



## ***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies***

***Resources.*** No. 26, Winter/Spring 2023

Dear Colleagues:

As we are now well into a new semester, I find I am so grateful to have a return to normality. I am back on campus five days a week, and even made it back to Ithaca last fall for one of my formal campus visits.

Of course, normality isn't all rainbows and unicorns: I had a brief bout of COVID at the start of the semester (delaying the appearance of this issue of *Newsnotes*, among other impacts). Where I live in Midtown is once again awash with meandering *touristi*, and the subway is once again crowded (and, on occasion, persnickety). But on balance... I'll take it.

Herewith an update on collection-building activities on the Heights and in Ithaca since last fall.

All best wishes,

*Rob Davis*

Librarian for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies, Columbia University Libraries  
Librarian for Slavic & East European Studies, Cornell University Library  
[Rhd2106@Columbia.edu](mailto:Rhd2106@Columbia.edu) or [Rhd65@Cornell.edu](mailto:Rhd65@Cornell.edu)

### **CURRENT ACQUISITIONS**

As of January, parcels containing some 4,349 paper imprints, in the vernacular languages of the region, were received on Morningside Heights, along with some 400 recent-imprint Russian e-books. Sanctions, heavy (35%) tariffs, and increased shipping costs notwithstanding, our Russian vendors managed to ship more than 1,170 titles to Columbia as of January, and 1,212 Russian titles to Cornell.

Ukrainian intake, which was quite robust even in the first months of the invasion, has become a trickle this FY: only 116 titles as of January, reflecting not only the difficulties of transportation (one shipment was lost somewhere between L'viv and NYC) but also the vastly more difficult publishing environment during wartime. Conversations with colleagues at the

other great East Coast university collections, Harvard among them, indicate a similar reduction in intake.

Still, we are working hard to keep the flow moving, encouraging our vendor, and even receiving some interesting ephemeral material documenting this terrible period in modern history.

## GIFTS

The Columbia Libraries have received an array of additions to our holdings via gift. Representing many different languages, subjects, and cultures, these gifts enhance the resources available via ReCAP, our shared offsite storage facility with Harvard, NYPL, and Princeton. Gifts since last fall include titles from alumnus Richard Brody, from Dr. Paul Michael Taylor (Director of the Smithsonian's Asian Cultural History Program, and Curator, Asian, European, and Middle Eastern Ethnology), and Professor Maxim Shrayner from Boston College, among others.

The daughter of the late Professor (and Columbia alum) Michael Luther of Hunter College donated to Columbia many reels of microfilm made during his time as a graduate student in the Former Soviet Union.

## ANTIQUARIAN PURCHASES

### Cornell:

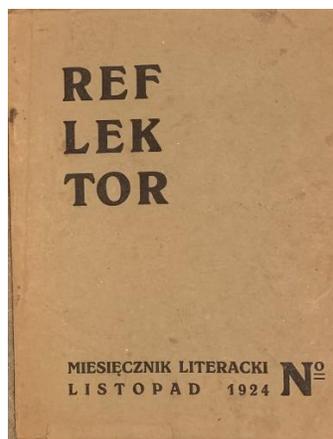
The outstanding and diverse collection on Human Sexuality acquired [\*Kniga na zapisku zhenshin, promyshliayushikh razvratom\*](#) [i.e. The book recording women, that are involved in depravity]. [Astrakhan, 1896]. [268] p. A fascinating document of its time, this is a record of women officially working as prostitutes in the Astrakhan region in 1896. This manuscript represents an official record maintained at Astrakhan police headquarters. Altogether 154 women are documented by name and address, age, years in business, previous passports, medical information, place of birth, and social status.

**Columbia** acquired a number of items that enhanced existing files in Rare Books:

- Three additional pen and ink drawings by Ryszard Dabrowski for [\*Likwidator\*](#) in Ukraine. Two drawings signed by the artist on verso. Ryszard Dabrowski, born in 1968, is a Polish comic book artist and creator of the popular *Likwidator* series.
- Four issues of the rare journal of literature and politics featuring poets of the Lublin avant-garde periodical [\*Trybuna\*](#):
  - a) No. 3. (Lublin: Zbigniew Chomicz, 1931).;
  - b) No. 8. (Lublin: Jan Iracki, 1932);
  - c) No. 9. (Lublin: Jan Iracki, 1932);
  - d) No. 11. (Lublin: Mieczyslaw Kufel, 1932).



