RUSSLAND: KUNST UND KULTUR ON-LINE UND OFF-LINE UND DIE STAATLICHE INFORMATISIERUNGS-POLITIK

RUSSIA: ART&CULTURE ON-LINE AND OFF-LINE AND THE STATE INFORMATISATION

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1. Das letzte Jahrzehnt: Die staatliche Informatisierungs-Politik Rußlands.

In der Einleitung wird die staatliche Politik zur Entwicklung der Informationstechnologien sowie der nationalen Informations- und Telekommunikations-Infrastruktur der letzten zehn Jahre dargestellt.

2. Der aktuelle Stand: Kunst und Kultur on-line- und off-line.

Es werden die interessantesten Internet- und CD-ROM-Produktionen der Jahre 2000 und 2001 vorgestellt und bewertet.

Einige Beispiele, die den derzeitigen Zustand charakterisieren, werden präsentiert.

3. Perspektiven: Die staatliche Politik Rußlands bei der Entwicklung zur Informations-Gesellschaft.

Hier wird der neue, aktive Charakter der staatlichen Politik in Rußland dargestellt. Am Beispiel der wichtigsten staatlichen Dokumente, die von der Regierung Rußlands und der Staatsduma in den Jahren 2000-2001 herausgegeben wurden, wird die Konzeption der staatlichen Informatisierungs-Politik analysiert, werden Zweck und Aufgaben auf dem Weg von der Industrie- zur Informationsgesellschaft untersucht. Besondere Aufmerksamkeit wird der Informatisierungs-Politik des Ministeriums für Kultur Rußlands zuteil.

4. Das Ministerium für Kultur Rußlands: Politik internationaler Zusammenarbeit bei Fragen der Informatisierung

Der internationale Austausch hat bei der Informatisierung von Kunst und Kultur eine besondere Bedeutung, die Notwendigkeit der Festigung und Erweiterung der internationalen Zusammenarbeit wird hervorgehoben. Beispiele erfolgreicher Zusammenarbeit Rußlands mit anderen europäischen Ländern in verschiedenen internationalen Programmen und Projekten, z.T. gefördert durch die Europäische Kommission, werden vorgestellt.

Seit 1996 nehmen Vertreter des Ministeriums für Kultur Rußlands regelmäßig an EVA-Konferenzen teil, seit 1998 wird jährlich eine EVA Moskau organisiert. Diese Gelegenheit nutzend möchten wir alle Teilnehmer der EVA 2001 Berlin zur EVA 2001 Moskau "Multimedia in Culture, Art and Education" (www.evarussia.ru) einladen.

1. The Russian State Informatisation Policy of the previous decade.

In Russian the development of information technologies, national information and telecommunication infra-structure lies in the world tendencies stream.

The principles and provisions of the State informatisation policy are formulated and developed in multiple programmes starting from the 90-s. The main idea of this policy lied mostly in creating scientific, industrial, technological, organisational and economic conditions for design, development and use of information technologies, information infrastructure and the system of digitisation of information resources.

Fruition of these programmes leaded to the high rate of Russian computer park modernisation, the total number are estimated to be about 10 million in the year 2000. The number of computers at home is also growing very speedily, especially in the cities. The number of families having a computer at home grew more then twice for 2 years and is near to 8% now, 12% of the population use the Internet at the office or at home. The Russian sector of the Internet (RUNET) develops very speedily and now gives all kinds of existing information services. During the last years there is a tendency of essential growth of the number of Internet users and now it is over 3 million.

The quantitative and qualitative growth of information and communicative technologies, hardware and the number of users leads to development of off-line and on-line resources. In 1998 it was estimated as 10 thousand. The results of analyses made by the portal Yandex, one of the largest search machines in Russia, show that the Russian Internet sector had 345 972 unique servers and 49 562 674 domain names, 746,53 Gb of indexed information in September 2001. This includes resources on culture and art estimated as 8-10% of all Russian Internet resources.

The off-line multimedia industry (CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs) started to grow from the 90-s and was oriented to editions on culture and art at the first stage. The denomination of rubble in 1998 stopped the multimedia industry development for at least two years, a lot of multimedia publishers were bankrupted and disappeared. Starting from 2000 the number of CD-ROMs published started to grow, mostly textbooks, encyclopaedias and games. But a number of high quality title on culture and art were published during the last two years.

