Collection Policy for Slavonic and East European Studies (Social sciences, History and Geography)

1. Overview

Areas covered: Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS; general works relating to the Former Soviet Union and Eurasia. The individual countries within these areas are covered by a number of dedicated subject specialists from the Slavonic and Oriental sections of the Bodleian Libraries.

The mission of the Slavonic and East European collection is to support the immediate and future learning, teaching and research needs of members of the University of Oxford, and the national and international research community in the field of East European history, social sciences and geography by the provision of both expertise and materials (printed and electronic) for this subject area.

In May 2005 a formal Inquiry into Slavonic library provision revealed that the Oxford Slavonic collections continue to be of high significance to national and international scholarship, and our libraries ranked as one of the top research libraries in the world, with rich and rare holdings of outstanding importance for graduate work.

General coverage of subjects in the Bodleian Libraries

The main research collection (c.250,000 items) is held in the Bodleian Repository (the Book Storage Facility near Swindon).

The Bodleian Libraries’ collections of material from and dealing with the area of the former USSR and Eastern Europe are the third largest in the UK, after the British Library and SSEES. Taken together with other collections in Oxford, they form the biggest British concentration of resources for Slavonic studies outside London.

The Bodleian Library has acquired printed and other matter relating to Russia and Eastern Europe ever since its establishment by Sir Thomas Bodley at the beginning of the 17th century. Acquisition was significantly expanded after the Second World War, with the help of special government funds, when Oxford was designated as a centre for Slavonic and East European studies.

Publications of a scholarly standard are acquired as extensively as funds permit in the following main subjects: history (including local history); politics and government (including official publications); economics (especially economic history); sociology, statistics and demography, gender studies, geography and topography; bibliography, libraries, archives and publishing; law (at the Bodleian Law Library); and general works of reference. First priority is given to securing adequate coverage of newly published titles, but older material has been widely obtained by donation, exchange or purchase.

Bodleian holdings relating to Russia and Eastern Europe are estimated at around 220,000 book titles in European languages, with a further 25,000 in the non-European languages of the former USSR. Periodicals and other printed serials published in the countries amount to over 2,000 titles, and there are over 5,000 discontinued titles. Several electronic databases containing a growing number of serial titles have been added after 1999, most notably from EastView, Integrum, MIPP and CEEOL.

Some general reference and history material is on the open shelves of the Taylor Bodleian Slavonic and Modern Greek Library (TABS).

The main teaching collection for REES is in the Social Science Library (SSL) which also has a substantial research collection consisting of the following:

Books, journals and reading list material relating to East European politics, economics and statistics, collected by the Bodleian staff over a 60 year period and previously kept in the Bodleian Slavonic reading room.

Newly published titles (mostly in English) of scholarly publications relating to Russia and Eastern Europe in the following main subjects: politics and government; economics (including economic history), sociology, gender studies, statistics, demography, development studies, migration and refugee studies.
Most of the material is on SOLO and can be ordered by Automatic Stack Request to various reading rooms within the Bodleian Libraries.

**Legal deposit (LD)**

Under legal deposit legislation the Bodleian and five other UK libraries have been allowed to receive a free copy of every item published in print in the UK since 1662. Most of the LD material is kept in the Bodleian Repository; some books relating to Russian and East European social sciences are selected for the open shelves of the SSL.

None of the LD history material is being selected for TABS due to a shortage of space there. Some important books are selected for the open shelves in the Gladstone Link and the History Faculty Library in the Radcliffe Camera.

**Electronic legal deposit (eLD)**

From 6 April 2013, the Bodleian and the other five UK legal deposit libraries have the right to collect electronic publications and to harvest content from the Internet. The new legislation allows access to e-books, e-journals, pdf articles, webpages from the UK domain and other electronic documents published in the UK.

Details on searching for and accessing eLD content in SOLO can be found in the eLD libguide http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/content.php?pid=228044&sid=3652852

**Electronic resources**

Oxford was the first in the UK to test and purchase databases from EastView and CEEOL. Many other UK libraries followed our example and recommendations.

We have a substantial collection of e-resources which are becoming increasingly important for this subject area. All are now on OxLip+ and include several databases from EastView such as the Central Russian newspapers, Russian National bibliography, Governmental publications, CIS Statistics, Labirint, and the Military Security database; Integrum, MIPP International and CEEOL (Central and East European Online Library).