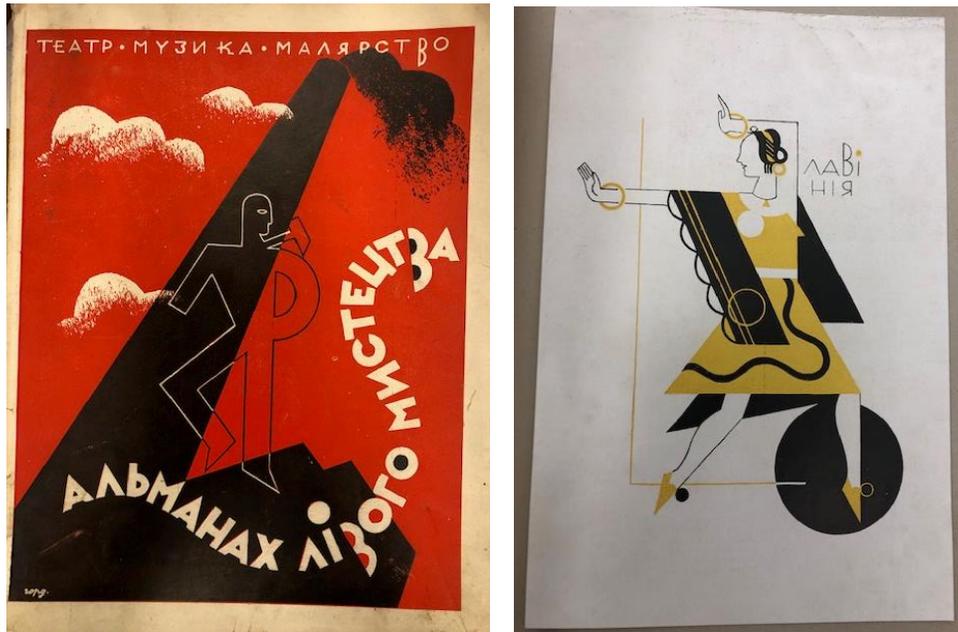
- An additional issue of the very rare journal [Reflektor](#) No. 1. (Lublin, 1924). Texts by one of the founders of Polish Futurism, Anatol Stern (1899-1968), including an essay on contemporary theater; also featuring a review of Stern's futurist novel "Anielski Cham".



The Avery Classics collection added:

- [Al'manakh livoho mystetstva](#) = Almanaque [sic] d'art gauche = Almanach der linken Kunst. (L'viv, 1931). 28 p. with a spectacular color cover by the artist and poet Sviatoslav Hordynsky (1906-d. Verona, N.J. 1993)

The volume itself contains 21 illustrations and two tipped-in color costume designs. An exceptionally rare of the only almanac of progressive modernist art published in L'viv including articles on painting, music and theater. Although there is more abundant Polish language literature on modern art in L'viv, Ukrainian material is extremely scarce. With no holdings in any public collection apart from Poland's Biblioteka Narodowa.



- An additional issue of the periodical [Munka](#) (Budapest, 1930), with an illustrated cover by Sándor Bortnyik (1893-1976). An important early issue of Lajos Kassak's (1887-1967) most substantial periodical. Early issues are particularly rare. Number 12 of the



second volume in 1930 features texts by Kassak himself and Tibor Déry (1894-1977) among others, as well as illustrations by Ernő Schubert (1903-1960) and Marc Chagall (1887-1985).

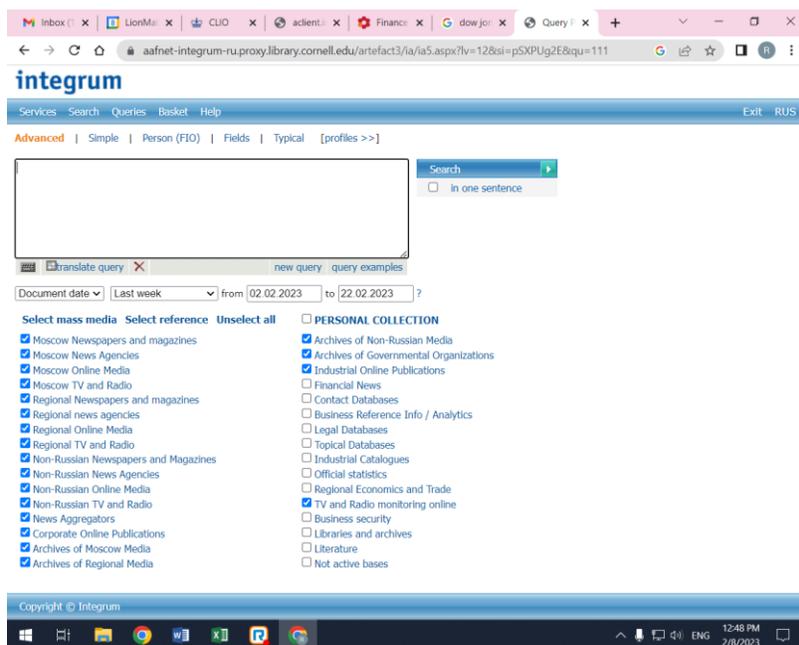
## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

