



БУ «Национальная библиотека Республики Карелия»

# Digital Library of Karelian Authors is a new way of presenting contemporary local authors and their works to users

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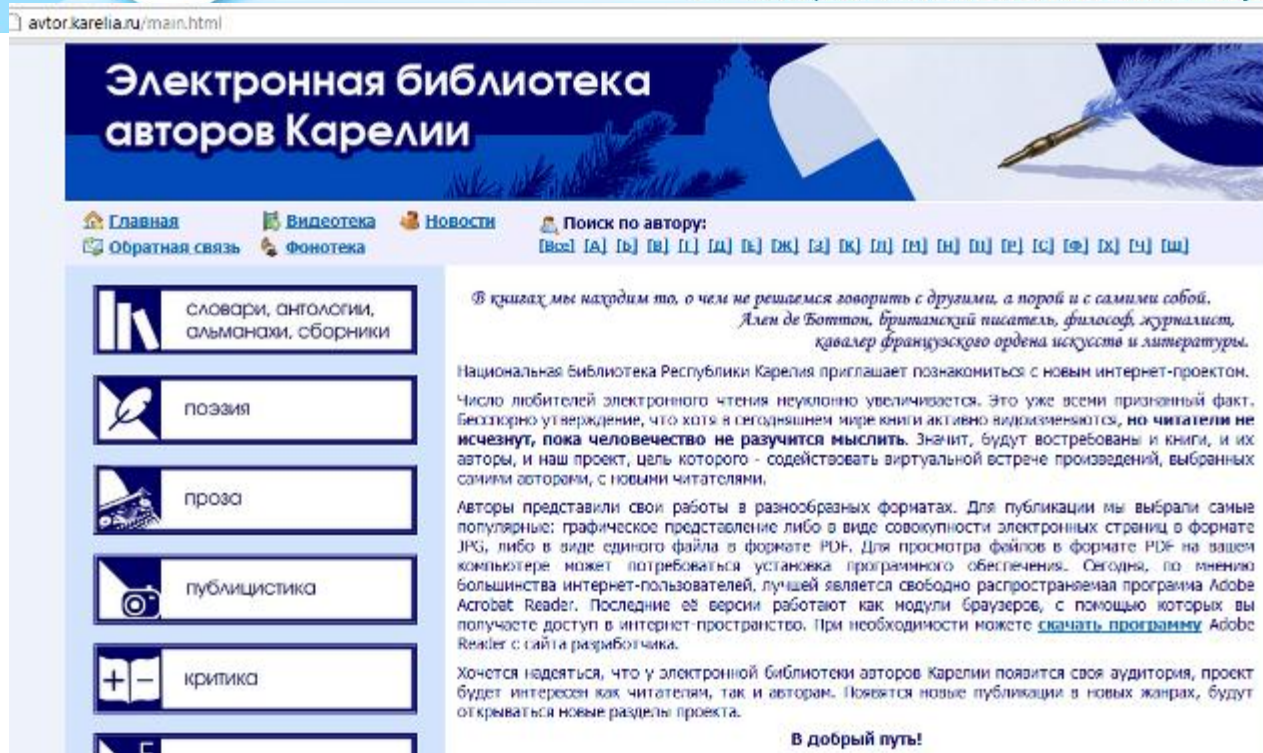
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<http://avtor.karelia.ru> – Digital Library of Karelian Authors



The newest Internet project of the National Library of Karelia. Freely available since July 2011. At the initial stage the project was supported by the Institute for Russia and Eastern Europe (Helsinki).

We wanted to create a virtual meeting place for modern writers of Karelia and readers and to assist both authors and electronic reading lovers, whose number is growing.



A year ago in the opening stage of a project there were **28** electronic publications by **14** authors invited to cooperate. Publications were grouped into nine conventional categories: prose, poetry, translations, literary criticism, etc.

Today number of categories of publications has reached 16: Children's Corner, Bilingva, Sound (audio) Library, Video Library and the Literary news feed. We have published **145** electronic publications by **53** authors.





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After posting links on the Internet space of Karelia and presentation of the project in the media, new authors started to send offers via the feedback. A famous Russian literary critic, journalist and philosopher Mikhail Boyko said: "Petrozavodsk is one of the most brilliant places on the literary map of Russia. Even if we note only three names: Vadim Shtepa, Irina Mamaeva and Dmitry Novikov..."



Works of these authors are represented in Digital Library of Karelian Authors in the categories Prose, Social Philosophy and Sound Library.



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Now the Poetry is the largest category in terms of publications. And the authors represented in this category range from a doctor of philology to a student.

At the present moment members of art unions or authors recommended by the heads of such unions can become our authors.

We are going to establish a public editorial board, which will consider materials of other authors. We have already got a lot of such applications. It is important to provide protection from graphomaniacs.

On the other side, it would be interesting to create a special category named First attempt at writing to represent the first publications of beginners. Selection of publications is not a goal in itself, because it is more important to show how different are creative searches of writers, whose lives are somehow related to Karelia.



## <http://avtor.karelia.ru> – Digital Library of Karelian Authors

We are continuously updating bibliographies of our authors and about them. This is an attractive aspect of the project for authors who actively publish their books. It is also a new representation of traditional activities of the library in the Internet space.

Information about authors and their works is supplemented by links to all related resources we manage to find on the Web.

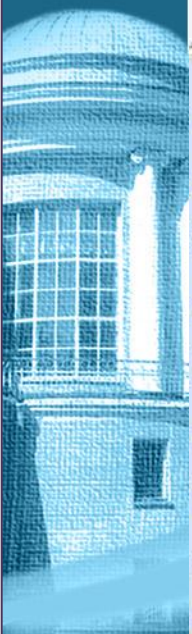
We sign written contracts with rightholders (authors, publishers). We are proud that the part of the electronic media is marked as "first published". It means that our project has earned the trust of the authors.

Analysis of statistics shows that the number of views exceeds the number of users. So, that allows us to conclude that electronic library visitors actually read electronic editions and they are interested in information about the authors.





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The support system of the Digital Library was created in the National Library of the Republic of Karelia. It is convenient and doesn't impose high demands on the technical competence of the library staff involved in Library replenishment.

Even today we can speak about expansion of the Digital Library in terms of content creation. Another two libraries of our republic have become our partners: The Library for the Blind cooperates with us to create audio materials and The Children and Youth Library - to attract authors to replenishment of the Children's Corner.

Technically it's possible to transform our project into the Digital Library of the Authors of Northwest Russia or even into the Digital Library of the Authors of Northern Europe. In order to implement this idea we need to find partners in other areas, which will conclude contracts with authors, prepare books in national languages for publication and compile bibliographies.



We hope that our efforts to keep our projects up to date and develop them provide a stable users' interest in these projects.

This means that our joint efforts have not been wasted.  
I think, that the key to the future success is the ability to find worthy partners and be open to cooperation.

We draw new ideas from our work on the project and from the communication with authors, partners, colleagues, and, of course, with our readers.

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