

UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

**Information for All Programme
in Russia**





UNESCO is principal custodian, promoter and protector of humanist views and stances, cherished by the entire human race. That is especially important as global information society and its political bases are taking shape.

Perhaps, that is why Russia treats that organization so emotionally. That is why its essential programmes receive such a wide acclaim and develop so dynamically in my country. The flagship Information for All Programme has pride of place among them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Kuzmin'.

**Evgeny Kuzmin
Chairman,
IFAP National Committee of Russia**



Knowledge and information are major factors of global competition, wealth and power.

At the same time, they are sources of growing inequality for three billion men and women who live on less than two dollars a day.

But who would dare say that those people have no knowledge?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philippe Queau'.

**Philippe Queau
Director, UNESCO Moscow Office**

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An intergovernmental Programme of UNESCO

UNESCO's Information for All Programme provides a platform for international policy discussions and guidelines for action on:

- preservation of information and universal access to it;
- participation of all in the emerging global information society;
- ethical, legal and societal consequences of ICT developments.

The Information for All Programme provides a framework for international co-operation and international and regional partnerships. It supports the development of common strategies, methods and tools for building a just and free information society and for narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor.

The Information for All Programme is a key element in the fulfillment of UNESCO's mandate to contribute to "education for all", to the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and to "increase the means of communication between peoples".

The programme emerged in 2000 with a merger of two essential UNESCO programmes of the two previous decades: the General Information Programme, and the Intergov-

We fully share the UNESCO stance on the promotion and development of the civilization dialogue. Today, Russia possesses all resources it needs for a more dynamic participation as ambitious projects are implemented under the aegis of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

Vladimir Putin,
President of Russia

ernmental Informatics Programme. The very name of the new programme, Information for All, is indicative of a global evolution — a problem previously assessed as predominantly technological has come to be viewed as humanitarian-even humanist. Man not technology-not even information itself-ought to dominate new global information policies.

Progress of human-oriented information policies, aimed to develop the human potential, knowledge and habits, is the Programme core because it depends on man which way the entire human race and every particular country and nation takes.

The Programme has a twofold message-promotion of an active discussion on political, ethical and societal problems of the emergent global information society, and implementing practical programmes with the opportunities of information and communication technologies to form that society, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, said in an address to the 5th international conference, The Law and Internet, which Moscow was hosting, November 25-26, 2003.

The Russian President's visit to our headquarters gave UNESCO-Russia partnership an unheard-of impetus.

Koichiro Matsuura,
UNESCO
Director-General



Russia's President Vladimir Putin presents an initial volume of the 'History of Humanity' Russian-language edition to Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO.

IFAP National Committee of Russia

The Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme was established, 2001, on recommendations of the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP and resolution of the Russian Commission for UNESCO. Represented on the Committee are government bodies, educational, research and cultural institutions, public organizations, and commercial companies.

The Committee links Russia with the Intergovernmental Council for the UNESCO Information for All Programme. It takes part in the formation of national policies toward global information society. It exchanges informa-

tion and establishes partnerly ties with a great many international structures, and national ones outside Russia, and circulates in Russia information about global trends and related UNESCO policies.

In particular, the Russian Committee is active in preparing Russian participation in the WSIS. Russia determined, on Committee initiative, its stance on two draft UNESCO documents, essential to knowledge-based societies—the Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage, and the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. The 32nd UNESCO General Conference adopted both.

The Committee promotes IFAP ideas in Russia, and works to attract related organizations and persons to its implementation. To assist the elaboration of socially-oriented latter-day information policies, which will help man to develop knowledge and habits necessary for life in information society is the primary Committee duty.

In conformity with general UNESCO policies, the Russian IFAP Committee attaches special importance to bringing closer together the stances of ruling bodies, commercial companies, public organizations and other interested Parties for the emergent knowledge-based societies.

Prominent among the Committee's principal Russian partners are the federal Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications, the federal Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Spetsvyaz Rossii (federal agency for circulating official information in digital formats), the State Duma (parliament's lower house), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the St. Petersburg State University, the Kemerovo State University of Cul-



Committee's website
- www.ifap.ru



To cooperate with UNESCO, an extremely influential international organization, on the IFAP is politically important to the Smolensk Region. The regional administration is doing much to make its work more open, and make official information public. UNESCO has proclaimed policies of universal access to important of public domain. The Smolensk Region is actively implementing those policies.