This semester, we added the following subscription database to BOTH Cornell and Columbia:

“INTEGRUM™ Profi is the largest archive of mass-media sources from Russia and the former Soviet Union with a range of analytical tools that help to draw the digital portrait of Russia and the ex-USSR countries.

The archive contains transcripts of Moscow and Russian regional newspapers and magazines, on-line, TV and radio sources as well as media sources from the CIS and some other countries with the archive of some of them back to the late 1980s - early 1990s. All the documents can be automatically translated into English. Today the archive contains 120,000 sources and their number is constantly growing.” Indeed, in 2022, more than 120 new sources were added to Integrum, including the journal *Rodina* and full transcripts of the Russian news programs *Vesti* (Channel One) and *Vremya* (Russia-1).”

The database can be a bit confusing to use, and we have had some issues getting a consistent and seamless interface from our respective catalogues. My advice is to take note of their support email: [support@integrumworld.com](mailto:support@integrumworld.com). They are very responsive and helpful. Also, some of our academic colleagues at Cornell now have considerable experience using the database for research, and I would be happy to put you in contact with any questions.



The links to the record in our respective OPACS are as follows:

COLUMBIA: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/16916634>

And

CORNELL: <https://newcatalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/15556266>

\*\*

In the fall of 2022, I organized orientations to EastView digital products for both the Cornell and Columbia communities. The latter presentation is archived [here](#).

## GRANTS

Columbia Libraries' Antiracism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) Award Selection Committee has funded the project *Challenges (and Successes) in Collecting LGBTQ+ Materials from and About Eastern and East Central Europe*. The project brings together my library counterparts from Harvard, Princeton, and NYPL to discuss and document the resources we have assembled on LGBTQ life and history in the region, our efforts to enhance access to resources (print, archival, and electronic) in often challenging circumstances. We are joined in this endeavor by academic colleagues Tanya Domi and Christopher Caes from Columbia, as well as academic and activist community colleagues from beyond Morningside Heights.

The project will result in a country-specific snapshot report on the situation facing LGBTQ+ communities, as well as an indexed survey of relevant holdings across ReCAP institutions and Cornell and a webinar for interested students and faculty in late Spring 2023. The reports will be made freely-accessible via Columbia's Academic Commons.

## ARCHIVES

Since last fall, Columbia's Bakhmeteff Archive has acquired, processed, or updated the finding aids for the following:

Raphael Abramovitch Papers, 1917-1960: "Notes, manuscripts, and clippings used by Raphael Abramovitch in the preparation of his book, *The Soviet Revolution, 1917-1939* (New York, 1962)." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4077427](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077427)

Konstantin Konstantinovich Akintievskii Papers, 1918-1962: "High-ranking officer in the Imperial and White armies, who emigrated to the U. S." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4078091](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4078091)

Isaak Naumovich Al'tschuler Papers, 1881-1964: "Isaak Naumovich Altschuler (1870-1943), medical doctor, physician to Leo Tolstoy and Anton Chekhov. Papers include personal and professional correspondence, documents, manuscripts, photographs, drawings, printed materials. Most of the collection consists of Al'tschuler's personal and professional papers and letters from colleagues, patients and friends. Materials of the collection deal with professional affairs, revolution and civil war in Crimea, Al'tschuller's sanatorium in Yalta, emigration to

Constantinople, Germany, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, activity of such organizations as Russkii zagranichnyi istoricheskii arkhiv and Vserossiiskii zemskii soiuz." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_16872965](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_16872965)

Leonid Leonidovich Andrenko Papers on K. E. Tsiolkovskii, 1908-1956: "Correspondence, documents, photographs, and printed materials of astronomer Leonid Leonidovich Andrenko, chiefly concerning Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovskii, Russian pioneer in the fields of rocketry and aerodynamics." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4077429](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077429)

