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Theoretical part

1.1 Introduction

The digital revolution has given rise to a new world in which our lives are filled with gadgets. Undoubtedly, it is very convenient and useful, but people have gradually started to forget about simple communication.

Postcrossing is an international project created for the exchange of postcards with the aim of communicating between people from different countries around the world.

Project Goal and Objectives:

- With the help of my project, I would like to tell you about this method of international communication by mail;
- personally establish communication with a postcrosser from France;
- Conduct a survey and present the project to classmates;
- Carry out a comparative analysis of an international project between countries such as France and Russia.

The relevance of my project lies in the fact that it will contribute to developing interest in the cultures of foreign countries, to find

communication between people from all over the world and to raise the level of language spoken in a foreign language.

With my project, I want to spread the word about this wonderful means of communication and show that exchanging information can be interesting, even if it is done by mail.

1.2 Historical reference

Psychologists say there is nothing more important than human communication.

In the days of the Soviet Union, there was a very interesting type of culture: "penal friendship." Most often at that time, pioneers from different countries were "correspondents". Children who knew one or more foreign languages were often given the addresses of their peers from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the GDR, Poland and other countries from the teachers; the address could also be found in periodicals such as "Pioneer", "Koster", "Pynerskaya Pravda" "

But the children of France, Spain and England were also very interested in our country.

In this correspondence, they learned the names of their correspondents' favorite animals, the holidays they celebrate, stories about Santa Claus, and the fact that the Queen reigns in England.

In the modern world, we have the ability to communicate with the whole world via the Internet. We no longer wait for letters for weeks, but receive them instantly. Many people create blogs in which they talk about their personal lives and wait for comments from strangers. The comments are different and more often than not leave different "marks on the soul". I lost the moment of excitement because of the lack of expectation, the moment of surprise: what they would write to me, what they would tell me.