Victor Maslov, Governor of the Smolensk Region

ture and the Arts, the Russian State and the Russian National libraries, the Russian Library Association, the Tretyakov Gallery, the legal information consortium Kodeks, Consultant Plus joint-stock company, the rights foundation, Commission for Free Information Access, the PIK Centre, Pushkin Library nonprofit foundation, and others.

The Committee cooperates with many international organizations, in particular, the UN Information Centre, the Moscow UNESCO office, the UNDP, the Russian UNICEF office, the European Commission, the GIPI, and the ICC.

The Russian Commission for UNESCO and the Russian permanent representation to UNESCO are actively supporting the Committee.

The Committee has close partnerly ties with Russian regional administrations—a major help to effectively implement IFAP policies in the various parts of the country. The Bryansk, Kamchatka, Kemerovo, Orenburg and Smolensk regional administrations are the most dynamic in partnership with the Committee as it is steadily extending cooperation geography.



Alexey Demidov, Vyacheslav Yudin and Evgeny Kuzmin, Russian Committee members at a session of the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP, Paris, May 23, 2003

The Committee regularly circulates in the media information about its activities and progress of knowledge societies in and outside Russia. Media outlets based in Russia and other countries are interested watchers of Committee work, and provide coverage of its fruit-conferences, seminars, research, topical material publication, and expert council activities.

As the Russian IFAP Committee sees it, apart from forming its own information policies, Russia ought to take part in its formation on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Council of Europe, the APEC, the Shanghai Six, and other regional organizations. Exemplifying such practical efforts is Committee participation in the European Commission project Minerva Plus, and a digital library project, Meeting of Frontiers: Russia-Kazakhstan.

Organization structure

An interregional public organization to support the Information for All UNESCO Program, IPOS/IFAP,

has the duties of the National Committee staff/secretariat. It was established for the purpose in 2002, and officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. As a legal body, it has the right to attract grants for IFAP implementation, and possesses national and foreign currency bank accounts. The IPOS/IFAP has four on its full-time staff, and is led by the National Committee vice-chair. The National Committee has its office on the premises of the federal Ministry of Culture. The arrangement allows the Committee Secretariat to promptly and efficiently settle all issues of cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, its regional structures and subordinate institutions.

Representing the National Committee in West Siberia is a Research Institute of Kuzbas Public Welfare Information Technologies, which was established for the purpose under the Kemerovo State University of Culture and the Arts.

The organization has three regional branches in Russia — for Moscow, the Moscow Region and the Orenburg Region.

Financing

In 2003, the federal Ministry of Culture, in coordination with the Ministry of Economy, allocated more than US\$100,000 to implement IFAP in Russia. The IPOS/IFAP was entrusted with management. In addition, the Ministry of Culture made grants to a total exceeding US\$160,000 to implement IFAP-related programs, projects and occasional events, such as conferences, seminars and roundtables. These grants were intended for other offices, with an emphasis on libraries.

Co-financing IFAP-related events were the Kamchatka regional administration (US\$30,000), the Pushkin Library nonprofit foundation (\$10,000), the Kemerovo regional administration (\$7,000), the UNICEF Moscow office (\$4,500), the GIPI (\$1,500) and certain other governmental, commercial and public organizations. Total co-financing of IFAP-related events in Russia exceeded US\$350,000 in 2003.

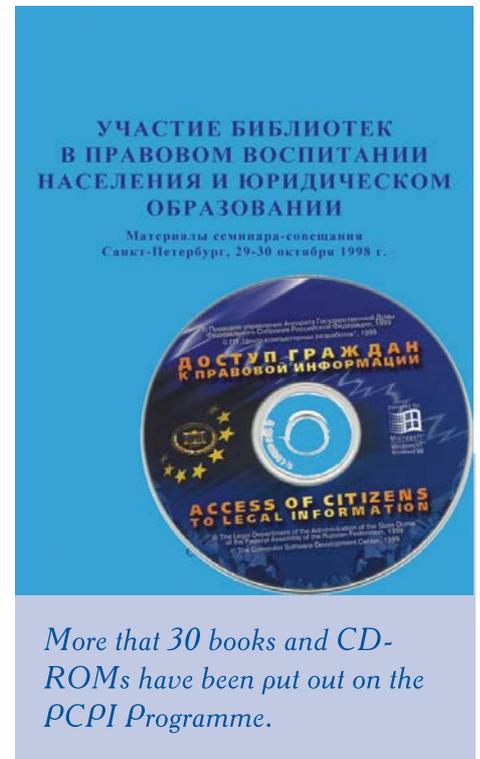
The Russian model of universal access to information of public domain (PCPI Programme)

Universal access to information of public domain is among basic prerequisites for the emergence of knowledge-based societies. Legal and official information is among its essential parts.

