



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies

Resources. No. 29, Fall 2024

Dear Colleagues:

On November 1, I will mark my sixteenth anniversary at Columbia as a librarian. Hard to fathom where these years (and the twenty-two at NYPL before them) have gone...

Below, please find information regarding collection-building since the start of the spring semester. We have made some notable acquisitions, and continue to pursue new areas of collaboration among our ReCAP partners Harvard, Princeton, NYPL and soon, I'm happy to report, Yale. As always, our goal is to provide collective access to more of what is being published in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. I think that despite the many challenges we face—rising material and postage costs, wars, tariffs, and political strife—we are succeeding.

Please pay particular attention to our expanded Russian and Ukrainian **e-book offerings**, and suggestions on accessing them. Most especially note that you shouldn't always expect the titles to appear individually in the online catalog, so if you are looking for a particular title, you will need to actually go in to the database—either EastView, or now BiblioRossica—to search.

Best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and successful fall semester,

Rob Davis

Librarian for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies, Columbia University Libraries
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Current Print Acquisitions

In FY24, Columbia received 8,017 new Slavic, East European and Eurasian-language titles in traditional formats via our approval vendors. Distributed over a wide range of languages, the four largest languages for intake are Russian (more than 1,800 titles), Bulgarian (900), Bosnian (853), and Romanian (900).

Ukrainian intake included 534 recent titles from our principal vendor, Alexandra Isajevych. That puts us ahead of FY 2023, but behind FY 2022, before the impact of the invasion on publishing was fully apparent.

In addition, Cornell received on approval 3,903 new vernacular-language print titles, of which the majority were in Russian (2,011), Romanian (440), and Serbian (484).

All of these figures exclude counts for materials firm-ordered at the request of faculty or students, nor do they include serial or gift material. Nor do they include intake for non-Slavic & East European language material pertaining to the region.

Acquisitions budgets have remained steady at both institutions, which is no small feat given the campus disruptions and added financial burdens of the past year.

However, retirements and resulting fallow positions in tech support services, as at other institutions, raise concerns regarding our ability to process new acquisitions. Most especially in some of the less-commonly taught languages. Increasingly we are looking towards greater vendor involvement in the provision of quality cataloging records and “shelf-ready” materials.

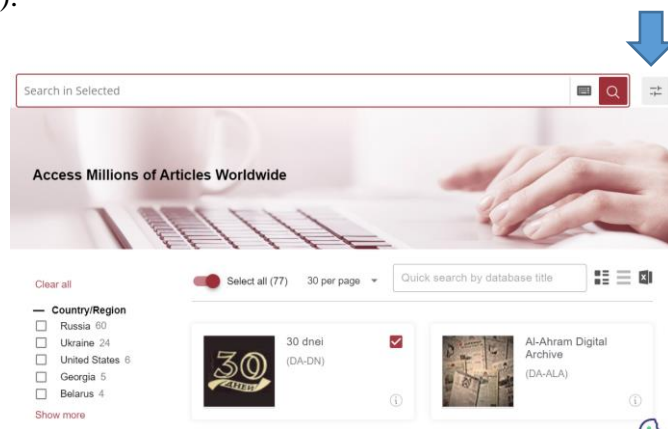
Electronic Resources

As I have mentioned in previous *2CUL Newsnotes*, we are constantly expanding access to e-books, specifically from Russia and Ukraine. In the case of Russian materials, this enables to avoid tariffs levied on print materials physically brought to the U.S., and enables us to avoid duplicative acquisitions by focusing on certain high-profile publishers in e-format and NOT acquiring print copies.