Postcrossing in numbers



804,386 members



208 countries



76,535,575 postcards received



649 received in the last hour



385,184 postcards traveling



388,060,459,355 km traveled

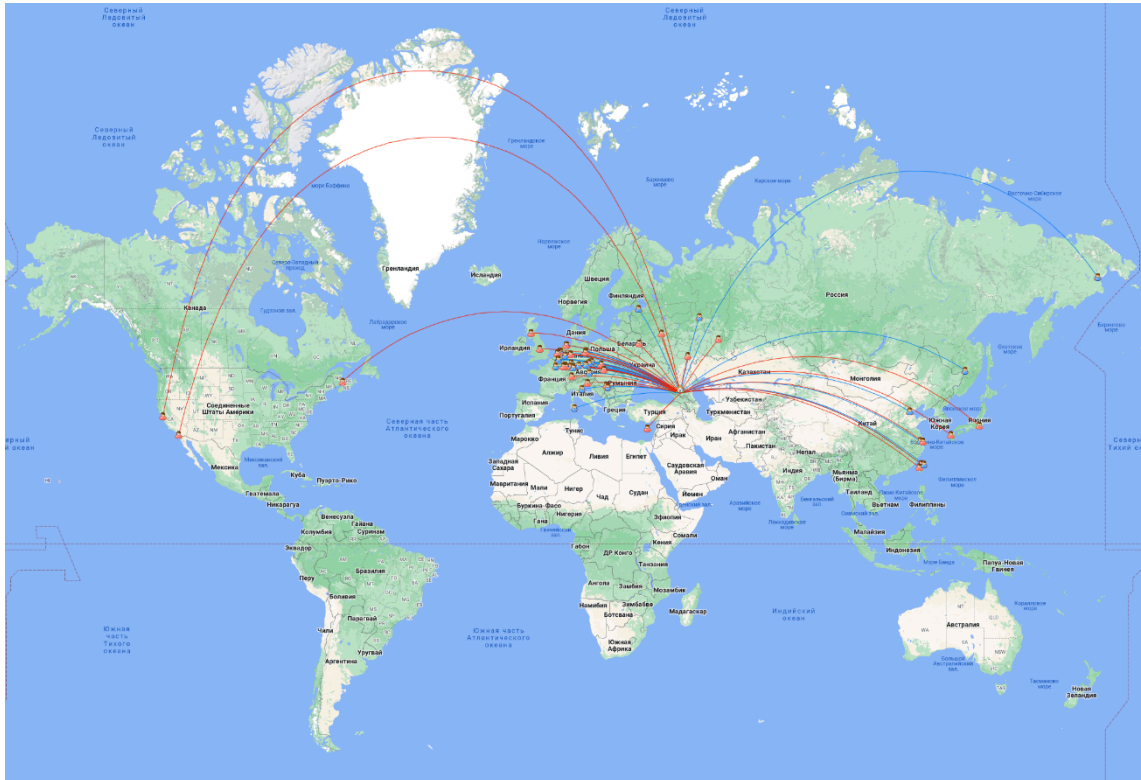


9,683,355 laps around the world

1.3 International Post-Crossing Project

Postcrossing is a relatively new international project, the essence of which is the exchange of postcards between randomly selected people. Its founder is Paulo Magalhães. He was born in a small village, he had no friends, so the boy made an effort to travel to different countries. Paulo decided to study to become a programmer and it was during one of his classes that an idea came to him: to create a website that would allow him to meet people who also love mail and want to receive postcards. The guy worked on creating such a site in his spare time after graduation. The hardest part was coming up with a name for the project. Postcrossing - the word consists of two English words "post" - mail and "crossing" - to cross. This word has entered the Russian language as an anglicism. On July 14, 2005, the site was launched, and within seven weeks, 2,800 people from 72 countries had signed up. Already in January, Paulo gave his first interview for television and in April 2008 the millionth postcard was sent. In the beginning, everything was stored on a server located in Paulo's closet. Because of this, one day, while he was cleaning, the man accidentally turned off the server and the site didn't work during the day. Shortly after this incident, the site was moved to servers located in a

reliable data center. The project team is small and consists of Paulo, his wife Anna, forum administrator Vicki from Australia and four volunteers, including a young Russian girl, Olga. They do a lot of work every day, but it



brings them pleasure and doesn't weigh them down at all.

1.4 Publishing via Multicultural Communications

Or maybe it's the first time someone has sent it to you. Intercultural communication is a set of forms that differ from communication and communication between individuals.

women and groups from different cultures.

The modern world has become more interconnected. On the one hand, it has a positive impact on the global community, as it allows information to be transmitted instantly anywhere in the world. On the other hand, the attitude towards the Internet must be objective, as the information it contains can also have a negative impact on the individual, as people represent their personality anonymously and communication often begins to take an aggressive form.

Postcrossing brings a positive life experience, because people who are interested in the same hobby gather in society, there is no room for arguments, initially, a person comes to this club to make friends and positive emotions.

1.5 Postcrossing as a means of learning foreign languages

Postcrossing develops the ability and willingness to communicate with native speakers of the foreign language studied, as well as the ability to define and solve achievable communicative tasks. Postcrossing broadens your linguistic horizons, teaches you to respect speech etiquette, to be polite and friendly interlocutors, to develop tolerance and a sense of respect for other peoples, their cultures and traditions. Who better than the locals themselves can talk about their homeland, the characteristics of the landscape, the national traditions, the main historical events and the great characters.

Through the writing of messages, the level of proficiency in a foreign language improves. Even if you have minimal knowledge in this area, all the translated words stay in your head, thus forming a good vocabulary.

1.6 Postcrossing as a means of broadening geographical and cultural knowledge

In addition to the benefits already mentioned, through postcrossing, the project participant will refresh (study) the geography course. Suddenly, you receive a postcard from the only person interested in postcrossing from Mali – and you suddenly realize that this is the country where you want to spend your holidays this summer. In their profile descriptions, many project participants indicate that they engage in postcrossing out of a desire to travel and improve their knowledge of foreign languages.

1.7 Postcrossing work steps

To start receiving postcards from different countries, you need to register on the official website, fill out a profile about yourself, and extract five random addresses. Select the postcards according to the participants' wishes and send them to the addresses indicated. Then, when your first postcard is saved, your address will also be randomly sent to a participant. The system is designed in such a way that the number of cards sent is approximately equal to the number of postcards received.