Konstantin Vasil'evich Ialyshev Papers, 1921-1957: "Konstantin Vasil'evich Ialyshev (1881 - 1971), officer in the Imperial and White armies, colonel. The papers consist of manuscripts, subject files and printed materials. Manuscripts include K. V. Ialyshev's memoirs, which deal with his student days in Kyiv at the turn of the century, including unrest in 1900, and with the Russo-Japanese war." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4077612](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077612)

Nina Evstaf'evna Illiasevich Papers, 1893-1975: "Papers consist of correspondence, a manuscript, photographs, and printed materials. There is family correspondence and letters from members of the Orthodox hierarchy in the Soviet Baltic countries." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4077620](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077620)

Mikhail Mikhailovich Karpovich Papers, 1900-1959: "Correspondence, manuscripts, lectures, lecture notes, and subject files of Russian-American historian Mikhail Mikhailovich Karpovich (1888-1959). Karpovich was an employee of the embassy of the Russian Provisional Government in Washington, D.C., Professor Emeritus of Russian History and Literature at Harvard University, and founding editor of *Novyi zhurnal*." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4079525](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4079525)

Russian-American Medical Society records, 1924-1965: "The Russian Medical Society, an association of Russian physicians living and practicing in and around New York City, was organized on February 24 th , 1924, and incorporated under New York law on February 5 th , 1925. After World War II, the society was renamed the Russian- American Medical Society, existing as such until the early 1970s. The mission of the society was to protect the legal rights of Russian physicians in the United States and give assistance to destitute, disabled, or aged Russian physicians or their families in the U.S. and abroad. The organization also helped newly arrived Russian physicians pass their medical licensing examinations and find employment. The funds of the society were accumulated through membership dues, donations, and fundraising." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_15618603](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_15618603)

Leo Tolstoy Letters, 1897-1937: "The collection consists of 124 letters from Count Leo Tolstoy and members of his family to Aylmer Maude, the English translator of his works. There are 69 letters from Count Leo Tolstoy, eighteen letters from Countess Tolstaia, eleven letters from Sergei Tolstoi (his son), 25 letters from his four daughters, Alexandra, Olga, Marya, and Tatiana, and one letter from Anna Konstantinovna Chertkova." [https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd\\_4079406](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4079406)

## OUTREACH

[Borrow Direct](#), the service that allows Columbia University faculty, students, and staff to borrow materials from [12 partner institutions](#), migrated to a new technology platform on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The new platform is intended to improve service using the latest library technology. While the most significant changes took place behind-the-scenes, library users benefit from a new Borrow Direct catalog that is easy to use and allows for more robust searching. Among the noticeable new features are a new and improved search interface, which will make it easier for users to discover and request materials from the collections of [Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation](#) partner institutions.

Please email [asp@library.columbia.edu](mailto:asp@library.columbia.edu) if you have any questions.

\*\*

Alumnus and donor Franklin Sciacca (Professor Emeritus, Hamilton College) is curating a few small exhibitions at the [Museum of Russian Icons](#) (Clinton, MA), including one scheduled for fall 2023 focusing on death rituals in the Orthodox Church. One of the items destined for display is an Old Believer manuscript he donated to Columbia which includes a *panikhida* prayer and lists of the dead (likely relatives of the owner of the prayer book) for commemoration.

\*\*

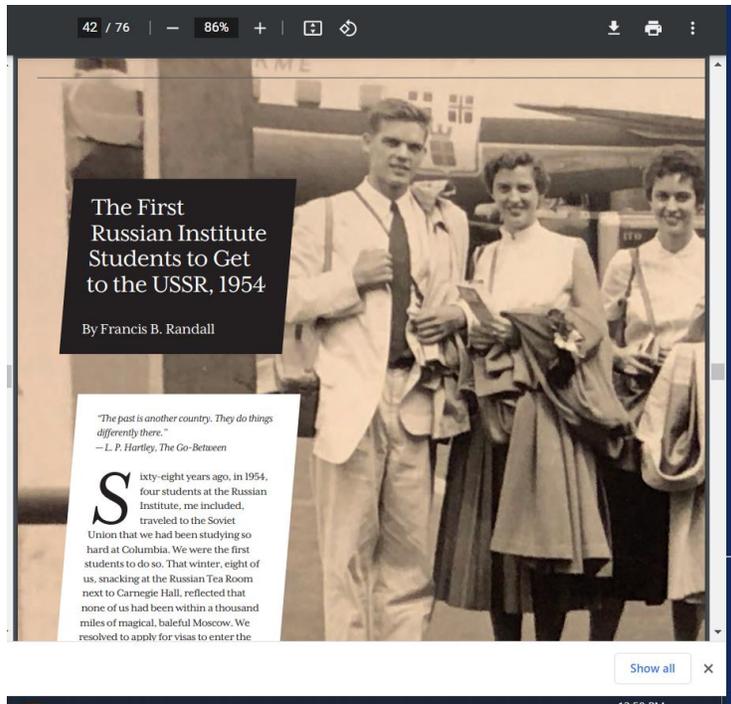
In October, the ReCAP Coordinated Collecting Working Group organized a Zoom panel: “Collaborative Approaches for Collection Development for ReCAP Partners: The Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (SEES) Case Study.” I was joined by my colleagues from Harvard, NYPL, and Princeton. A description of the program:

