

Google: Anna Karenina Live Edition

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Case Studies

This case study describes how Google, the internet search company, improved its reputation in Russia by celebrating one of the country's most famous novelists, Leo Tolstoy.

- The company wanted to reduce its perception as a threat to cultural heritage and to promote its tools.
- It decided to target the Russian speaking global internet audience and readers of classical literature
- It launched a collaborative live reading of the novel Anna Karenina by various readers over the course of 36 hours; YouTube and Google+ supported the event.
- There were over 6m views of the project Google+ page, coverage in over 1000 media articles and a total reach of 5.4b.

What we wanted to achieve was no less ambitious than to unite the whole Russian speaking world under the umbrella of Anna Karenina novel online readings and amaze it with the beauty and relevance of classic literature.

The idea was to showcase that online readings of Russian classics can unite people which would have never met in reality: celebrity actors, politicians, sportsmen, scientists, as well as journalists, bloggers and common Internet users regardless of their age, political views, place of living and social status.



Planning objectives

Business objective

- Transform attitudes towards Google in Russia for the better;
- Persuade authorities, opinion formers and ordinary users that Google and Internet in general are no threat to the cultural heritage. On the contrary it's the tool to preserve, promote and access it;
- Promote Google+, Google Hangouts and YouTube;

Consumer objective

- Demonstrate that modern Internet technologies help the audience to transcend the limits of country borders and time zones;
- Unite thousands of people from different worlds in front of one book;

Media objective

- Execute the media plan with project key messages in federal and regional top media aimed at target audience;
- · Get at least lb media reach.

Planning target audience

All Russian speaking Internet audience globally, as well as all classic literature lovers



Execution stages & activities



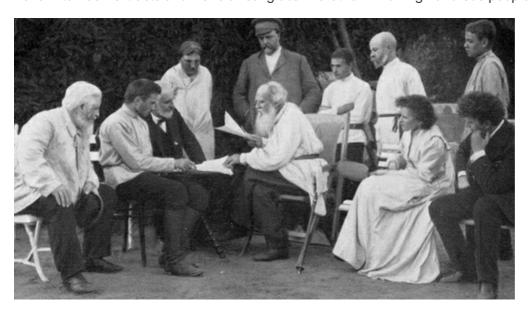


Execution idea

Great-great grand-daughter of Leo Tolstoy, **Anna (Fekla) Nikitichna Tolstaya** approached Google Russia with the idea to revive Tolstoy's family readings. Fekla thought of broadcasting live non-stop readings of *Anna Karenina*, the most renowned of her ancestor's novels, from the Tolstoy's family mansion in Yasnaya

Polyana, now The Tolstoy's Museum

But we sensed an opportunity to turn this story into the truly unique global experience. We decided to divide the novel into 700+ extracts and make a real global marathon involving hundreds people.



Execution venues



To make the reading marathon a truly global phenomenon we gained non-commercial partnership with 34 different venues located in Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Novosibirsk, New York, Seoul, Paris, Los Angeles, Dublin, etc. Among them there were iconic venues — such as the Bolshoi Theatre, the Hermitage Museum, the Russian State Library, Tolstoy's own historical estate in Yasnaya Polyana and others. Most of the venues were open to public during the readings.

Execution celebrity readers

Famous people from different worlds were invited to participate in Karenina. Live Edition on the non-commercial

basis. Among 150 celebrities there were popular actors (Sergey Garmash, Veniamin Smekhov, Alexander Filippenko), theatre and film directors (Egor Konchalovskiy, Sergey Soloviev, Tigran Keosayan), sportsmen (2014 Olympic winner Adelina Sotnikova), musicians, journalists and top bloggers. We also managed to gain attention of the nation's leading politicians. Press Secretary for Russian President Dmitry Peskov, Press Secretary for the Head of the Government Natalia Timakova, Russia's Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinskiy, and others came to read the great Russian novel to the world online. For Google as international commercial company it was a big step forward in government relations.





Execution readers from e-audience

All Russian-speaking Internet users regardless of their social status, age, sex and location, had equal chances to become Karenina readers. We held a contest so that ordinary people could have an opportunity to become readers by uploading videos they made themselves to YouTube with a **#kareninalive** hashtag.

Later the project director selected the best user generated videos from more than **600 applications** and organized virtual rehearsals with all of their authors. The users were given their book extracts long before the readings so that they had enough time to prepare for the reading marathon.

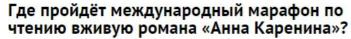


Execution public relations

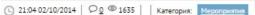
The extensive public relations campaign accompanied the project from the earliest stages:

- We organized the launch press conference with the project announcement at Moscow International Book Fest with the most relevant audience around;
- We placed 70+ interviews & comments with project organizers, celebrities & e-users in federal and regional media:
- We developed online consumer activations, for example, online tests on the site of the major mainstream newspaper "Which of Karenina protagonists is closer to you?";
- We wrote some of our press-materials in instantly recognizable Tolstoy's style;
- We partnered with the leading media to livestream readings on their sites;
- We helped to organize and supported additional activities around the project venues, including exhibitions, public performances and lectures.