Practical

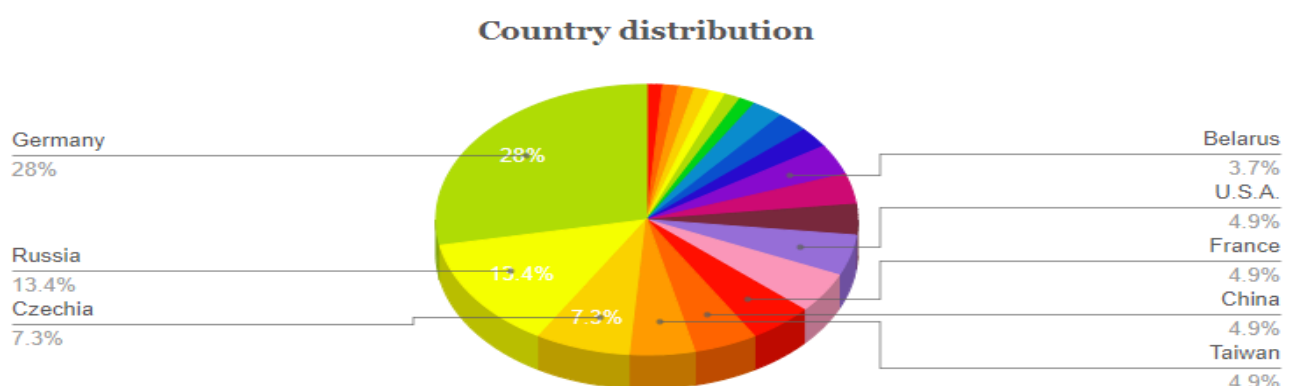
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2.1 My postcrossing experience

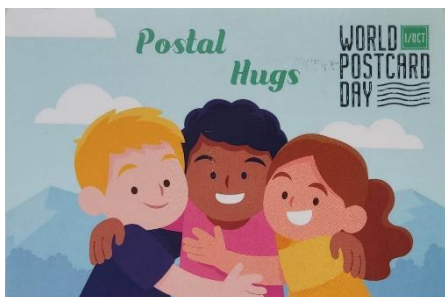
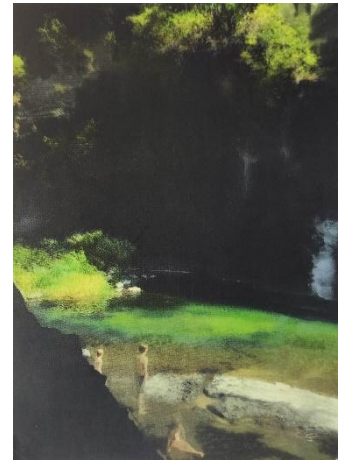
In September 2023, my parents registered on the official website, and I acted as a translator of their correspondence.

Currently, we have a total of 59 cards sent and 51 cards received.

Countries with which we already have a correspondence:



We received our first postcard in French in November 2023, sent from the small French island of Reunion, located in the Indian Ocean, near Madagascar. It's about a postcrosser named Viota, who distributes postcards from a local artist. The most appealing thing about this postcard is that it's from an island that has only 65 members, and Viota herself is the most active local postcrosser. She has more than 1,800 postcards sent and received. Réunion is ranked 82nd in the national ranking.



The second postcard is in French and comes from grandmother Sinem, who lived in Africa before moving to France. She has a very cute profile in which she says that she works as a secretary in a small office, that she loves reading books, scrapbooking, gardening and... laugh. She has more than 5,500 postcards sent and received

The third letter in French was received from postcrosser Giancarlo of Italy, Sardinia. He fills his envelope with nice surprises: stamps and banknotes from Yugoslavia.



The fourth letter is in French and comes from a post-crosser girl from France in the city of Reis. Who dreams of travelling the world, meeting different people and tasting different sweets.

2.2 Personal communication experience with a French post-crosser

Thanks to the project, I met the postcrosser Julien from France, Provence region. He calls the postcards "Windows to the World" and hangs them on the wall of the office. In total, he owns more than five hundred. He began to study Russian and collected postcards depicting regions, regions, and republics of Russia. He already owns 26 Russian postcards. We gave him a postcard from Kabardino-Balkaria. He gladly accepted the offer. At the moment, we communicate by email in French. Recently, he received our letter and notified us of the following e-mail:

"Hello Tamerlan and Ekaterina!

What a surprise today! Your envelope was in my mailbox and its contents are beautiful!

Thank you, Spasibo Bolshoi, for the care of the choice of maps, Mount Elbrus is splendid!!

