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On Digital Information Forms of Archival Material Preservation, Availability and Popularization of Archival Materials

Abstract

The article reviews the activities of the staff of the Institute of Linguistics, Literature, and History of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ILLH KarRC RAS) in

setting up the folklore-ethnographic and linguistic fonds, in compiling hand-written registers, thematic, personal and geographic card indexes, and catalogues. Development of information technology has brought to life new methods of archival storage and systematization, which makes this study significant. Its sources are digital information resources, as well as the folklore-ethnographic and linguistic fonds of the ILLH KarRC RAS archives. It uses descriptive and historico-chronological methods. It aims to identify and characterize new forms of storage. Special attention is paid to the unique first fragmentary records of Karelian and Russian folklore samples made on flexi discs about a century ago. Various methods are employed to communicate the archival materials to the general public: books, audio albums on CD and other multimedia, thematic websites. Archive's communication with its visitors has changed substantially; it is becoming increasingly digitalized: inventories and preparatory papers for working with sources can be accessed online. This study introduces the fonds content, as well as new forms of popularization of archival materials. It draws attention to the available resources. However, full digitalization of the fonds is a laborious process, which is going to take time, human resources, and investment.

Keywords

Archive, historical sources, linguistic sources, Karelian folklore and linguistic materials, audio record archive, thematic archival websites, gramophone records, publication of archival sources.

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