The emergence of knowledge societies is indissolubly linked to the necessity of building up public legal culture and awareness of legality. An absence of effective legal and ethic levers promotes a wealth of negative phenomena—violence, xenophobia, social exclusion, etc.

Russia has carefully studied the international experience on this range of problems to see that nothing matters more than precise knowledge of where a reliable and generally accessible source of legal information is. Russian experts regard public libraries as such a primary source.

Implementation of the PCPI National Programme to establish a network of public legal information centres started in June 1998. The responsibility was shouldered by the federal Ministry of Culture, the Spetssvyaz Rossii



More than 30 books and CD-ROMs have been put out on the PCPI Programme.

(former FAPSI), the Russian Foundation for Legal Reforms, regional administrations, and the IFAP National Committee. Other government, com-



ОБЩЕРОССИЙСКАЯ СЕТЬ ПУБЛИЧНЫХ ЦЕНТРОВ ПРАВОВОЙ ИНФОРМАЦИИ

- ▶ **Общероссийская сеть ПЦПИ**
- ▶ **Новости ПЦПИ**
- ▶ **Право знать**
- ▶ **Программа ЮНЕСКО "Информация для всех"**
- ▶ **В помощь специалистам ПЦПИ**
- ▶ **Горячая линия**
- ▶ **Повышаем квалификацию**
- ▶ **ПЦПИ в помощь гражданам**
- ▶ **Правовая поддержка деятельности библиотек**



mercial and public organisations joined the implementation efforts at the various stages.

I attended the opening of the Youth Public Library in St. Petersburg. The library opened at eleven in the morning—and young people were lining the queue at the public legal information centre entrance even at a quarter to eleven.

Vladimir Isakov, Vice President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation

Today, public legal information centres have appeared in practically all fairly large public libraries of the regional and municipal level. There were more than 1,200 such centres by December 2003. Close on 600 of them opened in 2003. Approximately a million people use their services every year—a proof of their necessity to the public and ruling bodies of all levels. The model offered by Programme authors has won recognition, and interested structures are widely using it, especially at the regional level.

A legal centre was established at the Central Clinical Hospital of the Federal Frontier Service within the

Programme framework and with support of the Soros Foundation and the National Library of Medicine. Legal information centres were established in Bryansk on the basis of the general jurisdiction court and the arbitration tribunal. The federal Ministry of Justice assisted the establishment of a centre at the Vladimir Prison. Such centres had no analogues in the world at the time of their appearance.

Of no smaller interest is a Business and Legal Information Centre, established at the Smolensk regional Research Library on a regional administration programme, Regional Network of Computer Centres and Points of Business and Legal Information on the Basis of Libraries, Research and Educational Institutions, and Private Enterprise Promotion Centres of the Smolensk Region. The federal Minis-

Before a WSIS, the establishment of a PCPI network is topical not for Russia alone. Russian experience can inspire other CIS countries. More than that, such networks may be used, later on, for interstate legal information exchanges within the Commonwealth.

Yuri Yarov, CIS Executive Secretary

try of Communications supported the initiative on Programme E-Russia.

The Smolensk endeavour has another interesting aspect: the centre is forming integrated business and legal information resources for private persons—in particular, small and medium-scale private entrepreneurs. The centre helps the latter with correct decision-making, and consumers to find their bearings in the commodity and service markets, and efficiently protect their own rights.

Belarus and Uzbekistan adapted Russian experience in 2001 to establish library-based legal information centres. A Nonprofit Russian Partnership of Public Legal Information Centres and a PCPI Programme portal, www.pcp.ru, appeared in 2003.

As the Russian experience has shown, the PCPI network offers excellent opportunities of socially important tasks tackled together by government, commercial and public organisations. PCPI mediation between authorities and the public can have an impact on the progress of Russians' civil awareness, help them to overcome social exclusion, and attract them to community activism.

The PCPI Programme was introduced at a 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, April 2003.

Personal information culture promotion by libraries and educational institutions

Information for all = information for us + information about us

Equal access for all to the treasures of culture and education is basic principle of information society, which is becoming reality. To many countries and regions, however, that principle remains a mere beautiful declaration, an ideal hard to achieve. We must make that principle true—not merely provide conditions for access, but prepare man to live and work in information society, in which practical success comes through prompt use in vocational and professional activities of information, which is as complete and reliable as possible. Information, and the means and technologies of its making, circulating and preservation are fruit of labour ever more often.

