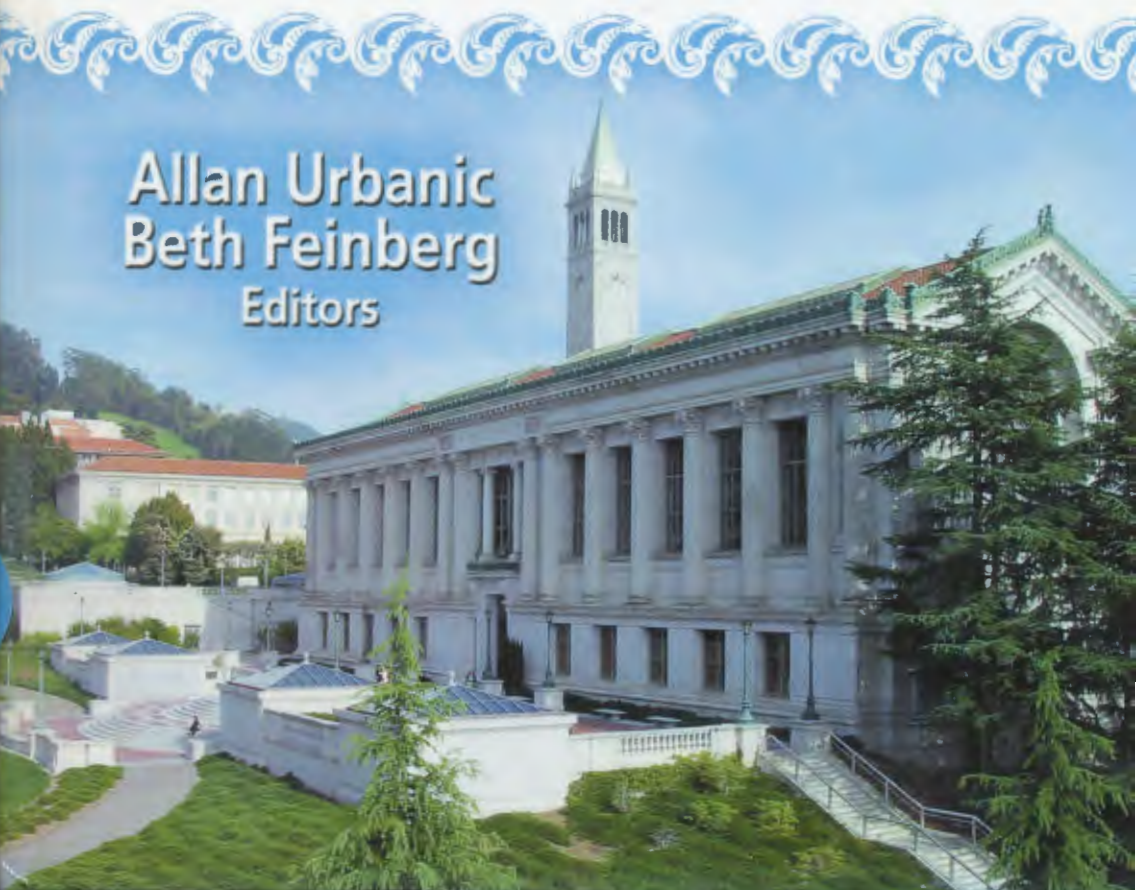


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Guide to *Slavic
Collections*
**in the United States
and Canada**

Allan Urbanic
Beth Feinberg
Editors



A Guide to Slavic Collections in the United States and Canada

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- *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies (ABSEES) & ABSEES Online (searchable by multiple fields, plus full-record keyboard searching*
<<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/absees/>> 2000
- *DARE Databank (covering social science periodicals)*
<<http://databases.unesco.org/dare/form.shtml>> 2001
- *IBZ International Bibliography of Periodical Literature*
<<http://www.saur.de>> 2000
- *Information Science & Technology Abstracts: indexes journal articles from more than 450 publications as well as books, research reports, and conference proceedings; EBSCO Publishing* <<http://www.epnet.com>> 2000
- *Informed Librarian, The* <<http://www.informedlibrarian.com>> 2003
- *INSPEC is the leading English-language bibliographic information service providing access to the world's scientific & technical literature in physics, electrical engineering, electronics, communications, control engineering, computers & computing, and information technology*
<<http://www.iee.org.uk/publish/>> 2002

