Document types

Electronic copies of books, journals, maps, printed music, visual material, dissertations and authors' theses of dissertations.

Numerical parameters

- - Around 8,300 Russian books
- - 1,800 dissertations
- - 78 maps
- - Visual materials of three collections
- - Materials of the projects, like «Memorial», «Memory of Russia», etc.

2. E-LIBRARY OF DISSERTATIONS

Owner: Russian State Library

Internet address: <http://diss.rsl.ru/>

Resource description

The collection of this library serves educational and scientific purposes. It is universal by content and includes information resources that may be of interest to scientists, postgraduates and university students. Access is limited and is provided from the reading rooms of the Russian State Library and from the virtual RSL reading rooms that are established in the libraries of other towns of Russia and in some CIS countries.

Document types

Dissertations and authors' theses of dissertations.

Numerical parameters

- Around 100,000 dissertations since 1998

3. E-LIBRARY OF RUSSIAN NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Owner: Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology

Internet address: <http://ellib.gpntb.ru/>

Resource description

This e-library includes electronic files of publications which are produced by Russian National Public Library for Science and technology; translations; publications written by the Library's employees; training and methodological materials which are produced by the Library; papers and reports.

Quality full-text search is provided using the Library's own program and linguistic developments.

Document types

Periodicals, monographs, reports, manuals and methodological materials.

Numerical parameters

- Over 50 publication titles
- Around 10,000 registration units (papers, reports and author's theses).

4. AGRICULTURAL E-LIBRARY OF KNOWLEDGE

Owner: Central Scientific Agricultural Library of Russian Agricultural Academy

Internet address: <http://www.cnsnb.ru/akdil/>

Resource description

This e-library is being created with financial support of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research as a reference information system for scientists, postgraduates, university students and all those interested in agricultural science and practice. It allows users to retrieve data from encyclopedia, reference books and dictionaries on all branches of agricultural knowledge. It is based on printed publications; contains subject headings and a thesaurus on agriculture; the search may be made by keywords in multiple publications.

Document types

Encyclopedia, reference books and dictionaries.

Numerical parameters

- Around 40 document (book) titles

5. EUNnet VIRTUAL LIBRARY

Owners: Gorky Ural State University and several companies of the Ural region

Internet address: <http://virlib.eunnet.net>

Resource description

EUNnet is a virtual library of Ekaterinburg university network. Electronic versions of printed publications produced in the Ural region; advertisements of books written by the university staff; Web-oriented manuals of Ural universities.

Document types

Periodicals, books (scientific and scientific-popular), manuals and handbooks, reference books.

Numerical parameters

This virtual library is not large enough, therefore the volume data are not available.

6. E-LIBRARY OF MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

Owner: Moscow State University, Historical Department

Internet address: <http://www.hist.msu.ru/ER/>

Resource description and document types

This e-library has been underway since 1999. It contains:

- Electronic texts (with references) of historical resources in Russian
- Databases (for the time being, on the economic history of Russia from the late 19th to early 20th century)
- Annotations to the books of the Historical Department of Moscow State University
- Materials of the 1880-1920s Labor Relations Project in Russia
- Papers by the staff of the French Section of the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History
- Digitized manuscripts
- Reference information (chronological tables and dictionaries)
- Collection of Historical Department references to various sites, including a museum reference collection

Numerical parameters

Not available

7. E-LIBRARY OF RUSSIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

Owner: Russian National Library, St. Petersburg

Internet address: <http://www.nlr.ru/e-res/>

Resource description

In July 2001, Russian National Library launched the digitization project of selected publications from its collection, thus initiating the creation of its e-library. The following materials were selected for digitization based on the priority principle:

- Manuscripts and archival documents
- Unique icon-painting materials
- Old printed and manually colored maps
- Rare books and other printed materials

Another aspect is the chronological scope of the digitized documents. Digitized are those documents that do not fall under the applicable legislation on copyright and allied rights. The oldest items of this e-library are dated to the 11th century, but most of them belong to the 16-19th centuries.

Full-text materials are available to all patrons of Russian National Library in the reading rooms and from other Library's premises. Internet access to external users is limited.

