

Center of Oriental Manuscripts and Xylographs as a resource base for Digital Libraries Projects

Oleg S. RINCHINOV

Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, Ulan-Ude, Russia

vanchikova_ts@mail.ru

Center of Oriental Manuscripts and Xylographs (COMX) of the Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies is the largest library of Tibetan and Mongolian manuscripts and woodcut books in Russia. It possesses more than 40,000 Tibetan and 6,500 Mongolian books and documents. They reveal different aspects of history and culture of Buryatia - the region of intense cross-culture contacts (native Mongolian, Buddhist, Russian).

Currently, digital catalogs are completed for 2/3 of COMX's collections. More than 2,000 artifacts are digitized.

Catalogs of specific Tibetan and Mongolian collections were published in Japan, India and Mongolia for the last few years. However, the main method of data distribution is digital, through a COMX's web portal (URL: <http://imbtarchive.ru>), which provides electronic catalogs of collections, image galleries, web presentations of specific projects carried out by COMX's team.

The methodology that has been worked out during the description of COMX's collection is applied in the field of fixing and mapping (with the use of GIS) of live Mongolian-Tibetan cultural tradition saved on the territory of Buryatia, in compilation of glossaries and indexes and formation of comprehensive digital knowledge base on the history and culture of this region.

We would like to join Russian and international projects on digital libraries as a resource center providing original digital content in different fields of Buddhist and Mongolian studies, Russian history, cultural anthropology, etc.