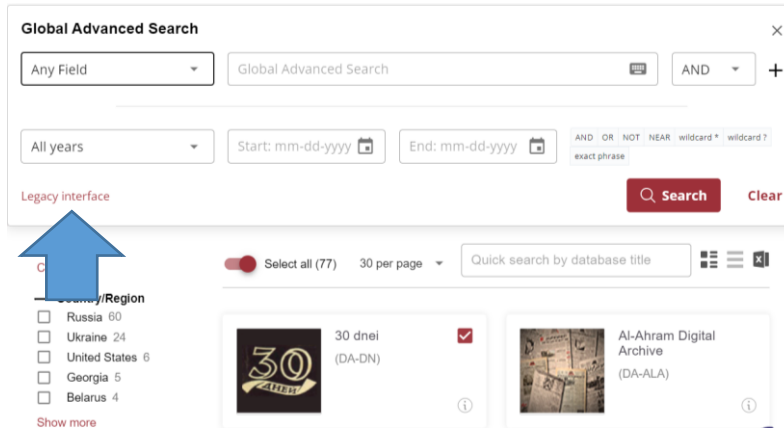
Through EastView’s e-book program, both institutions gained access to 567 Russian academic press titles not otherwise held in print, and 338 Ukrainian titles with 2023-2024 imprint dates. Cornell affiliates use of e-books increased a robust 5.4%, to 741 users consulting 654 items in the past FY; Columbia’s e-usership decreased slightly.

If you are searching for a specific title, you should be able to search the online catalogs, though there can be a delay between access and title integration. Therefore, I would recommend going to EastView’s Slavic & Judaica E-Books modules directly.

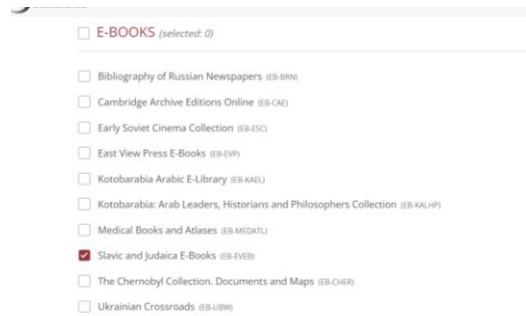
For Columbia affiliates, start by going to: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4320231>
The following page will appear. I recommend clicking the symbol to the right of the search box (below the blue arrow).



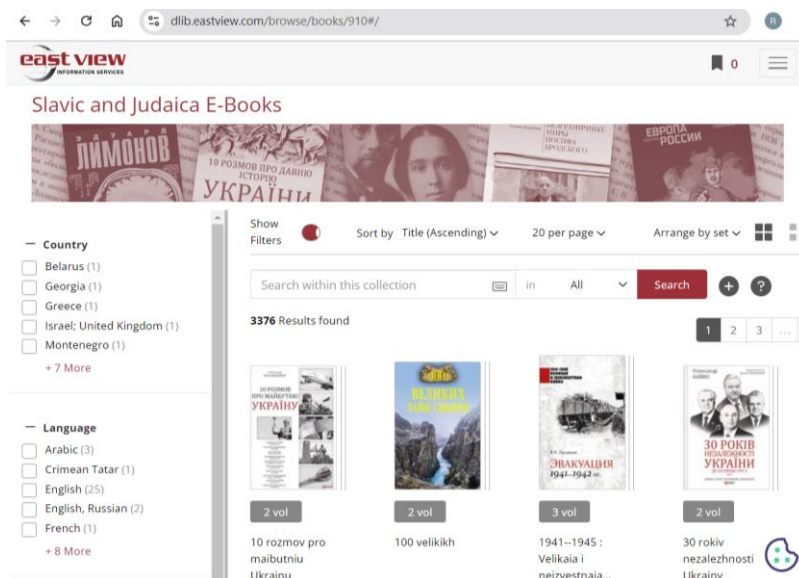
That brings up the box below. Click “Legacy Interface” (above blue arrow) as below.



That brings up a search dialogue box. Scroll down until you get to E-Books:

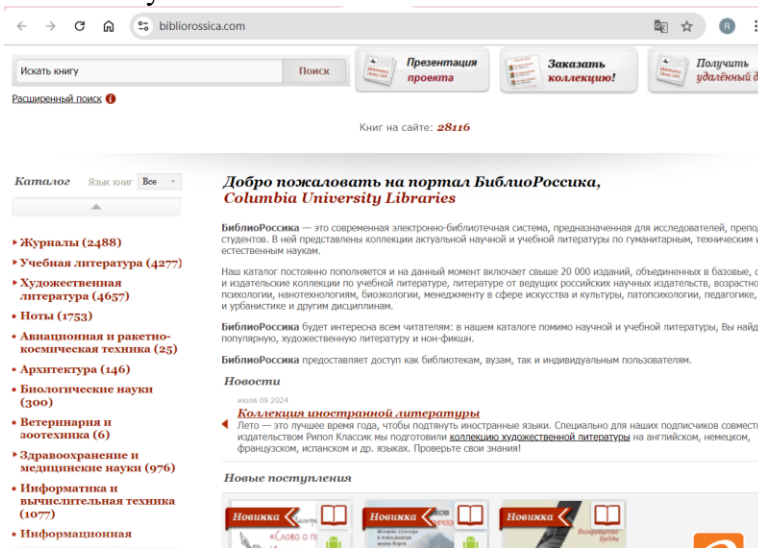


When you click on “Slavic & Judaica E-Books,” you’ll get the following box, and can then browse titles for specific languages by narrowing the parameters.











