

International Bibliographic Congresses

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Abstract

The article presents the IV International Bibliographic Congress, planned for September 2025 in Yakutsk (Russia), which will continue the tradition of similar great events held in Russia. First International Bibliography congress was held in 2010 in St. Petersburg, the second in 2015 in Moscow, and the third - in 2021 in Novosibirsk. It is shown that, by holding International Bibliographic Congresses, the Russian bibliographical community strives to achieve several goals: 1) identify cotemporary (at the time of the next congress) state of bibliography science and practice not only in Russia, but also in other countries of the world; 2) discuss the most pressing problems facing bibliographers; 3) outline the development of bibliographic activity for the near and distant future.

Keywords: *International Bibliographic Congresses; IV International Bibliographic Congresses; Russian Library Association; National Library of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia).*

Introduction

The idea of organizing International Bibliographic Congress is not new. At the turn of the XIX-XX centuries (in 1895, 1910) International Bibliographic Congress were held by the organizers of the International Bibliographic Institute, Paul Otlet and Henri Lafontaine. Their goal was to create a Universal Bibliographic Repertoire, which was supposed to contain all printed books all over the world since the invention of printing. Unfortunately, the project was not implemented.

To understand these problems, bibliographers of the National Library of Russia decided to hold an International Bibliographic Congress, believing that this would give them the opportunity to identify the current state of bibliography in Russia, and other countries at that time and determine trends in its development or its decline.

The first Bibliographic Congresses

The International Bibliographic Congress was held on September 21-23, 2010, in St.- Petersburg

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by the National Library of Russia. Among the organizers of the Congress were the National Library of Russia, the Russian State Library, the Russian Book Chamber, the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Presidential Library, the Russian Library Association and the Eurasian Library Assembly. The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation provided the Congress with all possible support.

The Congress brought together about 500 participants from 13 countries: Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and France. It was held in four libraries of St.-Petersburg: National Library of Russia, the Library of Russian Academy of Sciences, the Presidential Library, St.-Petersburg Theater Library, Central Library of the Moscow District of St.-Petersburg and the St.-Petersburg State Institute of Culture. 2 plenary sessions, meetings of 11 sections and 2 round tables were held.

The Congress had a universal subject and was devoted to a wide range of problems: “Everything about Bibliography.” 260 reports were read, and in 2012 the National Library of Russia published the proceedings in 3 volumes.

Having analyzed the current situation in the field of bibliography, the congress participants noted that in the middle of the 21st the development of bibliography did not stop, but was also characterized by the emergence of a huge number of electronic bibliographic resources. At the same time, printed bibliographic works also retained their importance.

As a result, it was resolved that International Bibliographic Congresses convenes every five years.

The second International Bibliographic Congress

On October 6-8, 2015, the II International Bibliographic Congress took place in Moscow, it was hosted by the Russian State Library with the Motto: “Bibliography: a look into the future.”

The congress was put together by the Russian State Library and National Library of Russia, the Russian Book Chamber, the Presidential Library, the Russian Library Association and the Eurasian Library Assembly.

The congress was held in Moscow and remotely from Perm, with a section of Local History Bibliography held a meeting of 903 delegates (including 350 people in webinar mode at 78 sites) Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, USA, France Croatia. The geography of Congress participants from Russia extended from Kaliningrad and Murmansk to Magadan and Vladivostok, represented the bibliographic communities of 10 countries.

2 plenary sessions and 7 section meetings were held and was broadcasted on YouTube. The organizers sought to cover as much as possible all the problems of bibliography borrowing a leaf from the 1st international bibliographic congress, while focusing on solving the emerging issues of modern libraries with the 2nd Congress.



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The theoretical and futurological aspects of bibliography were considered, as well as applied problems that urgently require solution, in particular the issues of forming a bibliographic record in modern technological conditions; issues of creating and using universal bibliographic resources; information and bibliographic support for science, technology, education and culture; bibliographic ensuring the free development of personality; information and bibliographic services, user training, and problems of local history bibliography: a strategy for its development in modern conditions; experience, problems and prospects for the development of local history bibliographic publications; accessibility and quality of electronic local history bibliographic resources (Teplitskaya A.V. and Gorshkova N.V.).