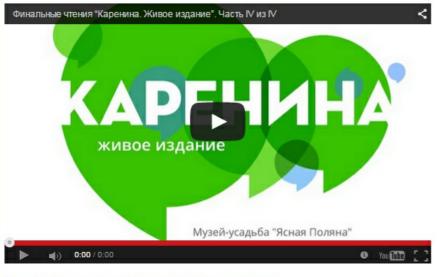


3 + -

Корпорация Google в сотрудничестве с Музеем-усадьбой Льва Толстого «Ясная Поляна» 3-4 октября проведут <u>читательский марафон «Каренина. Живое издание»</u>.

В течение 30 часов в онлайн-режиме более 700 человек со всего мира будут читать вслух бессмертное произведение Льва Толстого. Кроме деятелей искусства, учёных и популярных видеоблогеров, к участию в марафоне пригласили и обычных пользователей интернета.

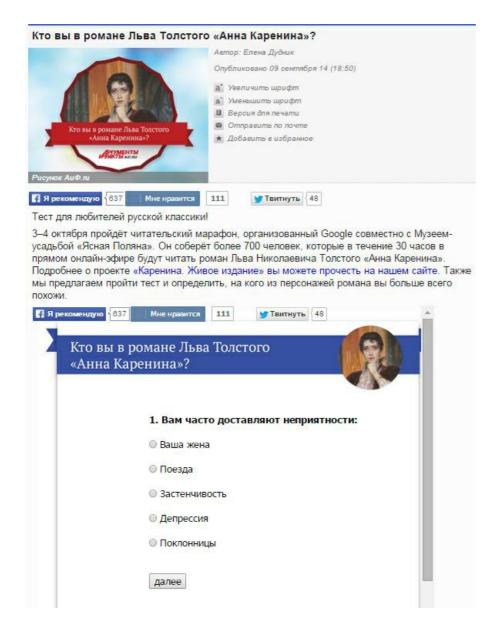
Те, кто не сможет присутствовать на площадках, смогут посмотреть прямую трансляцию на YouTube - ссылка станет доступной 3 октября в 12:00.



Следить за новостями можно на официальной странице проекта.

О том, куда можно прийти, чтобы вживую услышать чтение романа Толстого, рассказывает АиФ.ru.

Кто вы в романе Льва Толстого «Анна Каренина»? Пройдите тест >>



Execution social media amplification

The social media activities included:

- Launch of Google+ page and YouTube channel of the project;
- Project support in Google Russia feeds;
- Interaction with top and niche (literature) bloggers and vloggers;
- Engaging project partners' media channels;
- Promotion in most popular Google+ and VK.com communities.





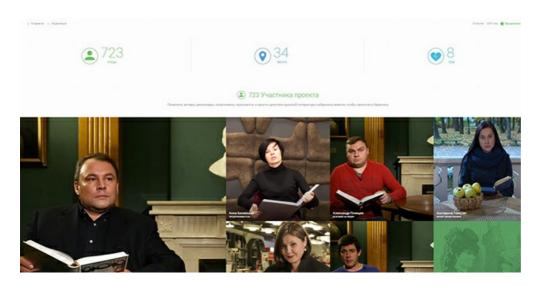
Execution press event & reading marathon start

The readings began in the morning of Oct 3, 2014. They were organized in the following way: each hour several venues from different locations around the world (between three to seven different locations in 13 time zones) were connected via Google+ Hangouts and livestreamed on YouTube. When one reader stopped reading his or her two-to-three minute extract, he or she was immediately followed by the next reader from another venue. It took us about 36 hours to read the whole book. During this time not only Russian venues were connected to the live stream, but also the ones from the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Korea, France, Israel,

etc.

The first venue of the reading marathon was the iconic Russian State Library, where just before the start of the readings we organized a press conference. Over 70 journalists showed up, including 17 TV crews representing all Russian national channels - and for the next few days we were among the biggest news across all the screens and all the pages.

Execution project heritage



After the readings, the team launched 'live" version of Tolstoy's classic novel, based on the online reading marathon. With the help of the website's search function, one can locate video footage of any person who read the book during the marathon. Users can also find their favorite scenes in the book, read or watch them being read from the very beginning.

Evaluation reading marathon

36 hours of reading online

34 venues, from Los-Angeles to Tokyo

6m+ views of the project promo video

Key achievements

- 3m+ logs-in to the live stream
- 106 countries watched the marathon online
- On Oct 3, 2014, the number of "Karenina" Google search queries demonstrated 3X growth globally and 4X growth in Russia
- According to the Russian Book Union, the sales of Karenina print editions raised after Karenina.
 Live Edition project

Evaluation government relations



DMITRY PESKOV

Press Secretary for Russian President

• This is a magnificent project! This is a magnificent idea!



