

# Digital Library "Scientific Heritage of Russia"

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**Abstract:** The article discusses a new version of the digital library "Scientific Heritage of Russia" (DL SHR) presented on the Internet at <http://e-heritage.lgb.ru/>. The DL SHR contains information about scientists of the 18th, 19th and first half of the 20th centuries who made a significant contribution to the development (Science in Russia). These include both Russian scientists and foreign scientists who worked in Russia. DL content includes structured metadata about scientists, their detailed biography, bibliography, portraits, and full texts of their most important publications, museum and archival information related to them. The article presents the principles underlying the filling of the DL SHR, the architecture of the Library, the blocks included in its structure, describes the user interface, illustrated by examples.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

There are various renderings of terminology associated with digital libraries (hereinafter referred to as DL) and their components in computer science. We will use the following definitions:

**Definition 1:** DL - structured information of interest to them.

**Definition 2:** DL resources - full-text, audio and video materials included in the DL.

**Definition 3:** Metadata - a set of formal features by which resources are searched.

**Definition 4:** DL content - a set of metadata and resources supported in DL.

In the modern information space, there are thousands of digital libraries (DL) ranging from universal ones containing metadata and full texts of millions articles to small digital libraries contain the employees works of individual scientific organizations. For example:

<https://www.elibrary.ru/defaultx.asp>  
<https://www.scopus.com/home.uri>

[https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/hubble/digital-library](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/digital-library)

<http://zioc.benran.ru/>.

Almost all of the world's largest publishers provide users with access to digital versions of their magazines and books. A number of large universities and establishments create subject-oriented. For example:

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>;

<http://www.mathnet.ru/>;

<http://www.cas.org/>.

Digital libraries are created at the national and international levels. For example:

<https://www.nibib.nih.gov/content/national-science-digital-library-nsdl>;

<https://www.europeana.eu/en>.

The absence of a scientific information resource that solves the problem of preserving the scientific heritage and creating the conditions for its effective development, as well as the integration of the funds of various memory institutions (libraries, archives and museums) into a common digital information resource is the main shortcoming of the information retrieval platforms that exist today.

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In 2010, the DL "Scientific Heritage of Russia" was created at the Russian Academy of Sciences. The main purpose of creating the DL SHR is to provide information on the outstanding scholars who worked in Russia and who contributed to the development of fundamental natural sciences and humanities through the Internet in a free mode. Along with biographical and bibliographic information about scientists, the DL SHR includes full texts of the most significant works published by them, as well as digital copies of archival and museum materials related to the professional activities of these scientists. In addition to the fact that the placement of copies of documents allows significantly expanding the circle of their users, digitization of printed publications, archival and museum materials that are of historical value, allows ensuring their safety by minimizing the circulation of their originals.

Thus, unlike most modern scientific DL, focused on providing users with current information, the DL SHR was faced with the task of ensuring at the national level the popularization of the achievements of domestic science and the preservation of rare scientific documents.

Initially, the DL SHR was also tasked with providing a multifaceted search and navigation through heterogeneous resources, which is not typical for most modern DLs that have a rather trivial search interface.

Additional factors that distinguish DL SHR from a variety of digital libraries are the principle of selection of materials and the technology of forming its content. Leading libraries, institutes, museums and archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences participate in the filling of the DL SHR. The software and technological complex, which ensures the formation of the DL SHR, provides for the monitoring of data preparation processes and multi-stage quality control of the input information.

Since 2010, the Joint SuperComputer Center (JSCC) of the Russian Academy of Sciences – Branch of Federal State Institution "Scientific Research Institute for System Analysis of the Russian Academy of Sciences" has been supporting the digital library "Scientific Heritage of Russia" (DL SHR) in the Internet (Kalenov N.E., 2016.).

The main goal of creating the DL SHR is to provide information on outstanding scholars worked in Russia and made a great advance in the development of fundamental both natural and human sciences.

Along with biographical and bibliographic information about scientists, the DL SHR includes the full texts of the most important works published by

them, as well as digital copies of archival and museum materials related to the professional activities of these scientists.