Here are some examples.

2. On-line and off-line resources on culture and art

With the rapid development of Internet in Russia and the appearance of new resources, the search of the required information in various non-specialised catalogues or by means of search systems is becoming more difficult and less efficient. This is the main reason why a number of cultural Internet portal projects were started in Russia even before the portal era.

Culture of Russia (www.RussianCulture.ru) is an official Portal of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. The project was started in 2000. The idea of the Portal is to present Russian Culture and to serve as an educational resource for wide audience. Pilot version has got news and events section and three entries: topic entry (fine art, literature, architecture, theatre, cinema, music, applied arts), type entry (persons, works, stories, events, sites, cultural institutions guide and board) and a time scale. Pilot version contains 1500 objects, 252 persons, 484 works, 557 images, 557 organisations, 16 articles, 2457 links between the objects; 60684 words in searching guide. It will be bilingual but now only menus and the front page are in English.

Information and Reference System InterCult (www.intercult.ru) is devoted to travel, culture and education. It contains Culture – Russia (the annotated catalogue of Internet resources on culture contains detailed and well organised thematic and geographical classifiers, which make it possible to quickly find requested information, as well as the search system in Russian and English); Culture – St. Petersburg (the regional catalogue of Internet resources is a directory on St. Petersburg culture-related Internet resources which comprises both the resources of federal and local significance.

Architecture of Russia (www.archi.ru) deals with the history of Russian architecture, modern design and construction projects. It is addressed to architects, art-critics and those, who are interested in Russian culture. The history of the architecture of Russia, non-movable heritage of history and culture. News, publications, contests, problems of restoration, educational institutions, bibliography, links. Catalogue of monuments (now 370 monuments, 940 photos) and catalogue of new buildings (in development). (English, Russian).

Museums of Russia

We already reported several times on the Internet portal "Museums of Russia" (www.museums.ru) which is opened in Russian and in English from August, 1998 and now contains a register of more then 3000 Russian museums and other cultural institutions, links to 500 museum sites, professional Forum, news and a lot of other information. It was visited by more then 1 321 thousand users since August, 1998.

A unique database technology stands in the basis of "Museums of Russia". Now more than three thousand records are placed in the database. The most necessary information is stored in Russian and English: travel,

open hours, description, telephones, address, reference etc.

Professionals have their own club (www.prof.museum.ru), for them are created: "Museum Cafe " - electronic conferences for discussion of common problems; "Library" - more than 250 articles and materials of various conferences; "Laws" - section with all museum laws; "Chat" - meeting in real time; "Cards" - personal pages to museum profs; and, certainly, carefully systematised and verified selection of links on the most interesting places of the network.

Contemporary Art Portals

Contemporary art and literature resources are more popular among the Internet user group then cultural heritage resources; that is why they are more interesting for the Internet portals earning their living from banner advertising.

Here are two examples of the most interesting projects of contemporary art resources which grow to the level of portals very speedily.

ARTINFO project was started in 1991 and now it is the largest in Russia Visual Arts Databank containing today 1241 authors, 6663 images and 240 establishments helping modern artists to sell images and works worldwide. It has got news line which was a laureate of Intel Internet premium 2000 contest, music section and links to more than 100 of Contemporary Fine Art's Net resources that from the point of ARTINFO could be of great interest for both professionals and wide circle of art lovers.

Marat Guelman Gallery www.guelman.ru

"Russian Contemporary Art" is the biggest web-site telling about Contemporary Russian Art on the Internet. The headlines of the site report about the main activities in Contemporary Art field: Artists, Critics, Organizations and others. The contents of the headlines is refreshed two or three times a week.

