OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Introduction

Columbia affiliates with active UNIs are fortunate to have access to a wide-array of electronic resources that can be remotely accessed from home. The following is an overview of some of the generally useful, as well as subject-specific resources in the Slavic, East European and Eurasian field to which we, as affiliates, have access. I have also included a laconic list of free, web-based resources that may prove helpful in our present circumstances and beyond. The list was originally circulated in March, as we began our descent into the unknown.

**Much of this list has NOT changed since the version distributed in March.** The biggest changes are in the availability of specifically **Russian e-books**—both very recent imprints and older, out-of-copyright digital versions of Russian classics. I particularly call your attention to the East View Universal Databases’ e-books module, which in the months ahead will regularly add new (2020-2021) imprints from some sixty major publishers as they appear in e-format. This will help to ensure we make as much current scholarship as accessible as possible, in a timely way.

As the COVID-crisis settled over us, traditional acquisitions essentially came to a halt: there was no one on this end to receive or process new books. Our great and historic retrospective holdings became inaccessible, as all libraries shut down, and even scanning was no longer possible.

In these unsettled times, when we have experienced a prolonged lack of access to our vast print holdings—as well as to the print holdings of our partners in BorrowDirect—we more readily appreciate the convenience of e-access to resources. They will never replace print, but they certainly help to keep scholarship moving forward, most especially in times like these.

In recent weeks, we are seeing glimmers of hope: scanning of articles and book chapters from items held in our offsite ReCAP facility has resumed, followed more recently by scanning AND **physical delivery** (as “curbside requests”) of Butler print materials, and those of some other on-campus facilities. Soon, we expect ReCAP deliveries to also be available for pick-up, and later this summer, the possibility the resumption of Borrow Direct requests. You can follow these updates and alerts [here](#); check back often for further progress as New York and its institutions emerge from the depths of this pandemic.

As always, I am ready and willing to try to assist in any way I can. As my colleagues throughout North America and the rest of the world are struggling with the same access issues, I may not always be successful, but I will certainly give it my level best!

Stay well.

*Rob Davis*
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I. SUBSCRIPTION RESOURCES PART ONE: Searching for Citations and Articles (some with links).

When one embarks on a new study, it pays to look around and see what has already been written on a topic. A review of published secondary literature, articles, and other sources is a great way to jump-start your own project research. Much “leg work” in ferreting out such resources has already been done for you: “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”(Ecclesiastes 1:9)!

I include here online catalogs, with the sad understanding that, at the present moment, our print-based collections nationally are inaccessible due to closures of facilities, and work-at-home rules. We all live in hope that this will be a short-lived aberration. Recall also that our online catalogs include citations and, often, connectivity, to e-books and subscription and web-based resources as well.

A. Online Catalogs

Obviously, good CLIO and OCLC WorldCat searches are THE places to start! CLIO http://library.columbia.edu/ will quickly lead you to local resources, and offer you links to request materials from other BorrowDirect institutions. Note especially the many “scoping” features available via the left side-hand sidebar. You can narrow your initial search by format, publication date, language, etc.

WorldCat http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?AMS7418 provides you with the “big (bibliographic) picture” on your topic via access to records in holding institutions in the West, as well as some Slavic countries. A WorldCat search is one of the best ways to ensure your research is as comprehensive as possible. As an example, say you were interested in the work of the Soviet-era explorer of Mongolia A.D. Simukov. Type in the keywords “Simukov” and “Mongolia,” and you get the following:
Note that the system indicates whether a particular title is held by Columbia, and a click of “Libraries Worldwide” would indicate other holding institutions.

Both CLIO and WorldCat have great functionality that will save you considerable time. For example, when you come across a title that fits your research perfectly, you can click on the subject heading assigned to that title (or form of personal or organizational name), and you will be given a set of records with that exact same subject heading. So, for example, if you came across a citation to a work on Thracian architecture by Malvina Ruseva:
You could then click on the subject heading: “Tombs—Bulgaria” and pull up all titles in the OCLC database with that same subject heading.

B. Dissertations

On the subject of bibliography-building (as well as research topic-defining) a vital resource is the Proquest Dissertations and Theses Database [http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?AQP0595](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?AQP0595). This wonderful resource provides principally FULL-TEXT PDFs of dissertations from institutions of all kinds. This database is very easy to keyword search, and then further refine that search. You get to both read the full-text argument of other scholars on a given topic, AND (most importantly at an early stage of your research), the sources they used, providing a foundation for your own exploration of the topic at hand and an opportunity to further narrow and refine it.

