Electronic Archives of Documentary Heritage for Balkan Wars

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I. Introduction

Protection and preservation of our cultural and literary-historical and documentary heritage are particularly relevant today. Despite the absence of a national program for the protection of literary heritage and plans for digitization, in recent years the coordination between Bulgarian libraries and similar institutions is done better in the form of consortiums that are applied in programs specific libraries and marks the beginning of a national network of electronic catalogues.

Digitization of book collections as a means of protection is one of the priorities in the development of Bulgarian libraries. The preconditions for this process have long been available - these are rapidly increasing number of Internet users in the country, the development of technology, more and more difficult to save and protect the growing book fund.

Excited by these issues and the idea to provide comprehensive access to documentary heritage, several similar institutions joined forces and applied in a competition Fund "Scientific Research" of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science “Financing of basic research and scientifically applied research in the priority areas of “Cultural Heritage” and the scientific field of “Culture and Art, History”- project Electronic archive of documentary heritage of the Balkan wars.

II. Details

In the context of the organization in 2012 National celebration the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Balkan War we aim to present to the Bulgarian and European public documentary heritage in Veliko Tarnovo about the Balkan wars through the creation of a common electronic archive of documents, photographs, letters, books and pictures stored in special funds archives, libraries, galleries and museums in the Territory of Veliko Tarnovo.

The creation of an electronic archive of documentary heritage in Veliko Tarnovo about Balkan wars is achieved by using the methods of art, archival, archeography, comparative analytical method for the dating of stored materials, using specialized software to build digital databases and submitting them online. The results are: digital repository and launch the Virtual Museum of the Balkan Wars, released a festschrift "Bulgarian writer and war" thematic exhibition and national scientific conference with international participation.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). In its scientific team are included lecturers, researchers, graduated students from the University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius ", Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, BAS, Regional Museum of History, State Military Archive, Regional State Archives - Veliko Tarnovo.
The objectives of this project perfectly matched to the main functions and tasks of the applicant organizations and team members, namely: protection and promotion of our cultural and historical heritage and providing information about it in a new reality of the digital society. Today, major scientific and public libraries more rapidly acquire the appearance of digital centers and provide new information resources and services in the electronic space and thus realize a long-term trend of more tangible virtual presence of the library in the public domain in the national and international level.

IV. Conclusion

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III. Results and Impact of the Project

As a result of the project various activities and products are created that are factual conclusion of the project proposal. Digital repository is built, which will launch the Virtual Museum of the Balkan Wars: http://bw.libraryvt.com processed and added to 788 are descriptions of documents and artifacts of the organizations - partner; (pictures –electronicarchive and BWa-fs-16)


Thematic exhibitions are organized. A documentary for educational purposes is created.

In Veliko Tarnovo was organized a national conference with international participation, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Balkan wars. Proceedings of the conference are forthcoming and will come in the month of January 2014

Implementation of the project has a positive effect on:
- Increasing the interest among professionals, students and the general public to the history and problems of the Balkan wars and their impact on international relations;
- Improving good neighborly relations between the peoples and countries of the Balkan region;
- Improving information services for research, education and social management;
- Creating a supportive environment for young scientists through conditions and opportunities for research.

The Fund has retained many pictures depicting life in the city during the war years 1912-1913.

Regional Art Gallery "Boris Denev" - Veliko Tarnovo: provides 70 photographic reproductions of original works of the famous Bulgarian artist Boris Denev of his wartime period.

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**Kalina Ivanova** is deputy director of Regional Public Library “Petko Rachev Slaveykov”- Veliko Tarnovo since 2001. She completed her PhD in public communications and information sciences at University of Library Studies and Informational Technologies-Sofia in 2012. In October 2013 she started to work as an assistant professor at Veliko Tarnovo’s University “ St. Ciril and St. Methodius”. Member of the Managing Board of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association. She is head of the research team of the project “Development of an electronic archive of documentary heritage of the Balkan Wars”.

**Ivan Alexandrov** is director of Regional Public Library “Slaveykov”, Veliko Tarnovo since 2000. He completed her PhD in public communications and information sciences at University of Library Studies and Informational Technologies-Sofia in 2013. Specialized librarianship, library participation in fellowships to exchange experience in libraries in Iowa and Colorado, USA; Project continuing education program Socrates / Grundtvig libraries in Gateshead, UK and Finland. Ivan Aleksandrov is a municipal councilor and a member of the Committee on Education and Culture in the City Council - Veliko Tarnovo.