Digitalization of printed publications, archival and museum materials, which are historical value, allows to ensure their preservation by minimizing their originals query.

The principle of coordinated decentralized information generation in combination with centralized data storage support and web single sign on for users (Antopol'skij A.B., 2016) is the basis for DL SHR database provisioning. DL SHR EB NNR is part of the information support system for scientific research (Kalenov N.E., 2015; Serebryakov V.A., 2016) and an integral component of the project to create a Single Digital Space of Scientific Knowledge (Antopol'skij A.B., 2019).

This article is concerned with the structure of the DL SHR and the services it provides for the search and provision of its content.

## 2 THE DIGITAL LIBRARY "SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF RUSSIA" STRUCTURE

DL SHR is a complex that includes the following units:

1. A resource management unit that supports the following process technologies:
  - selection of materials for inclusion into the DL;
  - creation of a new resource;
  - creation of metadata describing the resource;
  - loading of resources and metadata in digital documents, their correction and deletion.
2. User management unit that provides:
  - registration of users with various access rights to the digital library;
  - adjustment, deletion of user data;
  - authorization of users at the entrance to the DL.
3. The control unit of linguistic means (support for dictionaries, classification systems, thesauruses, etc.).
4. The unit of access to the DL that provides:
  - support for the user interface of the request formation;
  - query processing;
  - information retrieval;
  - navigation through the content of electronic books.
5. The system administration unit that provides:
  - installation, configuration, support of hardware and software of electronic devices;

- archiving of information and recovery of electronic devices after failures;
- monitoring DL (analysis of the demand for its components).

6. The manager unit that solves administrative tasks of current functioning and determines the main directions of DL SHR development.

### 3 THE DIGITAL LIBRARY "SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF RUSSIA" ARCHITECTURE

The DL SHR is focused on distributed architecture in which data sources (the storage of resources and metadata) can be distributed geographically. Servers that are providing digitized data storage, the main web-portal of the DL SHR, data digitization centers represent the general architectural components of the system. DL SHR is built as a distributed information system with a dedicated central node. The subsystems are the entry points into the DL of the organizations participating in the project on the one hand, and are the information providers for the entire distributed system on the other hand (Pogorelko K.P., 2015).

Consequently, the key principle of the architecture is the independent development of digital data by participating organizations and with the simultaneous integration of data into a common digital information space. This is achieved by standardizing of metadata provision, data presentation formats, search interfaces and dictionaries (Kalenov N.E., 2012). These aspects are relevant to this date (Ahmad K., 2019; Windhager F., 2019). Thus, each digital library of the participating organizations can store data in its own formats and provide its own services, but at the same time, it must provide the same interfaces for all mentioned above.

The system central node should provide navigation, search and provision of data for all digital libraries in accordance with unified formats and services. The storage servers provide reliable storage and backup of digital content. In addition, they provide end-users an access to data redirected from the central digital portal. The data storage servers also provide the digitization centers with tools for data automation placement and update. This approach is applying today (Arshad H., 2020).

The main web-portal of DL SHR consolidates metadata received from digitization centers within a centralized repository, providing users with centralized access (to them). Interacting with digital

storage servers, it is also an integrated point of access to digital versions of scientific papers.

### 4 THE DIGITAL LIBRARY "SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF RUSSIA" METADATA PROFILES

In the DL SHR the information partitioning about all classes of objects is used. In particular, the various bibliographic levels structuring of digital copies of publications is used. (Baryshev R.A., 2020; Bonacchi C., 2019). It avoids information duplication, minimizes the number of misprints in the metadata and presents the information to the user in a holistic and consistent way. An application profile for supporting museum activities has been developed. The general survey of these specifics will be examined in more detail.

For the object class "Museum Object" special attributes are defined:

- Condition (safety);
- Year of collection;
- Receipt date;
- Affiliation of the collection.

Attributes such as "Title", "Description", "Keywords", "Source", etc., are inherited from the class common to museum objects and publications. This profile allows to standardize the metadata of physical museum items and multimedia (photo, video, audio) resources.

