

Survey Results: Slavic & East European Collections & Collection Management Practices, Policies and Responsibilities [in Academic Libraries]

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Type of Academic Institution	
Public	75.9%
Private	24.1%

Slavic or East European Backlogs/Frontlogs?	
Yes	89.7%
No	10.3%

Received Title VI funding for Russian & East European Area Studies?	
No	41.4%
Yes	51.7%
Yes, we used to, but do not currently	3.5%

Approximate Size of these Frontlogs/Backlogs?	
<100	13.8%
100-500	31.0%
500-1000	10.3%
1000-2000	3.5%
2000-5000	6.9%
5000-10,000	6.9%
>10,000	10.3%
Unknown	17.2%

Size of Slavic & East European Collection	
<5000 volumes	0.0%
5000-10,000 volumes	3.5%
10,000-25,000 volumes	6.9%
25,000-50,000 volumes	3.5%
50,000-100,000 volumes	10.3%
100,000-200,000 volumes	17.2%
200,000-500,000 volumes	20.7%
>500,000 volumes	31.0%

Are Frontlog/Backlog Titles in OPAC?	
Yes	34.5%
No	27.6%
Mostly	24.1%
Mostly not	13.8%

Separate Slavic/East European library?	
Yes	13.8%
No	82.8%

Select the languages in which you feel your library has substantial frontlogs/backlogs.	
Armenian	11.1%
Azeri	14.8%
Bosnian	7.4%
Belarusian	11.1%
Bulgarian	18.5%
Croatian	18.5%

Slavic Librarian manages Slavic Library?	
Yes	20.0%
No	0.0%
Mixed Responsibility ¹	60.0%

¹ (a) Responsible for REES only; (b) Different aspects managed by different personnel (Head, Library Manager,

Faculty Librarians); (c) Share a reference reading room with other area studies programs.

Czech	22.2%
Estonian	14.8%
Greek	3.7%
Georgian	14.8%
Hungarian	22.2%
Kazakh	11.1%
Kirgiz	11.1%
Latvian	11.1%
Lithuanian	7.4%
Macedonian	7.4%
Polish	22.2%
Romanian/Moldovan	18.5%
Russian	48.2%
Serbian	25.9%
Slovak	11.1%
Slovenian	7.4%
Tajik	11.1%
Turkmen	11.1%
Ukrainian	22.2%
Uzbek	11.1%
Our frontlogs/backlogs aren't substantial	37.0%

Off Site Storage

Off-Site Storage for Slavic Materials?	
No	10.3%
Yes (explain in detail) ²	86.2%

Collecting Responsibilities: In my capacity as a Slavic librarian, I ... (Select as many as apply).	
Collect all vernacular materials for Slavic/EE Area Studies disciplines	82.8%

² All store Slavic materials in with other library materials. Numbers range from a few items, to well over 500,000 titles. Some store primarily older serial titles, others house entire collections in storage, while still others select titles to move to storage based on use or age.

Collect all foreign imprints for Slavic/EE Area Studies	58.6%
Collect in Slavic Languages, Literatures & Cultures in all (relevant) languages	65.5%
Other (please be specific) ³	37.9%

For which formats (in the vernacular) are you NOT primarily responsible? (Select as many as apply)	
VHS/DVDs	37.0%
Musical scores	96.3%
Maps	85.2%
Music CDs	85.2%
Databases	3.7%
Serials	0.0%
Books/Monographs	0.0%
Special Collections Materials	48.2%

As part of your job, are you asked to go on collection development-related foreign trips?	
Yes	20.7%
No	48.3%
No, not any more	31.0%

How often do you go on these trips?	
At least once a year	14.3%
Every couple years	42.9%
Every 5 years	14.3%
Less than every 5 years	14.3%

What do you (or did you) do on these trips? (Select as many as apply)	
Purchased books	57.1%
Established new exchanges	28.6%

³ Several noted that they also often purchase in Western languages, including English, for Slavic & East European area studies.

Worked with exchange partners	57.1%
Discontinued existing exchanges	0.0%
Other (please provide any relevant information)⁴	71.4%

How many people actively collect Slavic/East European materials in your institution?	
1	55.2%
2	17.2%
3	6.9%
4+	20.7%

Do you manage other staff or students?	
Yes, staff & students	31.0%
Yes, staff	20.7%
Yes, students	6.9%
No	37.9%

Are you asked to work significantly in donor relations?	
No	58.6%
Yes (please specify) ⁵	37.9%

Do you work on Slavic or EE related grant projects?	
No, I'm not expected to	34.5%
No, not yet (I am expected to)	24.1%
Yes (please specify)⁵	41.4%

⁴ Others mentioned also going to book fairs, working with vendors or starting new vendor/approval relationships, etc.