Performing Arts

Daily bulletin and Theatre encyclopaedia on the Internet http://www.theatre.ru

Official Web pages of Moscow theatres and theater organisations; repertoires, reviews, dramatic art, festivals, awards, projects, calendar, news, photographs, links. (Russian)

Dance Theatre Catalogue

http://www.user.cityline.ru/~dance.ru/index.html

Information agency for contemporary dance in Russia. All about modern dance: theatres, educational institutions, festivals, news, dance groups, press, international relations etc. (English, Russian)

Theatres of Saint-Petersburg

http://www.theatre.dux.ru/

Web server containing detailed, very recent and user friendly information on the repertoires of Saint-Petersburg theatres, premieres, tours and guest performances, booking offices, dramatic art studies, many interesting annotated links related to theatre. (Russian)

Literary resources

Server "Literature" (www.litera.ru) contains annotated catalogue of the best literary resources of RUNET: electronic libraries, reviews of new books, literary contests etc.

There are about 100 virtual full-text libraries in the Russian sector of the Internet. Here are two examples.

Maxim Moshkov library (http://www.lib.ru/) is the most known Russian virtual library opened in 1994. Readers replenishes it daily. Fiction, fantasy, policy, history, poetry, technical documentation, contemporary music, tourism etc. About 30 000 full texts of books on-line, monthly traffic 210Gb. The maximal nearness of Maxim Moshkov assembly of texts to the readers needs explains high popularity of the electronic library.

Public Internet Library (www.public.ru)

The Library was created as Electronic Library and suggests: the electronic archives of Russian press beginning from 1990; the electronic versions of more than 600 Russian national newspapers and magazines including those from 70 Russian regions; the complete description of bibliographical sources in accordance with international standards; and comprehensive professional search-technologies. The Library also suggests packages of high-quality info-analytical materials and monitoring of Russian press on topics (part of them are also prepared in English). Registered as an nonprofit autonomous public library, "Public Library (On-line)" is

functioning on the basis of the Russian Federal Law "On Libraries", and respectively "ensures the right of its clients for information about the library's funds, for free use of materials from the library's archives, and for other custom-services including those provided on commercial basis". The Public Library is a full-member of "The Russian Library Association (RLA)" and "International Federation of Libraries' Association (IFLA)".

Cultural resources on Regional Portals

On Saint-Petersburg portal (http://www.portal.spb.ru/culture/) the News of Culture section plays an important role. It keeps a catalogue of museums, palaces, parks, cathedrals, churches of Saint-Petersburg, their location on the city map, information and links to WEB-sites.

Art, History, Culture section of ALL Moscow portal (all-moscow.ru) gives access to Moscow sites, Moscow on old engraving, paintings and photographs, Moscow churches, old Russian art, the list of Moscow museums (though not full) with links to museum WEB-sites, theatres and concert halls references etc.

Not only capitals present their portals or servers on the Internet. There are a number of valuable regional information resources. A number of Internet sites containing regional cultural resources are opened in the Russian Internet sector. Just a small list of regional cultural sites will show the tendency:

"Yaroslavl museums together" (http://www.museum.yar.ru),

"Museums of Nizhny Novgorod" (http://www.museum.nnov.ru),

"Museums of Omsk and Irtysh region" (http://museum.omskelecom.ru),

"Culture of Karelia" (http://www.karelia.ru),

"Museums of Novgorod" (www.novgorod-museum.ru) and others.

For example, a new Internet server "Museums of Siberia" presents 7 museums of the region and is addressed to public and to professionals. Each museum site has got the same structure: Museum guide, News, Museum Shop, Exhibition Exchange, Contacts, Search Projects, References, Forum. When Siberia site is in Russian, "Culture of Karelia" is in Russian, English and Finnish and contains information resources on education, tourism, museums, libraries, monuments of the region.

Another example is the Information portal on Orel city and Orel region (http://www.media.orel.ru/) which contains news, culture, reference-book, churches and museums, artists, theatre festival (Russian).

We would like to mention the most interesting multimedia CD-ROMs published in the last two years:

