

The Electronic Information Space for Russian Oriental Studies

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There are dozens of research groups in Russia working in the field of Oriental Studies which are dealing with a lot of valuable historical and cultural sources kept in the libraries, archives, museums and other depositories. Only a few of these resources are, some are described and/or catalogued, and a large amount of them is waiting its scholar.

There is a great discrepancy between the amount of cultural values studied over now in Russia and the degree of their technical, technological and financial support. It is the result of nowadays deficit financing of Russian science and culture. That's why Russian Oriental studies though of world significance are nevertheless not integrated in mutual world information space but are shrunk into local research groups.

Now when Internet is spread all over the world there occurs an opportunity of uniting both up-to-date and fundamental oriental information into a mutual net available as for scholars working in different regions as well as for the world community. Now there are about two dozens orientalist WWW-sites and servers in Russia.

To increase this process the International Association of Oriental Information Centers was established to join about 15 orientalist centers (research, museum, library, etc.) in Russian and other CIS republics as in Georgia and Tadjikistan. The main goal is to supply them with appropriate equipment, technologies and education for to create an integrated set of catalogues, electronic libraries and databases of ancient sources and research materials. These joined centers will have the Internet access, email, web sites and teleconferencing, as well as regional conferences and workshops. The EurAsian Orientalist Internet Server (EAOS) established in Moscow in 1997 is seen as one of effective tools for joining these centers as well as for their methodical and technological support.