



Electronic Archives of Documentary Heritage for Balkan Wars

Kalina Ivanova* and Ivan Alexandrov

Regional Public Library "Petko Rachev Slaveykov", Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +359-62-62-80-98; e-mail: kdemireva@mail.bg

Short Communication

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Article history:

Received 20 August 2014

Accepted 9 November 2014

Available online 17 November 2014

Journal of Balkan Libraries Union

Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 34-36, 2014.

Digital Object Identifier: 10.16918/bluj.51113

ABSTRACT

In this article we present information about the activities that were implemented in the project "Electronic Archive of documentary heritage of the Balkan wars", to build a database of archival documents, photographs, new traced and researched archival materials. Information will be provided about the form and type of documents with which every institution-partner in the project will take part. The article is emphasized on the need this digital archive to include other similar institutions nationwide, and become part of the European digital library – Europeana.

Keywords: Digitization of cultural heritage, Electronic archive of documents, photographs and more, Archival materials, Libraries, Museums, Galleries.

Copyright © 2014 Balkan Libraries Union - All rights reserved.

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. Each of the partnering organizations is responsible for certain activities within the two-year period that should be realized.

Specific actions by the applicant organization in the face of Regional Public Library "P. Slavejkov" –Veliko Tarnovo to support the implementation of the project are:

- Preparation of structural scheme for the selection of documentary records and other material to be included in electronic databases.;
- Study of special funds of archives, libraries, galleries and museums and other institutions in Veliko Tarnovo's region;
- Treatment of selected documentary array to digitize (dating, investigation for originality, historiographical and bibliographic description);
- Preparation and printing of commemorative editions, "Bulgarian writer and war": Research and newly discovered documents in the Central Military Archives, Anthology, "Balkan War in Bulgarian poetry and prose" and "Balkan War in Bulgarian history", a collection of selected articles;
- Selection of newly and studied documentary array for producing a commemorative exhibition for the Balkan wars;
- Organizing a national conference with international participation and presentation of project results to the scientific and educational circles in Bulgaria and abroad;
- Dissemination of results among archives, libraries and museums;
- Presentation of the exhibition "Bulgarian writer and war" by the Fund of National Literary Museum – Sofia.
- Specific actions by the partner organization Central Library of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences-Sofia:
- Adaptation of the program BASLIB for the project. BASLIB working environment - Windows XP / 7;
- Installation of the software;
- Development of a database model according to the type of the documents;
- Scanning of documents;
- Presentation of information on the website of Central Library of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Regional Public Library "P. R. Slaveykov" - Veliko Tarnovo and periodic maintenance;
- Participation in the conference and retrospective;
- Presentation and promotion of BASLIB modules.

Organizations, partners of the RPL "P. R. Slaveykov" include the following collections of archival material:

State Military Archive –Veliko Tarnovo: provides scanned images and documents, 1912 files total.

Regional State Archives Veliko Tarnovo: provides circulars and telegrams from District Governor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs; protocols and orders of the mayor, other letters, pocket notebooks, travel notes, journals and picture postcard image of the front troops from the war.

Regional Museum of History - Veliko Tarnovo: provides for virtual museum copies of materials related to the Balkan war held by Department "Modern and Contemporary History" original photos, documents and memorabilia featuring Tarnovo regiments (18 Etarski

Infantry Regiment, 20th Infantry Regiment Dobrogea and 46 Infantry Regiment) in the wars for national unification 1912-1913 year.

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.

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)

Commemorative publications are printed:

RADEV, Ivan. Bulgarian writer and war <1912-1918>: Vol 1 Archive. Interpretations. - Veliko Tarnovo: NB "PRSlaveykov" 2013. - 255 p.

Radev, Ivan. Bulgarian Literature and War <1912-1918>: Anthology., Veliko Tarnovo: NB "PRSlaveykov" 2013. - 303 p.

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.

IV. Conclusion

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.



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. Cyril 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.