⁵ Most accept and deal with donations of various sizes and many manage endowments (and cultivate relationships with those who have set up the endowments). Others are asked to write letters to donors or potential donors.

⁶ Many participate in writing Title VI grants. Others have participated in IMLS, NEH and various other grant applications and grant funded projects.

Does your library in any way assess the effectiveness of selection for Slavic & East European materials?		
	Yes	No
Monographs	37.0% (10)	63.0% (17)
Periodicals	40.7% (11)	59.3% (16)
Electronic Materials	59.3% (16)	40.7% (11)

Please describe (in some detail, if possible) how selection effectiveness is assessed.

- Most collect some sort of circulation statistics, though many do not seem to use these as a means of assessing selection effectiveness.
- Some use these numbers as a data point in fund allocation.
- Most use vendor supplied (or in house) database use figures and review them annually.
- Some keep track of journal/newspaper use in reading rooms.
- Some use interlibrary loan statistics as a data point to adjust selection patterns.

Is deselection part of your job description?	
Yes	70.4%
No	29.6%

Please describe your deselection responsibilities and the guidelines you use to determine what to deselect.

- Many are just moving books around: deselecting from reference to move to the stacks, or from the stacks to move to off-site.
- Few are removing unduplicated titles, unless they are textbooks or editions superseded by newer editions. Most of these projects are motivated by a lack of space.
- Those that remove unduplicated titles consider the physical condition of the item (can it be repaired?), its past use, the rarity of the item and any changes in institutional focus.
- Some deselect from new titles that arrive from approval plans that seem out of scope
- Most deselect donated books that are out of scope.

What is your institution's policy on purchasing duplicate copies (in the same format)?	
There is no clear policy - it is up to the selector	7.4%
As a general rule, we do not purchase duplicate copies	59.3%
We purchase duplicate copies for different library locations	11.1%
We purchase duplicate copies for high use items (reserves, reference, etc.)	37.0%
Other (please specify) ^f	18.5%

What is your institution's policy on duplicating content in different formats?	
In general, we retain purchased (not leased) content in only one format (digital, microform, print, etc.)	11.1%
In general, if we buy the digital, we remove the print	11.1%
We remove duplicated content in different formats only on a case by case basis	37.0%
In general, we keep content in all formats (microform/print/digital)	29.6%
Other (please specify) ^g	11.1%

33. What leeway do you have in choosing formats (print, online, etc.)?	
I am given complete control over the choice of which format to purchase	51.9%
We are asked to give preference to online access, but I can select any format I think best serves our patrons/institution	37.0%
We are required to give preference to online access if it is reasonably available	3.7%
Other (please specify) ^g	7.4%

⁷ Half the responses for "Other" suggest that the decision is up to the selector, the other half allow for duplication only for certain collections or formats.

⁸ Some duplicate, but only if film is one of the formats (as a preservation format), others send print duplicates (for journals, newspapers) to off-site storage.

Do you participate in any consortial purchasing for Slavic or East European materials?

	Yes	No
Books	14.8% (4)	81.5% (22)
Microforms	33.3% (9)	59.3% (16)
Electronic Resources	59.3% (16)	37.0% (10)

Do you participate in any formal consortial collection development agreements for Slavic or East European materials?

	Yes	No
Books	22.2% (6)	74.1% (20)
Microforms	22.2% (6)	70.4% (19)
Newspapers	14.8% (4)	81.5% (22)
Periodicals	18.5% (5)	77.8% (21)

If you answered "Yes" to any portion of the previous two questions, please elaborate on the consortial purchases or arrangements

- o Many belong to SEEMP
- o Many get discounts when purchasing databases or other materials "consortially"
- o Some have informal arrangements for purchasing \$\$ microfilm sets or newspapers.
- o A few schools have informal collaborative collection development agreements.
 - The East Coast Consortium is working on a project to formalize coordinated collection development.
 - Michigan buys Balkan materials in the vernacular & Michigan State buys Baltic.
 - Some Midwestern schools have agreed to focus on particular languages (Indiana – Slovenian, Michigan - Armenian, Chicago - Czech, Kansas –Ukrainian).
 - Per an agreement among Film Studies librarians at Ivy League institutions: Dartmouth has committed to selecting film studies materials in Russian or about Russia at the highest level.

⁹ A few are required to consult with the head of their department on these issues.