Experts of the Kemerovo State University of Culture and the Arts, one of the largest centres for promotion of research and education in the cultural sphere throughout Siberia and the Russian Far East, ventured to tackle the task on the UNESCO Information for All Programme. The University established a Research Institute of Information Technologies for the Kuzbas Welfare, Education and Culture.

The Institute aims to implement two IFAP sections—Development of the Human Resources and Capabilities in the Information Age, and Information

Technology for Education, Science, Culture and Communications.

The Institute understands the UNESCO Programme name, “Information for All”, as “information for us” and “information about us”.

“Information for us” reflects the Institute top priority—training the various population groups to seek, analyse and use information as an essential resource of life.

Such training helps to form information culture as a unique aspect of contemporary culture. Once you have a sufficient amount of information culture,



Project, Promotion of Personal Information Culture: geography

wherever you might live, you can gain access to treasures of the Hermitage and the Russian Museum, the Louvre and the Prado, or address information bases of the Russian State Library or the Library of the Congress.

“Information about us” means that the population of an outlying area, such as Kuzbas, are no mere information consumers but makers. Pioneer information technologies, mainly Internet, provide recently unheard-of opportunities to make local information open to all, and enrich the global cultural colour scheme with the inimitable colours of particular areas.

Institute experts made a wide range of research to integrate the people of Kuzbas into global information society. Their efforts resulted in a concept and instruments elaborated to form personal information culture. These instruments base on an academic course, “ABC of Personal Information Culture”, methods of creating versatile information products, and tests to evaluate the amount of personal information culture. All these materials became available to a wide range of readers as the Institute experts put out their book, *Personal Information Culture Promotion by Libraries and Educational Institutions*.

The Institute fruitfully combines research with experiment and public education. ABC of Personal Information Culture is taught in tens of Kuzbas-based secondary educational institutions on the initiative and with support of the Institute personnel.

This discipline introduces boys and girls to the information world, teaches them to use pioneer information technologies, and gives them a start for lifelong education. The curriculum received wide acclaim in Russia. Attending information culture classes are not only secondary and higher school students but li-

brarians, teachers, college professors and postgraduate students.

Institute experts are implementing technologies of information instruction for the various categories of readers in school, children’s, young people’s, public and research libraries of Kuzbas. Librarians are trained for psychological and pedagogical fundamentals of information education. More than a thousand Kuzbas cultural and educational experts increased their information culture within the preceding three years. Training teachers of information culture ABC was arranged, as never before in Russia.

The Institute is well aware of how necessary it is to maintain close links of theory and practice. A permanent dialogue of scholars, practical workers and information consumers is guaranteed by conferences and seminars. Eleven forums on the problems of human training for life in information society gathered several thousand experts from all over Russia and other post-Soviet countries.

Annual IFAP Days have become a praiseworthy tradition in Kuzbas. They are arousing public interest in the Programme. A wide range of issues pertaining to the organisation of information

education come under debate. There are ever more organisations interested in implementing Institute achievements in Kemerovo regional educational practice.

Institute activities reach far outside the Kemerovo Region. Its experts maintain professional contacts with many Russian-based research and information centres. Such partnership promotes social and economic progress of Kuzbas and its integration into the global information environment. It allows every Siberian to gain access to global information resources and treasures of national and world culture.

Institute experts have published more than 150 works on information culture, and more than twenty teaching aids. Colleagues were enthusiastic about many of them. The Kemerovo Project, as Institute efforts are often referred to, is among the most spectacular instances of IFAP promotion in Russia. The Institute has made the Kemerovo Region Russia’s acknowledged leader for information culture promotion.

You are welcome to see the fruit of IFAP-related Institute activities on site, <http://nii.art.kemerovonet.ru>



Natalia Gendina, Director of The Research Institute of Information Technologies for the Kuzbas Welfare, Education and Culture

Observatory of the Information Society: Russian Segment

Observatory of the Information Society was established on the UNESCO Information for All Programme to monitor global, regional and national information policies, and provide a forum for international debates on the issues of universal equal access to information.

Since 2001, the Observatory has been monitoring political developments, legislative changes, and the activities of various organisations related to the progress of information society. Circulating information about the ethic, legal and societal aspects of cyberspace development, and promotion of policy-making in informa-

tion and communication technologies are basic duties of the Observatory.

