



Protecting the Past and Defining the Future

Russia closes digital divide and unifies national information and archival resources.

Case Study

Customer Name: **Presidential Library n. a. Boris Yeltsin**
 Industry: **Government**
 Location: **Russia**
 Number of Employees: **80**



Business Impact

- Greater access to education and learning tools
- Equal opportunities for citizens, irrespective of location
- More effective delivery of public services

Business Challenge

The idea of connecting Russia's 130,000 libraries was first suggested in 2007. Concerned by their declining popularity and low technology adoption rates (only 15 percent of libraries had computers, of which only 9 percent provided Internet access), the then-president, Vladimir Putin launched the National Library Project. This unique and ambitious attempt to create a unified information space sought to create one central hub where all materials relating to Russia's history could be scanned and stored.

The scale and size of the task were huge. The National Library Project included a highly secure IP network and data center infrastructure that was capable of aggregating and processing requests from millions of users. It also had to create a digitized library of 39,000 books and documents, and 43 million files. To help with these challenges, the Russia-US Working Group on Library Cooperation was formed in 2008 with the aim of sharing best practices with one of the world's leading examples, the U.S. Library of Congress. The project also looked to protect Russia's investment by selecting the best technology solutions and technical support.

Solution and Results

The National Library Project has preserved Russia's heritage while also laying the foundations for a future knowledge economy. The Presidential Library n. a. Boris Yeltsin opened its doors to the public on 1 September 2009. This central library in St Petersburg is supported by two new data centers, a local processing center and a backup facility in Moscow, that have been designed using advanced Cisco® IP networking products and security technologies.

So far 10 sites have already been linked to the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, and the intention is to eventually connect libraries from all 76 Russian regions in a phased migration. Once their local library has been connected, users are registered, provided with a digital library ticket, and given a brief demonstration of how the system works. Users can then take advantage of 60 Electronic Reading Rooms where they can view books, research assignments, retrieve records, and book seats for forthcoming seminars and exhibitions. The library will also play a wider role in the community by offering fixed and wireless Internet access, as well as PC training.



“This project brings together and preserves the Russian history and culture, and raises it on a new higher level with the help of modern technologies. We thank Cisco for their assistance and participation in this important project.”

Anna Damaskina
PR Director, Presidential Library n. a. Boris Yeltsin

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