Recent additions include the Pravda digital archive, the Izvestiia archive and the Stalin digital archive.

A full list of REES databases can be found at OxLip+.

Specialist libguides, such as the REES libguide http://ox.libguides.com/content.php?pid=152328 and the East European Data & Statistics http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/content.php?pid=383854 provide detailed information and direct access to the major e-resources needed for carrying out research in this subject area.

Our policy is to move from printed to electronic journals and all subscriptions will be reviewed regularly to assess whether upgrading to online access is available and cost-effective. Our priority is to ensure that there is secure perpetual access to all issues within any serial title.

The Oxford libraries provide access to a rapidly increasing number of online books across many subjects. Electronic books on Russian and East European history and social sciences are purchased either individually or in packages, such as the EastView e-book collection.

All new post-graduates are offered an introductory workshop on the use of our e-resources as part of their methodology course in Michaelmas Term. All Bodleian users, including external readers, are encouraged to book research appointments and individual sessions with the relevant specialists.

**Notes about particular formats or collections**

There is a good collection of microfilms, émigré literature and 'illegal' publications, including Samizdat (Russia) and Polish underground literature.

Some legal publications are still in the Bodleian stack but most were transferred to the Law library after 2002 when Slavonic and East European legal collections became the responsibility of the Law Library.
Languages

The Bodleian Libraries collect materials in history and social sciences across all languages, although levels of coverage may vary. Material in the vernacular languages is kept in the Central Bodleian stack and TABS, while the SSL holdings are mostly in English, with a few titles in West European languages. The exception is statistical material and selected official reports which are kept in the SSL regardless of language.

Acquisition of new material is carried out across the full range of the languages of Central and Eastern Europe by a number of subject specialists.

Collection Management

The collection management for Slavonic area studies is in line with the overall Bodleian Libraries Collection Management Policy which outlines the aims of correctly housing material within the libraries and reducing unplanned duplication.

Our top priority is to provide materials and services for the support of the taught REES programmes, following the CEELBAS award from HEFCE – a major innovative collaboration initiative involving a network of UK partners.

In addition, as far as finance permits, we continue to select and acquire the latest materials (both printed and electronic) for the current and future needs of the Slavonic and East European research community.

2. Teaching collections

The main teaching collection for REES is in the SSL. This includes reading lists for which multiple copies are purchased when specifically requested, and one copy is confined to the library for reference. The number of additional copies needed is in line with the SSL policy.

All material in the SSL is borrowable except for microfilms, reference copies, periodicals, and books ordered from the Bodleian (the legal deposit stock).

3. Research collections

The main research collections are in the Bodleian Repository and the SSL; most reference material, and some history books and periodicals in the vernacular are in TABS, while a few important history books (mostly in English) are in the Gladstone Link. Newly acquired research material, which is not kept on the open shelves at TABS and SSL, is now relegated to the Repository from where it can be ordered for consultation in the reading room of the user’s choice.

We shall continue to acquire key datasets and database reports relating to the region, document and newspapers archives, public opinion and surveys research results.

4. Special Collections

The Bodleian Libraries have unique and extensive holdings of early Cyrillic materials which are an invaluable resource for researchers of mediaeval East European history.

Some manuscripts and rare books are kept in the Department of Special Collections. These include the Birkbeck collection of nearly 300 volumes on the Russian Church, which contains an Ostrog Bible.

Unique material and all pre-1641 books have been moved temporarily to the Radcliffe Science Library during the refurbishment of the New Bodleian (2009-2014).

All East European maps and atlases are collected by the Map Room in the Central Bodleian.

5. Subject coverage of selected purchased material

In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works, we will purchase non-deposited material in the following specific fields, subject to funding:
Slavonic, East European and Eurasian social studies (especially politics, economics and statistics), history (post-7th century), geography and demography (excluding maps and atlases which are the responsibility of the Map Room).

6. Names of subject consultants responsible for collections

There is a network of subject consultants specializing in particular countries and regions within the Bodleian Libraries. These include:

Adina Bradeanu (Romania)

Angelina Gibson (Russia, CIS, Former Soviet Union, Bulgaria, general works on Central and Eastern Europe)

Barbara Wojtowicz (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Albania, the Baltic States, Former Yugoslavia)

Dinah Manisty (Central Asia and the Caucasus)

Zsuzsana Varga (Hungary)

Updated 22 January 2014

Angelina Gibson (Slavonic and Eurasian Subject consultant for history and social sciences)