

INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE RESEARCH IN RUSSIA

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Medicine is one of the most rapidly developing discipline and information in medicine and health care is needed to update every 3-5 years. Availability of modern scientific databases and their accessibility for researchers provide research in medicine and health care relevant information.

The world has moved over to electronic information. Medical libraries in Russia follow the world's information trends. In recent years Russia has seen emergence of new Russian databases and electronic journals, and started to purchase well-known foreign databases. Access to such databases as well and their promotion among the scientific community remain challenging. Medical libraries serve an important resource to meet this challenge. Medical libraries provide different types of information ensuring compliance with copyright.

Russia has focused on developing a high-tech medical care. Such policy requires evidence-based medical information for clinicians; subsequently, it will be necessary to conduct more presentations of full-text electronic libraries and databases among the scientific community as well as to develop their interfaces in the Russian language.

Current role of medical libraries in Russia

- Development of electronic libraries
- Access to international electronic libraries
- Development of distant learning

Federal Electronic Medical Library

In 2011 the Federal Electronic Medical Library has been developed as a part of the unified state information system in healthcare as a reference system: <http://www.femb.ru>



Fig.1. The website of the Federal Electronic Medical Library

As of January 1st, 2016 FEMB has 22175 documents on open access.

Documents are posted in line with the Russian Law on Copyright and Related Rights.

FEMB is based on the Central Scientific Medical Library stocks.

FEMB is an electronic information system that includes catalogue of electronic documents, a user interface and hardware and software to maintain the system and timely update, register and store its stocks, as well as ensure electronic searches and net access to resources.

Sources of the FEMB stocks:

Digitization of publications from stocks of participants

Collection/purchase of electronic documents from publishers

Collection of electronic publications on open access on Internet, and

Electronic documents from authors/rightholders (purchased or exchanged)

Central scientific medical library at the Russian Semashko Medical University is the biggest medical library in Russia:

<http://www.scsml.rssi.ru/>



Fig.2. The website of the Central scientific medical library

The Library was founded on May 1st, 1919 and comprised collection of books and journals of state medical organizations in Russia. Currently the Library stores a unique collection of scientific publications on medicine and healthcare as well a unique historical publications dating back to the 19th century.

The library stock includes 3 million copies (more than 1.5 million items) of national and international medical literature (including scientific works, translations, thesis, abstracts, deposit manuscripts, etc.)

Every year about 120 000 specialists from different regions of Russia, NIS and non-NIS countries visit the Library.

Since 1988 the Library has been maintaining "Russian medicine" electronic database on medicine and healthcare covering over 80% of all published and unpublished materials in this field. The Library has a modern electronic catalogue to search by topic, author, type and year of publication; however, it does not provide links to full texts on-line. Libraries of universities and clinical institutes buy access to private foreign electronic library databases, such as EMBASE. Internet and distance learning become of crucial importance nowadays (See Fig.2).

eLIBRARY.RU - <http://elibrary.ru/>.

Medical journals prevail among all scientific journals available from eLIBRARY.RU. Medical journals include both clinical journals and journal on public health, hygiene, economics and healthcare management.

eLIBRARY.RU is the biggest Russian information and analytical portal in science, technology, medicine and education.

It contains abstracts and full texts of more than 22 million scientific articles and publications including electronic copies of over 4 800 of the Russian scientific journals. List of journals expands annually enabling researchers and health care specialists to find quality scientific information that they need in electronic format.

The total number of registered organizations equals to more than 2200. A total of 1.1 million individual users from 125 countries are subscribed.

eLIBRARY.RU has a modern search engine ensuring searching by topic, by author, journal title, subject fields as well as providing information about citation index of an individual author. Publication title has a link to the full text article either on open access or for a fee.

Lack of an English language page is the major disadvantage of this website denying access to the Russian language publications to the English speaking readership.