Here is an example. Say you were interested in studying education of the Roma population in Hungary:
You get over 9,614 results, yet these can be further “scoped down” by using the helpful side bar delimiters such as data of publication, more narrow subject, etc. What you have are full-text, searchable PDFs, with bibliographies and other useful features.

One also has access to the ProQuest Dissertations & Theses for the UK & Ireland http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7517474

C. Articles and Reviews

Another important tack to take at an early stage of your research is searching various INDEXING databases for articles, reviews, etc. pertaining to your topic. Here are some of the most useful that are focused on our field. Most will have links to those journals available electronically via other subscription site (e.g., JSTOR):

American Bibliography of Slavic & East European Studies (ABSEES) http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio1726373 indexes articles of North American scholarship on East-Central Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet Union, including bibliographic records for journal articles, books and book chapters, book reviews, dissertations, online resources, and selected government publications. As a project dates back to 1956. However, presently records for materials appearing after 1989 are available online--some 135,700 records as of May 2017.

In those cases where Columbia subscribes to electronic full-text databases of articles from specific journals, you can click “e-link” and are taken to a listing of database that actually include the desired article. For example, a search of ABSEES for the terms “Hungarian” and “Fidesz” yields 18 records. If you click on the third one:

![Image of a search result page with an e-link highlighted](image)

...you see “e-link” on the right side of the page. Click it:
and it takes you to a page where you can click to get the full-text article.

Unfortunately, a dedicated index to articles from *Western European* scholarship on Eastern Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet Union is no longer active. You may want to consult the
European Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies (EBSEES), which was compiled in 1991-2007, and includes materials published in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Slavic Humanities Index [http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10258416](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10258416) is a useful, relatively new (2013) indexing database that is now becoming a full-text database, offering PDFs of more recently indexed articles. It is an excellent source for article citations (more than 240,000) in twenty-one vernacular languages of Central, Eastern, and South-eastern Europe, including indexed articles from periodicals issued in Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine (a particularly well-represented country).

In the sample search below, note that you can do your initial search either in the original language, or using transliteration. However, within PDFs, you can only right-click to do a “Find” search in the original alphabet (e.g., Łódź, NOT Lodz). However, one does NOT need to use special truncation symbols to capture words with inflected endings. Right-clinking “find” and putting in “Piłs” will find all forms in the document wherever they occur.

As with other databases, you can further limit search results by using the left sidebar, as below.
Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies (MECAS) is another useful indexing database for Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies. It provides a “bibliographic index of research, policy and scholarly discourse on the countries and peoples of the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa."

Below is a sample search result for articles on minorities in Turkmenistan:
Again, one may further narrow the search via the sidebar on the left of the screen.

Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS) describes itself as a resource that “covers issues in the public debate through selective coverage of a wide variety of international sources including journal articles, books, government documents, statistical directories, grey literature, research reports, conference papers.” Here is the link: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/2135173 It is a Proquest product, and uses a similar search platform as their Dissertations product, above.
**SocIndex** covers sociological journals broadly. The link: [http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio6756058](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio6756058)

Another generally useful gateway to more social science-oriented materials is **HeinOnline**, (link: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/3360039](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/3360039)) which, while oriented towards the legal field, picks up much interesting content relevant to the social scientist. It includes citations, PDFs, and links to journals and other documents both domestic and international. For example, if you were searching on the topics on “Putin,” “Constitution,” and “2020,” and then further scope for Putin specifically, you get 45 hits, with citations to *Russian Law Journal, Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, Rutgers Race & The Law Review*, and *Russian Politics & Law*, among other diverse titles.
Obviously, depending on one’s topic, there are MANY options for general indexing databases—those that are not geographical region-specific—that will prove beneficial to your research. Feel free to contact a Global Studies Librarian—that’s what we are here for!
II. SUBSCRIPTION ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Obviously, using important serial and monographic titles has become much easier in the digital age. Columbia offers access to several of the most important paid subscription products available to researchers in East European studies today.

A. EastView Universal Databases

http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio4320231

Based in Minneapolis (and founded by a SIPA graduate, Kent Lee!), EastView pioneered the same-day digital delivery of current Russian newspapers and serials. Their database offerings are of two types: Aggregated (meaning, you get the text of individual articles, but not an actual image of the pages), and Digital (you see the article as it appeared on the printed page).