The Russian Programme Committee is active at the Observatory. A PR campaign of the Committee in Observatory Support helped many Russians to learn its goals and objectives. The most active joined the work to catalogue references to Russian resources. The Russian-language Observatory section is one of the most extensive and informative for today.

The Russian Programme Committee does not sleep on its laurels. It has



Irina Mironova, vice-president of Kodeks Co.

Observatory of the Information Society. Russian segment website — iso.ifap.ru

determined to shift from a quantitative inclusion of profile resources to making a quality database on knowledge and information sources. That primarily concerns legislation on information society problems.

The Committee provided texts of related Russian laws to be placed in the UNESCO Collection of National Copyright Laws. Kodeks Co., Committee partner, translated the texts into English.

Negotiations are underway now for contracts with the Spetssvyaz Rossiiauthorised holder and circulator of digitised Russian laws and bylaws-and the Kodeks legal information consortium for a bilingual (Russian-English) national site of the Observatory, iso.ifap.ru

The Russian Programme Committee and Kodeks Co. have already started establishing it. An initial step was made as an unabridged collection of official texts of Russian copyright laws appeared on the Committee site, www.iso.ifap.ru

Digital library project, Meeting of Frontiers: Russia-Kazakhstan

The project aims to create digital collections and offer them for free Internet access. These collections are to demonstrate multi-sided centuries-old cul-



*Director of The National Library
of Kazakhstan Roza Berdigalieva*

tural-historical contacts of Russia and Kazakhstan and, to an extent, the links between two civilizations—the one East European Christian, predominantly Slav, and the other, polytheistic civilization of the Turkic steppes. These collections will widely disseminate the cultural heritage of those two, and promote their mutual understanding and positive contacts in the future.

Elaborated in project implementation were formative trends, general organizational and functional principles of the virtual book collection and of the other Russian and Kazakh written heritage, and regulations for their use. All collections made on the project are open to general access on a special site. The project is open to partnerly participation by all libraries, research, cultural and

educational offices and organizations, museums, archives and private persons in Russia, Kazakhstan and other countries.

Books on the history of Russian-Kazakh contacts and the traditional law, maps, illustrations and sources on the progress of Russian-Kazakh ties were digitized at the initial stage of project implementation.

The project is regarded as model for similar virtual libraries to appear, later on, in mutually adjacent countries—Russia-Belarus, Russia-Kyrgyzstan, Russia-Uzbekistan and Russia-Armenia. The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation has already started financing the two latter projects.

Information is in offer on site,
www.rsl.ru/mof/kaz/index.htm



Российско-казахстанский проект Встречи на границах

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Project web-site - <http://www.rsl.ru/mof/kaz/>

Project AntiSpam



Eugene Altovsky, Coordinator for AntiSpam Project, speaks on 'Legal counteraction to spam' at the V International conference 'Law and Internet'.

The Russian IFAP Committee came up, May 2003, with an initiative to draft supplements and amendments to the Russian legislation to protect the society from spam.

An ad hoc team set up for the purpose includes top-notch experts on information security, computer technologies and the law, ruling bodies spokesmen, and rights activists. They offered the initial fruit of their efforts to the 5th International conference 'Law and Internet' (Moscow, Russia, November 25-26, 2003) and the 6th national conference, Russian Information Security in Global Information Society (Moscow, Russia, January 27-28, 2004).

In December 2003, the ad hoc team made an application to Russia's Ministry for Anti-Monopoly Policies and Promotion of Private Enterprise, which is responsible for government control of advertising. Team members were active in drafting a number of press contributions and television and radio broadcasts on the spam issue. They met media people for ample explanatory work. As the result, the spam problem rose to a higher level of public discussion.

Information is in offer on site,
www.ifap.ru/as/



Спамерам закон писан!

Project Digital Helikon



'Carmen' is on at the Helikon Opera, a scene.

The Russian IFAP Committee and the Helikon, one of Moscow's widest-acclaimed opera, made a partnership contract, August 2003, on Project Digital Helikon to digitize the theater's sound and video recordings. It came as a first-ever cultural heritage digitization contract made on the IFAP.

It was, in fact, an initial endeavor of the Russian committee for the implementation of the recently adopted UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage. A CD of a Helikon production of Georges Bizet's "Carmen" was introduced to the public at the 5th International conference, Law and Internet, December 5, 2003. A "Carmen" DVD came out, March 2004. Both appeared thanks to the equipment and know-how the Helikon had obtained in project implementation.



