

RUSSIAN - AMERICAN LIBRARY DIALOGUE

Policy Statement

Preamble

The dialogue was launched in 2016 as an initiative of the Russian State Library for Foreign Languages, Kettering Foundation, Russian and American library associations and a leading group of library specialists from both countries.

The Dialogue affirms the role of modern libraries as active participants in local community's life. The change of customary functions of libraries from work FOR the communities to the work HAND IN HAND with the community allows libraries to promote knowledge more effectively and become centers of social life.

Mission

Support of free exchange of ideas and experience of development and transformation of libraries to create more consolidated and open to changes worldwide library community.

Goals and objectives

- To enhance the potential of Russian and American cultural institutions for expanding cooperation and professional exchange, strengthening of mutual understanding.
 - Facilitate library's development concept, relying on the results of research and exchange of practical experience between Russian and American libraries.
 - To define and elaborate 3 components containing the crucial meaning for the strengthening of the library role in the society (predestination, mission and people).
 - To broaden the understanding of new roles, knowledge and competencies essential for library workers in 21st century.
 - To record and discuss advanced practices of work with the community, promotion of civil literacy and finding collective solutions to problems solving.
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- To work out and organize new educational programs for library employees and representatives of local authorities, which will confirm an active role of libraries in the life of communities.

Structure

- Chairmen
- Co-chairmen
- Secretaries
- National Organizing Committees

Participants

Experts are the representatives of Russian and American national library associations, leading libraries, pertinent universities and professional press. The list of national delegation of 10 people is designated by the Organizing Committee of each country.

Schedule and subjects of annual sessions

Sessions of the Dialogue are held annually in each participating country alternately.

Topics for discussion are designated by the decision of Organizing Committees from both countries, but the final word is given to the host country.

When necessary, sessions can be held online.

Topics of meetings may include, but are not limited to the following questions: how to assess the relevance of the library to the needs of the community using not only quantitative indicators; how to overcome the stereotyped attitude towards the role and place of libraries in the life of the community, common among both librarians and their clients; how to identify the knowledge and skills that librarians will need to fulfill the mission of the library as an integral part of the life of the community.

Final documents

Outcome documents, containing the topic of the meeting, the dates and the venue of the meeting, the list of participants, brief summaries of thematic blocks, general conclusions and recommendations for their implementation by libraries of Russia and the USA, are drawn up according to the results of the annual meetings.

Activities during the year

Permanent Organizing Committees inform the professional community about the results of the meetings; contribute to the implementation of the developed recommendations for the work of libraries.

They hold joint online meetings on a quarterly basis or as needed.

They lead substantive and organizational preparation for the next meeting.

The funding

The financial spending on holding the annual meeting (except travelling to the host country and back) are borne by the host. Travel expenses of the meeting venue are borne by the members of the guest country. Parties provide each other with documentary support in seeking funding for annual meetings.