As well as additions and changes were made to the representations of the participating resources of the main profile, such as "Persons", "Performance", "Collections". In contrast to publications, the objects descriptions in various museums may have their own characteristics. It is impossible to provide a comprehensive set of necessary properties here. In this regard it is possible to determine additional properties for these objects. Accordingly it is possible to define additional properties of the object in the system administrator's interface. While representations of the corresponding fields are created in the data input and output interfaces. The same problem is being considered today (Corrales D.C., 2020; Zhmailo S.V., 2020). The entered values of additional fields are displayed in full information about the object, but they are not searched. Thus, the administrator can add such properties as the "Number of items", "Description author", "Collection author", "Geography", "Dimensions", "Age", "Method of receipt", "Preparations", etc.

Museum objects more often than publications are combined in collections. In this regard, the support for nested objects of type "Collection" with attributes (metadata) is implemented in the DL SHR:

- Identifier;
- Name;
- Collection type;
- Keywords;
- Description;
- Administrator;
- The number of elements in the collection;
- Storage;
- Notice;
- Elements of the collection.

Operations on collections are performed through the following system forms:

- Input and modification of information about the collection;
- Search and issue information about the collection;
- Issuing a list of collection objects;
- Inclusion and exclusion of collection objects;
- Collections removal;
- Indication of the collection when entering information about the object through an staging database.

An additional profile of advanced data storage support has been developed at the DL SHR. A number of new entities have been introduced in this profile. The main ones are:

- Class "Media Object". It is intended to describe a media object as a single whole, consisting of pieces of data with different functional load;
- Class "Part of the media object." This class allows within a single media object, for example, a museum subject, to have several parts with different functional loads. In particular, photographs from different angles, a video clip, accompanying information documents, etc.

## **5 THE DIGITAL LIBRARY "SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF RUSSIA" CONTENT PREPARATION TECHNOLOGY**

The following describes the distributed data preparation technology for DL SHR.

Guided by the coordinated approaches to the principles of digital books filling each organization participating in the program determines the publications from its funds, which it considers

appropriate to include in the electronic books (Wuttke U., 2019; Freire N., 2018). After that, the registered representative of this organization enters the dispatch system and checks to see if this publication and its author(s) are already registered in it. If there is no publication in the system, metadata and information about the author (if the author has not been entered earlier) are entering into the proposed template its. In this case, the "Current Status" template field assumes the value "proposed for digitization".

A representative of the editorial team periodically enters the dispatch system and receives a list of documents with the status "Proposed for digitization". The editorial team makes a decision on each of them about the advisability of entering into the digital library. If the document is to be digitized the value of the "Current Status" field changes to "Registered", and the number of this document is automatically entered into the record under which it will be entered into the electronic document. In the future, this number ("JSCC Number" field) is not subject to change. If for any reason it is not practical to digitize a document, the value of the "Current Status" field changes to "No Digitization".

A representative of the organization that forms the digital content enters the scheduling system and selects its records that have the current status of "Registered". After selecting publications and sending them for digitization, their current status changes - the value "In operation" is entered in this field. After the digitization process is completed, the status of the records changes to "Digitized", after being transferred to the JSCC editorial team, it is "Surrendered".

Thus, at each moment of time, the DL administrative group can receive information on how many and which publications are in operation, how many and by whom it has been digitized, etc. Such problems are being considered now (Fuchsguber L., 2019; Golub K., 2019; Munster S., 2019).

The technological field "Acceptance status" is filled in by the staff of the editorial team. working with this edition. Upon receipt of a digital copy of the publication, the value "accepted for work" is entered in this field. If there are no comments on the material, it is transferred to the technical group, and the field value changes to "accepted for uploading to the site", after downloading the field takes the value "published". If errors are detected in the material, the editor sets the "Acceptance Status" field to "Problems Detected", fills in the "Missing Pages" and "Comments on the Problem" fields and sends the appropriate message to the contractor. The contractor corrects the errors, accordingly changing the value of

the “Acceptance Status” field, after which the editor transfers the publication for downloading to the digital document.

Thus, the progress and timing of error correction is controlled, and additional statistics on the operation of the system can be obtained (Stegaeva M.V., 2020). Metadata about persons and publications from the technological system is downloaded to the digital server automatically when downloading an electronic publication (Samanta K.S., 2020; Silvis I.M., 2019).

