Electronic Library, Electronic Publishing, Electronic Document Delivery

Impressions from a Belarusian-German Seminar

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There is an „information burst“ going on in our world. Therefore we think more about the role of information in modern society and in our personal life. The political waves of the peaceful revolutionary process virtually start to erase the borders of the countries drawn on the maps.

A little more than ten years ago we had not even a concept for „Belarusian-German relations“, because both countries, the new united Germany and the Republic of Belarus did not exist on the maps of the world. Today the communication between our countries covers all aspects of public life, culture, science and education. We have laid a foundation for our economic and cultural cooperation. We already have had some experience in the joint solution of internal and international problems. And, what is most striking, the warm human contacts of the people consolidate and accelerate the process of mutual understanding between our countries and broaden our view.

Today no country in the world can yield their citizens more freedom of choice than the "state" of the Internet. The people, freely migrating in a boundless information space, know how to use the invaluable treasures of human thought and creatively increase the achievements of mankind by intellectual work. These people become the pride of every country in our time. In educating, shaping and supporting such persons we see a new social role of the libraries.

It is clearly visible that libraries turn into modern information centers. The introduction of new information know-how and the access to electronic information by means of an electronic library satisfy the increasing need of effective and comprehensive information.

All steps of the work with documents (publication, search, delivery) are automated. The fast electronic delivery of documents is promoted by the growth of global information networks, by the increase of transfer rates of dates, by the capability of online search in the electronic catalogues and databases con-

¹ Republic Scientific and Technical Library (RSTL), Head of the Department in Mogilev. Seminar 3. - 7. April 2001, Minsk, Belarusian State University, University Library