

Digital Projects Sub-committee 2007 Report of Activities

1. Committee membership:

- Miranda Remnek (U. of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign), Co-Chair 2005-2007
- Andrew Spencer (U. of Wisconsin/Madison), Co-Chair 2005-2007
- Michael Brewer (U. of Arizona) 2005-2007
- Kevin Hawkins (U. of Michigan) 2005-2007
- Eileen Llona (U. of Washington) 2005-2006
- Bradley Schaffner (Harvard U.) 2005-2007
- Erik Zitser (Duke U.) 2007-2009

2. Updates on ongoing and planned projects.

a. **Digital Slavist educational wiki** (Remnek)

(<http://digitalslavist.xwiki.com/xwiki/bin/view/Main/>)

This initiative was begun in the fall of 2006 and provides introductory content on a variety of digital applications in a user-friendly environment. The number of scholars and librarians registered, including some leading experts from Eastern Europe, has continued to grow in 2007 with currently more than two dozen registered members.

b. **Inventory of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Digital Projects** (Remnek)

(<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/inventory/index.htm>)

This project has been underway since 2003. As time and resources permit, substantive digital projects in the Slavic and East European Studies area are being added to the Inventory. Currently there are 154 projects and 437 collections represented in the Inventory. The Inventory is now an OAI data provider, so that its records can be harvested for incorporation in aggregated search services. The records are now being harvested by OAIster, the leading OAI service provider. Statistics suggest that use of the *Inventory* has doubled from 35,000 hits last year to 73,436 hits in the period July 2006-June 2007, primarily in December and March-June. Programming improvements and an active web submission process will be actively discussed in early 2008.

c. **Harvard Project on the Soviet Socialist System** (Schaffner)

(<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:hpsoviet>)

Work has been finished on digitizing the Harvard Project on the Soviet Socialist System. Shortly after the conclusion of WWII and during the nascent years of the Cold War, researchers from Harvard University conducted extensive interviews with refugees from the USSR. The results of this research, which became known as the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System or HPSSS, serves as a unique source for the study of Soviet society between 1917 and the mid-1940s. Never published, the manuscripts of these interviews were bound into 61 volumes and are housed in the Harvard College Library.

Although this data has contributed to over 50 books and articles, given the cumbersome nature of the resource, it has never been fully exploited, particularly as a pedagogical tool. Over the last two years, the interviews have been digitized and made freely accessible via the World Wide Web in an effort to enhance their value as both a research tool and instructional resource. A report on this project will be published a chapter in the book that Marta Deyrup is editing entitled "Digital Scholarship," a monographic supplement to the journal, *Technical Services Quarterly*, which will be published by Haworth Press some time in 2008.

d. Russian Satirical Journals Digitization Project. (Spencer)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has begun the digitization of its substantial collection of late 19th-early 20th Century Russian satirical journals. This project will digitize the collection of Russian satirical journals currently held by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries' Department of Special Collections. This collection of journals includes runs of 98 journal titles published from 1894 to 1907, with the vast majority being published in the critical historical period of 1905-1907. This project will feature full color digitization of all the illustrations and substantial Russian and English metadata encoding.

e. *(proposed)* **Islam and Eurasia: Bridging the Information Divide.** (Remnek and Spencer) This is an IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) proposal from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington and The Center for Research Libraries for a Research and Development grant to create four groups of resources: digital texts, geospatial data, an access-archival infrastructure relating to the Islamic regions of the Russian Empire. Wisconsin will digitize 19th-early 20th century historical materials on the Caucasus/Central Asia for better scholarly understanding of the roots of current problems. Washington will obtain rare geospatial tabular data for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and the Caucasus that will be integrated with IE data and added to the ongoing *Central Eurasian Interactive Atlas* project, a flagship GIS initiative in the Slavic field. Illinois will develop a portal providing graduated access to project materials fully suited to the needs of different user groups, including an appropriate interface for novice to expert users, and analysis mechanisms for scholars. Illinois will also explore a framework for digital preservation of the files created for this project that may qualify for future expansion into a national Slavic digital repository and will create a model applicable to other area studies domains. A pilot project of the digitization portion of the project has already begun at Wisconsin, and significant work on project infrastructure development has been undertaken at Illinois.

3. Programs and conference presentations:

a. AAASS (New Orleans LA, Nov. 2007):

The Digital Projects Sub-committee sponsored the **Using Scholarly Digital Texts and Visual Materials in Teaching** panel on which two sub-committee members served (Remnek and Schaffner)

b. “Slavic Digital Text Workshop 2007: *From Medieval Texts to Geo-Cultural Data (GIS): Applications in Slavic Studies for Scholars and Librarians*” held at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. (Remnek)
(<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/sl-w-dtw/DTW2007.htm>)

4. Other Sub-Committee work:

The members of the Sub-Committee have been actively discussing the role of Open Access and how it may affect scholarly publication in the Slavic and East European fields and particularly in regards to AAASS publications.