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1999 IATUL Proceedings

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Yakov Shraiberg Russian National Public Library, for Science and Technology

Yakov Shraiberg, "International library, information and analytical center as a new form and prospect for international cooperation for libraries and universities." *Proceedings of the IATUL Conferences.* Paper 31. http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/iatul/1999/papers/31

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INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY, INFORMATION AND ANALYTICAL CENTER (ILIAC) AS A NEW FORM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR LIBRARIES AND UNIVERSITIES

Dr. Yakov Shraiberg Russian National Public Library for Science & Technology Moscow, Russia

E-mail: shra@gpntb.msk.su

Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce the most recent project of Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology. This is not a project any more. ILIAC has evolved from an idea of a group of enthusiasts to the corporation operating in Washington, DC. ILIAC representative offices are planned to be opened in other developed countries. The Library I represent is ILIAC founder and one of major incorporators.

International Library, Information, and Analytical Center (ILIAC) is a non-profit US-based and US registered corporation of international status set up with the goal to contribute to the development of library, information and, in general, educational, scientific, cultural and business cooperation between Russia and CIS countries, and the USA and other countries. ILIAC is incorporated by Russian and American legal bodies of various status.

ILIAC goal is to introduce a system of permanent representation and support of scientific, cultural and educational interests of CIS countries, which are ILIAC partners, in the United States and other foreign countries.

ILIAC major tasks are:

- Development of international information East-West business;
- Promotion of Russian sci-tech and library products, educational services, business proposals and cultural exchanges;
- Library interaction and cooperation; establishment of specialized libraries of CIS countries in the United States and other countries;
- Information service and document supply for American and other foreign users;
- Consulting services and cultural, scientific and educational study tours, business contacts with foreign partners;
- Support of compatriots, cooperation with diaspora, and others interested in cooperation with Russia and the CIS countries.

ILIAC was registered on May 16, 1997 in Washington, DC, USA as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) American corporation of international status. ILIAC's three principal governing and contributing bodies are: the Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and the Group of Visitors which include representatives of scientific, public and business communities of Russia, USA, and CIS counties. ILIAC Headquarters is located in Washington, DC at 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 700. The premises are provided by the American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, one of the ILIAC incorporators.

The main Russian office is open in Moscow on the premises of Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology (12 Kuznetsky most, 103919, Moscow, Russia). Rapid development of the network of ILIAC representative offices is envisaged.

ILIAC operates within programs and projects. ILIAC basic programs are:

- Library program;
- Scientific, technological and social information exchange program;
- Educational program;
- Business information program;
- Consulting program;
- Telecommunications program;
- Ecological program.

ILIAC major projects are:

- Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarus Libraries in America;
- Moscow Project;
- Crimean Project;
- Information and Library Resources of Russia and CIS countries;
- American and Foreign Universities for Russian Students;
- Children on the Internet;
- Internet Bulletin on Russian Legislative Resources;
- Russian Scholars and Engineers Abroad: Electronic Encyclopaedia;
- International School on Librarianship, Information Technologies, and Cultural Studies;
- Regular Professional Tours "Librarianship, Information Systems, and Education in the United States";
- Annual Conferences "Russian and CIS Electronic Resources: Full Current Survey and Forecasts";
- Chernobyl Accident and Its Consequences: Bibliographic Survey and Document Supply.

One of the most recent projects is the project "Russian Library in America". The Library was opened at ILIAC Headquarters in Washington, DC in March 1999. Its concept and goal is the establishment of a specialized library holdings Russian regional publications; development of cultural cooperation between the USA and Russia; introduction of American people to the national cultural and historical heritage of Russia; support of cultural and scientific contacts; orders for local libraries and publishing houses.

RLA collection profile is as follows:

- Regional legislation;
- Area studies;
- Sightseeing;
- Reference, statistical, phone books;
- Regional historical and cultural heritage of regions;
- Regional and local press;
- Other regional publications.

RLA offers following services to its users:

- Reading room;
- Document delivery:
- Internet-server;
- Round tables;
- Discussion clubs.

International School on Librarianship, Information Technologies and Cultural Studies (ISLITCS) is the most recent project within ILIAC educational program. The School is founded by ILIAC and Moscow University for Culture. **The School objectives** are:

- various academic programs and courses for foreign professionals specializing in Russian and Slavic studies:
- professors' and specialists' qualifications improvement in the fields of related programs;
- running bachelor and master programs in library and information sciences, cultural studies (for Russian citizens on the first stage);

The ISLITCS activities are:

- Academic process organization;
- Development of instructional materials and programs;
- International exchange of instructional materials, organization of professional conferences, round tables and workshops.

The ISLITCS suggested academic programs are as follows:

- Professional tours to Russian libraries for foreign librarians;
- Multi-profile academic program on library and information technologies in Russia;
- Special academic programs in library and information sciences (cataloging, collection preservation, classification, new information technologies in libraries, archives, museums, library management and marketing in Russia, others).
- Russian language intensive study program;
- Programs on Russian literature, culture, folk arts.

ISLITCS alumni of any program will be awarded with international certificates validated by Russian and western universities. ILIAC provides all required facilities for running of these programs. The training center at ILIAC-Moscow is fully equipped and has a direct access to Internet.

Conclusions - ILIAC perspectives

For more information on ILIAC programs and projects please visit <u>ILIAC Web site</u>. As you can see, ILIAC has already done a lot and is supposed to be done more in the futureWe plan to open ILIAC representative offices in several West European, East European and CIS countries. This will promote the engagement of a great number of professionals into ILIAC programs and projects, which we look forward to. The list of ILIAC partners is open and for participation and contacts for mutual benefit.