Russian Federation Academic Libraries and Infrastructure(s): The Far East

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The Region and the Challenges

- The Russian Far East (Dal’nii vostok Rossii) is one of the regions of the Pacific Rim that remains by far, in North American scholarly literature, one of the least examined regions of the former Soviet Union.

- Today, the Far East Federal district of Russia includes the following regions: Amur oblast’, the Jewish Autonomous District, Kamchatka, Koryakia, Khabarovsk Krai, Magadan oblast’, Republic of Sakha, Sakhalin oblast’, Primorskii krai. The total territory of this Federal district is 6,215,900 square kilometers and this constitutes 36 percent of the entire territory of the Russian Federation. According to the 2002 census the population of the district was 6,692,865 representing approximately 5% of the population of the Russian Federation. Filatkina, Irina V. "Between East and West: Libraries of the Russian Far East." IFLA Journal 32.2 (2006): 147-52.

- Access to the region is also problematic due to the long distances between the urban centers it and the lack of an efficient network of roads. This in turn has hampered the development of a sustainable information infrastructure for the various communities in the region.
The Russian Far East
Web Presence of Governmental Portals

Victor Ishaev
Governor of Khabarovsk Krai

Khabarovsk Krai is a very rich land. The large territory boasts green forests and clean, clear rivers. Visit, enjoy beautiful nature and parks. Flora, natural resources are abundant. The industrial potential of the Krai should be maximized. The scientific potential of the Krai should be developed. The Krai is a unique location at the transportation routes between Europe, Asia and America. However, the main purpose of the Krai is to help people, who live and work in difficult conditions, who long for change and desire a better life for themselves, their families and their country.

The formation of a new economic system in Russia couldn’t help but influence industry as well as other branches of the Khabarovsk Krai economy. For instance, a considerable part of the Krai’s enterprises are now in the hands of private owners. A free market infrastructure, including a stock exchange, are being formed. Land reforms are also underway. Under the new system, enterprises compete for market share and investments in order to foster modern management practices.

The trend today in Khabarovsk Krai is the restoration of economic ties towards the countries of the Pacific Rim, and to increase industrial exports. Companies from the People’s Republic of China, People’s Republic of Korea, United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore, in addition to others, have become the Krai’s regular trade partners.

Khabarovsk Krai is one of the most attractive regions of Russia for investment, particularly in the development of natural resources, defence conveyance, transportation infrastructure, and the production of consumer goods and services for domestic markets. More than 600 enterprises with foreign investments are registered in Khabarovsk Krai. Foreign investors have already started investing into the Krai’s private businesses and projects. We invite Russian and foreign partners to follow the example of those who already believe in the potential of Khabarovsk Krai and brought their capital, their knowledge and their goods. We hope that this information will be useful for those who are interested in the development of mutual cooperation.
Information Infrastructure- Cyberinfrastructure

- There are multiple interpretations of the term “Information Infrastructure”. (Global Information Infrastructure Commission: http://www.giic.org/)
- Information Infrastructure (s) as tied in with the development of Information Communication Technologies.
- The developmental path of the information infrastructure includes both the global and local components.
- If the information infrastructure is a broad category, then the cyberinfrastructure can be narrowly defined as e science by some. The NSF defined the term in 2003 to described integrated, ubiquitous increasingly pervasive application of scientific computing and information technology approaches that are already changing the society. (http://research.calit2.net/cibio/archived/CIBIO_FINAL.pdf)
- Within the context of the proposed study, I will limit to the information infrastructure within the academic libraries of the Far East of the Russian Federation.
Scope of the project

- This exploratory case study will examine the current state of academic library infrastructure in Vladivostok. Vladivostok is a major city with several major universities of the Russian Pacific Rim.
- The outcome of this case study will be presented as a research paper that will discuss and assess the current state of library administrative practices as well as service-based structures and their impact on the academic users, especially on the students.
- The reasons for choosing Vladivostok are tied to relatively easier access from the United States, and Vladivostok has five important academic libraries. These libraries are Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service (http://lib.vvsu.ru/russian/); Vladivostok State Medical University Library; the Library of the Far East Technical University (http://library.fentu.ru/); Admiral Neve’Iskii library of Scientific-Technical Information Center of Moscow State University Branch (http://ntic.msun.ru/ntic/index.asp); and the library of the Pacific Ocean State University of Economics (http://lib.psue.ru/). These academic institutions primarily focus on social sciences, sciences, and technology related issues.
Site description and rationale