- «The State History, Architecture and Art Vladimir Suzdal Museum-preserve". This CD-ROM is prepared by the museum specialists and is an off-line version of the museum WEB-site (www.museum.vladimir.ru). The disk bring a very interesting information and a lot of images on Chapels, Churches and Museums, their history and collections. The disk is oriented to the wide audience;
- "The History of Antique. Conundrums of Sphinx". This is an edutainment multimedia CD-ROM published by "MediaHouse" multimedia publishers and keeps fragments of Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Egypt and China historians and poets works and commentaries of modern researchers. There are a lot of photographs of world-known monuments, buildings, landscapes. The goal of this edition is to present the Ancient History in vivid form.
- «Great Masters. World Encyclopaedia of Classic Art». A very interesting CD-ROM of "Autopan" multimedia publishers with a huge amount of well organised high quality information on Classic Art: 776 articles with biographies of 850 world known masters of Classic Art, images of 1104 works of art, architecture, graphics, sculptures, applied arts of 34 genres, reference information on 35 largest art museums, interactive excursions. The Encyclopaedia covers the time period from the Ancient Egypt till the beginning of the XXth century.
- One more interesting work of "Autopan" multimedia publishers is the CD-ROM "Dmitry Shostakovich. Documents Chronicle". The CD-ROM gives the opportunity to study the life and work of the world known composer of the XXth century (facsimile letters of the composer, 1000 photos, cinema chronicles, full list of his works, audiofragments of some compositions). At the contest "Anigraph. Content 2001" the CD-ROM was awarded a prize of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation "The Best Russian Multimedia CD-ROM on Culture and Art".
- A new work of the State Russian Museum specialists and computer studio "Mart" (St.-Petersburg) is the multimedia CD-ROM "Kazimir Malevich in the Russian Museum" which presents 200 works of Malevich with full-screen images and annotations, the artist's biography and unique cinema chronicles of 1923.
- Some other remarkable titles of the last two years are "Virtual excursions around the Saint-Petersburg museums (computer studio "Mart"), "Nadym Land" (The State University of Udmurdia) and "The Great Perm" (The State University of Perm).

3. The State Policy of Russia and the perspectives of the Information Society development.

The understanding of necessity of information society progress as the main prerequisite for political, social and economic development of Russia gave a new impulse for the state information policy building.

The processes of the world information society development and progressive movement of other countries from industrial to post-industrial (information) society plays exceptional role for formulation of adequate conception of informatisation, policy of informatisation and the State information policy in the whole.

Information society is based on the new information and communication technologies. New technologies leaded to Global Information Nets development which opened absolutely new possibilities of the international information exchange. Perspective information and communication technologies multiple the influence of electronic mass-media on social, political and cultural life of people on all the continents. Information society conceptually and practically means the development of the world information space.

In "Action Plan of the Government of the Russian Federation in the area of Social Policy and Economic Modernization for the years 2000-2001" prepared by the Center for Strategic Research (http://csr.ru/english/) it is stated that the priority objectives lies in broadening the use of information technologies in society; creating opportunities for Russia's integration in the international information community by improving the existing and introducing new information and communication technologies. To enable accelerated development of information technologies, it is necessary to broaden the Internet infrastructure on the territory of Russia; demonopolise the telecommunication and information markets; and create a favourable competitive environment.

The Policy of the Ministry of Culture in informatisation is grounded on the State Information Policy Concept which was approved by the Information and Communication Committee of the State Duma (October, 15, 1998) and by the Political Consultative Council of the President of the Russian Federation (December, 21, 1998).

The State Information Policy Concept presupposes determination of goals and objectives of the State Information Policy as well as of main ways and mechanism of its realisation, analysis of SIP impact on Russia's social, economic, political and cultural development at the end of the XX and the beginning of the XXI century. The Concept proposes and specifies major activities of state authorities that would foster development of an Information Society and of a single information space in Russia as well as Russia's integration in the global Information Society.

A remarkable step toward the objectives and goals stated in the Concept of the State Informatisation Policy is the Federal Programme "Electronic Russia (2002 – 2010)" prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development on the demand of the Government of the Russian Federation and approves at the Russian Government meeting in August 2001.

The fulfilment of the Programme "Electronic Russia (2002 - 2010)" will give the access to information resources to the whole population of the country. The Programme budget is 76 billion rubbles, 50% of which will be supplied from the federal budget, 30% will go from the regional budgets and 19% from other sources.

On the same meeting the Government of the Russian Federation approved one for Federal Programme "Development of the unified educational information space. 2001 – 2001". This Programme includes the Internet connection for all Russian Universities and Institutes, for 75% of technical schools and colleges, and no less then 50% of schools. It is planned to publish electronic textbooks which will help to improve the quality of school education.

