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«Бахтинская энциклопедия» как формат изучения и описания
биографии и научного наследия М.М. Бахтина

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Bakhtin Encyclopedia as a format for studying and describing M.M.
Bakhtin's biography and scholarly heritage.

1. Bakhtin's scholarly discoveries became available to a wide readership in the 1960s (specifically the concepts of dialogism, polyphonic novel, culture of popular laughter). At the same time, the long and "quirky" (to quote S.G. Bocharov) way that Bakhtin's ideas had to come and the poor availability of scholar's archives (the bigger part of which reached the reader only in *Collected writings of 1996-2012*) somewhat complicated the process of perception and interpretation of Bakhtin's ideas as a whole philosophical and aesthetic system, made it harder to understand many terms and problems, and led to debatable or even wrong interpretations.

2. *Bakhtin Encyclopedia* started as a project aimed at highlighting the key levels of presenting Bakhtin's heritage, concepts and ideas, and distinguishing the stages of their formation and reception – all that creates a new vision of the historical, cultural and scholarly space. People, associations, organizations interest the authors not on their own but in their connection to M. M. Bakhtin's life and work and because they allow to reconstruct the "nearer" and "farther" contexts, to see intellectual parallels and intersections, to clarify the subjects of Bakhtin's scholarly creativity.

3. The creators see *Bakhtin Encyclopedia* as a project that is different from traditional encyclopedias or reference books. The authors see their main task in reconstructing the "Bakhtinian space", in creating a sort of hypertext that, in the end, will help the reader to get inside Bakhtin's story of life and the history of his ideas. This will allow to better understand the dialogue that Bakhtin leads in "great time" not only with his predecessors and contemporaries (from Rabelais to Dostoyevsky, from Kant to Cassirer) but with great cultural layers that were an essential part of Bakhtin's world perception.

4. "The Bakhtin Encyclopedia" will enable creation of a structured and annotated database, making it easier to work with M. M. Bakhtin's concepts and texts, as well as with biographical and bibliographical information. The encyclopedia has a special meaning as a scholarly project that, on one hand, could inspire search for new approaches in Bakhtin studies and, on the other, defines the historical outlines of Russian philology and human sciences of XX century at large. Of no less importance is the fact that the encyclopedia is in its way a guidebook for the world of Bakhtin's concepts.