The Role of Ukrainian Libraries in Preserving Cultural Heritage during Wartime

IFLA Satellite Meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response 17-18 August 2023 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Ulia Gosart, Assistant Professor, School of Information San Jose State University, USA
Liudmyla Diadyk, Library Director, Cherkasy Regional Library, Cherkasy, Ukraine
Consequences of Russo-Ukrainian War (Feb. 24, 2022-Present)

Total casualties - 354,000 persons (U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, April 2023)
- Russians ~ 189,500–223,000,
  - 35,500–43,000 killed; 154,000–180,000 wounded
- Ukrainians ~ 124,500–131,000
  - 15,500–17,500 killed; 109,000–113,500 injured

Damage to cultural heritage ~ $2.6 billion (UNESCO, 2023)
- Total objects affected, 2023 - 1,582 (Ministry of Culture and Information Policy)
  - Libraries: 40% of affected - 598

Affected public libraries, 2023 - 2,361
- fully destroyed - 160 (Y. M. National Library of Ukraine, May 2023)
Evacuation of Cultural Heritage

wrapping materials in craft paper; packing them in boxes; creating inventories; bringing boxes to secure areas
Conservation within the Building: O.G. Kherson Regional Library
Protecting Buildings

Taping windows to prevent glass from shattering in all directions

Placing black-out curtains on windows, to make it difficult to identify the buildings from the air

Using sandbags to protect from flood and/or fire
Documentation of War Crimes

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy

National Historical Library of Ukraine
Cities and Villages of Ukraine: Losses of War Time

Monographs:
- list of cultural objects of the cities and villages, by place;
- list of sources documenting crime,
- pictures, when available

Bucha, Kiev Region
Destroyed archive of Viacheslav Chornovil
Digitization

Saving Ukrainian Heritage Online (SUCHO) donated digitization technology to over 35 libraries, offered unlimited free cloud storage.

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Current Developments: Issues

1. Types of collections (paper/text or mixed)
2. Participants (national libraries, 9)
3. Technology
4. Standards (description; cataloging)
5. Library management platform

National E-Library (NEL)

-access to cultural heritage for all
-preservation of cultural heritage for the next generations

Национальна електронна бібліотека (НЕБ)

доступ до культурного надбання, для всіх, хто має в цьому потребу
- збереження культурного надбання для наступних поколінь

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Thank you!

Questions/Contact:

Ulia Gosart  ulia.gosart@sjsu.edu
Liudmyla Diadyk  lusikad@gmail.com