VLADIMIR TOLSTOY

President's Adviser on Culture

• It seems to me that "Anna Karenina" is the most universal among the world's novels. It was tested by time, different translations, different languages, a variety of screen versions and beautiful actresses who played this role. And it is really one of the world's best novels. I support Google's choice.



VLADIMIR ARISTARKHOV

Deputy Minister of Culture

• The project is important not only for our country but also for the whole world. Light of Russian culture gives light to all. The project involves not only people from this country, but even students from Japan and China who study the Russian language.

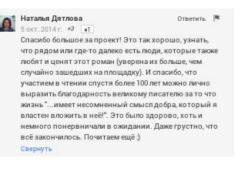
Evaluation social media



65k+ subscribers and 6m+ views on Google+ official project page







Total Coverage-43 mlnusers

Total Reach -2,9 mln users

VIRAL (NON PAID)

Total Coverage -39 mlnusers

Estimated Reach -5 mlnusers

Evaluation public relations

6 TV spots on Channel One, the most prominent media source in Russia. Evening news included!

Key figures

- 1000+ media articles, incl. 50+ TV spots (with all national channels), 50+ radio spots, 50+ print articles;
- 40% federal coverage, 60% regional coverage;
- Total reach: 5.4b



METRO

"Anna Karenina" to be Read by the Whole World

Культурное событие. «Анну Каренину» прочтут по всему миру

Читательский марафон «Анна Каренина. Живое издание», организованный музеемусадьбой «Ясная Поляна» и компанией Google, пройдёт 3-4 октября.

Знаменитый роман Льва Николаевича Толстого про-чтут онлайн 700 человек более чем за 30 часов в Москве, Санкт-Петербурге, Владиво-сгоке, Новосибирске, Нью-Йорке, Париже, Лондоне и ЛОУГИХ ГОДОЛАХ. МЕТВО



HELLO

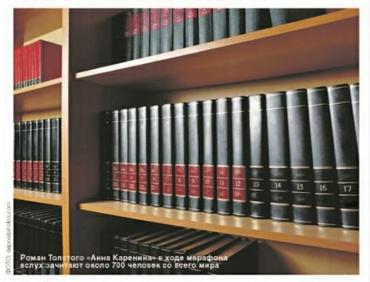
Sergey Garmashto Open Public Readings of "Anna Karenina" by Leo Tolstoy



RBC DAILY

Google to Revive Tolsoy's Readings

Google возродит толстовские чтения



700 избранных из разных стран в течение 30 часов будут читать вслух «Анну Каренину», а наблюдать за ними в режиме реального времени можно будет на YouTube.

> Совместно с музеем-усадьбой «Ясная Поляна» компания Google запускает необычный арт-проект. Роман Льва Николаевичы Толстого «Анна Каренина» вслух зачитают около 700 человек со всего мира, в числе которых известные актеры, журналисты, деятели культуры, потомки великого писателя, видеоблогеры и рядовые пользователи Сети. Чтение произведения займет около 30 часов и будет в режиме реального времени транслироваться на YouTube.

> Куратор проекта и праправнучка Льва Николаевича Фекла Толстая говорит: «Сохранились фотографии, на которых толстовское семейство — сам Лев Николаевич, его дети и жена — сидит в гостиной, и один из них читает вслух книгу. В XXIве ке по-прежнему хочется устраивать такие домашние чтения, вместе сопереживать героям и радоваться прекрасному тексту. Только теперь, благодаря возможностям Интернета, неважно, что слушатель или тот, кто

подхватит твое чтение, сидит за тысячи километров от тебя. «Анна Каренина» найдет отклик в душе каждого — это одна из лучших книг на свете».

Чтобы приобщиться к мировой классике и принять участие в проекте, нужно подписаться на страницу проекта в социальной сети Google-, выбрать отрывок из произведения, выразительно зачитать его на камеру, уложившись приэтом в минуту, и залить на YouTube с хэштегом #Каренина Live, Заявки принимаются до 4 сентября. Лучшие отрывки затем выберет жюри.

Сам марафон пройдет 3 и 4 октября в разных городах мира, среди которых Москва, Владивосток, Нью-Йорк и Париж. По окончании проекта видеотрансляция будет выложена в открытый доступ. Более того, проект сделают интерактивным, подключив возможности картографических сервисов и Википедии. Слушатель сможет посмотреть на картах, где происходило действие романа, а также подробнее узнать биографию героев и прочитать об их прототипах.

дмитрий петренко

Evaluation Personal

We understood the project's impact when one of our colleagues during his daily commute overheard a couple of old ladies discussing the 'glued to the screens' generation

They even watched Anna Karenina readings online!

They would never read it [the novel] on their own. Finally this Internet-thing is doing something good!

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