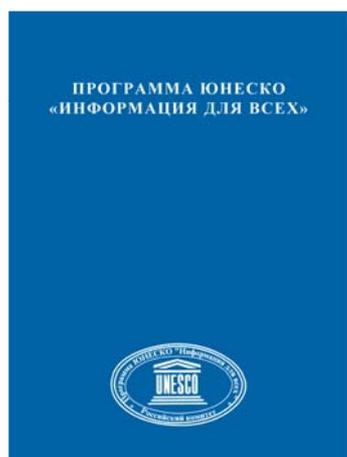
Information and Publishing

The IFAP National Committee opened its web site, www.ifap.ru, in 2002. Renewed on a daily schedule, it is now one of the most quoted Russian-language UNESCO resources on Internet.

The IPOS/IFAP and the Russian State Youth Library together established the Ecological Culture site, www.eco.ifap.ru, in 2003.



The federal Ministry of Culture and Kodeks Co.—one of Russia’s leading national legal information resource manufacturers, with support and direct participation of the IPOS/IFAP, established a network portal of public legal information centers, www.pcpi.ru, late in 2003, and are keeping it.

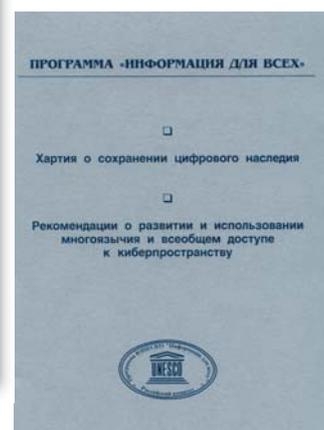
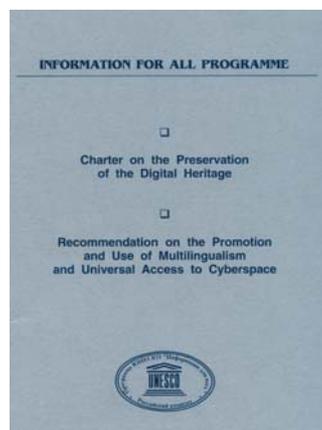


In 2001-03, the IFAP RF translated into Russian, put out and circulated more than a thousand copies of a brochure bearing the text of the Information for All UNESCO Program.

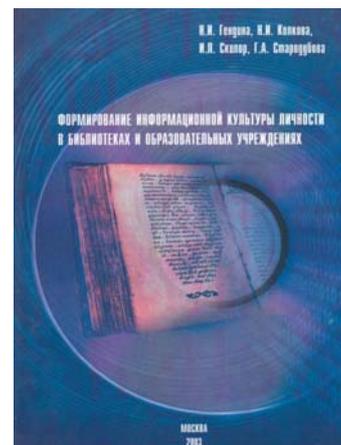


A portfolio, “Information for All UNESCO Program in Russia” was made and circulated in and outside Russia, 2003-2,000 Russian-language copies and 500 English-language.

500 Russian - and English-language copies of the Information for All UNESCO Program, the Draft Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage, and the Draft Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace were published and circulated, December 2003, within the framework of the international conference, Law and Internet.



School Library Publishers put out 7,500 copies of a 2nd edition, “The Promotion of Personal Information Culture by Libraries and Educational Establishments”. The book carried the findings of a research program of the same name, which is part of Russian efforts to implement IFAP.



Authors, Publishers, Booktraders: International Acts, Agreements and Declarations. A collection of bylaws and recommendations for libraries, publishers and booktraders.

Moscow, 2002, 304 p.



Eight UNESCO brochures on information society problems will be translated into Russian and put out in 2004.

The Committee assisted, or took part in publishing the following books in 2002:



Information Resources for Decision-Making. A manual. Moscow-Ekaterinburg, 2002, 560 p.



Progress of Intellectual Property Information Milieu in Central Russia: Problems and Solutions. Proceedings of the Interregional Research and Practical Conference, Tula, April 9-10, 2002

The Library Information Sphere: International Acts and Recommendations. A collection of bylaws, references and recommendations in Cultural Policies in Europe: Bearing Points and Choice of Strategies. A collection.

Moscow, 2001, 272.



The Public Library Service: IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development (published in translation into Russian)



650 CDs carrying IFAP-related information appeared in 2003.



The New Millennium: Libraries, Reading, Youth. UNESCO Information for All Programme: Proceedings of the 2nd Innovation Laboratory for Russian Youth Libraries.

Krasnodar, 2002, 204 p.



Promotion of Personal Information Culture by Libraries and Educational Institutions. Teaching aid.

Moscow, 2003, 296 p.

