Russia

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View of the Historical Museum building, Red Square
Photograph, 1879
Scanner, 2002
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Policy scenario

1. General description of the political support for digitisation (and national ownership)

In Russia almost all heritage institutions are state bodies. Thus the role of the Government in cultural sector is of great importance. Though the national information policy is becoming more and more specific, the national policy in the area 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 does not include digitisation and development of cultural and scientific information resources by now. The Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications makes some steps to strengthen co-operation with e-Russia.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has been implementing the programme "Development of United Educational Information Environment (2001-2005)", Digital Educational Resources are the main direction of it. The Programme supports development of a system of educational portals, including 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. The programme for 2006 – 2010 is under development.

The federal programme "Culture of Russia (2001-2005)", implemented in 2001-2004 by the Ministry of Culture and the Federal Archive Service, has extensive sections concerning digitisation in the field of culture. Implementation of the programme made an impressive input to the digitisation process in the field and basically prepared numerous cultural institutions to join the information society. However, the national policy of cultural heritage digitisation, digital heritage preservation and sustainable access was not clearly announced in the programme. The national library policy sounds more up-to-date; it is well worded and structured.

Establishing the efficient working library service system, able to provide the complete, fast and free access to the information, is a principal goal of the library policy, elaborated by the Russian Ministry of Culture. Priorities of the library policy in Russia are the following: building and development of the all-Russian informational and computerised library network LIBNET, implementation of the National Programme on the library holdings preservation, providing access to the information in the public domain, etc. Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation had two principal and fundamental goals in its library policies: to provide rights to free access to knowledge and information in the public domain and to preserve Russian cultural heritage accumulated and hosted by libraries.

As a result of the ongoing administrative reform the federal governance of the cultural area has got the following structure now. The Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications is responsible for the national policy, legal and normative regulations. Three Federal Agencies and a Federal service are subordinate to the Ministry. The Federal Service supervises legal issues in the area of mass communications and cultural heritage preservation. The Federal Agency on Culture and Cinematography, the Federal Agency on Press and Mass Communications and the Federal Archives Agency are responsible for everyday top management of the area. The national policy and the federal programme for 2006 – 2010 is now under development.

S.V. Chekhonin *Red ribbon*, 1919
Plate, State Porcelain Factory
Scanner, 2001
© State Historical Museum, Moscow

2. Range of policy
(geographical, institutional and ideological)

Russia is a Federal State composed of 88 members of the Federation with the federal government and regional administrations. Cultural institutions and activities of world and national importance come under the responsibility of the federal Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications, other institutions are subordinate to regional and municipal administrations.
Some programmes focused on digitisation in the field of culture were developed and have been successfully implemented during last 5 years in various regions of Russia such as Yaroslavl and Smolensk regions, Republic of Carelia, etc. though they need modernisation. A new generation of regional programmes for ICT development such as "Electronic Moscow", "Electronic Saint -Petersburg", "Electronic Tatarstan" has been developed after the model of "Electronic Russia" programme. Some of them (for example, Moscow and Saint Petersburg) include special sections or sub-programmes on ICT and digital resources in the field of culture.

The State Catalogue of Museum Holdings in the Russian Federation.
On the initiative and with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the project of the united Federal information system in the field of culture and arts is being implemented. The all-Russian network of museum holdings in Russia is being built. About 2 000 museums with 50 million of items in their collections will participate in the programme, creating a database of museum holdings in the Russian Federation.

3. Available instruments and the use of those:
guidelines, funds, target organisations

The National Information Library Centre LIBNET aims to reach the implementation of the technology for the corporate cataloguing in Russian libraries using the Central Combined Electronic Catalogue. This will lead to an essential reduction in total national expenses on current and retrospective cataloguing of the published materials as well as on the standardisation of the record and the improvement of record quality in electronic catalogues of Russian libraries in the whole. The volume of the Catalogue now is about 4 million bibliographic records. Cataloguing of the Internet resources have been continuing. They include producing the Register of the Internet full-text and reference resources in the library field (using Dublin Core format) and the server (www.RUSLIBNET.RU) development that hosts and provides access to information on the LIBNET programme. The leading scientific, methodological and co-ordination Centre is the federal Centre on library holdings conservation in the Russian National Library (www.nlr.ru). Under the Centre's supervision, the latest methods of document protection are being developed. A network of Regional Conservation Centres is established to become a basis for the latest conservation technologies for library holdings. The Centres are responsible for research, training, supervision and practice in this direction. At present, ten regional Centres are already set up. Large-scale activities are in process in the framework of the sub-programme "Security for Libraries and Library Holdings". Libraries in 25 regions of Russia are microfilming different types of documents (regional periodic, rare books, and other publications with intellectual content) to insure holdings of library

documents. The total amount of microfilming is about 1 million of frames annually. Digitisation of microfilms will provide an impressive volume of digitised information.

