
Sponsored by the Bibliography, Information Retrieval and Documentation Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Soviet Studies of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, this volume is an expanded, updated and formalized version of a much-used 1984 pamphlet called Slavic New York. Limited to the greater New York metropolitan area, in addition to the expected entries for the various divisions of the New York Public Library, Columbia University and other well-known academic and research libraries (including Princeton University Libraries), the guide's 153 separate entries list a dazzling variety of lesser known institutions and organizations, including private collections, museums, commercial galleries and other business enterprises, archives, publishers, booksellers, churches, societies, foundations, and even a folk dance company!

The collections themselves include not only traditional sources such as books, journals, newspapers, manuscripts, personal papers and correspondence, but all manner of visual and fine arts material—paintings, graphics, ceramics, engravings, textiles, costumes, photographs, films, videos and slides. The scope of the subjects covered is equally wide and varied, including not only the countries and nationalities of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, but also many of the political, literary, artistic and religious movements of its emigre communities.

The organization of each entry is clear and concise, providing a wealth of information in a relatively brief space. In most cases entries are limited to information provided by the institutions themselves, varying according to the size and scope of pertinent collections. In addition to the standard data one would expect to find in any guide (address, telephone number, facilities, holdings, special features, access), additional headings provide much information which can be extremely useful when making preliminary investigations on a topic. These include brief histories of any long-standing collections, a list of any published catalogs and a bibliography of printed sources which describe various aspects of a given collection; this bibliography can include pamphlets, brochures and catalogs of all kinds, as well as journal articles, annual reports, directories and bibliographies. When no other published description exists, the reader is often referred to the collection description found in The Russian Empire and the Soviet Union: A Guide to Manuscripts and Archival Material in the United States by Steven A. Grant and John H. Brown (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1981). Since the Grant and Brown volume is no longer in print, and is cited frequently throughout, this new guide acts as a partial update of the earlier work, noting changes, additions and transfers of materials and collections wherever necessary.

Perhaps the most outstanding aspect of this guide is its index, which lists not only proper names of persons and institutions, as well as titles of individual journals, books, newspapers and films, but also provides detailed subject access through a series of cross-listings. The inclusiveness and simplicity of the index entries make the guide easily accessible and useful to both the beginner and the experienced researcher. Since the majority of the guide's entries are only one or two pages in length, citing a locational sign in the index (B1, N18, and so on) rather than a specific page number is not particularly bothersome and usually requires only a quick scan of the article.
In the few months since its publication, I have already had occasion to consult this work several times, with positive results, and foresee it becoming a standard reference source in the years to come. One can only hope that in any new edition, the other 50 percent of identified prospective entrants may respond and add to our knowledge of New York's rich resources in the area of Slavic and East European studies.

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