(continued)

- *Internationale Bibliographie der geistes- und sozialwissenschaftlichen Zeitschriftenliteratur* ... See IBZ. 2000
- *Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review)* 2000
- *Management & Marketing Abstracts* <<http://www.pira.co.uk/>>. 2000
- *OCLC Public Affairs Information Service* <<http://www.pais.org>> 2000
- *Referativnyi Zhurnal (Abstracts Journal of the All-Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information—in Russian)* 2000
- *Subject Index to Literature on Electronic Sources of Information* <<http://library.usask.ca/~dworacze/BIBLIO.HTM>> 2000
- *World Publishing Monitor* 2000

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- to facilitate user/access services all indexing/abstracting services are encouraged to utilize the co-indexing entry note indicated at the bottom of the first page of each article/chapter/contribution.
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- individual articles/chapters in any Haworth publication are also available through the Haworth Document Delivery Service (HDDS).



A Guide to Slavic Collections in the United States and Canada

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Introduction

The volume you now have before you is the result of the work of many hands. Joining the editors are librarians and archivists who now manage the numerous repositories of Slavic and East European materials located in the United States and Canada. It also includes the efforts of their predecessors, those who created and inventoried these collections throughout the history of Slavic Studies in North America.

This is not the first attempt to make the Slavic holdings of North America more visible,¹ nor will it likely be the last, for the scene is constantly changing. Most notable of the changes is the great increase in the dissemination of information through electronic means. We now can explore the World Wide Web for sites of interest, access rich bibliographies of materials, and search the online catalogs of many of the world's great scholarly repositories. Given enough time and money, replicas of manuscripts, illuminated books, letters, maps, and other research materials will also be available for view on one's computer screen. However, making such things available does not mean that people find them, and to this end, the editors of this volume hope to have improved the process of searching and discovery.

Then what is the purpose of this volume? First and foremost, it is to bring information on Slavic collections up-to-date. Collecting policies at institutions change, private collections are acquired by libraries and made public, deteriorating paper resources have been preserved, and contact information at institutions has altered, to name just a few of the situations that change over time.

[Haworth co-indexing entry note]: "Introduction." Urbanic, Allan, and Beth Feinberg. Co-published simultaneously in *Slavic & East European Information Resources* (The Haworth Information Press, an imprint of The Haworth Press, Inc.) Vol. 5, No. 3/4, 2004, pp. 1-4; and: *A Guide to Slavic Collections in the United States and Canada* (ed: Allan Urbanic, and Beth Feinberg) The Haworth Information Press, an imprint of The Haworth Press, Inc., 2004, pp. 1-4. Single or multiple copies of this article are available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service [1-800-HAWORTH, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EST)]. E-mail address: hdcdelivery@haworthpress.com].

Perhaps the greatest sea change in the field has been that which was mentioned above: there is now access to a vast amount of information in electronic formats. The days of spending weeks surveying a research topic through paper versions of the voluminous *Historical Abstracts* or the *Modern Language Association Bibliography* are now over, at least for those institutions that can afford the high costs of digital data. Not only have local catalogs been converted to online versions, but in the act of this conversion, the holdings of these local tools have been added to monstrously large national union catalogs.

There is another benefit to the Internet, one which actually saves money instead of consuming it. Slavic librarians and archivists are now in instant communication, not only with each other but with the scholars that they serve. As a result, interlibrary lending has been improved, collections can be surveyed prior to traveling to them, and the raw data of scholarship can be transmitted between institutions and individuals in a variety of easily accessible formats simply through pressing a few keys on a computer. In fact, at those institutions which subscribe to the paper version of the journal that is publishing this work, the library can provide their patrons with an electronic copy of the *Guide* which can be perused from home or office.

With this in mind, the editors have tried to create a product which will serve two masters: the scholar who wants a description of resources in hand and one who desires to travel the ether in search of even more. Consequently, in some cases the collection descriptions will not be as detailed as in preceding guidebooks. On the other hand, the web resources to which one is referred would fill a volume far too expensive for a publisher to print and a library to purchase, and far too heavy for any human to lift.