For **Cornell affiliates**, go to: <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/4265835> and repeat the above steps to navigate to e-books.

I am also delighted to report that **Columbia affiliates** now have access to a second database of Russian e-books, **BiblioRossica**, <https://resolver.library.columbia.edu/clio18567476> a project of Academic Studies Press in Boston. It describes itself as a: “digital library for academics and scholars that offers expertly selected collections devoted to the most relevant areas of modern Slavic and Jewish Studies. Our ever-growing collection includes over 24,000 titles of scholarship, with thematic collections spanning works in history, philosophy, linguistics, art, sociology, and more. Most of these books don’t reach readers outside Russia and are not available online. New titles become available shortly after print publication, along with the most significant books from recent years.”



Initial page for BiblioRossica. One can select either Russian or English.

Coverage is particularly strong for modern fiction, as well as in areas such as business, cooking, language instruction, textbooks, etc. that are not represented in the more strictly academic EastView e-book approval offerings. Again, as with EastView, titles don’t always appear as individual records in CLIO, so you will need to search or browse within the database itself.

rossica.com/publishers.html?ln=en	
	ABV-press Number of books: 45 Last release: February 28 2015
	Academic Studies Press Number of books: 558 Last release: July 26 2024
	Ad Marginem press Number of books: 278 Last release: March 21 2024
	Agentstvo elektronnykh izdaniy «Intermediator» Number of books: 3384 Last release: June 09 2024
	AIRO-XXI Number of books: 10 Last release: May 08 2024
	Akademiia Nauk Respubliki Bashkortostan Number of books: 18 Last release: January 31 2015
	Aletheia Number of books: 894 Last release: June 24 2024
	Al'manakh "Religiia Tserkov' Obshchestvo" Number of books: 5

Sample page from their listing of publishers represented.

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In the area of digital databases, **Columbia** acquired from EastView the digital archives for:

- *V Novom svete* <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/18336353>. Founded in 1995, it was the most popular weekly newspaper in the Russian-American community for 27 years.
- *Znamia* <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/18194592>, Originally launched in January 1931 under the name *LOKAF*, an acronym for the Literary Association of the Red Army and Navy, the journal was officially rebranded as *Znamia* in 1933. In 1986, *Znamia* underwent a significant transformation, evolving into one of Russia's most widely-read literary journals and serving as a herald of the Perestroika movement.
- *Izvestiia RAN Serii literatury i iazyka* <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/18194606>. Published by the Soviet/Russian Academy of Sciences since 1940, with a focus on research in the fields of literature, linguistics, and philology.
- Acquired jointly with the Starr East Asian Library, the digital backfile of *Far Eastern Affairs* <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/18247081>. Published since 1972 by the Russian Academy of Science's Institute for China & Contemporary Asia, this Russian journal--translated into English--provides multidisciplinary content on the histories, cultures, politics, and economics of China, Japan, the Koreans, and Southeast Asia through a Russian lens.

Columbia also added access to *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics Online* (Leiden: Brill, 2020-). <https://resolver.library.columbia.edu/cli018305801>

Antiquarian Purchases

Columbia purchased seventeen issues of *Radians'ke mystetstvo* (Kyiv, 1928-1932) published by the Kyiv District Trade Union Council, with the stated objective of being a political and propaganda weekly covering theater, drama, rural clubs, and other cultural activities in the area. Several issues have striking photomontage cover designs. Copies are quite scarce, with OCLC finding no institutional holdings worldwide. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/18424078>