## 6 THE DIGITAL LIBRARY "SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF RUSSIA" USER INTERFACE

DL SHR materials that have passed editorial control are available on the public website <http://e-heritage.lgb.ru/>.

The following navigation menu items are available for users:

- **Main** (Figure 1).

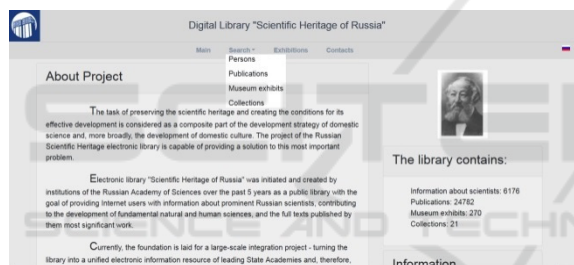


Figure 1: Page of the DL SHR website - “About the project”.

- **Search.** In the DL SHR, the search for objects of “person”, “publication”, “museum objects”, and “collections” has been implemented (Figure 1).

A multi-faceted search (in particular, thematic, scientific works, scholars, museum objects, by fragment of surname, year or place of birth, etc.) can be carried out in the DL SHR (Figure 2). One can use several search attributes using Boolean logic. The search result for a person by the surname “Euler” you can see on the Figure 2.

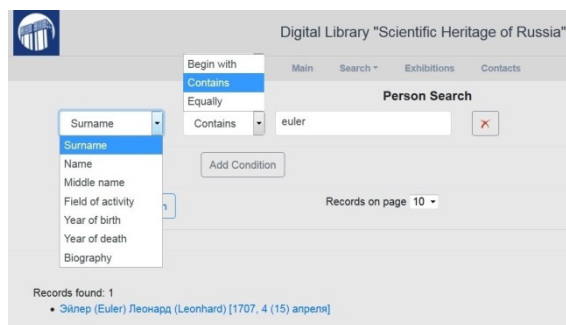


Figure 2: Possibilities of person search queries.

Name of the person we found in the previous step (in Cyrillic and Latin transcription) is an active link. Clicking on it, the user gets to a page dedicated to Leonhard Euler (Figure 3). On this page you can see (pressing “+”) biography of the scientist, short list with his bibliography and links to external sources related to Euler.

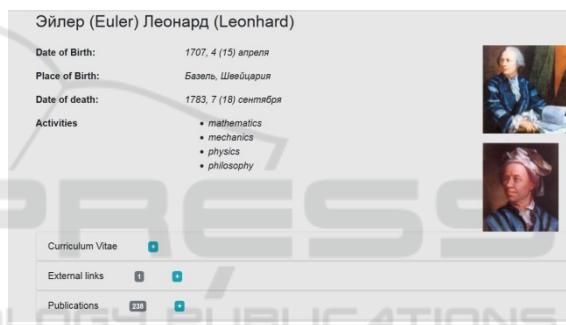


Figure 3: Page dedicated to Euler.

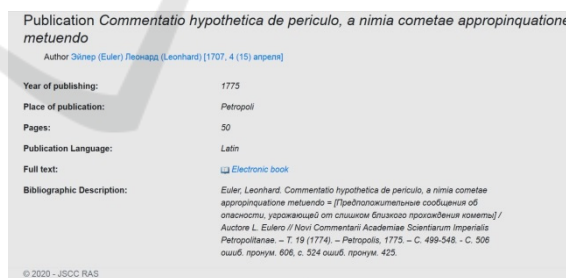


Figure 4: Example of the book description.

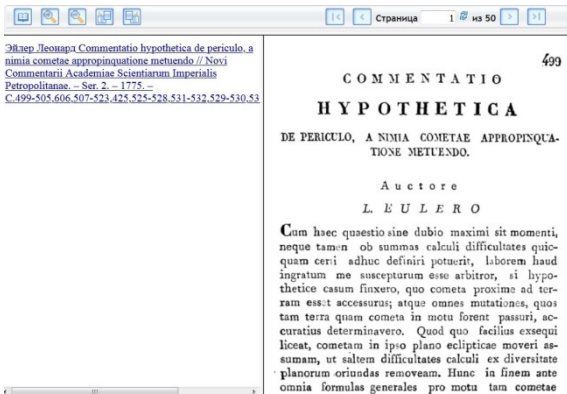


Figure 5: Full text visualisation.

