Abstract
The collection "Maps of the Russian empire and its parts of the 18th century" is one of great cultural importance in the world. Vast geographical explorations and cartographic work broadened greatly the knowledge not only of the interior of the country but of northern coast of Asia, the Far East and the Pacific which resulted in the discovery of North America. The second collection "Hand-written and printed town maps of the 2nd half of 18th to the beginning of the 19th century" is of great interest in terms of toponymic and economic data about Russian empire.

Identity and Location
Name of the Documentary Heritage: Maps of the Russian empire and its parts of the 18th century
Country: Russian Federation
State, Province or Region: Moscow
Address: 3, Vozdvihenka str. 101000 Moscow; e-mail: irgb@glas.apc.org
Name of Institution: Russian State Library

Legal Information
Owner: Russian State Library (Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation)
Director: Vladimir Egorov Konstantinovitch
Legal Status:
Category of ownership: State public property
Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage: Statutes of Russian State Library and Preservation Dpt.

Accessibility: Public access
Copyright status: Russian State Library ownership State Archives acts
Responsible administration: Rare, valuable and fragile parts of the collection are kept in special conditions

Identification
Description: The collection "Maps of the Russian empire and its parts of the 18th century" is one of great cultural importance in the world. Vast geographical explorations and cartographic work broadened greatly the knowledge not only of the interior of the country but of northern coast of Asia, the Far East and the Pacific which resulted in the discovery of North America. The second collection "Hand-written and printed town maps of the 2nd half of 18th to the beginning of the 19th century" is of great interest in terms of toponymic and economic data about Russian empire.
History: The stock of cartographic publications were formed in the course of 130 years leading off the moment of the Foundation of the library, as an independent structural unit it has been in existence since 1960.

Names, qualifications and contact details of independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage:
- Kotelnikov Natalya Yevdokimovna, chief, map department of the Russian State Library, candidate of geographical sciences, phone: 222-86-97
- Kusov Vladimir Svyatoslavovich, assistant professor, chair of cartography and geoinformatics of the geographical faculty of the Moscow University, phone: 938-28-12, 939-37-93
- Postnikov Aleksey Vladimirovich, doctor of technical sciences, professor, Institute of the History of the natural sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences, phone: 928-41-73

Management Plan
The rare cartographic works of the 18th Century are either handwritten or printed maps and atlases. The handwritten maps and atlases are preserved in single copies, the printed maps and atlases of the mentioned period have survived in libraries and archives of Russia either in one or several copies. Since the beginning of the 90ies both the maps and atlases of the 18th Centuries have been open in the Russian State Library and no political interdictions existant more. The depository of the Russian State Library is not fit for cartographic documents. There is no special equipment for storing the leafy material. The preservation is regulated by the technological documentation of the Russian State Library.

Assessment against the Selection Criteria
Selection criteria of the above mentioned collection is the result of more than fifty years of research work of the specialists of the Russian State Library and an assessment of international resonance of users' interests.

Consultation
Custodian of the collection: N. Ye. Kotelnikov, chief, map department, Russian State Library.

Nominator
Name: Russian State Library, Director - Vladimir Egorov Konstantinovitch
Relationship to documentary heritage: Keeper of the publication and work coordinator Contact person: Responsible for the project "Memory of Russia" - Irina Morozova
Contact details: Contact to be established by correspondence (see above address)
Assessment of Risk
The above mentioned material is extremely rare and fragile. The conditions of their preservation in the Russian State Library are unsatisfactory. The political state in the country is unstable, the environment is poor (in downtown Moscow, high gas concentration, inadequate depository). It is running great risk daily.

Preservation Assessment
The conditions of the preservation of the collection "Maps of the Russian empire and its parts of the 18th century" in the Russian State library is insufficient. Restoration of all kinds is less than enough.