- **Site Description:**
  - In 2000, FESTU’s library served approximately 8,000 students and 80 faculty members. The library has a comprehensive research-level collection that includes the most complete holdings of technical books in the Far East. Materials are organized by one of the two nationally standardized cataloging systems and shelved in open stacks. Each year the University Library lends more than one million books and journals. Before Perestroika, the University Library was adding 50,000 new books each year. But Russia’s economic turmoil has created such fiscal constraints that it has been impossible to keep the library collections current. Acquisitions dropped to only 11,000 volumes annually, including donations and textbooks. It is an established practice for Russian academic libraries to provide all required textbooks for students.
  - This paralyzing lack of funds affects the University Library on many levels. Almost as acute as the need for current materials is the need for space. Shelves were completely full and overflowed onto the floor. A new multistory library building remained empty more than a year after completion because there were no funds for shelving and moving (Ronayne). It will be interesting to see how the reference librarians and the freshmen at the university interact with each other under such constraints. (Ronayne, Betty. "Libraries at the End of Russia.." World Libraries. 10. 1-2 (2000): 6-10. [http://www.worlib.org/vol10no1-2/ronayne_v10n1-2.shtml](http://www.worlib.org/vol10no1-2/ronayne_v10n1-2.shtml))
Реализация программы повышения квалификации по приоритетным направлениям

Новости ИПК

Институт повышения квалификации и переподготовки педагогических кадров (ИПК) при ДВГТУ в соответствии с приказами Министерства образования и науки Российской Федерации от 01.12.2008 № 1780 и от 24.11.2008 № 1681 реализует программу повышения квалификации по приоритетным направлениям:

- № 1681 от 24 ноября 2008 года «О повышении квалификации в 2009 году педагогических работников государственных образовательных учреждений начального профессионального и среднего профессионального образования, находящихся в ведении Федерального агента по образованию»
- № 1780 от 01.12.2008 года «О повышении квалификации в 2009 году научно-педагогических работников федеральных государственных образовательных учреждений высшего профессионального образования, находящихся в ведении Федерального агента по образованию».

Спартакиада преподавателей

Новости университета

В Дальневосточном государственном техническом университете стартовала спартакиада профессорско-преподавательского состава и сотрудников вуза. Спартакиада проводится с целью повышения роли физической культуры в укреплении здоровья преподавателей и сотрудников ДВГТУ.
Доступ к реферативной базе данных INSPEC

29.01.2009 г.

В рамках контракта, подписанного с Федеральным агентством по науке и инновациям, Национальный электронно-информационный консорциум (НЭИКОН) предоставил ДВГТУ доступ к крупнейшей реферативной базе данных в области физики, электротехники, электроники, компьютерных наук, ИТ, производства и механотроники INSPEC.

Адрес доступа: http://search.elsevier.com

Доступ предоставлен до 30 ноября 2009 г.

Доступ к журналам по проблематике нанотехнологий издательства Nature Publishing Group

29.01.2009 г.

В рамках госконтракта, подписанного с Федеральным агентством по науке и инновациям, Национальный электронно-информационный консорциум (НЭИКОН) предоставил ДВГТУ доступ к пяти журналам издательства Nature Publishing Group.