Also, just acquired with the assistance of the Primary Resources Fund was a unique collection of eight albums containing **826 mounted photographs**, dated ca. 1881-ca. 1913, taken by French and German expats living in pre-revolutionary Russia. The albums document life and activities of several Moscow-based expat families, who are involved in the local small businesses and enterprises, factory owners. One family owned the chemical factory 'Karl Bloesch', which existed in Moscow from the 1890s until 1919 when it was nationalized. Another factory featured in the photos is the French-owned, Moscow-based paint factory of G. Lombard. Depicted are



businesses, including factories and the locals who staffed them, photos of historical events, landmark architecture and variety of photos of Russian scenery and people in various occupations. Also depicted are scenes from a village close to Perm, mining encampments in the Ural Mountains, street scenes of Batumi and Sebastopol, Yalta and Constantinople.



Album VIII includes photos of Moscow after the 1905 revolution, as well as photos of the militia on the streets of Odesa during the uprising.

This acquisition directly complements existing Russian photographica held by the Bakhmeteff, initially documented by Hee-Gwone Yoo in “Russian, Soviet and East European Photographs in the Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Columbia University: A Note on Albums,” *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, 23(1-2): 208–227 (2022).

Cornell’s outstanding Human Sexuality Collection acquired:

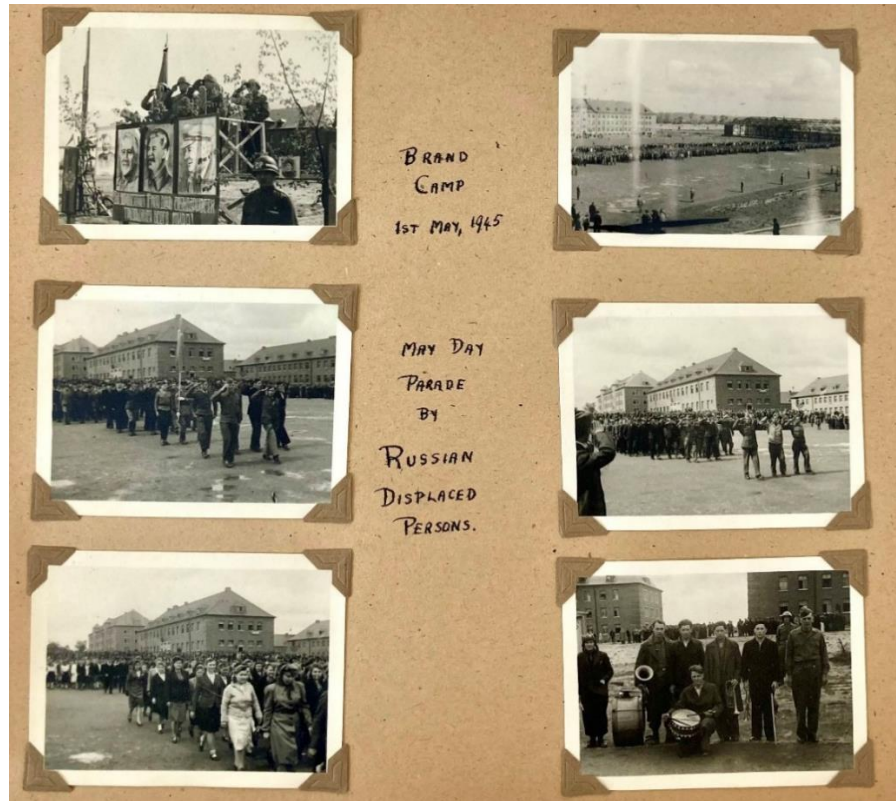
Liudvig Iakobzon *Polovye rasstroistva u muzhchin: polovoe bessilie, muzhskoe besplodie, polovye izvrashcheniia* [Sexual Disorders in Men: Sexual Impotence, Male Infertility, Sexual Disorders]. (Leningrad, 1926).

From more recent times, Cornell purchased:

- *Populiarnaia seksologiia* [Popular sexology] (Tomsk, 1990) (unlike many other similar works produced at the time, this one is not a translation) <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/16341624>;
- *On + Ona. O sekse bez khanzhestva* [i.e. He + She. About sex without hypocrisy] (Iaroslavl’, 1991) (a sex-ed book written in a more pulp-fiction manner, with silhouette illustrations) <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/16341684>;
- *SPID: Sindrom priobreionnogo immunodefitsita* [i.e. AIDS. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. The manual for medical workers] (Leningrad, 1990), the first manual of this kind produced in USSR <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/16341332>; and
- *Kvir-prostranstva v Rossii: Proshloe, nastoiashchee, budushee* [i.e. Queer spaces in Russia; the past, the present, the future] (St-Petersburg, 2020), an important book in the history of Russian LGBTQ+ community <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/16341686>.

