

Memory of the World Register - Nomination Form

Russian Federation - Newspaper collection

Abstract

This collection is one of documentary sources for studies of the history of Russian State and its worldwide influence. It consists of 4 first newspapers of period of Peter the First who turned Russia towards the west (the beginning of the 18th century); the district and provincial newspapers including literary gazettes of the Enlightenment times (in middle of 19th century); the newspapers of the Russian revolution (from 1905 to 1917) and Great patriotic war which have enormously influenced not only Russia but the whole world as well.

Identity and Location

Name of the Documentary Heritage: Newspaper collections

Country: Russian Federation

State, Province or Region: Moscow

Address: 3, Vozdvihenka str. 101000 Moscow; e-mail: irgb@glas.apc.org

Name of Institution: Russian State Library

Legal Information

Owner: Russian State Library (Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation)

Director: Vladimir Konstantinovitch Egorov

Custodian: Head of collection: Yadykina Olga Alekseyevna, phone: 570-03-00.

Legal Status:

Category of ownership: State public property

Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage: Statutes of Russian State Library and Preservation Dpt.

Accessibility: Public access

Copyright status: Russian State Library ownership State Archives acts

Responsible administration: Rare, valuable and fragile parts of the collection are kept in special conditions

Identification

Description: This collection is one of documentary sources for studies of the history of Russian State and its worldwide influence. It consists of 4 first newspapers of period of Peter the First who turned Russia towards the west (the beginning of the 18th century); the district and provincial newspapers including literary gazettes of the Enlightenment times (in middle of 19th century); the newspapers of the Russian revolution (from 1905 to 1917) and Great patriotic war which have enormously influenced not only Russia but the whole world as well.

History: The newspapers are registered in the catalogues "Russian pre-revolutionary newspapers in the holdings of the Lenin State Library" - Moscow, 1989; "Newspapers of the first years of the soviet rule (1917-1922)". - Moscow, 1990.

Names, qualifications and contact details of independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage:

- **Yadykina Olga Alekseyevna**, chief, Newspaper Department, phone: 570-03-00.

Management Plan

Value of the documentary heritage: The newspaper is one of documentary sources reflecting both the development and making the Russian State. The newspapers whose publishing fell on the turn of two epochs - that of transition from feudalism to the young just nascent capitalism. The reforms of Peter the First turned Russia towards the West. In the publications of the 20ies - 60ies of the 19th Century the trend of Enlightenment was predominant; the struggle for the abolition of the serfdom was put up. The same applies to the newspapers of the Russian revolutions, of the great patriotic war which like chronicles recount the history of the state which has immensely influenced both the country and the whole world.

Policy and processes of the access to the documentary heritage: From the very beginning the Russian State Library has been carrying on the policy of free access to the documentary heritage (the newspapers) for every citizen of the country and for foreigners. Still holding the formal right of the access a part of the population is being left bereft of the possibility of enjoying them. The causes are the following:

- People from other cities cannot make use of the newspapers due to their inaccessibility via interlibrary loan.
- The state of the newspapers of the second half of the 19th century (1860-1899), of the papers brought out in 1917-1926, of the newspapers put out in the years of the war 1943-1945, calls for special restoration measures to assure not only their longevity, but mechanical durability.
- Some publications must be called in and submitted to complicated restoration and conservation processes.

In the future the library should pick out the exceedingly rare publications, carry out an expert analysis of their physical condition, size up the volume of restoration work.

The newspapers of the 18th-19th centuries require not only restoration, but also conservation as the aging of newspapers is a natural process.

Assessment against the Selection Criteria

Selection criteria of the above mentioned collection is the result of more than fifty years of research work of the specialists of the Russian State Library and an assessment of international resonance of users' interests.

The depository is furnished with standard newspaper ranges. Both the temperature and humidity are maintained within the parameters reckoned with in the depository (humidity rate is 50, +/- 5 per cent, temperature is 19 degrees +/- 1 degree, light fittings are luminescent lamps, there is an air conditioner in the edifice).

The environs: Not far off there are the district heating plant dumping the waste into the atmosphere, the Moscow belt way, the Moscow city dump.

The newspapers from the stock of the documentary heritage are not displayed at exhibitions.

Consultation

Custodian - Russian State Library, Newspaper Department (Yadykina O.A.).

Nominator

Name: Russian State Library, Director - Vladimir Egorov Konstantinovitch

Relationship to documentary heritage: Keeper of the collection

Contact person: Responsible for the project "Memory of Russia" - Irina Morozova

Contact details: Contact to be established by correspondence (see above address)

Assessment of Risk

The above mentioned material is extremely rare and fragile. It is running great risk daily.

Preservation Assessment

The conditions of the preservation of the newspapers collections in the Russian State library is insufficient. Restoration of all kinds is less than enough.