Participation in international and national events

The intergovernmental IFAP council gathered for its 2nd session on the UNESCO headquarters, April 22-24, 2003. It was there the Russian Committee presented a national program to establish a library-based public center network for legal information.

The State Duma, lower house of Russia's Federal Assembly (parliament), hosted a session of the expert council under the Duma Speaker for the systematization and codification of legislation and legal information, June 4, 2003. The session introduced and debated Russian IFAP Committee information access projects.

Evgeny Kuzmin, Russian IFAP Committee chair, was on the official Russian delegation to the WSIS, December 2003, to attend the 32nd UNESCO General Conference session and take part in a roundtable it arranged for ministers of Culture, Education, Research and Communications, October 2003.

Russian IFAP Committee delegates made a routine visit to Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, December 2 into 15, 2003. The visitors met spokesmen of the host countries' ruling bodies and educational and cultural establishments, experts on information resource formation and access, and journalists. An understanding was made during the visit for partnership in a number of practical fields. Thus, Belarus has launched efforts to establish its National IFAP Committee with due account for respective Russian experience, and Kazakhstan to set up a library-based network of public legal information centers. Uzbekistan, in its turn, determined to establish legal and business information centers at the Russian Cultural Center in Tashkent, and at the Tashkent State Juridical Institute under the joint patronage of the Russian Ambassador to Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan's Minister of Justice.

Russian Committee: Events of 2003

An international conference, **UNESCO Information for All Program: Development of National and International Information Policies**, gathered under the UNESCO aegis in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, September 2-7, 2003.

Organizers: the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the Kamchatka regional administration, the Russian IFAP Committee, Project UNDP/GEF for Kamchatka, and the Kamchatka Regional Research Library.

Representing international organizations were institutions of the UN, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP/GEF, European Commission, and IFLA. British, German, Italian, Russia, US and French experts were taking part.

The conference came as central political event of the Russian IFAP preceding the WSIS, Geneva, December 2003. The conference included a Kamchatka-Moscow-St. Petersburg television linkup. Mr. Matsuura, UNESCO Director-Director, greeted the conferees.

Information available on site,
www.ifap.ru



Antonella Fresa (Italy), coordinator of Minerva and MinervaPlus European Commission projects, speaks on 'Valorizing Activities on Digitization of Cultural and Scientific Content in Europe' at the 'UNESCO Information for All Programme: Development of National and International Policies'

Moscow hosted, April 7-9, an international conference, **Culture: From Information to Knowledge (The Role of Culture in Knowledge-Based Society)**. Arranged with Russian IFAP Committee participation, it was preceded by the public introduction of a project to establish a Russian national digital library. Kay Raseroka, IFLA President, and Ross Shimon, IFLA

Secretary General, attended the conference. Information on site, www.rsl.ru

Moscow's Central House of Journalists hosted, May 25, a roundtable on, **"UNESCO and Russia in the 3rd Millennium"**. Spokesmen of the Moscow UNESCO office and the Russian IFAP Committee addressed journalists. Information is in offer on site, www.ifap.ru

An international conference, **Into the Future via Libraries**, gathered in Anapa, Krasnodar Territory, September 15-19.

Organizers: the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Russian IFAP Committee, the UNICEF Moscow office, the Krasnodar territorial administration, and Russian youth libraries. Mr. Matsuura, UNESCO Director-Director, greeted the conferees. Information available on site, www.ifap.ru

Arkhangelsk hosted, October 1-2, a seminar on, **"UNESCO Information for All Program"**, within the framework of an international conference, **Libraries in the Regional Cultural Environment**. The seminar introduced in Arkhangelsk a UNESCO pilot program for the Russian North and the Barents Sea countries. The conferees agreed for partnership on project, Antoniev-Siisky Digital Library, pertaining to St. Anthony's Monastery of Siya, the principal and one of the best-known monas-



teries in European Russia's north. Information available on site, www.ifap.ru

November 4. A seminar on, **"Russian Partnership with International Organizations in Socio-Economic Application of Information and Communication Technologies"** gathered in Moscow on the federal target program, E-Russia.

Organizers: Institute of Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge under the State University/Higher School of Economics, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation, and the Russian IFAP Committee.

The conferees discussed prospects of Russian participation in programs

and projects of international organizations—UNESCO IFAP-related and UNIDO—pertaining to information and communication technologies, and issues of promoting international partnership on the federal program, E-Russia. Information available on site, www.ifap.ru

November 25-26. The Moscow-based Russian Academy of Civil Service under the federal President hosted a **5th international conference, Law and Internet: Theory and Practice**, within the IFAP framework.

