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## **Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th — 17th Centuries as a Database: Information Retrieval and Research Perspectives**

The Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th — 17th centuries 29 volumes of which have been published since 1975 (the 30th vol. is now in printing), is based on all sorts of texts of the 11<sup>th</sup> — 17<sup>th</sup> cc. representing the Medieval and Early Modern time periods of the history of Russian culture. The Dictionary covers both original and translated Slavonic texts attested in Early East Slavic and Middle Russian manuscripts as well as in early printed books of the 16<sup>th</sup> — 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Modern computational technologies allow to develop new forms of lexicographic resources. Importantly, such resources are open to continual additions and corrections; multidirectional, user defined search options enable users to quickly acquire and analyze extensive linguistic content. The Database is made by members (students and docents) of the workshop at the School of Linguistics at the Higher School of Economics and thus represents results of both didactic and research activities. It provides scholars with a tool for complex query making it possible to search for (a) certain lemmata, (b) their grammatical information, (c) etymology, (d) chronological and historical periods, (e) certain texts and sources, (f) phraseological units, etc. The search directions are defined by the structure of Dictionary entries and can be specified by users. The proposed structure of the database meets the requirements of the modern computer lexicography as attested by a number of dictionaries and databases of some of modern languages.

Digitalized version of the Dictionary does not contain any usably marked fields that we can easily convert into the database fields. Therefore, the project participants had to write programs for the automatic processing and retrieve information from the Dictionary entries.

The Database is supplied with the on-line source index of the Dictionary containing the most comprehensive up to date list of sources on the history of Old and Middle Russian language. The on-line Index contains information on the origins of Slavonic translations in Medieval and Early Modern Russia. The sources are classified according their genre, origin (translated / original), linguistic and pragmatic peculiarities.

The Database opens further research perspectives in the field of chronology and genre stratification of East Slavonic lexics, dynamics of lexical borrowings in different time periods of the history of Russian language, varieties of linguistic usage and lexical norms of East Slavonic written culture.