Also acquired by the Human Sexuality Collection was the **Stephen Vizinczey** (1933-2021) **Archive**, comprising over six decades of original manuscripts, personal and professional correspondence, interviews, business records, legal documents, research materials, and more. The collections documents the breadth of the acclaimed Hungarian-Canadian author’s groundbreaking writer on sexuality, and demonstrates the profound influence his provocative debut novel *In Praise of Older Women* (1966) had on both the literary world and culture at large.

Cornell also purchased a unique collection of some 300 images: [Album of Photographs of a UNRRA Camp, its Employees and Refugees, in 1945-c.1947] ([Late 1940s?]) created by Edwin Mills (dates unknown), a director at the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) during his stay in the British Zone of Germany from early April 1945 until at least 1949. Included are images of DPs from Russia, Ukraine and Poland and their activities. <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/16354616>



Page from the UNRRA Album.

Columbia's Manuscripts and Archives holdings also expanded during the spring semester.

- The Paul H. Aron (1921-1991) Papers. He was an economist who was an authority on Japanese investments, served as a Russian-English interpreter for the American, British and Russian members of the Allied Control Commission for Austria.
https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_7269092
- The Leonid Plyushch (1939-2015) Papers, 1970-2015, "consists of books, correspondence, documents, drafts, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs and printed material. The papers document the life and work of Plyushch, a Ukrainian political activist and mathematician, a member of the Initiative Group for Human Rights in the USSR and a victim of Soviet punitive psychiatry."
https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_12198450
- The General Belá Király (1912-2009) Papers, 1950s-1980s, "include personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, and materials related to two organizations he was involved with, the Hungarian Freedom Fighters and the Program on Society in Change. The papers are from Király's time in the United States (circa 1957 to 1989)."
https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_12917598

Improved finding aids are now available for:

- The Konstantin Ivanovich Globachev Papers, 1880 – 1958. Globachev was chief of the Petrograd Department of the Okhrana, the Tsarist secret police, in the two years preceding the 1917 Russian Revolution. Included are his correspondence, typescript memoirs, personal documents, copies of photographs and biographical materials. Globachev's memoirs give a detailed account of events in Petrograd in the period 1914-1920. https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077547
- The Aleksei Fedorovich (1871-1958) and Liubov Aleksandrovna (1885-1964) Girs Papers, 1913-1963. https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077550 Girs graduated from the Corps of Pages and started his military career at the Preobrazhensky Regiment, in which he served for ten years until he left military service. He began his civic activity as Marshall of district nobility in the city of Kovno, and then in the Minsk provinces. From 1909, he served as governor of Kiev when there was an attempt on Stolypin's life. Transferred to Minsk as governor from 1912 to 1915. In 1915, Girs was governor of Nizhny Novgorod. The Girs family emigrated to Estonia, and in 1924, they moved to France.
- Political Printed Ephemera, 1875-1922. “Most items concern various political and revolutionary groups, such as the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDRP), the Party of Socialist-Revolutionaries (PSR), the Jewish socialist Bund, the Polish Socialist Party, and the Anarchist-Communists. The materials document activities of the organizations and include flyers, leaflets, event announcements, newsletters, appeals, articles, bulletins, etc. The bulk of the material was printed in western Europe in the period 1906-1914; later materials chiefly concern Russia in 1917-1920. There are also handwritten materials, including meeting notes and agendas. While most materials in the collection are in Russian, there are also items in Polish, Yiddish, Ukrainian, German, and French.” https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4077910

Columbia's **Burke Library** at Union Theological Seminary processed YMCA and YWCA Records, 1925-1949. The collection includes pamphlets, questionnaires, records, and history of the Y in different parts of the world including Czechoslovakia and Poland. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9504325>

Gifts

Columbia Business School alumnus **Grigor Acenov**, and **Goryana Lenkova** donated a collection of titles translated into Bulgarian by the distinguished poet Grigor Lenkov (1938-1977).