Museums
The working out of Registration Unit for Museum Images in Russia (RUMIR) was a decisive condition for uniting the electronic resources of cultural heritage of different Russian regions. A new model of co-operation between the State Historical Museum (as a federal scientific Centre) and regional museums of Russia was based upon the international standard ISO/ JPEG 10918-3 which was carried by International Standard Organisation (ISO).
`http://jura.jpeg.org`

The standard let the partners have:

• standard JTIP (JTIP – JPEG Tiled Image Pyramid format to which image files can be conversed
• standard indexing system with united principles of museum object description
• a system of the Registration Authority (REGAUT) (in English and national language) elaborated for copyright and for a safe commercial use of images.

As a result the registered museums have standard technology to create image bank and to receive a united electronic resource «RUMIR» that can be accessed thanks to the standard system of description and research. The project "RUMIR" used "Complex Automatic (Computer-aided) Museum Information System" (CAMIS) created by St.-Petersburg firm "Alt-Soft" under Oracle. "CAMIS" is adopted in all the museums registered in "RUMIR". Now RUMIR image bank

counts 15 000 images from 12 museums of Russia.

Co-operation

1. National networks

There are a number of initiatives on cultural heritage co-operation and networking, some of them are concentrated around professional associations.

Russian Library Association plays an important role in ICT activities. The list of available library catalogues can be found at the site of the Russian Library Association. Russian Library Association is an active member of IFLA. In 2004 at the annual RLA conference in Novosibirsk MINERVA was presented.
`www.rba.ru`

Association of Regional Library Consortia (ARBICON) was founded in May 2002. It was launched as a result of 3-years all-Russian project developing a series of regional library consortia in different regions of Russia, based on the Internet technologies and open standards. Now it joins 194 libraries catalogues from 64 regions, providing access using the Z39.50 protocol via the common entry point (virtual union catalogue) for search, retrieval, ordering and delivery of about 28 million documents. Library electronic catalogues are presented in RUSMARC format (Russian version of UNIMARC). The library catalogues provide access to 350.000 full-text electronic resources; the majority of them are for educational use.
`www.arbicon.ru`

Russian Cultural Heritage Network (RCHN) was founded in 1996 in co-operation with some cultural institutions. RCHN is an information network that brings separate

Holy Seraphim Sarovskij,
*a wonder-worke*r, icon, XIX century
Scanner, 2000
© State Historical Museum, Moscow

information sources together, from museums mostly, and creates a central resource base that provides easy access to the information and promotes Russian culture using Internet technologies. RCHN leads on several important projects, the most important is the museum portal.
`www.museum.ru`

The museum Association on Documentation and Information Technologies ADIT plays a large role in museum ICT activities. Since 1997 ADIT organises annual conferences "Museums and Information Space: informatisation and cultural heritage" in different cities of Russia. In 2003 ADIT was the Russian organiser of the CIDOC annual conference in Saint Petersburg. ADIT now has 13 Regional Representatives in Central Russia and Siberia. ADIT is constantly moving from a museum association to a real cultural heritage network uniting different types of cultural heritage institutions, universities, technological companies etc. In 2004 at the annual ADIT conference in Samara MINERVA was presented. In 2005 the annual ADIT conference will be held 30 May – 3 June in Kazan, Tatrstan with the theme "Cultural Diversity in Common Information Space". This conference is devoted to the 1000 anniversary of Kazan and 110 anniversary of the National Tatarstan Museum.
`www.adit.ru`

2. International co-operation

In 2000 according to the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO "Information for all" Programme (IFAP) the Russian Committee of the programme was organised and now it plays an important role in speeding up the information society development in Russia. The Committee is supporting a Russian language Internet site

of the Programme (`www.ifap.ru`) where the Recommendations on multilingual development and Charter on digital heritage preservation as well as some other important documents are presented and discussed. The Committee organises a set of international and all-Russia conferences and workshops and supports projects on digitisation and open access to information. An important part of Russian MINERVA activities lies in close co-operation with the UNESCO "Information for All" Programme.
Russian heritage institutions participated in a number of FP5 projects, EVAN, CULTIVATE-Russia, Open Heritage, Pulman-XT are some examples. The International conference EVA Moscow is an annual event starting from 1998 (`www.evarussia.ru`). MINERVA session was organised at EVA2004 Moscow. The 8th International Conference EVA2005 Moscow will be held in December 2005 and MINERVA results will be presented there.
Russian heritage institutions are partners of FP6 projects BRICKS and CALIMERA and synergy with these projects is a part of Russian MINERVA Plus activities. One of the most successful initiatives on archive holdings digitisation and visualisation is the project of the Comintern Archive computerisation. The Federal Archive Service and the International Archive Council have signed the agreement for its implementation on June 7, 1996. Archive services of Germany, Switzerland, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden as well as the Archive of the Open Society Institute and the Library of Congress (USA). The collection of 1 059 354 scanned document images has been created so far.
The State Archive of the Russian Federation project "SMAD" was accomplished in collaboration with the Bundesarchive, Germany. This is the project to study and to publish the documents of the Soviet