With regard to web links, there is one important thing to remember. Information Technology people have a penchant for changing hardware and systems; thus, there is no guarantee that a web resource cited in this volume will actually remain at the Internet location specified. The main library web page URL provided in each entry then becomes the best avenue of circumventing a failed link. Of all Internet addresses, these are probably the most stable.

A few words should be devoted to the book's title and to the methodology used in gathering the information it contains. The editors have fallen back on the traditional terms *Slavic* and *East European* knowing full well the inaccuracies that are inherent. The field that arose as the result of the Cold War focuses on the study of the Former Soviet Union and the countries of Europe that fell under its influence. A number of

these regions are not Slavic, and even the boundaries that have conceptually defined East Europe have changed in recent years. Independence has made many of these countries look west with hope rather than east in fear. It should be noted that none of the contributors had trouble with the designation when providing information about his or her resources, and it is the editors' belief that none of the users of this volume will experience difficulties either.

The survey instrument that was designed for this project was meant to frame the information so that there would be some consistency from entry to entry. It also serves to assure that certain important facts about a collection were not omitted. The information providers were given free rein to fill in the blanks in the way they thought best displayed their collections. For those instances where the question did not apply to the institution or they had no resources in that particular area, the entry is simply marked "n/a." Once the responses were received, the editors focused on clearing up missing information, reformatting those entries which interpreted the survey questions in an inconsistent manner, and fleshing out those responses which relied heavily on references to web sites. It was a conscious decision to provide a textual description of collections and resources and not simply to rely on citing a URL, no matter how rich and complete the website referred to might be. Nonetheless, to keep this volume down to a manageable size, a combination of text, along with a reference to a website for further information, was settled on as the best manner of approach.

The institutions represented here cover public libraries, governmental libraries, special collections, and most frequently, university libraries. There are the large research institutions that encompass both a broad range of disciplines, languages, and special resources as well as libraries dedicated to covering the literature of a particular interest. For many university libraries, Russian studies is the main focus, this being guided by the programs of study on the local campus. The result of this compilation demonstrates the richness and variety of resources that scholars in the United States and Canada have at their disposal.

In this electronic age, many libraries provide information about the web-based resources to which they have access. This is both helpful and problematic. While some resources are freely available, others are bound by licensing agreements, which limit use to the local constituencies of that particular library. In general, electronic resources created by the institution itself are freely accessible. It should be noted that, though a library presents an electronic resources page, it does not mean that all users will be able to connect to the listed resources from an off-site loca-

tion. Generally, such resources are available for walk-in service, especially at public university libraries or public libraries, so one can go to the facility, if it is nearby, and access the listed resources. It is always a good practice both to read the Access Policy provided in each entry and to verify the services that are available with the person provided as the institutional contact.

Unfortunately, no guide such as the one attempted here can claim comprehensiveness. Though the editors took great pains to seek information about the existence of collections from a variety of sources and publicized the project in various Slavic Studies venues, it is inevitable that some collections may have been overlooked. Others, though contacted repeatedly, chose not to reply. Fortunately, the latter were very few. It is hoped that the presence of lacunae is overshadowed by the many descriptions that were obtained and presented.

Finally we wish to thank all of the Slavic librarians and archivists who have provided information for our undertaking. Without their help this project could not have been completed. We would also like to thank Karen Rondestvedt, the editor of *Slavic & East European Information Resources* for her counsel and patience.

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NOTE

1. A sampling of previous guides includes Stephan A. Grant and John H. Brown, *The Russian Empire and Soviet Union: A Guide to Manuscripts and Archival Materials in the United States* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1981); Paul L. Horecky and David H. Kraus, eds., *East Central and Southeast Europe: A Handbook of Library and Archival Resources in North America* (Santa Barbara, CA: Clio Press, 1976); Robert A. Karlowich, *A Guide to Scholarly Resources on the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union in the New York Metropolitan Area* (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 1990). Also of note are the many "Scholars' guides" to resources in the Washington, DC area.