Dr. David Aubrey, a former Senior Scientist from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution donated a large collection devoted to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions. He had previously headed UNDP/World Bank projects in both regions. Some 198 titles represented additions to the Columbia and ReCAP collection.

Jeri Laber, a founder and Executive Director of Helsinki Watch (later Human Rights Watch, donated additional materials pertaining to the organization's early activities in the Soviet Union.

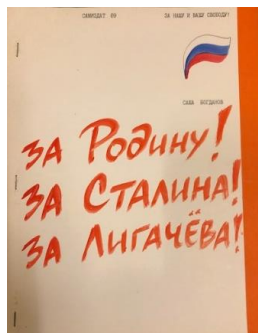
Natalya Bernadskaya of *The New Review/Novyi zhurnal* donated *Biryuzovy dozhd* (Kyiv: Summit-Book, 2021) by New York author Polina Breyter (born in Odesa, Ukraine), and *Vremya Surka* (Moscow: “Vremya,” 2022) by Vladimir Grjonko (born in Baku, Azerbaijan):

The children of **Professor Cynthia Hyla Whittaker** donated her collection to Columbia, which included thirteen 18th and 19th century imprints lacking in our holdings, among them *Kratkoe opisanie Rossiiskago Gosudarstva* (SPb, 1787); and the rare journals *Utrenniaia zaria* for 1841 and 1843, and [*Sievernaia?*] *Minerva: zhurnal* (1807).



A section of Cynthia Hyla Whittaker’s Library in situ on Central Park South

Barnard alumna **Dr. Molly Wesling** donated five examples of samizdat poetry produced by Sasha Bogdanov. Specifically, “Chellendzher kommunizma,” “Dorogaia Raisa Maksimovna!,” “Mavzoleinoe,” “Rossiia 1989,” and “Za Rodinu! Za Stalina! Za Ligachëva!” (shown below). All were published in Leningrad by the Vol’naia rossiiskaia tipografiia. Dr. Wesling bought the items from the poet onsite in St. Petersburg in 1989.



Mark Haag donated two early 19th century Russian imprints that represented lacunae in our holdings: Evgenii (Bolkhovitinov), Metropolitan of Kyiv & Galicia (1767-1837) *Slovar’ istoricheskii o byvshikh v Rossii pisateliakh dukhovnago china, Grekorossiiskoi tserkvi* (SPb:

Tip. N. Grecha, 1818), and *Sochineniia V.A. Ozerova*, Ch. I & II (SPb: Ivan Glazunov, 1816-1819).

As in past years, **Paul Michael Taylor** has given Columbia both Central Asian, and Ukrainian titles that are not widely held by peer libraries.

Very recently, Professor **Matthew Evangelista** has donated a number of scarce titles from his working library to Cornell.

The **Abraham J. Heschel Center** for Catholic-Jewish Relations at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin donated the book *Wartime Rescue of Jews by the Polish Catholic Clergy: The Testimony of Survivors and Rescuers*, compiled and annotated by Ryszard Tyndorf with the assistance of Zygmunt Zieliński. (Lublin: Wydawnictwo KUL, 2023).

Publications

Thomas Keenan and the present author provided “Russian & Eurasian Studies,” Chapter 9 in: Brian Vetruba & Heidi Madden, eds. *Handbook for European Studies Librarians*.

<https://open.lib.umn.edu/europeanstudieslibrarians/chapter/9-russian-and-urasian-studies/>

An article by the present author will appear in the next issue of *Slavic & East European Information Resources* devoted to the 125th Anniversary of Slavic and East European collecting at The New York Public Library: “*No Matter Who You are or What Your Business’: NYPL’s Slavic Collections @ 125.*”

Events

Yours truly joined other East Coast Slavic Consortium colleagues as a panelist at “Research Workshop: Slavic Collections in North America,” at the Yale Macmillan Center, April 18, 2024.



East Coast Colleagues from (l. to r.) Dr. Bogdan Horbal (NYPL); John DeSantis (Dartmouth); Rob Davis (Columbia/Cornell); Alla Roylance (NYU); Anna Arays (Yale); Dr. Thomas Keenan (Princeton); Angela Cannon (Library of Congress); Dr. Kirsten Painter (Pennsylvania).