Here is your initial screen for the aggregated databases:

![Image of EastView Universal Databases initial screen]
Now, you could put in search terms here (in either Cyrillic, using the pop-up keyboard, or Library of Congress transliteration by ticking the box)—but I wouldn’t recommend it! It will take quite a while to process, and you will get a lot of irrelevant stuff…

Instead, try clicking on an Aggregated category that most fits your research interest. For example, “Russian Social Sciences & Humanities”:

You will notice at this point the MANY serial titles listed under this broad category. Some are active, some are dead; some have really deep backfiles online, most less so. You COULD use the search box at this point, but it may be worth your while to use the “Select” feature to choose just a selection of those titles that look most relevant to your topic.

Here is an example of a search of an entire category of materials—in this case, “Russian Military & Security Periodicals,” for the terms “Putin” and “MiG”:
Notice that there is an asterisk after the word. This is to capture results for all the various endings that might be attached to a root word.
If we click on the first article, here is what we see:

When you are looking at an entire category of aggregated serials (or newspapers), you have the option (fastest) of searching just *individual* titles.

If you click on any of the individual titles, you get a screen with a brief description of the title, and the option to search *JUST* within that title (and even individual years).

For example, on the next page is a simple search of all years (selected, at left) of the journal *Iskusstvo kino*, for the word “Nevskii”: 
..and here, the result:

If you click any one of blue highlighted titles on the left, you will get the corresponding article:
EastView Digital Serials

EastView’s Digital Serials are a mix of current titles with deep, historical backfiles (e.g., Voprosy literaturny, Literaturnaia gazeta, Pravda, etc.), and ceased titles of some importance (e.g., Lef, Niva, Sovetskaya kul’tura, etc.). Very recent additions include: Novoe Russkoe Slovo, Ogonek (both the St. Petersburg newspaper, and the magazine from Moscow), and the English-language Soviet Woman, and Muslims of the Soviet East.
Click on any one; in this case, for *Lef* (and *Novyi Lef*):

I’ve selected to search *Novyi Lef*, for the term *maiakovsk*
The result screen looks like that for the Aggregated databases; however, you have the option of either looking at the “Article Text” as with the aggregated, OR “Full View,” which takes you to a page capture of the original. Examples are shown below:
I would recommend taking a closer look at EastView’s digital offerings. Some recent additions include:


- E-journal archives for *Kino-fot* (Moscow, 1922-1923) and *Kino-zhurnal A.R.K.* (Moscow, 1925-26) presented in full-text and full-image, with permanent URL’s provided at the article level for citation purposes; and access to eighty-eight digitized books—originally published in print from 1928 to 1948—on Russian and Soviet cinema, including works by prominent Russian and Soviet directors, film scholars and critics.

**Other East View Collections**

- *Krasnyi arkhiv* [Red Archives], published in Moscow from 1922 till June 1941 first by the Central Archives of the USSR and later by the Central Archival Administration. This database comprises the entire collection of the 106 published volumes, 1,010 articles, and more than 23,000 pages with full-image browsing and full-text article-level search/browse functions.
• One interesting series of collections assembled and digitized by EastView contain election ephemera of various parliamentary and presidential elections (as below). They are excellent resources for students of party politics in the FSU.

• The *Weekly of Vilnius* is an English-language “analytical and balanced news digest on Lithuania and the Baltics for a professional foreign audience, covering internal politics, foreign affairs, economics and business, and societal development.” Columbia affiliates may access both current issues, and a backfile to 2012.

• *Current Digest of the Soviet, Post-Soviet*, and *Russian Press*. This translation service, consisting of indexed English-language translations of articles from the Russian press, extends back to 1949 to the present, and is particularly useful to students not yet comfortable in talking the original Russian.

• Russia’s *Dozhd’* (TV Rain) research database (2010-present) is available via East View’s Universal Database platform. According to the website, this continuously updated site includes access to some “60,000 video programs, 65,000 news segments, nearly 6,000 interviews, approximately 400 investigative reports, hundreds of photos” produced by this independent television channel.