“Collaborative collection development between research libraries is an evolving landscape inclusive of a variety of different models, all with the ultimate goal of achieving a greater depth of collecting in the most efficient way. Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies librarians have long set trends in this area, with strong partnerships, workflows, and comprehensive collaborative approval plans dating back more than a decade. In this panel, SEES specialists from each of the four ReCAP institutions will discuss the evolution of their collaboration and the status of efforts to continue deepening an impressive shared collection, in the hopes of inspiring other collaborations across the consortium.”

The program included yours truly and my library colleagues Thomas Keenan (Princeton), Bogdan Horbal (NYPL), and Anna Rakityanskaya (Harvard).

I also chaired the panel “Libraries, Archives, and Academic Organizations” at the international conference “Ukraine in North America: Diaspora Activism, Academic Initiatives,” November 3-5, 2022, organized by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University. Speakers on the panel were Edward Kasinec (Harriman & Hoover), Ksenya Kiebusinski (Toronto), and Anna Procyk (CUNY).

\*\*



Finally, I was delighted to see the article by donor and alumnus Francis B. Randall in the most recent issue of [Harriman Magazine](#), above, documenting a journey he took with three other Russian Institute students to the USSR in 1954.

You may recall from earlier issues of *Newsnotes*, as well as from a panel in the Harriman Atrium exhibit “People, Books & Archives” (September 7-October 22, 2021, below) how the Libraries received copies of the films and related ephemera documenting the trip from the daughter of the late Gay Humphrey Matthaei. Professor Randall subsequently donated a copy

1990s-2021

### “HOLES IN AN IRON CURTAIN”: THE MATTHAEI & RANDALL COLLECTIONS



All returned from John F. Kennedy International Airport to F. Our guides: Gay Humphrey, Ted Curran, Francis B. Randall.

In 1954, Russian Institute students Gay Matthaei (d.2010), Ted Curran, Jeri Lidsky Laber, and Francis B. Randall began a 6,000 mile journey through the Soviet Union—the first Russian-speaking graduate student group to visit since Stalin's death. Supplied with a movie camera and film by CBS, they captured for Americans an unusual perspective on Soviet daily life. In 2015 films and ephemera were donated by Gay's daughter, and supplemented by Professor Randall.

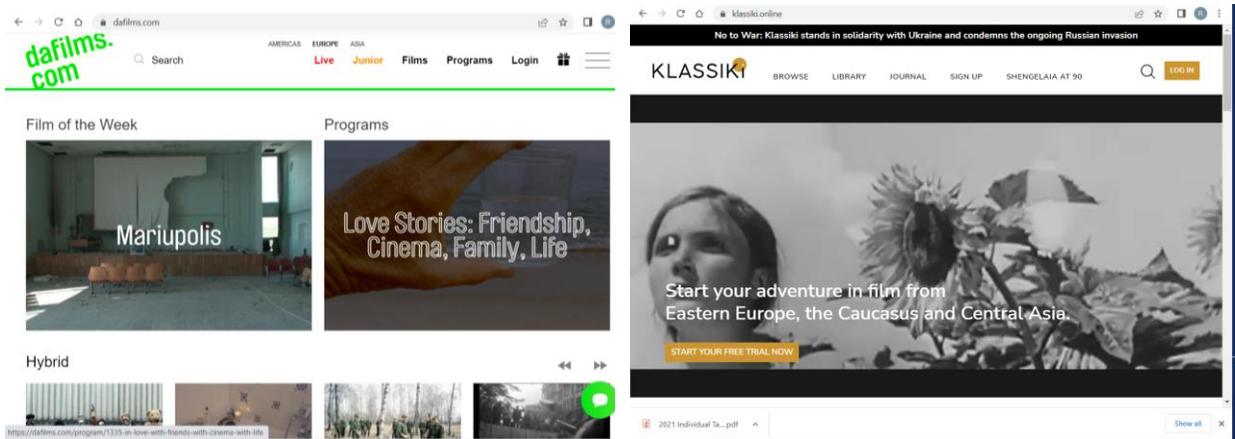


Gift photo from Gay Humphrey Matthaei's collection.

of his travel diary (as well as films) that enabled us to link descriptions of events to what was depicted in the films. The collection is cataloged [here](#).