Figure 6 shows the search capabilities for a fixed both time frame and language of publication (e.g. it's need to find publications in Latin published from 1700 to 1750). The search results are presented in Figure 6.

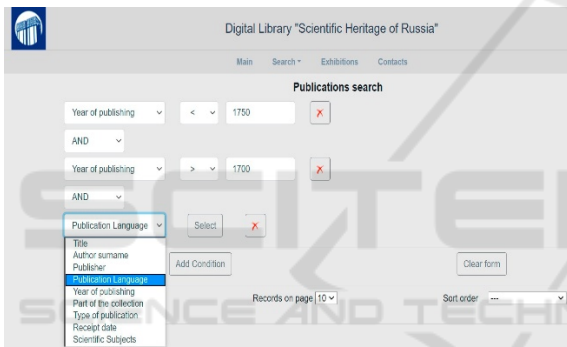


Figure 6: Search for a both fixed time frame and language of publication.

The surname of the author of each publication (Figure 7) is an active link, by clicking on which you can get information about the author.

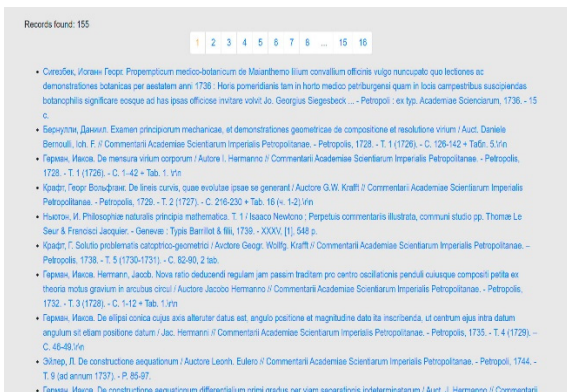


Figure 7: Publication search result.

DL SHR allows to search for a museum object both in full name and in its fragment. For example, it's necessary to find all museum objects related to mammoths. To do this, the name "mammoth" is entered in the search query. On this query in the collection is not only object "mammoth" but also an object the "the upper of a woolly mammoth" related to it.

Figures 8 and 9 show the possibilities and the search result for a fragment of the name of the museum object.

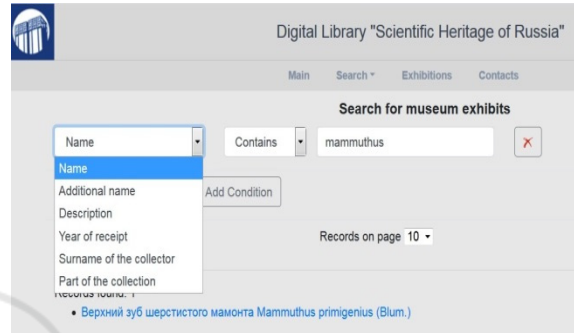


Figure 8: Search for the museum object name "mammoth".



Figure 9: "The upper of a woolly mammoth's tooth" as a search result for the name of the Museum object "Mammuthus".

Figure 10 shows the fragment of list of collections available in the DL SHR.

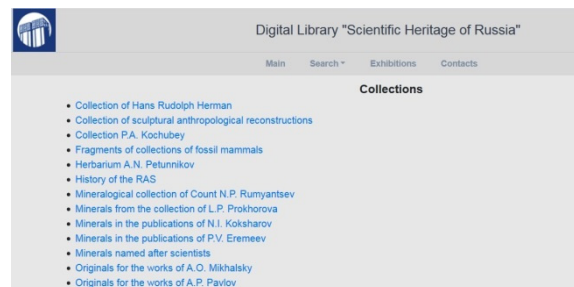


Figure 10: The list of collections available in the DL SHR.

Exhibitions.