F. Gerard, *Coronation portrait of Napoleon*,
Engraving, 1800-1809
Scanner, 2002
© State Historical Museum, Moscow

Military Administration in Germany. 259 695 frames of microfilm negatives of insurance holdings for 1 156 SMAG files and 99 839 electronic copies of documents have been created. They were given to the Bundesarchive disposal to copy and to use for research. The Bundesarchive in its turn produced for SA RF positive copies of microfilms as well as digital copies of missing documents. The File Catalogue includes 9 700 records, the document catalogue contains 26 035 titles and 55 768 digitised document images.
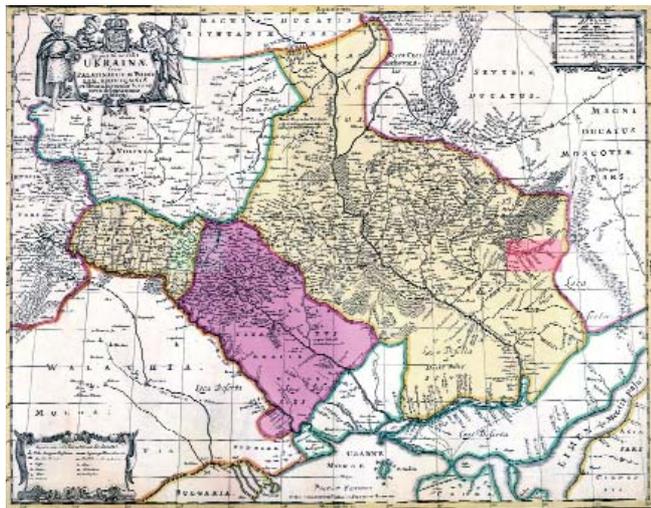
3. NRG and MINERVA results, interpretation and impact

After the signing of the *Okinawa Charter* by the President Vladimir Putin, the information society development, access to information for citizens and integration into the world information environment, are principal priorities in Russia. Cultural and scientific information resources play a key role in this process. MINERVA and MINERVA Plus serve a model and a catalyst for the process of Russian cultural and scientific heritage digitisation and for developing mechanisms to provide access to information for everyone. Participation in the MINERVA Plus provides an opportunity to elaborate suggestions for formulating the Russian National policy in the area of cultural and scientific heritage digitisation, harmonised with the European policy and to develop the action plan for digitisation. The plan implementation will lead to high-quality cultural and scientific information resources production, provide easy access to them, will integrate Russian resources into the European information space and facilitate access to the European information resources for Russian citizens. In this sense, co-operation with the Russian Committee

of the UNESCO "Information for All" Programme is of special importance, as the Programme priorities are alike the policy and the philosophy of the National Representatives Group, MINERVA and MINERVA Plus projects. For the first time in Russia MINERVA was presented at the International conference "UNESCO Programme Information for All: National and International Policy Development" at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in September, 2003. MINERVA and MINERVA Plus were presented at plenary session and a MINERVA section was organised at IFAP Universal Access to Information conference in Saint Petersburg, 23 – 25 June 2004 with Rossella Caffo participation. After these events it was clear that the programmes of MINERVA and IFAP share many objectives, in particular the promotion of wider access to the digital cultural heritage, monitoring the international, national, and local policies for the digitisation of cultural heritage, the definition of assets for a multilingual access to information. After fruitful contacts with IFAP International board at Russian conferences Rossella Caffo continued this activities on the occasion of the meeting of IFAP board (20th October 2004) held in Paris, thanks to the co-operation of Daniel Malbert, from the French Ministry of Culture and IFAP president. At the international conference "UNESCO between two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society", Saint Petersburg, 17-19 May 2005 MINERVA will be also presented.

Dr. Evgeny Kuzmin, the head of the archives unit, Department of the State Policy, Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications, Russian Federation is an official observer of the National Representatives Group. MINERVA activities and results influence the process of formulating Russian National cultural policy.