Адрес доступа: http://www.nature.com

Доступ к коллекции по технологиям и материалам издательства SAGE

29.01.2009 г.
The Catalog
Research Outline:

• The participants will be asked to sign appropriate consent forms before conducting interviews and the IRB waiver from the UCLA Office for protection of research subjects will be secured prior to the conducting of the planned study.
• Exploratory Case Study Plan:
  • Design the case study protocol:
    – determine the required skills
    – develop and review the protocol
  • Conduct the case study:
    – prepare for data collection
    – distribute questionnaire
    – conduct interviews and video recordings
• Analyze case study evidence:
  – Data Coding.
• Develop conclusions, recommendations, and study the implications based on the evidence gathered.
• Study Sample: Reference Librarians at the Far Eastern State Technical University Library (FESTU), Vladivostok, Russian Federation.
• The freshmen at the same university.
Primary Research Questions

• What information literacy strategies are used by the librarians in their day to day functioning to help students from disparate socio-economic groups in their collegiate academic activities and/ or fulfilling the course requirements in a timely manner? Besides interviewing the librarians, I would also draw a sample of students and interview them towards this end.

• What patterns and changes in staffing as well as technologies can be revealed by looking at various information infrastructures in their historical contexts over the last 18 years? The staffing patterns will be examined after conducting interviews with the librarians, and library administrators. In addition to these interviews, I would look at available documentary evidence.

• How do the students view the availability of computing resources and other support in their academic success?

• The focus of this study will also include various student activities at the library. I will focus on the following aspects of the student activities:
  – What is the nature of the participation of students in the library?
  – What types of academic activities do the students engage in the library?
  – What is the nature of student participation in these activities?
  – What do the librarians think about student activities?
  – What is the role played by the University Library in the academic lives of the students?

• The term “information literacy strategies” is used intermittently with the term “bibliographic instructions”. These terms indicate the set of pedagogical activities that the reference librarians use in order to help users on how to find the information they need.
Possible Interview Questions for the academic reference librarians in Vladivostok:

- What patterns of acquisition and access emerge from the current information environment and infrastructure?
- What is the perceived need for modification in the current information infrastructure?
- What patterns and changes can be revealed by looking at various information infrastructures in their historical contexts over the last 18 years with respect to student support?
- Was there any change in the perceived needs related to access to the internet and the WWW?
- What characteristics of the categories of computing use contribute to the patterns of library usage by the patrons as well as the staff?
- What managerial issues arise from the rapid acquisition of information technology and how important have those technologies become to the organization and to the students?
- Since replacement and enhancement of information technologies are projected to increase, what economic impact will that have on the planning and budgeting of the university library (libraries)?
- Was there any particular budgetary and/or systematic preparation for the implementation of client/server computing in the library setting?
- What was the level of managerial commitment to information technology?
Interview Questions (Continued)

- What was the level of faculty and academic staff commitment to information technology?
- What was the degree of decentralization of information technologies?
- What resources were or will be needed for conversion to a client/server environment?
- What additional resources will be needed now and in the future for university community access to the WWW?
- How do the academic librarians in Vladivostok’s institutions of higher learning define information infrastructure?
- How do the respondents view the availability of computing resources in comparison to peer institutions?
- How are information technology resources allocated?
- How are information technology resources financed?
- How will the institution balance the need for technological changes with the need to continue the accomplishment of routine tasks?
- How does a given university plan to meet current demand for service in an academic library while preparing for strategic long-term goals?
- How does the university evaluate the cost-benefit of its computing environment in the academic library setting?
- How do the academic librarians perceive intellectual property rights with respect to information sharing under the fair academic use doctrine?
Duration of Study : 8 weeks

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I will begin analysis of potential data collected above, by carefully reading and reflection on all of my field notes, documents, and video recordings of the interviews. The first such overview is planned at the second week of the data collection. This will serve two purposes: it will allow me to prepare better for the interviews that I plan to conduct in the third week of the study, and it will allow me to develop preliminary patterns and codes that will help to refine my research questions. The data will be analyzed to see if we notice any developing typologies/categories. I will focus on the relationships between these various categories as they pertain to the research questions that I am trying to answer. I will assemble all the materials that I will gather from this study in broad categories. I will then compare my field notes, as well as interviews with librarians to elucidate common patterns and variances in responses. I will then examine the evidence for changes in the information desk staffing patterns over the period of the study. I will also examine the available documentary evidence to see if changes in staffing patterns were justified by those who were responsible for scheduling.
Questions and Comments?