Network Update

Russian Resources on the Internet

by Artemi Romanov, University of Colorado, Boulder

The explosive growth of foreign language resources on the Internet has been reflected in the Network Update column of the *IALL Journal* over the last several years. However, as an instructor of Russian language, I was somewhat disappointed that the discussion lists dealing with Russian and other Slavic languages, as well as numerous Russian sites on the Internet, have not even been mentioned in the column. That prompted me to write this brief report.

Russian Lists The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages sponsors *SEELANGS*, a BITNET list where Russian and East European languages and literatures are discussed not only by American scholars, but also by European and Russian colleagues. A subscriber can expect to receive between 10 and 30 messages a day. The topics under discussion include textbooks, enrollments, methods of teaching, upcoming conferences and advertising of exchange programs. Contributions are mostly in English, but occasionally appear in Latinized Cyrillic. To subscribe, contact: LISTSERV@CUNYVM.BITNET.

(Editor's Note: for this, and most listservs, you send a message to the given address, putting nothing in the subject field, and typing the following on the first and only line of the message itself: SUB SEELANGS John Doe. SUB is the command to subscribe, followed by the name of the list, and then by your own name.)

A somewhat less frequently visited list for instructors of Russian language and literature is run by Douglas Clayton. This is not a true listserv group, but rather an informal e-mail list to discuss any aspect of Russian language pedagogy, curriculum development, Russian resources etc. To subscribe, contact: dclayton@acadvm1.uottowa.ca.

FRIENDS is a moderated listserv which focuses on Russian-American relations, including the mechanics of free market economy in Russia, educational exchanges, environmental issues and travel. It is also a useful source for locating email pen pals for Russian language students in America. To visit their web server, use the following URL: http://solar.rtd.utk.edu/friends/home.html. To subscribe, contact: friends@solar.rtd.utk.edu.

Russian and Slavic Lists

The Open Media Research Institute (OMRI) produces a daily digest of news, Monday through Friday, concerning Russia and the former Soviet republics. The daily digest can be received electronically via the *OMRI-L* list and is also available on the web: http://www.omri.cs/OMRI.html. Subscribers receive 4 to 6 pages daily, dealing mostly with political and economic developments in the region. Issues of culture content are rarely presented. To subscribe, contact: listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu.

EEMedia is a new unmoderated list for the discussion of topics in Russian and Easte European film and television. The list enables participants not only to exchange their opinions about films but also provides a forum to communicate current research interests and to discuss methods of teaching Russian and East European film. To subscribe, contact: eemedia@mcfeeley.cc.utexas.edu.

EE-WOMEN is an unmoderated discussion list that focuses on women's issues relating to Russia, the CIS and Eastern European countries. The list is sponsored by the Civic Education Project and provides interesting and thought provocative material for Russian and Slavic instructors. To subscribe, contact: listproc@cep.nonprofit.net.

Russian Sites on the World-Wide Web (WWW)

Visual and textual material on contemporary Russian literature and culture are available on the Web. In most cases, you must first enable your web browser to display Cyrillic fonts to be able to read text from many Russian sites.

Cyrillic Fonts

There are several Cyrillic code pages in existence, but the one used almost exclusively on the Internet is RFC-1489 KOI-8, usually known simply as KOI-8. Code pages allocate the letters of the Cyrillic alphabet to the characters numbered from 128 to 255 in a standard 256-character set. Setting up Cyrillic

fonts and drivers takes some time, but this is a job entirely within the reach of the ordinary user. As a reward you get instant access to the extensive Russian KOI-8 resources available on the Web.

Cyrillic fonts for X-Windows plus installation instructions are available at: http://www.cs.umd.edu/~cema/russia.html.

To cyrillicize your Windows turn to: http://www.lehigh.edu/pv02/public/www-data/howtocyr.html.

A complete Macintosh cyrillization guide can be found at: http://www.pitt.edu/~mapst57/rus/russian.html.

Russian Sites

One of the best access points to numerous Russian sites on the Web is provided by *REESweb*, which is maintained by the Center for Russian and East European Studies of the University of Pittsburgh. It has an extensive directory of resources by discipline and by type. It also contains a regularly updated list of WWW servers in Russia and NIS and valuable information on document repositories, interactive databases, software and multimedia. The URL of this site is http://www.pitt.edu/~cjp/rees.html.

Some of the links to WWW servers in Russia are agonizingly slow and not always reliable. I found the following Russian sites to be easily accessible and not overly slow. Through the Window-to-Russia server you will be able to visit the Moscow Kremlin and a number of other museums in the capital of Russia, to see an exhibition of contemporary Russian fine arts, to get access to the variety of information resources from Russia. Contact: http://www.kiae.su/www/wtr/whatsnew.html.

The St. Petersburg Web Home page—http://www.spb.su/—provides a variety of information about St. Petersburg, including current events, business, culture, lifestyle, local and international. Here you can also get access to HTML version of the Russia's best English-language weekly newspaper.

The Russian News Agency, TASS, which is the Russian equivalent of UPI, AP, or Reuters, covers Russia as well as the nations of CIS and other countries of the world. This service is transmitted 24 hours a day and available at http://www1.trib.com/NEWS/tass.html.

The *FREENet* web server, http://www.free.net/, provides information on Russian research institutes and organizations of Russian Academy of Sciences, universities and colleges.

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