DL SHR is an information resource allows to create and present interdisciplinary multimedia

virtual exhibitions on its platform. A virtual exhibition is an information resource that shows users diverse information (digital copies of printed materials, archival documents, museum items, etc.). This information is united by certain signs. Due to the fact that various types of materials are being presented in the process of forming digital science collections it becomes necessary to create multimedia objects, in particular, digital 3D models of museum objects and virtual reality objects (Sobolevskaya I.N., 2019). There are several virtual exhibitions have been implemented within the framework of the project on filling the DL SHR. Among them those dedicated to the 160th birthday of I.V. Michurin and the development of genetics in Russia, as well as the scientific heritage of M.M. Gerasimov (Figure. 11).

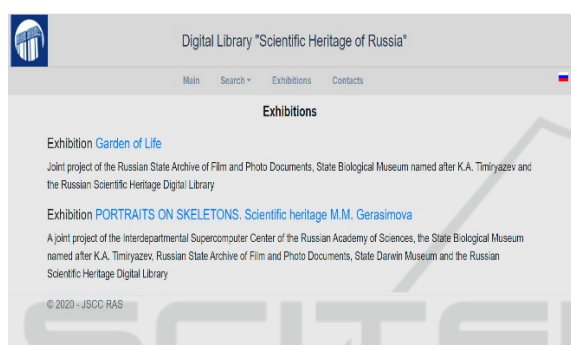


Figure 11: Virtual exhibitions carried out the DL SHR.

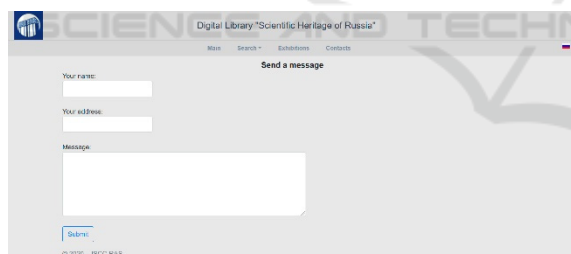


Figure 12: Contact form.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

For now, data on more than 6,100 scientists working in Russia since the 18th century have been entered into the DL SHR and the full texts of more than 24,500 publications that are not subject to copyright law are available. Scanned text is not recognized, except for the table of contents, which provides navigation within the publication. In addition, a number of digital objects from natural science museums are presented in the DL SHR. Along with photographs, 3D models of some museum objects are

presented, including a collection of M.M. Gerasimov's anthropological reconstructions and I.V. Michurin's collection of fruits.

Although the resources of the DL SHR are focused primarily on Russian users, as practice has shown, many foreign specialists who are interested in the problems of the development of science turn to the DL SHR. Table 1 presents the "top 15" distribution of demand for DL SHR by countries (Pogorelko K.P., 2017).

Table 1: The "top 15" distribution of demand for DL SHR by countries.

№	Country	Books viewed	Pages downloaded
1	Russia	144573	5060276
2	Ukraine	28614	1228989
3	Belarus	6114	208723
4	Bulgaria	2004	126883
5	Kazakhstan	3181	114877
6	Germany	2701	107504
7	USA	2857	101974
8	Poland	1707	65480
9	Italy	1219	51838
10	Lithuania	778	50378
11	Azerbaijan	901	39964
12	Israel	1008	36345
13	Armenia	892	31501
14	Moldova	817	27751
15	France	756	28053

According to the data generated in the system administration unit in 2019, 328.126 "effective" calls to the DL SHR were received from 68.797 different IP addresses (effective refers to the address during which at least one page of the digital book was downloaded).

Although (except Russia) the top 15 includes 7 CIS states a significant part of whose population is fluent in Russian, representatives of a number of other countries (Bulgaria, Germany, the USA) are also quite active in the DL SHR and are at the top of the ranked list.

Long term using of the DL SHR and its high demand from users have shown that it fulfils its tasks related to the preservation of the scientific heritage of Russia and the popularization of scientific achievements.

The experience gained during the development of the Library and its content is supposed to be used in the creation of a common digital space of scientific knowledge in accordance with the concept given in (Antopol'skij A.B., 2019).

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