**B. Central & East European Online Library (CEEOL)**

[http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5887498](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5887498)

CEEOL is in part a less-comprehensive Eastern European analogue to EastView, as it includes full-text coverage of many serials—1720 titles at last count—in the humanities and social sciences from Eastern and Central Europe, but no extensive newspaper coverage. Below is a random capture of their journal list…

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Keywords are in English, as are Summary/Abstracts (see below). Articles (in the original language) are downloadable as PDFs. Below is an example of an article abstract, in this case from a Bosnian title.
Televizijski narativ – pričam ti priču
(Received: 15. July 2013; Revised: 01. October 2013; Accepted: 01. October 2013)

Keywords: television; analysis of narrative; television constructed reality; television news; beauty; violence;...
EBSCO’s CEEAS is:

“… a multidisciplinary, multilingual database providing full-text coverage pertaining to all facets of central and eastern European countries. The collection contains hundreds of full-text publications covering many academic areas including business and economics, medical sciences, political science, law, library and information sciences, literature, linguistics, history, and sociology relating to this geographic region.”

Indeed, the coverage of journals is most impressive

Here is an example of a search for the keywords “Piłsudski” and “Lithuania”:
Abstracts are in English, with options to either download a PDF, or go via e-link to the journal itself.

**D. Collections of Older Digitized Titles**

1. **Hathi Trust**  [http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio8498670](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio8498670)

Hathi Trust is a partnership of some 120 research libraries who have contributed content for digitization. Today, Hathi includes over 15,823,011 total volumes, of which 7,771,328 are book titles, and 429,522 are serial titles collectively amounting to some 5,538,053,850 pages!

Titles produced prior to 1923 are available for full-viewing by anyone. You can search within titles, and even download selections or entire volumes. For those of you who have used print versions of 19th and early 20th century serials—most especially Russian “Thick Journals”—can appreciate how handy Hathi can be!

Here is a sample Hathi search for the journal *Russkoe bogatstvo*. Notice the importance of the “scoping” options in the left-hand column in drilling down for your search…
2. IDC/Brill

Beginning in the 1960s, European companies such as InterDocumentation Company (IDC) created large microfiche files of Russian and early Soviet materials. For the Russian Imperial period, these were often based on the rich holdings of the former Imperial depository library in Helsinki, and specifically its Slavonic Library:


Following the end of World War II, with the establishment of new Russian-studies programs at universities and colleges, these materials were in high demand, and many institutions purchased microfiche sets for their growing library collections and thereby providing opportunities for more in-depth research in original sources.

With the advent of digitization, IDC (now owned by Brill) hit upon the idea of digitizing their microfiche sets, and packaging them by broad subject areas.

Columbia owns a number of these IDC/Brill digitized sets:

a. History of Modern Russian and Ukrainian Art.

[http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio9492422](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio9492422)

215 titles.

“The collection documents the history of modern Russian and Ukrainian art. It encompasses critical literature, illustrated books, and art periodicals. The collection contains texts by such artists as Wassily Kandinsky, Pavel Filonov, Kazimir Malevich and Anatolii Petrytskyi; publications of art groups such as the Jack of Diamonds (Bubnovyi valet) and Màkovets; theoretical tracts by Nikolai Tarabukin and Boris Kushner; and books by well-known critics such as IÀkov Tugendkhol'd, Erikh Gollerbakh, and Nikolai Punin. The collection also offers a selection of early 20th century art-related serials. These historical sources of pre- and post-revolutionary art reflect the diversity of artistic thought in the first thirty years of the 20th century, the intense discussions about the nature of the new art, its form, and its aims.”

b. Soviet Cinema.

1) Archival Documents from RGALI, 1923-1935.

Collection of archival documents from the Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi arkhiv literatury i iskusstva.

[http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475377](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475377)
“The archive contains materials providing information on the activities of the Soviet film company Sovkino and its relations with various other companies in the film industry, both in the Soviet Union and abroad, between 1923 and 1935.”

2) Soviet Film Periodicals & Newspapers, 1918-1942


“The collection includes Soviet film magazines and newspapers from the 1920s and 1930s, reflecting an interesting and fertile period in the history of Russian film. Film publications were revived in the early 1920s after being interrupted in 1918 by Bolshevik censorship. In the beginning, the film press offered detailed coverage of the industry, both in the USSR and abroad, in addition to advertising western films playing on Soviet screens. By the end of the 1920s, a partial and eventually complete ban on imported films was introduced, marking the beginning of a campaign to "proletarize" Soviet art. By the mid-1930s, ideological consensus and Socialist Realism as the dominant mode in art came to the fore in film, as in all other areas of Soviet art.”

c. Jewish Theater Under Stalinism: Moscow State Jewish Theater (GOSET) and Moscow State Jewish Theater School (MGETU).

