

**AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee
Digital Projects Subcommittee
Report for 41st AAASS Annual Convention
Boston, MA
November 12-15, 2009**

Purpose. The Bibliography and Documentation Subcommittee on Digital Projects is dedicated to developing a range of mechanisms that will provide more comprehensive documentation of existing digital projects in the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian field, and, where possible, foster more extensive participation in future academic and commercial initiatives; to serving as a leading resource for information and advice on digital Slavic issues, such as open access; and acting as a sand-box to test out and explore possible alternatives to the current digital presence/organization of B&D and AAASS websites.

Membership. The current members of the B&D Subcommittee on Digital Projects are Erik Zitser (Duke U.) 2007-2011, Patricia Thurston (Yale) 2009-2011, Alena Aissing (University of Florida) 2008-2009; Anna Rakityanskaya (Harvard U.) 2008-2010; and Jon Guillian (U. of Kansas) 2008-2010. The subcommittee is co-chaired by Erik Zitser and Patricia Thurston.

Meetings. The group meets annually at AAASS conferences and members communicate by email and telephone at other times during the year.

Activity. The group is involved with several ongoing projects connected with Slavic and East European digital projects.

Digital Projects Inventory and Wiki. The Subcommittee is investigating several new possibilities for continuing the *Digital Projects Inventory* and *Digital Slavist* wiki. Suggestions include (1) moving the responsibility for hosting these projects to the rotating Subcommittee chair; (2) making them available from the B&D website; or (3) involving a vendor in their further development. Miranda Remnick, who spearheaded these projects, is ready to have the IT at UIUC send out the data for the *SPX Inventory*, which is currently in SQL database. They propose to import the data in a tab-delimited text file (each table will be one file), zip the whole folder, and send it to the committee. The question is whether the data files should be archived (but not yet published) by the current chairs; or whether we should hold off from sending anything until the AAASS moves to its new location in Pitt (home of REESWEB) and we know how much IT support they will have (perhaps enough to host both the *Inventory* and the wiki). Either way, the committee needs to get a sense of the technical requirements, so that whoever does take responsibility for hosting the *Inventory* will know what they might be taking on. Since Kevin Hawkins was involved in the project and understands the technology and what it would take to make something like this sustainable, the committee chairs recommend approaching him for an honest appraisal.

AAASS panel. In preparation for this year's conference, the Subcommittee formally-sponsored a roundtable on "The Future of Slavic Librarianship in the Digital Era." This roundtable is devoted to two issues that are shaping the future of Slavic librarianship in the new millennium: first, how various institutions are having to (or choosing to) reorganize (reduce in some areas, bulk up in others, merge with other internal units, phase out certain things, etc.) in order to cope with the changing context (technological, political, financial, academic, etc.). The other issue concerns the changes in the context that are driving this process or what these changes will (or do) mean for Slavic studies (and Slavic studies librarianship) as a whole. The roundtable included people from larger institutions talking about how they are dealing with the changes (reorganizing, ending

services, not hiring new bibliographers, etc.), and then had others (including members of the audience) talk about why this is happening, and what we should be reorganizing toward (what future needs, etc.) The panel was chaired by Michael Brewer (U of Arizona), current chair of the Bibliography and Documentation Committee, and included Robert Davis (Columbia U/NYPL), Nicholas Thorner (Library of Congress), Patricia Thurston (Yale U), Janice Pilch (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Aaron Trehub (Director of Library Technology, Auburn U).

Website. The Subcommittee is in the process of updating its official website <<http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/dp/>>, which is currently managed by Michael Brewer and hosted on U. of Arizona's servers. One of the co-chairs of the Subcommittee has installed Dreamweaver on his office computer in order to have the capability of making changes to any of the pages offline and then sending Michael an .html file that he can upload. The Subcommittee will need to discuss the feasibility and sustainability of this workflow and, if necessary, come up with viable alternatives.

Open Access. The Subcommittee has been collaborating with the Open Access Task Force, which transferred its charge to the Subcommittee at this year's conference. The Subcommittee hopes to compose and post a statement in support of the values associated with open access for the Slavic academic and library community, one that makes clear that the Committee has expertise and can advise faculty, including the editors of *Slavic Review*. This statement could then be published in *NewsNet* as well as posted on the subcommittee's website.

Charge. The Subcommittee is in the process of revising its charge to take up the work carried out by the Task Force on Open Access. To better reflect its newly-revised charge, the Subcommittee is not only updating its official website (see above) but also considering changing its name. Current possibilities include: Subcommittee for Digital Initiatives or Subcommittee for Digital Access Issues.

Subcommittee membership. The Subcommittee chairs have selected two new subcommittee members to replace those who are rotating off in 2009. The new members are Kirill Tolpygo, Monographic Cataloger, Andre Savine Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Robert H. Davis, Jr., Librarian for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies, Columbia University. Their terms will begin in November 2009 and will run until November 2011.

Contributions: Over the course of this year, subcommittee members have contributed to several projects and issues concerned with Slavic digital initiatives. Most notably, committee members answered Grant Harris' call on Slavlibs to help the Library of Congress come up with a list of content for an international partnership aimed at broadening digital collaboration and exchanges between American and Russian libraries. Individual committee members have also added new Slavic digital content to the wealth of resources already available online. One of these contributions is a new digital collection called *Americans in the Land of Lenin: Documentary Photographs of Early Soviet Russia, 1919–1930*, available at:

<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/esr/>. This collection of 750 photographs of daily life in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is drawn from the personal papers of Robert L. Eichelberger and Frank Whitson Fetter complements the resources in the University of Michigan's *Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections* as well as UNC-CH's *Russia Beyond Russia Digital Library*. A YouTube video (length: 2:44) highlighting the collection is available at: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHBKIX-7-QQ>>. Additional information about the American Expeditionary Force photos of the Russian Civil War can also be found in Ernest Zitser, "A Dirty Place for Americans to Be: Images of the Russian Civil War in Siberia from the

Robert L. Eichelberger Collection at Duke University Libraries,” *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, 10 (2009): 29–44.

Submitted by:

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