Organizers: the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Russian IFAP Committee, the Russian Academy of Civil Service under the federal President, the Moscow UNESCO office, the Russian Commission for UNESCO Affairs, and the Internet Foundation of Civil Initiatives in Politics. The agenda focused on, "Problems of Intellectual Property in Cyberspace". A presentation by Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-Director, was read to the gathering. The conference included public introduction of new basic documents adopted by the 32nd UNESCO General Conference, Draft Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage, and the Draft Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to





Russian Committee: Events of 2004

Cyberspace, in Russian and English. Attending the conference were spokesmen of ministries and other federal offices, State Duma members and experts, managers and experts of leading educational, research, cultural and communication institutions and media outlets, and visiting experts from Belarus, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the USA and Uzbekistan.

Information available on site,
www.ifap.ru/pi/

December 9-10. The Russian State Library hosted a national research and practical seminar, “**Libraries and Public Education on Consumer Rights**”. Organizers: the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry for Anti-Monopoly Policies and Promotion of Private Enterprise of the Russian Federation, the Russian IFAP Committee, the Russian State Library, and the Kostroma Regional Research Library. The seminar aimed to generalize library contribution to consumer education, discuss the most effective forms and methods of enhancing public consumer education, and elaborate a program for libraries to offer information on consumer right protection.

Information available on site,
www.ifap.ru

December 16-20. Kemerovo was venue of **Kuzbas IFAP Days**.

Organizers: the Russian IFAP Committee, the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Kemerovo regional administration, and the Kemerovo State Academy of Culture and the Arts. The ambitious event gathered more than a thousand, who represented the entire West Siberia, the Russian Far East, the Urals, Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kazakhstan. The Days were arranged on local initiative to spectacularly demonstrate National Committee efficiency as it was promoting and popularizing the IFAP throughout Russia. The agenda centered on problems related to guarantees of information rights; the contribution of cultural and educational institutions to the emergence of information society; information technologies introduction in the social sphere; the formation of personal information culture; and regional arrangements to implement the UNESCO Information for All program. The Days included seminars, “Information Society: A Dialogue of Cultures”, “The Development of a Public Legal Information Network on the Basis of Public Libraries”, “The Russian-Kazakh Project, Meeting of Frontiers” and “School Library Mission in Information Society”. There was a roundtable on, “Information Right: Myth or Reality?” V. Monakhov of the Russian IFAP Committee introduced his book, “The Media and Internet: Legal Regulation Issues”. Information available on site, www.ifap.ru

- March 22-26. All-Russia research and practical conference, “Corporate Library Technologies and Projects”. Perm

- May 4-6. Intergovernmental IFAP council 3rd session. Paris

- May. Board session of Russia’s Ministry of Culture on IFAP implementation in Russia. Moscow

- June 6-12. International conference, “Crimea 2004: Libraries and Information Resources in the Contemporary World of Research, Culture, Education and Business”. Theme of the year: The Role of Libraries, Publishers and Information Product Manufacturers in Contemporary Social Evolution. Special session on the IFAP. Sudak, Ukraine

- June 23-25. International conference, “UNESCO Information for All Program: General Access to Information”. St. Petersburg

- September 7-9. 3rd international research and practical conference, “Digital Culture Age” under the IFAP aegis. Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi

- September 20-24. International forum, “Environmental Information and Culture for Sustained Development”. Bryansk

- October 7-8. 6th international conference, “Law and Internet”. Moscow

- October 25-28. International research and practical conference, “Open and Law-Based Information Society: A View from the North”. Murmansk & Severomorsk

- November. IFAP Week in Kuzbas. Kemerovo

- December. International conference, “EVA 2004” and “Echolot”. Moscow

- December. Plenary session of the Russian Commission for UNESCO . Moscow

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Postal 2a, 1st Basmanny Side St., Moscow, 105066, Russia
Phone +7 (495) 263-2661
E-mail contact@ifap.ru
Web www.ifap.ru

Text by Evgeny Kuzmin and Alexey Demidov
Translated from the Russian by Tatiana Butkoff
Executive Editor - Eugene Altovsky
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The drawing of Elena Mashkina, an student of Kemerovo State University of Culture and the Arts for the contest of IFAP Days in Kuzbas

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Information for All Programme National Committee of Russia

2a, 1st Basmanny Side St., Moscow, 105066, Russia

Phone: +7 (495) 263-2661

E-mail: contact@ifap.ru

Web: www.ifap.ru