

should use them to expand your searches. For this lesson, however, we are concerned with learning how to use Russian search engines.

2) Assignment

Use www.rambler.ru, www.yandex.ru and www.list.ru to make a list of ten Russian language sites dedicated to environmental issues. (1 hr). Follow each of the links and prepare an annotated list describing the content of the page, whether it contains links to other resources and a personal judgement as to its usefulness, according to the following model:

Title: Federal Organs of Power of the Russian Federation

Link URL: <http://www.gov.ru/main/ministry/isp-vlast47.html>

This is the official website of the Ministries of the Russian Government. It contains links to several ministries and commissions, such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Energy, and the Committee or Bureau of Statistics. Some pages may require you to encode (select the proper Russian font) in order to read the pages.. Note that many ministries do not have links or separate home pages.

Hints:

You can navigate through www.rambler.ru, www.yandex.ru or www.list.ru either by clicking on categories, such as "science"

You can also type a word into the search box—such as the Russian word for "pollution."

You might want to type the Russian word into your "notepad," then copy and paste into the search box.

Try typing the English word into an English-Russian on-line dictionary. Then copy and paste the appropriate Russian word into the search box.

If you see an interesting word in another Russian text, copy and paste it into the search engine..

Research Aids or Tools

Assignment (1/2 hour) We have already noted a few sources or resources for electronic

assistance. If you have not tried them all, make their acquaintance now. (Actual hyperlinks in on line version).

Dictionaries:

English-Russian-Russian English

Mini Dictionary of Environmental Terms

Russian Glossary of Environmental Terms
(windows machines only)

Grammars:

Russian Grammar

Grammar Flash Cards

Russian Alphabet:

Alphabet in Signs

Alphabet Stack (Macs only)

Reading Strategies

Search Engines

Rambler

List

AltaVista

Google

Yahoo

Snap

Go

Yandex

Summary

Install fonts, configure browser (1 hour)

Locate, print Russian web page and type a paragraph of Russian text.(1/2 hour)

Translate article or prepare list of Russian-English words.(1 hour)

Use search engine(s). Do annotated links.(1 hour)

Familiarize oneself with research tools.(1/2 hour)

If you have been successful, we have accomplished several things. You are now able to access and read and print web pages in Russian. You have access to a Russian search engine. You are able to type Russian text into the search engine to locate relevant sites. Congratulations!

Lesson Two

Russian Environmental Issues
Ecology, Economics and Politics

1. Assignment (2 hrs)

Read and Summarize text on "Ecology, Economics and Politics." (another version)

Hint: You can and should first skim the text for relevant information. Do this by examining and translating to yourself the title. Think for a moment:

What is this article likely to be about?

Who is speaking/writing, what issues does (s)he identify?

Are any solutions or conclusions offered?

You should read carefully and understand (can you translate them to yourself?) the first and last sentence of each paragraph.

That's too hard!!

Examine the title! Are these words related to English? Can you understand them?

Look at just the title and first two paragraphs.

Underline any words you may already know, or that seem familiar to English words and concepts you know. These might be cognates, or because of what you know of environmental studies, familiar concepts.

Highlight in one color the verb of the sentence. (Remember Russian doesn't need the verb "to be" in the present tense.) In the present or future tense this will help identify the subject by number (singular and plural) and person (first, second, third). The past tense form of the verb can identify the number and gender in the singular of the subject.

Use a different color to identify the subject of the sentence (normally in the nominative or naming case).

Now think through the following questions, which can be answered regarding the article:

Who or what is the actor or agent (the subject)?

What is he/she/it doing? (the verb)

Where? When? Why and How does this action take place?

If you still have some time, try associating adjectives or modifiers with the respective nouns, and adverbs with the verb, adjective or other adverb which they modify. Remember that adjectival modifiers agree with the noun in gender, number and case. Adverbs have forms that do not change.

2. Assignment (1 hr)

Identify some of the major environmental issues facing Russia today. Prepare a brief outline giving both the English and Russian word(s) for these issues.

