**US RUSSIA DIALOGUE ON THE CIVIC ROLE OF LIBRARIES**

**АМЕРИКАНО-РОССИЙСКИЙ ДИАЛОГ О ГРАЖДАНСКОЙ РОЛИ БИБЛИОТЕК**

**MISSION AND GOALS**

To provide a space for the free exchange of ideas and experiences to build a more connected and understanding global society.

**CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Enhance the cooperation of Russian and American cultural institutions in order to build bridges of understanding.

**LIBRARIES & SOCIETY**

Define three key Ps: purpose, place and people, for strengthening the role of libraries in society.

**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

Develop the new roles, competencies and skillset necessary for 21st century librarianship.

**FUTURE ORIENTED**

Develop the concept of the “library of the future” using results of research and practical feedback from the experiences of librarians in Russia and the United States.

**COMMUNITY FOCUS**

Document and discuss best practices for engaging communities, promoting civic literacy and addressing collective problems.

**ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP**

Design and organize educational programs for representatives of local government and librarians that solidify the active role of libraries in engaging their communities.

**OVERVIEW**

**ALTERNATING HOST COUNTRY**

- May 2018—Suzdal, Russia at the Suzdal Municipal Library during the Russian Library Association Annual Congress.

**LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPANTS**

- Vadim Duda, Russia Chair, Russian State Library for Foreign Literature
- Svetlana Gorokhova, Russia Coordinator, Russian State Library for Foreign Literature
- Liudmila Zaitseva, Russia Secretary, Russian State Library
- Nancy Kranich, US Chair, Rutgers University Libraries
- Ellen Knutson, US Coordinator & Secretary, Charles F. Kettering Foundation

Participants were leading Russian and American specialists from different library types (national, presidential, public, academic) and levels (federal, regional, municipal), University iSchool programs, and Russian and American Library Associations. Representing 7 Russian Regions and 8 US States.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

- What successes have we had making libraries vibrant community hubs?
- What is keeping us from achieving these types of successes and what needs to change?
- How can US and Russia libraries work together to support the civic role libraries?

The Dialogue participants compared the American and Russian experience of libraries transforming into centers of community life, and discussed the development and the changing role of libraries—including their ability to identify and meet community needs, and to contribute to the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- Identify sustainable funding
- Create inter-meeting communication channels
- Identify and develop online training materials
- Focus on telling our story about how we connect people to ideas and to each other

**OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS**

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