VLADIMIR-SUZDAL MUSEUM-RESERVE IN OPEN INFORMATION SPACE

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On the turn of the millenium the computerization determines the level of development in many spheres of human activities. Culture is one of them and the museum actively uses new information technologies. The need of interaction of experts in different spheres is getting more clear.

The first steps in the field of computerization were made by the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve in 1991. At first the automatization touched such services of the museum as the office-work, accounts and economical department. However, the computerization didn't embrace the main functions of the museum. At the same time, the understanding of the necessity of the introduction of the computer system of registration and keeping of museum exhibits increased. Considerable sieges of the museum collection required the arrangement of collecting, keeping, studying and exhibiting of museum items on a qualitatively new level.

Since 1993 the testing of the program of registration and keeping of the museums collection, worked out by the main information and computer center of the culture ministry of the Russian Federation. The process of testing recalled a number of drawbacks, and that did allow to introduce the program successfully. At a result, the museum-reserve has chosen an alternative variant of the computer system of registration and keeping.

In July, 1996 the complex automated museum information system CAMIS 2.6 (developed by Alt-Soft firm of St.Petersburg) was set in the depository of the museum-reserve. In December, 1996 the Windows-variant of given program was instilled. In June, 1998 the network variant of the system was introduced and at present transition to the client-server variant CAMIS-2000 on a new program platform is prepared.

Now, CAMIS database totals about 90 thousand entries in the inventory and 70 thousand entries in the scientific index cards. Database of images of the museum exhibits is being actively enriched with the help of modern technical devises (tablets scanners and photodigital cameras). 15 printed illustrated catalogues on 8 museum collection and 11 Internet catalogues were issued for the last 2 years on the basis of CAMIS system.

In October 1997 a computer department was formed in the museum. Among its functions one should mentions the museum computerization, strategic planning of the museum informatization, maintenance service of the computer system, CAMIS support, shooting and digital processing of images, publishing, development of the museum representation on the Internet, computer training of the personnel, support of the automated systems of book-keeping and personnel registration.

The Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve is a wen's of the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) competitions. In 1998 in "The museums on the threshold of the XXI century" competition (culture program) in one of the nominations "Introduction of new Information, Intellectual and Communication Technologies to the Museum" - our museum received the grant to realize "The complex information system of Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve with the Internet Access" project.

In 1999 in the internet-program the grant was won by the museum to fulfil "The Internet as a key to the treasury of the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve" project. Now the application for a

grant for another project "The resource Internet center of the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve" was sent to the panel of experts of the Foundation.

The basic purpose of the above mentioned projects is the presentation of the cultural resources of the museum-reserve in the world information space. One of the basic moments in the realization of this program was the formation of the web-laboratory in the museum. The main task of the laboratory is a technological support of the museums departments in the creation of informational resources. The web-laboratory became a creative workshop in which the museum staffers together with technical experts solve their professional problems.

In January 1999 the representation of the museum-reserve in the world computer network took place. In August 1999 the museum was integrated with the Internet. In January, 2000 the presentation of "The Internet as a key to the treasury of the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve" as well as the opening of the web-laboratory and the presentation of the web-server of the museum was held. The information on the cultural heritage on the server is intended for the users both in Russia and abroad.

In 1996 the State Vladimir and Suzdal history, architecture and art museum-reserve became a collective member of the Association of Documentation and new Information Technologies (ADIT). The employees of the museum-reserve - individual member of ADIT - took part in all the annual conferences of the Association and in traditional museum computer festival. The organizing committee of the Association decides to hold the 4th annual ADIT conference in May, 2000 in the basis of the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve.

All above mentioned achievement of the computerization would not be possible without the appropriate technical and technological equipment. Now, the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve uses 55 PC, including professional server, Internet-server, combining opportunities, and server of databases; graphic multimedia-station; 30 printers, including laser and color jet; cable system, install by firm IBM; the local computer network on 17 personal workstations with an output in the Internet; 4 modems and letter box in cities a Vladimir, Suzdal and Goose-crystal; 5 copiers, including high-quality copier with sorter and autosubmiter; 2 scanners; 2 photodigital chambers; the web-chamber carrying out panoramic shooting of city of a Vladimir and museum objects; professional devices of record CD-ROM-disks; a modern digital projector; the equipment for a publishing complex; the streamer for copying databases of museum exhibits in a real time.

Precise comprehension of the purposes, thorough assessment of available opportunities, - including organizational, financial, communicative, technical and technological - gave positive results in the computerization of the museum. The experience of the computerization of the Vladimir and Suzdal museum-reserve proves that application of information, intellectual and communication technologies is a new distinctive feature of a XXI century museum, the museum of future.