I will give the t note to my son who loves foreign money (but he doesn't particularly collect), the other card to my daughter who collects postcards with me, and I reserve the stamps for my uncle who is a big collector! He collects ancient Asian coins, stamps, shells, etc.

I hope with all my heart that you will receive my mail and that Tamerlane will like it, a message for you!

Well done! Congratulations on your French! You make mistakes that are typical of Russian speakers (I have a Belarusian friend who makes the same mistakes), for example you confuse the

masculine and feminine, conjugate common nouns or don't conjugate verbs. But don't worry! I'm very impressed, stay passionate above all you are only 16 years old!

In a few years you will have a very high level of French, I have no doubt about it.

And when the world is finally at peace, I wish you the opportunity to visit my country, because unfortunately it is the best way to learn a language... travel!

It's a nice day for both of us, I'm going back to work admiring Mount Elbrus on my desk:)

Julien"

2.3 Comparative analysis of the participation of the two countries of Russia and France in the international postcrossing project

Based on my limited experience and open sources on the Internet, I conducted a comparative analysis of the two countries participating in postcrossing, Russia and France.

Russia is a country of 144,478,050 inhabitants.

The capital of Russia is Moscow.

In Russia, 115,178 people are registered.

Sent: 8736169 cards

Receipt: 8594891 postcards.

Russia ranks 3rd in the world for postcards sent (1st place in Germany, 2nd place in the United States)

Among the Russian participants, Valery Ivashkin (participant since 2011) is in first place, who sent and received more than 12,000 postcards from St. Petersburg.

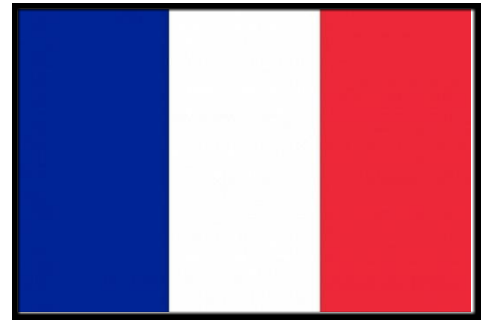


France is a country of 66987244 inhabitants

There are 18,154 registered participants in France

Sent: 1534981 postcards

Receipt: 1555979 postcards



France ranks 14th in the world for postcards sent

Didier, the most active French post-crosser (participant since 2006). He has more than 17,500 postcards sent and received.

Interestingly, in both countries, leadership positions are held by men, despite the fact that 80.5% of participants are women and 17.0% are men.

According to the geographical distribution, Russia occupies the first place - 14.3%, France the 11th place - 2.3%

In the last 30 days, new participants have registered in Russia - 17.% of the first place in the world, and in France 2.2% - this is the 10th place.

The French national post dates back to 576. In 1991, the state-owned company La Poste was created. The international rate for letters up to 20 grams is 3.90 euros. The stamps commonly used for payment are stamps depicting Marianne (Marianne stamps), a young woman who became a symbol of the republic during the revolution of the eighteenth century. You can buy stamps at tobacconists' kiosks, post offices or online on the La Poste website. There is also a service on the La Poste website called Mon Timbra Moi, you can order unique stamps and print them yourself, they will also be valid.



The postmen at La Poste are mostly men, they transport special trolleys, ride bicycles and are currently testing a robot trolley that will follow the postman itself.

And also in France you can send a letter via a special self-service machine.

The Russian National Postal Service has been in existence for more than 1000 years.

Russian Post is a Russian state-owned company established in 2002. The international rate for letters up to 20 grams is 85 rubles.

For payment, standard stamps with the coat of arms of the Russian Post are usually used, but you can also buy artistic and collectible stamps in specialist shops. In Russia, postmen usually work like women. Which carry correspondence in special bags.



3. Conclusion

I think people's interest in postcards was born out of nostalgia for the pre-digital era and is not fading, because for a modern person, against a backdrop of alarming information noise, it is important to receive confirmation that there are many good people out there. with similar interests and views on the world around us.

Everybody's postcrossing. From small to large. It's nice to receive postcards from grandparents, young children, and students, read stories from their lives, and learn something new about the world. Postcrossing has no restrictions, making it an interesting, unusual, and useful pastime.

The result of participating in the project was not so much the accumulation of knowledge as the ability to use it to solve the problems I was having. Introduce traditions and develop a culture of writing through postcards.

4. Bibliography

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<https://www.postcrossing.com>

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