[http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10275782](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10275782)

“Finding aid with links to electronic reproductions of documents covering the period 1916-1950 from the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI) in Moscow about the Moscow State Jewish Theater (GOSET) and the affiliated Moscow State Jewish Theater School (MGETU); describes the history of the Soviet culture and theater, Jewish theater, Jewish avant-garde art and the Kremlin's policy toward Jewish society and culture from 1919 until the early 1950s; includes correspondence with ministries, state organizations, authors, administration, plays, notes (with comments of censors) and the personal archives of Alexei Granovskii, Solomon Mikhoels, and other actors and writers; also includes press reports from Soviet and foreign periodicals about the theater and its tours in Europe, posters, drawings, theater programs, and documents about other Jewish theaters.”

d. Russian military intelligence on Asia: secret prints, 1883-1914.

[http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7822874](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7822874)

“A collection of articles, consisting of descriptions, reports, and treatises, by Russian military and diplomatic staff, and also translations and summaries of works originally published outside Russia, issued by the general staff of the Russian army in order to support existing and potential Russian activities on the Asian continent.

e. Russian military intelligence on Asia: archive series, 1651-1917.

[http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475388](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475388)
“Historical-geographical, statistical, topographical and ethnographical descriptions of countries and their individual regions; material on the domestic political and economic situation of states, their foreign policy and international relations, and the state of their armed forces and military skills.”

f. Slavonic Bibles: early printed Cyrillic books from the Lomonosov Moscow State University Library.

http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7972038

"Collection of the earliest part of the Slavonic early printed books of the Moscow University Library, consisting of 40 Slavonic bibles and 64 Cyrillic religious books printed in the 15th and 16th centuries, including editions of the Gospels, New Testaments, Acts and Epistles, and Psalms. Included are: the first printed edition of the Slavonic Bible by Belorussian printer Franciscus Skorina; the first printed Slavonic text of the complete Bible by Moscow printer Ivan Fedorov; Slavonic books from Moscow, Lwow, Ostrog, and Vilno (the latter from the Mamonichi press of printer Petr Mstislavets); and books from Slavonic printing presses in Nesvizh, Venice, and Skutri, among others."

g. Ezhegodnik imperatorskikh teatrov

http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7154765

“This impressive annual periodical, published during the period 1890-1915, offers an incredible wealth of exciting material concerning the late imperial stage in Russia. Its pages include repertoires, critical essays and reviews of theatrical performances, chronicles of metropolitan theater life, articles discussing a wide range of topics as well as information about the actors.”

Tip: The digital point of access numbering is rather misleading: Under “1890” one has actually has links to issues from 1890 to 1915. The label “1920” actually refers to the single title Ezhegodnik Petrogradskikh gosudarstvennykh teatrov, and covers the 1918-1919 season (actually published in 1922).

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3. The Stalin Digital Archive “contains primary (from the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History, RGASPI) and secondary source material related to Stalin as an individual, his work in government, and the conduct of foreign affairs,” as well as digitized content from Yale’s long-running Annals of Communism series.

4. Arcanum Digitheca is a wonderful resource for those of you involved in Hungarian studies, with deep newspaper backfiles, and extensive ebook offerings:
Hungaricana and Mapire.eu In addition to this paid, subscription-based resource, Arcanum also offers a free web-based service, Mapire.eu (as an example, a map of Moscow in 1810 is shown below), and Huncaricana.hu that include hundreds of thousands of archival documents, 3,000 old printed books, 300,000 postcards, and five million archival records.
5. *Migration to New Worlds: The Modern Era* is a database that brings together thousands of unique original sources focusing on the growth of emigration companies, the activities of American immigration organizations and the plight of refugees and displaced persons. Particularly well-represented are Eastern European migration to the United States, with Hungarian (see below), Polish, Croatian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian communities represented.

6. *Socialism on Film* is a collection of digitized films from the USSR, Vietnam, China, Korea, much of Eastern Europe, the GDR, Britain and Cuba. Film topics range from war coverage, to history, current affairs, culture and society.