The State Policy in the sphere of culture is formulated in the Federal Programme "Culture of Russia. 2001 - 2005" which was developed by the Ministry of Culture and adopted by the Government August, 31, 2000. A large part of this Programme is devoted to the modern information technologies for the cultural heritage registration, preservation, research and effective use.

Special attention should be paid to the Ministry of Culture of Russia Policy of international cooperation in the sphere of informatisation.

4. The Ministry of Culture of Russia: Policy of international co-operation in the sphere of informatisation.

Taking into account the crucial role of informatisation in the process of migration to information society and the Policy of the Russian Federation of strengthening and developing international cooperation, the Ministry of Culture makes serious efforts to widen international co-operation in all fields of its activities, and consider the international information exchange to be the most important.

A number of libraries and some museums participate in international projects, some of them are the projects of the European Commission. Here are some examples.

Museum Association on Documentation and Information Technologies (ADIT) takes part in the EC Project "Open Heritage", this year the development of the Russian node of Cutivate will be started. The Russian State Library Information Project of EU TACIS finished last year is a good example of an international project in Russia. The project aims supported the modernisation of the Russian State Library from a traditional library to a digital library, introducing new information technology which meets the growing information needs of the Russian market and brings to life the vast resources of this national library. Russian libraries take part in OCLC search. In 2001 the Russian node of World Bank Development Gateway net (http://www.russia-gateway.org) with a large "Cultural Heritage" section is opened.

However we find that international co-operation in this field is evidently not enough. That is why the Ministry of Culture actively supports international conferences and seminars on new technologies.

We would like to attract your special attention to the EVA conferences in which the specialists of the Russian Ministry of Culture take part since 1996 and starting from 1998 organise EVA Moscow annually. We consider this international event in Moscow to be of great importance for international co-operation and for information society technologies development in Russia and would like to thank the European Commission for financial, organisational and moral support. EVA Moscow of 2001 and 2002 will be held in the framework of EC project EVA Networking – EVAN. In the framework of EVAN a new EVA Moscow bilingual Internet site is opened (www.evarussia.ru) for registration, proceedings and illustrated exhibition catalogue presentation.

Using this opportunity we would like to invite all the participants of EVA 2001 Berlin to take part in the conference EVA2001 Moscow and exhibition "Multimedia in Culture, Art and Education" which is held in the State Tretyakov Gallery 3 – 8 December 2001.

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The Centre of Informatization in the Sphere of Culture of the Ministry of Culture of Russia (Centre PIC)

Director: Alexandr V. Chernych, Ph. D.

The Centre of Informatization in the Sphere of Culture of the Ministry of Culture of Russia (Centre PIC) was organised in 1992 from personnel of the computer centre of the Ministry of Culture of the USSR, after the USSR was divided into independent states, to investigate new information technologies and to apply them in the cultural area.

Centre PIC is a state research and design body subordinate to the Ministry of Culture of Russia and works under contracts with the Ministry of Culture of Russia, with the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology of Russia and with Russian museums and other cultural institutions. In 1995 the Ministry of Culture of Russia organised the Centre of Multimedia Technologies (as a subsidiary of Centre PIC) to co-ordinate the efforts of different bodies connected with multimedia publishing and distribution in culture and art. The Centre's services include evaluation of proposed projects and works-in-process. In addition, the Centre prepares drafts for laws in the area of rights and ownership of cultural properties. Centre PIC monitors and analyses new information and communication technologies in culture and art (in Russia and internationally) and presents annuals reports on the topic.

The Centre develops and installs archiving and retrieval systems, including images, in museums. The Centre also creates and produces multimedia CD-ROMs in the areas of culture and art. The latest multimedia CD-ROM projects of Centre PIC are "West European Drawing of XIV - XIX centuries. Kunsthalle Collection in Bremen" (in Russian and German); the encyclopaedia of the works of 500 international masters in the fields of painting, architecture and other fine arts (in Russian); "A.S. Pushkin. Full Collection" (in Russian) – to the 200th anniversary. Multimedia support of the exhibition "Face Reconstruction by skull. The Method of Michael Gerasimov" was designed and installed on the computer at the exhibition hall of the State Biological Museum after K.A. Timiryazev and on the Internet.

