

Meeting of Frontiers

World Digital Library Project



The Library of Congress
December 2016

Meeting of Frontiers

Project initiated in 1998 by Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington

- **Objective:**

explore the shared frontier experiences of Russia and the United States and the common history of both countries in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest using the (then relatively new) technology of the World Wide Web

- **Funding:**

\$2.4 million in appropriated funds, matched by in-kind contributions from numerous organizations

- **Key result:**

<http://frontiers.loc.gov>

86 collections with 17,300 items online

700,000 pages of digitized content from institutions in Russia, the United States, and Germany

How the Digitization Was Done

Library of Congress-funded digitization centers at:

Library of Congress

National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg

Russian State Library, Moscow

Open Society Foundation, Novosibirsk (mobile unit)

Competitions for Western Siberia, Central Siberia, the Far East,
and a final catch-all competition

Scanning contracts with:

Alaska State Library, Juneau

University of Alaska at Anchorage

New Bedford Whaling Museum

No-cost contributions from Göttingen and several other institutions

Institutions that Contributed Digital Content to *Meeting of Frontiers*



Russia

- Aleksandrovsk Municipal History and Literature Museum "A.P. Chekhov and Sakhalin"
- Altai State Regional Studies Museum
- Amur Oblast Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- Berdsk Historical Art Museum
- Center for Documentation of Tomsk Oblast Recent History
- Igarka Museum of Permafrost
- Institute for the Study of Buddhism, Mongol, and Tibetan Culture of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Institute of History of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (II SO RAN)
- Irkutsk Municipal History Museum
- Irkutsk State University
- Jewish Autonomous Region Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- Kamchatka Regional Unified Museum
- Kemerovo Oblast Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- Krasnoiarsk Krai Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- M. N. Khangalov Museum on the History of Buryatia
- Memory of Kolyma Museum



Russia

- Museum of the History of the Norilsk Industrial Region
- National Library of Russia
- National Research Tomsk State University
- Nikolaevsk-on-Amur Museum of Municipal History and Folklife
- Novosibirsk State Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- Novosibirsk State Regional Scientific Library
- Omsk State Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- Phototext Foundation
- Private Archive of Sergei Nikolaevich Chashchin
- Russian State Library
- Siberian Museum Agency
- State Archives of Novosibirsk Oblast
- The State Public Scientific and Technical Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Tobolsk Museum of History, Architecture, and Preservation
- Tomsk Oblast Museum of Regional History and Folklife
- V. I. Surikov Museum of Art in Krasnoiarsk
- V.A. Obruchev Museum of Kyakhta Regional History and Folklife
- V.K. Arsenev Primorsky Regional Unified Museum
- Yakutsk State Museum of the History and Culture of Northern Peoples



United States

- Alaska State Library
- Anchorage Museum
- Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
- Cape Cod National Seashore (Penniman House), National Park Service
- Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- John Carter Brown Library
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Library of Congress
- Marine Biological Laboratory and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Library
- Massachusetts Historical Society
- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- Providence Public Library
- Skagway Museum
- University of Alaska Anchorage



Canada

- Library and Archives of Canada
- Yukon Archives



Germany

- Göttingen State and University Library

The Current Project

- Modernize *Meeting of Frontiers* by hosting it on the state-of-the-art World Digital Library platform
- Complete the processing of approximately 300,000 images that have never been made publicly accessible
- Develop new teaching and outreach tools for use with the content
- “Digitally repatriate” content to Russia and Alaska

Budget

- Estimated Budget: **\$2,800,000**

Funding to date:

Library of Congress National Digital Library Trust Fund:	\$500,000
National and International Outreach:	\$150,000
Mikhail Khodorkovsky:	\$250,000
Susan Carmel Lehrman	\$50,000
Total:	\$950,000

Meetings with Russian and U.S. Partner Institutions

- Secure “buy in” from geographically dispersed institutions in four countries; seek to build a community of interest
- Develop mechanisms for securing assistance with metadata upgrades and assistance
- Jointly develop teaching and outreach tools for use with the content
- Integrate the content with other Arctic projects

