

## AAASS Digital Projects Subcommittee: Annual Report 2008: DRAFT

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### Current Members:

Miranda Remnek (U. of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign) 2005-2008, Co-Chair  
Andrew Spencer (U. of Wisconsin/Madison) 2005-2008, Co-Chair  
Alena Aissing (University of Florida) 2008-2009  
Jon Guillian (U. of Kansas) 2008-2010  
Anna Rakityanskaya (Harvard U.) 2008-2010  
Erik Zitser (Duke U.) 2007-2009

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Since our last conference the Digital Projects Subcommittee has been responsible for a number of activities:

1. In December 2007 the Subcommittee made plans for a panel for this year's conference: the title was: "Creating East European and Eurasian Digital Repositories: Archiving for Preservation and Access", and the panel featured two committee members, Remnek and Spencer. This type of activity fits with one aspect of our charge which is to "Increase the range of digital training opportunities for Slavic librarians by organizing annual panels to foster understanding of digital issues."

2. In December-January 2008: Illinois took the lead in finalizing an IMLS grant proposal to fund the first two years of a four-year project entitled *Islam Eurasia: Bridging the Information Divide*. The goal of the multi-institutional proposal was to obtain \$250,000 to digitize and present textual/geospatial resources on Islamic Eurasia in an integrated display for access by different users—and archive them in a prototype national Slavic repository. Much time was spent on finalizing and submitting the proposal, but it did not receive funding—due in part to the withdrawal of a former partner which required hasty restructuring. However, another partner, Wisconsin, has already committed funding to the digitization of Central Asian travel texts, so the current Phase 1 partners (Illinois, Wisconsin and CRL) are meeting in Philadelphia to discuss next steps.

3. In the spring of 2008 we continued to add material to our educational wiki, *Digital Slavist* (<http://digitalslavist.xwiki.com/xwiki/bin/view/Main/>). At this point the wiki has 27 registered specialists/contributors, and it now contains a new GIS section added by Illinois that includes some basic definitions, resources, current GIS projects in Slavic disciplines, and also GIS literature. However, the software in use for this wiki (xwiki) is causing some problems, and it may be advisable to change to a new environment.

4. In the spring and summer of 2008 we continued to add material to our *Inventory of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Digital Projects* (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/inventory/index.htm>). Use of the *Inventory* continues to grow, increasing from 75,612 hits in the period July 2006-June 2007 to 80,710 in the period July 2007-June 2008 (an increase of 4,088 hits, or 6%). In addition, Kevin Hawkins has been especially helpful in supplying new listings for registration. This process would be helped considerably by deployment of web submission forms already constructed some time ago, but not yet enabled. However, receipt of multiple web submissions would require an ongoing editorial commitment to validate entries.

5. Current activities:

- a) The two current co-chairs are rotating off the Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee is in the process of selecting a new chair for 2009.
- b) The Subcommittee is also investigating new possibilities for continuing two of its projects, the *Digital Projects Inventory*, and *Digital Slavist* wiki. The Subcommittee feels that these are key tools, and that it would be helpful to continue them. Suggestions include moving the responsibility to the current Subcommittee chair, making them available from the B&D website, and perhaps involving a vendor in further development.
- c) The Subcommittee is also investigating other possible areas for attention and consideration:
  - a. Pursuing open access issues, especially with regard to *Slavic Review*;
  - b. Exploring further the question of adequate reflection of digital resources in Worldcat;
  - c. Changing the name of the Subcommittee. Some feel that the designation “Digital Projects” is too restrictive, and may not be sufficiently representative of the international initiatives developed by the Subcommittee, or the issues currently being considered (open access to journal content, and reflection in Worldcat). Nor does it reflect some of the roles prescribed in our early charge (for example, mediation with vendors and other digital producers). New possibilities include Subcommittee for Digital Initiatives, or Subcommittee for Digital Access Issues.

Respected submitted:

Miranda Remnek, Co-chair

Andrew Spencer, Co-chair