8. TRANSBAIKALIA E-LIBRARY

Owner: Chita State University

Internet address: <http://www.lib.sibcity.ru>

Resource description

Created in 2006, this e-library became the first joint regional project adopted with the aim to resolve common problems of information maintenance of research and educational purposes of the organizations in Chita region. Information resources of this e-library are based on the data that have been obtained by the libraries of research organizations, educational institutions and archives of Chita region. Upgrading and updating of this library is done on a permanent basis, and soon the library is expected to meet the requirements of teachers and students. For the time being, its resources are available in the experimental mode only.

9. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES OF ALL-RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY FOR FOREIGN LITERATURE

Owner: M.I. Rudomino All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature

Internet address: <http://www.libfl.ru/win/editions.html>

Resource description

The Section “Electronic Publications” of the Library’s web-site includes publications on the following subjects:

- **Libraries abroad** – collected articles on the topical issues of librarianship. The resource is produced once or twice a year from 1995
- **Writers of Foreign Countries.** Memorial dates. 1997—2007 – a monthly reference publication of the Library.
- **Pre-Raphaelite Photo Exhibition**
- **Spoils of War** – this program for rare and trophy publications was realized in 1999 and includes:
 - Electronic publication of the printed version of the *Spoils of War* journal
 - Electronic database of ownership data of rare and trophy publications in the main European languages based on the Library’s rare-book collection
 - Publications of the Scientific and Bibliographic Center: around 25 publications on the subjects related to literature, writers, etc.

Numerical parameters

This is an extensive resource; numerical data as to the precise number of documents are not available.

10. MEDICAL E-LIBRARY

Owner: State Central Scientific Medical Library of Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy

Internet address: <http://www.scsml.rssi.ru/>

Resource description

This e-library was made for the purposes of curriculum-based distance learning of students of medical and pharmaceutical universities. Each subject of the e-library is based on the course

curriculum being connected through hyperlinks to the related materials and on the materials themselves. To control the level of knowledge, this e-library includes electronic texts, tests and check questions to the examinations and test works. The e-library is structured and equipped with a user-friendly and intuitively clear interface. Access is provided to registered users only, mainly on a charged basis.

11. SCIENTIFIC E-LIBRARY ON THE HISTORY OF OLD RUSSIAN ARCHITECTURE

Owner: Doctor of Architecture, Prof. Sergey Zagraevsky, private person.

Internet address: www.rusarch.com

Resource description

Materials of the RusArch e-library, which was created in 2005, are aimed to provide information of interest to the specialists in old Russian architecture and related scientific subjects and to users in general. This e-library is a collection of scientific papers and monographs:

- On the history of old Russian architecture of the 11-17th centuries
- On the history of architecture of the countries known for their direct or indirect impact on old Russian architecture
- On related scientific disciplines.

This e-library is a non-for-profit collection. All materials are accepted on an uncharged basis and are provided for free open access.

RusArch is a collection of earlier published and unpublished scientific information, the latter existing in the form of manuscripts. Materials are accepted from either public resources or authors directly.

All RusArch materials are protected by copyright and are intellectual property of their authors.

On a quarterly basis RusArch materials are distributed to:

- Russian State Library
- Russian State Public Historical Library
- Library of the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Russian State Library of Arts.

Document types: scientific papers and monographs.

Numerical parameters: the works of almost 300 authors.

12. MOSHKOV'S LIBRARY

Owner: Mr. Maksim Moshkov, private person

Internet address: <http://www.lib.ru/>

Resource description and document types

Founded in November 1994, this e-library has been added mainly by Internet users who send the texts which they digitize themselves. It covers fiction, science fiction and materials on politics, technical documentation and jokes, history and poetry, Amateur Singers Club (bards) and Russian rock music, tourism and parachute jumping, philosophy and esoterics, and so on and so forth.

There is a special section in the e-library which is open for individual writings, music, tourist notes and stories of life beyond Russia, and some other special projects.

Numerical parameters

The library contains 4000Mb/21,200 text pieces and 400Mb/37,000 of other files. As of the end of 2006, the library checked out 25 800,000 of documents.

Being short of time, I will not even try to describe all the existing electronic resources of Russian libraries, to say nothing of using and/or borrowing of other resources. Virtually all universal libraries have their own e-libraries which are accessible, as a rule, within their campuses. I have generally concentrated on the electronic resources of those libraries who are leaders in this field, who were pioneers and function as methodological centers.

Creation of Russian electronic resource is going very intensively, and new information arrays appear on the Internet on a daily basis. Noteworthy is also an improving quality of the resources being generated, and a desire to strictly observe the legal procedures and to develop international cooperation for mutual access and information exchange.