Tip: Scan several articles in English on environmental topics relevant to Russia. Skim a book on Russia and its environmental concerns. One I can recommend is *Ecocide in the USSR: Health and Nature under Siege* by Murray Feshbach (1992)

(Scanning means to read quickly trying to locate and identify words of significance. You might concentrate for example on such words/phrases as: pollution, conservation, clean up, population issues, atomic energy, coal and gas, (hazardous) waste disposal, acid rain, etc. Skimming is a very quick examination of a text to gather the main ideas. Examine the title and table of contents, then read the first and last sentences of each paragraph, stopping to read the entire passage only when it contains important information you are seeking.)

3. Assignment (1 hr)

Search and identify at least five sites in Russia that relate to environmental issues. Then prepare an annotated list of at least ten web pages useful for us to follow. Be sure to follow through on some of the links, checking both the viability of

the links (do they still work) and their usefulness. Submit the list as a Word document or use a web page editor and mount the page containing live links to your own web page and provide us with the location.

4. Assignment (2 hrs)

Read the article on Baikal today (another version)

Type a 250-word summary in Russian of the issues discussed.

That's too hard!!!

Read and then summarize in English the following two articles: the first is on the interconnection of Ecology, Economics and Politics; the second discusses several issues in the Russian Siberian-Baikal environment today.

That's still too hard!!!

Examine carefully the first paragraph. Using the technique discussed above, identify the key issues and answer as many questions as you can: Who, what, where, when, why, how? Provide a translation from Russian to English of fifteen to twenty key words.

Summary

Read and translate text on environmental issues. (2 hours)

Identify major environmental issues with English-Russian vocabulary. (1 hour)

Prepare personal set of web links to Russian environmental concerns. (1 hour)

Read and summarize in Russian the article on Baikal today. (2 hours)

Additional work: If you still have time you might examine the following links:

The EcoCenter at Moscow State University:

Environmental news

Ecology Centers around Russian

Online text of Russian ecological issues

Lesson Three

Specialization

Researching a Topic or an Area

This week you will select your own topic—it may be a theme (solid waste disposal problems, for example) or an area (like the Chernobyl region) for an eventual research project/report on an environmental issue of interest to you.

1. Assignment: Search-identify-read-take notes-outline (6 hrs)

Search either by theme or word, use both English and Russian search engines. You might, for example, search out information on global warming or Russian environmental legislation, or on a geographical area, Lake Baikal, the cities of Moscow or St. Petersburg, Chernobyl. If you have nothing specific in mind, read the following articles or search these regions.

Determine your specific research interest and then identify at least five sites/articles in Russian devoted to that issue. Save and annotate the sites as you did in Lesson one

Read and translate from Russian into English the titles and the key thematic (first and last) sentences.

Outline in Russian the issue(s)/problem(s), the data/findings/arguments, and your solution/conclusion.

Submit your list of sites, original texts, translation, and outline as a Word or HTML document.

That's way too hard!!

Search and identify five sites that are in both English and Russian.

Annotate them based on the quality of the English language version.

Compare to and describe the Russian language resources.

Are there direct translations of key words and documents, or are they different?

(Don't be reluctant to use a dictionary!)

Select and prepare a topic for your own paper. Check the Glossary (Windows machines only)

Use four English language sources and one in Russian.

Outline in English the issue(s)/problem(s), the data/findings/arguments, and your solution/conclusion.

Submit your list of sites, original texts, the translation of the title and first and last sentences of each paragraph from your Russian text, and outline as a Word or HTML document.

Lesson four

Your final project

After a review of your materials and comments from the instructor, your final assignment is as follows:

1. A five-page paper in English on your environmental issue, with translations along with citation and quotation of the original Russian sources.

2. A 1-2 page typed summary in Russian that will serve as the basis for your oral presentation of your paper.

3. An electronic outline (Power Point or web page) of your presentation and paper with live links to resources you have used on this project.

ENDNOTE

1. A valuable overview of using the WWW in language courses can be found in Brandl, Klaus. Integrating Internet-Based Reading Materials into the Foreign language Curriculum: From Teacher- to Student-Centered Approaches, *Language Learning and Technology*, Vol 6, No. 3 September 2002, 87-107 (<http://lit.msu.edu/vol6num3/brandl/default.html>).

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