Russian state library

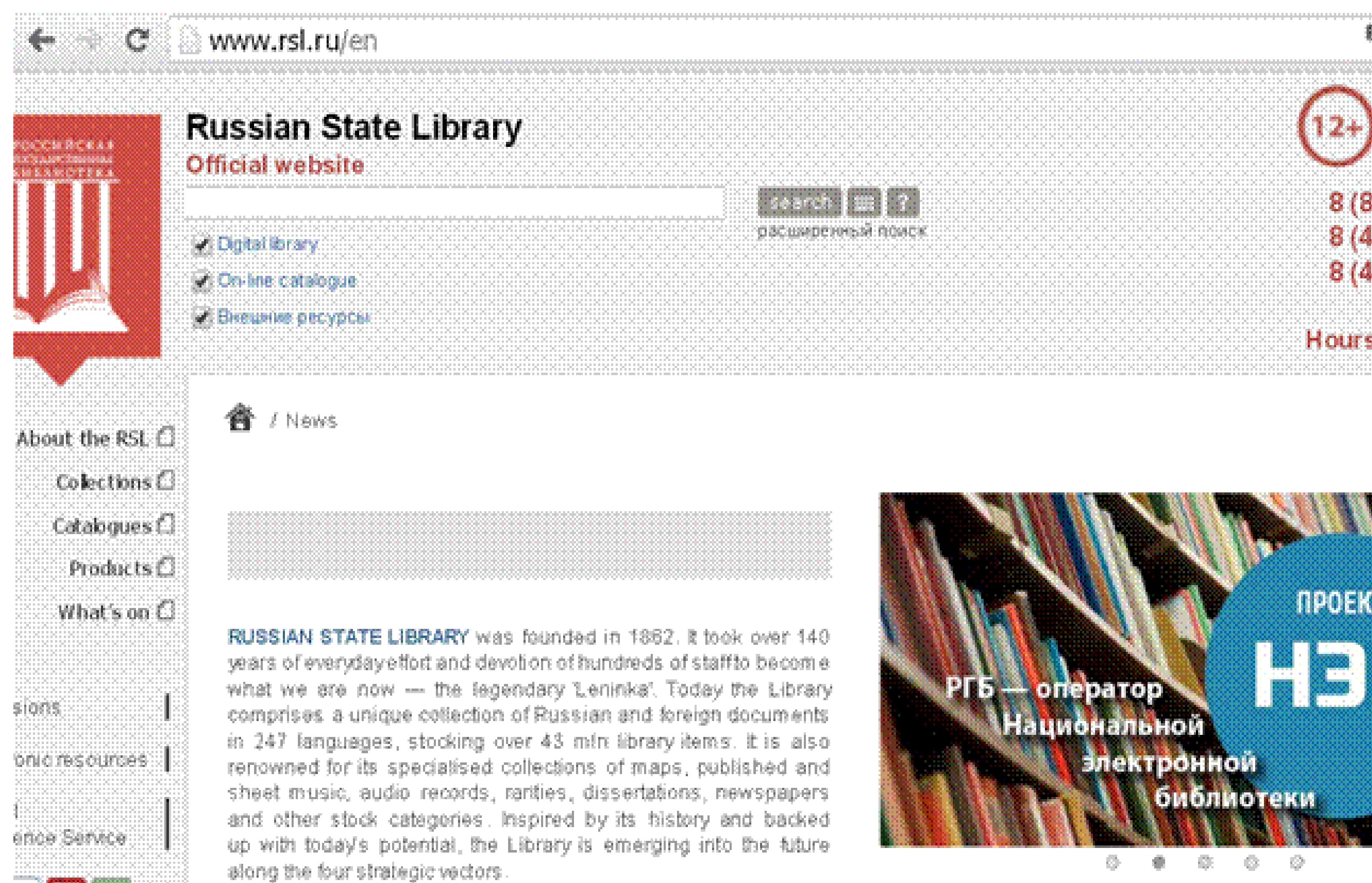


Fig.3. The website of the Russian state library

Russian state library is the leading scientific library in Russia with a rich history:

www.rsl.ru

RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY was founded in 1862. Today the Library comprises a unique collection of Russian and foreign documents in 247 languages, stocking over 43 mln library items.

The Universal Digital Catalogue provides bibliographic records on all types of items, including articles, published in Russian and other languages in various media at different periods of times. You can search through the whole catalogue or limit your search to a specific constituent sub-catalogue or a particular e-reference source. Access to the Universal e-catalogue of RSL is open for free to all Internet users. If an edition is available through e-request system, you can access its stocking record and request it from the depository directly.

The Library has an English language page - <http://www.rsl.ru/en> to help users all over the world to access its resources.

World Health Organization Documentation Center:

<http://www.whodc.mednet.ru>

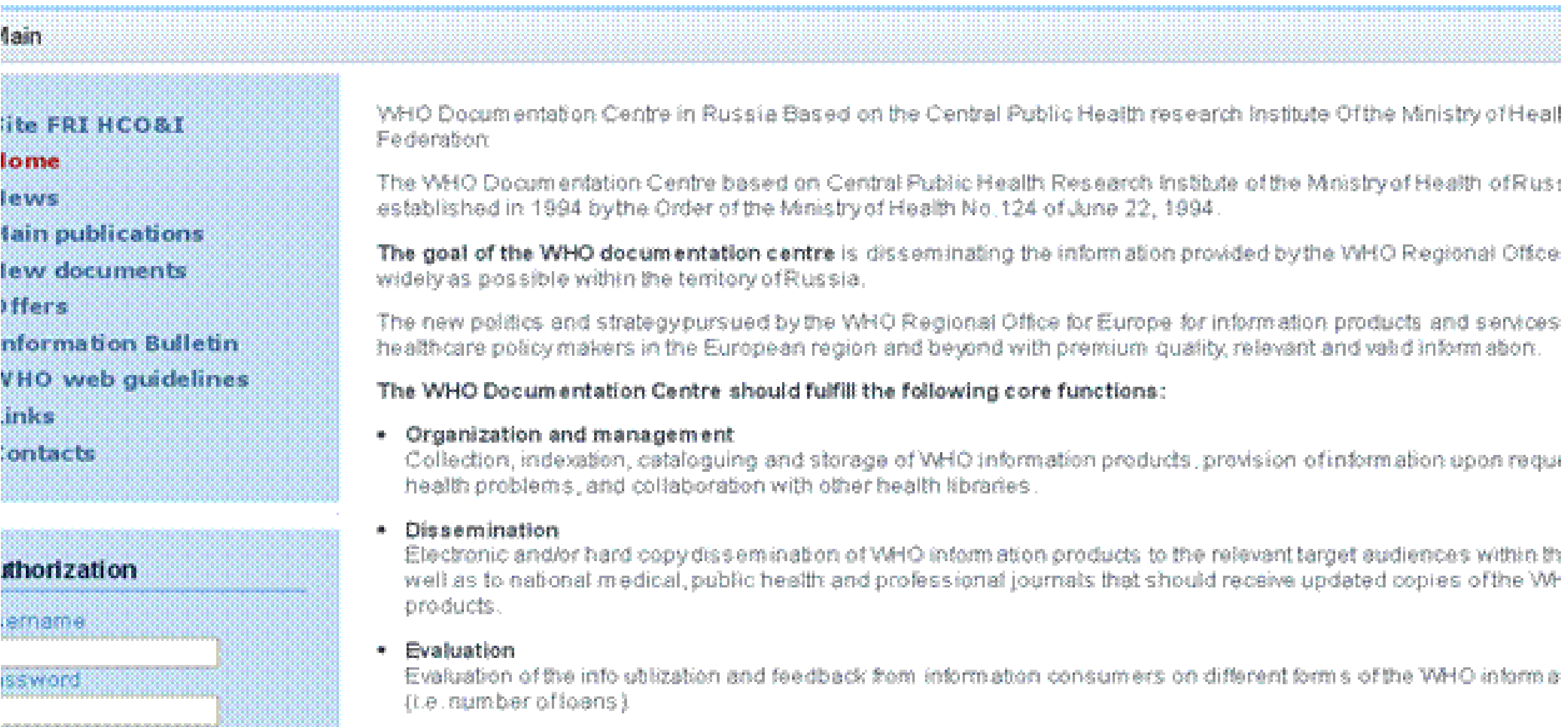
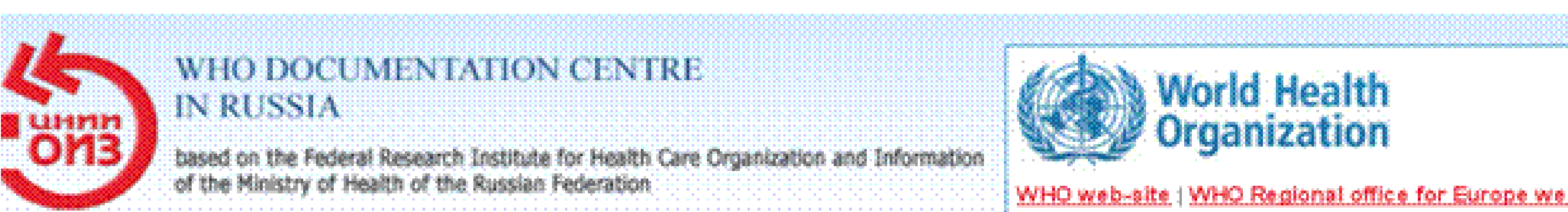


Fig.4. The website of the WHO Documentation centre

The World Health Organization Documentation Center currently has more than 5000 documents issued by the WHO in Russian, English, French, and German, which have been received from the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, and the WHO Headquarters, Geneva;

WHO publications available at the Centre include:

- ✓Books (guidelines, monographs, etc.).
- ✓Proceedings of conferences, workshops, and other WHO meetings on various problems of medicine and healthcare.
- ✓Documents of the World Health Assembly sessions, the WHO Executive Board and the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.
- ✓Statistics collections, including the World Health Statistics Annual, the Weekly Epidemiological Record and other.
- ✓Collected international laws.
- ✓Journals: Bulletin of the World Health Organization
- ✓WHO Technical Report Series of the main subjects of medicine and health care.
- ✓Educate on why quality information matters

The website is weekly updated with new documents received by the Centre from the World Health Organization HQ and WHO Regional Office for Europe. In total, 1332 electronic documents are currently available at the site with e-links to the WHO website and website of WHO Regional Office for Europe. It ensures WHO copyright compliance.

The website has a system of electronic registration of website users and information downloads. With every access to the website, the user is registered automatically. By May 17, 2016, 1276336 users have visited the website; the number of downloads adds up to 529479. We can also monitor scope of interest of our users by data on views and downloads of different publications. Electronic registration is open and every user can get familiarized with it.

The website is enhanced with the administrative tool that provides for automatic update. The website is updated weekly.

Our website has a modern search engine making it possible to search by topic, author, title or year of publication.

The Center also publishes Information Bulletin and Express Information and participates in the majority of Russian scientific conferences for training consumers to use WHO electronic resources, evidence-based medicine and other sources in scientific work.