7. *Ethnomusicology: Global Field Recordings Database*, produced in collaboration with the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive, and the University of Washington provides access to recordings from the Ankica Petrović collection of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish music from Eastern Europe.
III. Web-based (i.e., Freely-accessible) Resources: A Miscellany.

The following list is far from exhaustive, and in not terribly good order, but suggests some of the wealth of material (particularly older materials) available on the internet:

- For those of you who haven’t come across it already, ImWorden [https://imwerden.de/] is a free, non-commercial digitization project based in Germany. Established in 2000, this site provides digitized full-text of 18th, 19th, and 20th, (and even 21st) century authors, historians, and reference works. One recently-added source is the digitized, PDF version of the entire first series of the Polnoe sobranie zakonov Rossiiskoi imperii (1649-1825). This notoriously complex work has been brought to your desktop! What I particularly like about ImWorden (versus, say, Google Books) is that it is very well organized, with authors/titles arranged alphabetically in a sidebar navigation tool.

- The Russian Virtual Library is an attempt to provide the text of “authoritative academic editions of Russian Classics.” [http://rvb.ru/]. Unfortunately, the texts are provided in the pagination of the original, but not with the same appearance, so multiple pages of text appear on the same screen. Aesthetically a bit off-putting, but still potentially useful!

- Russian State Historical Library (GPIB) [http://elib.shpl.ru/ru/nodes/9347-elektronnaya-biblioteka-gpib] (see the screenshot, below) boasts a large collection of digitized books and serials, including 132 Russian émigré newspapers from around the world, ca. 1910-ca. 1940, and 145 Futurist books, among other collections.

My now-retired colleague Dr. Diana Greene of NYU has done an excellent job of collecting information on URLs in Russia with digitized retrospective content. Two of the sites she notes concern hard-to-find and—owing to their brittle state—difficult to use émigré newspaper titles: GPIB offers digital versions of 128 émigré newspapers from the
Another digitized émigré serial site is found at: [http://librarium.fr/ru](http://librarium.fr/ru) which includes a growing array of titles, albeit with many gaps in issue-by-issue coverage. It is a work in progress, so hopefully the compilers will fill these lacunae in the years ahead.

- The **Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library** [https://www.prlib.ru/en](https://www.prlib.ru/en) isn’t what we think of as a “presidential library,” documenting the printed and archival legacy of a specific presidency. Rather, it is a high-tech digital library of retrospective Russian imprints pertaining to the “Russian state authority,” broadly defined. The Library is very well-funded, and regularly adds to its stock of retrospective “virtual” publications. Although some materials considered “in-copyright” are available only as a content note, many pre-1923 materials are accessible via your desktop. Nota bene that the site can sometimes be cranky and not easily yield its contents. But give it a try!


- **Mosfilm** [http://cinema.mosfilm.ru/films/](http://cinema.mosfilm.ru/films/) offers free viewings of full-length feature films (no subtitles) from all genres—dramas, comedies, documentaries, etc.—via an easy to use website. You will have to endure a few seconds of ads (in English) at the start of each feature, but otherwise a great site!

- **Elektronnaia Sibir’** [http://elib.ngonb.ru/jspui/](http://elib.ngonb.ru/jspui/) is a project to digitize serial and monographic publications produced in Siberia. The serial runs are particularly impressive. For example, below are some sample screenshots of *Sibirskiaia gazeta* from January 1885; and *Tomskiia gubernskaia viedomosti* from 1846! There are more than
20,000 pdfs associated with the site, which covers the Soviet period as well. This is an excellent source for hard-to-find Russian Siberian titles.

- **https://oldgazette.ru/** An interesting site with a very eclectic (and laconic) collection of digitized newspapers, most represented by single issues. It is most interesting in its materials from the Stalin Era (as well as in post-1953 publications of Stalinists. In its introduction, it notes that the “First Five-Year Plan, industrial plan, collectivization, industrialization ... the trials of saboteurs in 1930-31 and 1937-38 ... Spain and the Far East. Chelyuskinsky and German fascism ... all this from the point of view of old Soviet newspapers.” (NB: they use DejaVu for viewing, which I have at work, but not at home as of this writing!)