Summing up, the Congress participants noted that during the transition from industrial to post-industrial civilization, bibliographic activity should first emphasize its humanistic orientation, ensuring the search, systematization, and dissemination of humanistic values embodied in the library collections. In 2016, the Russian State Library published Reports of the II International Bibliographic Congress in 6 parts, corresponding to the section meetings.

The third International Bibliographic Congress

The III International Bibliographic Congress was slated for 2020, but due to the pandemic, it was postponed to April 2021.

In 2021, the congress was held at The State Public Scientific and Technical Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SPNTB SB RAS) This library was chosen due to her l traditions of bibliographic activity. The National Library of Russia, the Russian State Library, and the Russian Library Association were part of the organisers The chairs and members of the Standing Committees of the Bibliography and Cataloging sections of IFLA also participated actively during the congress.

The congress was held online with the topic, “Bibliographic information in digital culture”. Two plenary meetings and nine section meetings were held.

The following questions were considered:

Strategies and ways to develop bibliographic activities in the digital era; modern directions of national bibliography and bibliographic activities of national libraries; formation of bibliographic resources and regulatory support for bibliography of electronic resources of network remote access; corporate cataloging as a form of bibliographic interaction between libraries; modern trends in information and bibliographic services; local history bibliography in the digital era; theoretical and methodological problems of bibliography, teaching bibliography, training; bibliometric research and databases.

In addition, 4 panel discussions were held with the topic: “National bibliographic resources”, moderated by Mathilda Coscas, chair of the IFLA Bibliography Section; “The use of DOI in bibliographic references”, “MARC cannot be replaced” and a discussion about the tasks and stages of the formation of the National Book Platform of Russia on the meringue of the National Bibliographic Resource (Lelikova, Natalia).

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The Congress brought together 1,180 participants from 32 countries. Thus, almost all continents were covered except Australia.

Upcoming International Bibliographic Congress:

The Russian Library Association, the National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg), the Russian State Library (Moscow), the State Public Scientific and Technical Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Novosibirsk), the National Library of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (Yakutsk) jointly announced the 16-19th September 2025, as the 1V International Bibliographic Congress to be held in Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (Russia),



Topic: “Bibliography in the preservation of the cultural heritage and linguistic diversity of the peoples of the world”.

The following issues are planned to be discussed:

- Strategic issues of bibliography development in the context of the digital economy.
- Bibliography in the digital environment. Improving the principles of bibliographic activities in accordance with modern digitalization trends.
- Smart technologies and artificial intelligence in bibliography.
- International bibliographic cooperation.
- Bibliography as a means of preserving the cultural heritage of countries and peoples.
- Documentary heritage of the indigenous peoples of the North and Far East: preservation, research, bibliography.
- Possibilities of bibliography in preserving the cultural identity of the region. Local history bibliography. History, current state, development trends. Electronic local history resources and products.
- Innovative practices of bibliographic activities of cultural institutions.
- Bibliographic activities of libraries. Features of bibliographic activities of libraries of different types and types.
- Bibliographic resources: types, genres, topics, areas of development.
- Development and implementation of standards for bibliographic description.
- Authority control and metadata creation.
- Library catalogues technology paradigm.
- Specifics of bibliographic services in the era of digital transformation. Virtual reference and bibliographic services: a variety of approaches.

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- Bibliographic support for science, technology, education and culture.
- Bibliographic tools for book promotion and reading.
- Bibliography for children and youth.
- Professional education of bibliographers: trends and approaches.
- Bibliographic culture as the basis of intellectual activity.
- Current state of bibliographic science. Bibliographic topics in research activities. Scientific schools in bibliography.
- Bibliographic history. Biography in historical research.
- Modern scientometric systems. Scientometric and bibliometric research.

Librarians all over the world are invited, with in person and online participation at zero registration cost.

Working languages: Russian, English.

An information letter and a registration form for the Congress will be posted on the websites of the Russian Library Association <https://rba.ru/>, National Library of Russia <https://nlr.ru/>, Russian State Library <https://rsl.ru/>, State Public Library of Science and Technology SB RAS <http://spsl.nsc.ru/> and the National Library of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) <https://new.nlrs.ru/>.

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