## WEBSITES

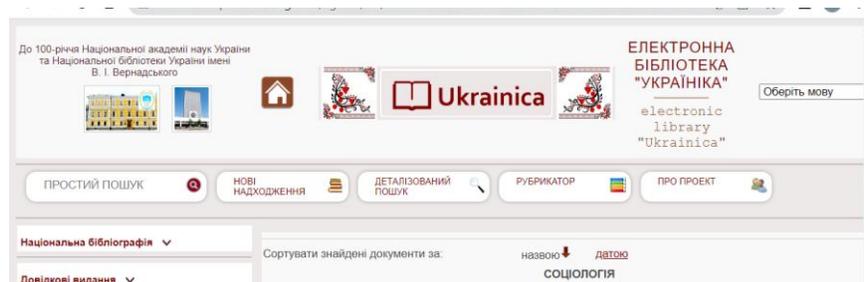
There are online a number of websites claiming to offer viewing access to films from Russia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. One is concerned, however, whether they actually are



legally authorized to do so, and so we librarians are loathe to point students and faculty in their direction. However, two sites that have been recommended by colleagues elsewhere, and who have performed some due diligence, are DA Films <https://americas.dafilms.com/> and <https://klassiki.online/> (screen shots, above).

\*

The Vernadsky National Library in Kyiv offers a large selection of [digitized print books](#):



By way of example, the category “literary studies” (screenshot, below) includes titles dating from 1831 to 2021.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `irbis-nbu.gov.ua/cgi-bin/ua/elib.exe`. The page is titled 'Национальна бібліографія' and displays search results for 'ЛІТЕРАТУРОЗНАВСТВО'. The results are sorted by name and date. The following table summarizes the visible entries:

№	Назва	Рік	Тип документа
1.	УКРАИНСКИЙ АЛЬМАНАХ (1831)	1831	Книги
2.	КИЕВЛЯНИН : [альманах] (1840) Книга первая на 1840 год.	1840	Книги
3.	КИЕВЛЯНИН : [альманах] (1841) Книга вторая. на 1841 год	1841	Книги
4.	КИЕВЛЯНИН : [альманах] (1850) Книга третья на 1850 год.	1850	Книги
5.	УКРАИНЕЦЬ. ИЗДАВАЕМЫЙ МИХАИЛОМ МАКСИМОВИЧЕМ : [Альманах] (1859) Кн. 1.	1859	Періоди

Finally, the [Laboratoriia fol'klorystychnykh doslidzhen'](#) (screen shot below) offers a collection of digitized ethnographic/folkloric studies from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries:

The screenshot shows the website 'ЛАБОРАТОРІЯ ФОЛЬКЛОРИСТИЧНИХ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ'. The page title is 'Електронна навчальна бібліотека української фольклористики'. The main content includes a description of the project and a list of publications.

**БІБЛІОГРАФІЯ**

- Гринченко Борис. Література українського фольклору. 1777–1900. Опыт библиографического указателя. Составил Б. Д. Гринченко. Чернигов, 1901 (pdf).
- Лукачюк Богдан. Матеріали до бібліографії польської етномузикології XIX–XX століть. Львів, 2006. 192 с. (pdf).

**ПІДРУЧНИКИ, ПОСІБНИКИ**

- Колесса Філарет. Отряд українсько-руської народної поезії. Написав Філарет Колесса. Львів, 1905 [перевидання] // Вісник Львівського університету. Серія філологічна. Львів, 2009. Випуск 47. С. 165–272 (pdf).
- Колесса Філарет. Університетські виклади про український фольклор і фольклористичну. У 13 зошитках. Зошити VIII–IX. Групи, зв'язані з народним календарем і господарськими сезонами / Упорядкування, підготовка тексту, вступні зауваги, коментарі Ірини Довгалюк. Львів: СПОЛОМ, 2022. 144 с. in ISBN 978-966-919-849-5 (pdf).

\*\*\*

I plan to visit Ithaca in early spring, and when I have a firm date, I will pass it along to my Cornell colleagues. As always, please be in touch with any questions or special requests.