- There is a useful, but limited, digitized collection of Ukrainian newspapers dating from the late 19th century, into the war years, on the site of Natsional’na biblioteka imeni V.I. Vernads’koho in Kyiv: [http://nbug.gov.ua/](http://nbug.gov.ua/) If you navigate to their page, you will see mention of their “Elektronna kolektsiia hazet Ukrainy.” When you click on it, you will go to a list of their digitized titles. Again, to emphasize, the extent of these digital files is limited, but still potentially useful!
• An interesting resource for artists’ biographical information that I came across when working on the index to the Checklist of Russian, Ukrainian & Belarusian Avant-Garde & Modernist Books, Serials & Works on Paper at The New York Public Library & Columbia University Libraries is Stekliannoe nebo [Glass Sky], which is a database maintained by a private St. Petersburg gallery specializing in Soviet-era art works: http://s-nebo.ru/artmen.php The names in the database have (sometimes) limited biographical information, but also link out to examples of works by that artist.

• The National Library of Israel has digitized a number of titles from the Tsarist era and made them viewable from their website. Particularly useful are the “context” texts provided with may of the titles, such as for Ha-Zman, below.
The quality of the work is extremely high, the site is easy to use, and it is hoped that they will continue to expand this work in the years ahead.
- The **International Dada Archive** at the University of Iowa includes works by and about the Dadaists including books, articles, microfilmed manuscript collections, videorecordings, sound recordings, and online resources. From our part of the world, among the latter are digital versions of works by Iliazd (Ilia Zdanevich), Lajos Kássak, and Serge Charchoune (Sergei Sharshun).

- One of the most useful open access websites I have come across recently is **Runivers**. Established in 2008, it is a database of scanned 19th & early 20th century books on Russian history (3,000 titles), 3,900 maps from various historical periods, and some 20,000 illustrations and photos. The map database is particularly remarkable, and useful for researcher and instructor alike. It also provides full-text access to older imprints, as below:
http://journal-club.ru/ includes scattered downloadable issues of Soviet-era titles from various years.

The website Zhurnal’nyi zal includes the transcribed content (i.e., not image Pdfs) of current Russian-language journal titles, such as Arion, Zvezda, Kontinent, Neva, Novyi zhurnal, Oktiabr, etc. etc., as well as backfiles of varying depth (their online file of Novyi zhurnal, for example, goes back to Volume 225/2001, while Arion extends back to 1/1995). The site is http://magazines.russ.ru/

Princeton has digitized 3,827 issues of the interwar Parisian émigré newspaper Vozrozhdenie, covering the period June 1925-June 1939. The site is easy to use, with excellent quality scans.

My colleague Dr. Brendan Nieubuurt of the University of Michigan Library recently announced the availability of a new digital collection of materials held by the Mikhail Bulgakov Literary-Memorial Museum in Kyiv. The URL for the Mikhail Bulgakov Digital Collection may be reached by clicking here. The project is the work of Grace Mahoney, a PhD candidate in the University of Michigan's Slavic Languages & Literatures department, who recently interned at the Museum. “The open access resource publishes the Museum's archive of personal photographs and letters, along with other objects relating to Bulgakov and the members of his family. Since Bulgakov's Kyiv museum is much lesser known than its Moscow counterparts, for many interested parties the primary sources in this collection will be entirely new.”

Columbia’s Human Rights Web Archive collects and—significantly—captures and preserves—web content produced by human rights organizations throughout the world, including many organizations active in Eastern Europe. A project of the Columbia University Libraries, the website is found at: http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/humanrights/hrwa.html

KGB in the Baltic States: Documents and Researches http://www.kgbdocuments.eu/ is an interesting assemblage of digitized archival documents with capsule characterizations pertaining to the Soviet security apparatus as it functioned in the Baltics from ca. 1940-1991. The documents were assembled from the archives by scholars in all three Baltic countries.

The Belgrade University Library has developed an excellent and extensive collection of almost fifty digitized newspapers from the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, ranging from 1842 to the early 1940s.

The Latvian National Library’s Digital Library https://www.lnb.lv/lv/digitaalabiblioteka is a wonderful resource for those researching the history of 20th century Latvia, with particularly strong coverage of the interwar, wartime, and postwar era. Digital versions of serials and newspapers are a great strength.
In 2011, Google Books began a partnership with Prague’s famed **Clementinum** to digitize works from its collections. Quoting the press release: “Today we are announcing the agreement with the Czech National Library to digitize up to 200,000 works from the historical collection, managed by the Department of Historical and Musical Archives of the Czech National Library and the Slavic Library.” For the latest digital offerings, visit [https://www.en.nkp.cz/digital-library/digital-libraries](https://www.en.nkp.cz/digital-library/digital-libraries)

The **University of Chicago** has finished the second stage of digitizing pre-1924 issues of the Czech-American journal *Amerikán. Národní kalendář*. PDFs of the volumes can be accessed at: [http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/cat/bib/10017213](http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/cat/bib/10017213)

**Monoskop** [http://monoskop.org/Countries](http://monoskop.org/Countries) describes itself as “a wiki for collaborative studies of the arts, media and humanities.” An interesting feature (at least for me) is the way it gathers information and relevant literature on the arts (very broadly) by country, as depicted in the screenshot for ‘Croatia,” below.