At least one practical example: the framework agreement between the Ministry of Economy Development and Trade and the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications including a specific protocol on digitisation and co-operation with MINERVA activities is now under discussion. MINERVA and MINERVA Plus were presented at two international conferences in Russia in 2003, at ten international and all-Russian events in several Russian regions in 2004 covering library, museum, archival and educational communities. The Russian website (`www.minervaplus.ru`) was developed in the framework of MINERVA Plus project. 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. Six Russian working groups are 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 (*Firenze Agenda*)

Main digitisation initiatives

1. National portals for culture / networked digital repositories

The portal "Libraries of Russia" initiated by the Library Department of the Ministry of Culture gives access to the list of Russian libraries, their sites and catalogues, forum facilities and other networking services.
`www.libs.ru`

The Russian Museums web portal is the main museum resource Centre, which is also used as information and communication Centre for public and museum professional area.
`www.Museum.ru`

Internet server "From Russia with Art" is the largest Visual Art Databank in Russian Internet. The Modern Art Computer Data Bank contains information in Russian and English about more than 1300 prominent contemporary Russian artists and over 7,000 digital pictures of their art works. From 1999 ARTINFO is publishing daily art world news.
`www.artinfo.ru`
`www.artinfo.ru/ru/news`

The portal "Architecture of Russia" is addressed to architects, art-critics and those, who are interested in Russian culture. It covers the history of the Russian architecture, non-movable heritage, of history and culture and includes news, publications, contests, problems of restoration, educational institutions, bibliography and useful links, a catalogue of monuments and a catalogue of new buildings.
`www.archi.ru`

General map of Ukraina, Falk G. & Shenk P. (publishers), late XVIIth-early XVIIIth centuries
Scanner, 1999
© State Historical Museum, Moscow

The official website of the Federal Archive Service is available on the Internet. It provides the information on archive sector activity, the directory of federal and regional archives and the index of local archive databases and on-line archives.
www.rusarchives.ru

2. Services for the users

Multimedia Centre and Department of Art Museums of Russia of the State Russian Museum (St Petersburg) has strong connections with art museums of Russia and leads on a number of joint projects. For example, the project "Russian Museum in the Russian towns" – Virtual Russian museum in regional towns of Russia, the development of information and education centres of the Russian Museum in the Russian towns and "Virtual Exhibition from 32 Art Museums of Russia". The State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg was the first in Russia to use virtual reality technologies in museum practice. The project "Virtual World of the Russian Museum" is based on virtual reality technologies and the newest scientific techniques that provide interactive access to the collections. Creation of a Poly-functional Computing Centre (PCC) is planned in the framework of the Project. "Virtual Russian Museum" room are opened in several regional cities.
www.rusmuseum.ru

The Ministry of Culture supports a number of programmes aimed to provide access to information resources in the public domain. These are programmes establishing Centres of Legal Information, Municipal Information Centres and Ecological Information Centres in Russian libraries; a project on creation of model public libraries in the countryside, special programmes

for children and youth libraries and programmes providing library services to disabled people.
The most successful is the programme "Creation of all-Russia Network for Public Centres on Legal and Municipal Information (PCLI) in open libraries". Providing open access to the essential legal information for the entire public, this programme is already working efficiently and reaching European standards of services. The Programme
was presented in Paris on the second meeting of the Inter-Governmental Council of the "Information for All" UNESCO Programme in April 2003. At the moment, there are about 500 Centres and Points of Legal Information opened in public libraries.

The mission of the National Electronic-and-Information Consortium is to unite the libraries, interested in access to the scientific information. Minimising the total expenses to provide to the Russian libraries access to electronic resources of the world community is the vital advantage of the project. Apart from providing access to resources of western scientific publishing houses, the Consortium aims to reach the goal of providing access to Russian–language resources for the Internet user community. The programme implementation helps to shorten the digital divide between regions of Russia.
www.neicon.ru

3. Emerging initiatives

National Electronic Library is a new programme of the Ministry of Culture. This is the integrative resource of the national scale, which will combines programmes on cultural and scientific heritage

digitisation with access to existing digital resources.
A number of ongoing projects on library holdings
digitisation and accessibility are developing in parallel
with the concept of the National Electronic Library.

The digital dissertation library is the first large-scale
project. It intends to deal with digitising dissertations,
building the electronic dissertation repository, providing
a free access to a certain part of dissertation collection
and providing the library users with full-text
dissertations.
http://diss.rsl.ru/

After signing the contract on a free publication,
dissertations and abstracts are accessible on the
Russian State Library website in the Open Electronic
Library for all the Internet users. To meet the needs
of virtual users, the RSL started a programme
on establishing Virtual Reading Rooms in libraries
and other institutions on the regional level.
www.rsl.ru

J.P. Jazet (engraving), A.I. Zauerveid (original)
Bivouac of the Cossacks at the Champs -Elysées in Paris, March 31, 1814
Scanner, 2002
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