Centre PIC participates in organising the annual CD-ROM contest "Anigraph. Content" and awards the prize "The Best Multimedia edition in Culture, Art and Education" established by the Ministry of Culture of Russia. Since 1996 Centre PIC supports a data-base of Russian CD-ROMs on culture, art and education and a data-base of Russian electronic publishers and distributors. The illustrated catalogue of Russian CD-ROMs on culture, art and education and the publishers electronic and distributors are opened in catalogue of Russian (http://www.museum.ru/CPIK_KATALOG_CD-ROM/). This project was supported by the Open Society Institute (George Soros Fund - Russia). In May 2001 Centre PIC is organising the first all-Russia seminar on audioculturology, audioarchiving and new technologies.

Centre PIC takes part in EU Projects. In the framework of EC project EVA Cluster ("Electronic Imaging and the Visual Arts") in 1998 Centre PIC organised EVA'98 Moscow (The State Tretyakov Gallery, 26-30 October 1998), the first international event in Russia and East Europe on new information technologies in the cultural area (600 participants, 70 papers) and then EVA'99 Moscow (the State Tretyakov Gallery, 25 – 29 October 1999), which gathered 650 participants and 100 papers and EVA'2000 Moscow (The State Tretyakov Gallery, October, 30 – November, 3, 2000, http://www.artinfo.ru/eva) – 830 participants, 130 papers. During the conferences the exhibitions "Multimedia in Culture, Art, Education" are organised, the illustrated exhibition catalogues are published on the Internet.

Organising international conferences Centre PIC gathered data-base of Russian specialists active in ICT in cultural area (about 1500 persons). Centre PIC is the organiser of EVA2001 and EVA2002 Moscow in the framework of EC EVAN project.

Specialists of Centre PIC participate and speak at Russian and international professional conferences (ADIT'1997, 1998, 1999, 2000; IOL'1999, 2000; Crimea'1999, 2000; IMS'99; IMS-IST'2000, EVA'98 London, EVA'97 Brussels, EVA'98 Cambridge, EVA'99 Florence, EVA'99 Edinburg, EVA'2000 Edinburg, EVA'2000 Gifu and others).

Leonid Kujbyshev, the chief of the centre of multimedia technologies of Centre PIC, was graduated from the Moscow Institute of Radio-electronics and worked over design, development and installation of automated documentation systems in tourist business. From 1989 he was a chief of software department of the Ministry of Culture of the USSR and then, from 1992, is the vice-director of Centre PIC. From 1994 he is the chief of the Centre of multimedia technologies and co-ordinates all multimedia projects of Centre PIC. Leonid is a member of the Russian branch of ICOMOS. He is one of the founders of the Union of multimedia publishers and is now interested mostly in the problems of "piracy", intellectual property and legislation in the sphere of multimedia. For the last two years Leonid Kujbyshev gathers information, studies and analyses Russian Internet resources on culture and art and participates in provided content for Russian cultural Internet portals. Leonid was a speaker at EVA'96 London, EVA'97 Brussels, EVA'99 Florence, EVA'2000 Edinburg, EVA'2000 Gifu and the head of Organization Committee of EVA'98, EVA'99, EVA'2000 Moscow the first international event in Russia and East Europe.

Nadezhda Brakker, the leading specialist of Centre PIC, was graduated from the State Moscow University, the department of structural and applied linguistics and post-graduate of the All-union Institute of Science and Technical Information. Nadezhda works in the area of information technologies in museums for 20 years, takes an active part in all the projects of Centre PIC and is responsible research and international projects. The interests and studies are concentrated on Internet resources in cultural area, integration of regional information resources based on standards and mata-data, net bases of knowledge, distant learning. Nadezhda was a speaker at EVA'96 London, EVA'97 Brussels, EVA'98 Cambridge, EVA'99 Florence, EVA2000 Edinburg, EVA2000 Gifu, EVA2001 Florence and the secretary of Organization Committee of EVA'98 and EVA'99 Moscow and the Head of the Programme Committee of EVA'2000 Moscow - the first international event in Russia and East Europe.

Nadezhda took the course Digital Cultural Heritage II at the Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University at 2000.