The **Open Society-funded Central Asian Analytical Network** (see screenshot, below) is an interesting source for political, economic and social analyses of the region. The project is described in a 2015 article by Marlene Laruelle, *Director of the Central Asia Program at George Washington University*. 
I am happy to provide further topic-specific recommendations!
IV. E-BOOKS PURCHASED BY COLUMBIA

As we have stated, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on access to materials. Although in very recent weeks, the availability of scanning at both Butler and ReCAP, and now “curbside pickup” of books requested from the stacks have begun to open greater access to our deep print holdings, we have a long way to go to get to “normal”!

One of the coping mechanisms during this crisis comes in the form of e-books. Although still a relatively limited option for academic titles for many of the languages and regions we cover, the availability of Russian-language titles is growing. (Please note, however, that far and away our greatest acquisitions investment each year continues to be in print material…).

Back in March 2020, a quick search of the catalogue revealed some 8,500 titles in Russian in e-format in CLIO; with only some 400 or so dating from recent years. Thanks to some major e-book package purchases from East View Information Services (EVIS), the number of Russian e-books for imprints dating from just the last four years alone now numbers almost 800 titles. Searching for these titles is presently made more complex by the fact that not every title in a given package has been catalogued in CLIO individually. For now, the best way to see if we have a desired title is to first search in CLIO, limiting the search to e-resources. If you don’t see what you want, and the title is a relatively recent (since 2015) imprint, go directly to EVIS’s E-Books section on the Universal Databases page, at the center of the screen, below:

When you click on “East View E-Books,” you will see the following initial screen. You may then search using the dialogue box provided, narrowing by, e.g., publication date, publisher, etc.
An exciting development in the weeks ahead, as we move deeper into the Fiscal (and Academic) year: we are expecting to initiate formal e-book approval plans, whereby we automatically receive new academic titles as they appear in electronic format. The list of publishers identified for this program is lengthy, with some forty firms covered, including Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, MGU, Nestor-istoria, Pashkov Dom, lazyki slavianskoi kul'tury, ROSSPEN, INES (Institut ekonomicheskikh strategii), Lomonosov, and Sankt-Peterburgskii universitet, among many others.

Going forward, having to search E-books from within the East View E-Books module will NOT, be necessary, as we will now be purchasing full-records for newly-acquired titles, which will appear as individual e-book records in CLIO.

You should note that we also were able to acquire East View’s e-book collection of digitized texts of Russian pre-Revolutionary (well, really, out-of-copyright) titles, Columbia offers access—also via EVIS and through the Universal Databases platform—to their Library of Essential Russian Classics. This consists of some 6,358 Russian-language titles of prose fiction, literary criticism, drama, poetry, memoirs and biographies.

Here is the initial screen:
Looking more closely… if we search for “Dostoevskii”, you get:

If we click on “Bobok”:
For a more general search of CLIO to find e-format items, you can also search from the main CLIO search dialogue box. So, for example, if you wanted to find what Russian e-books we have access to pertaining to Anton Chekhov, type in his name, specify the language you are interested in from the left sidebar, and then scope for “online”:

At this point in history, you will find that many older works are better represented than newer titles. The opposite is true for Western literary criticism, or secondary studies, which tend to be
more “e-heavy”. For example, the e-versions of offerings by the ubiquitous publisher Routledge are well-represented in the catalogue, particularly via the Taylor & Francis ebook platform.

By way of example, if you wanted to look at the Routledge Handbook of Russian Foreign Policy (2018), you have access via the T & F platform:

In the months ahead, I expect to have further e-book updates, as we expand our offerings in this area.

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I hope this brief overview of online resources at Columbia has been somewhat helpful. Please reach out to me in coming days with your specific needs, and I will try my best to address them.

Rob Davis