

Miranda Remnek, ed. *Access to East European and Eurasian Culture: Publishing, Acquisitions, Digitization, Metadata*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth, 2007. 169 pp. \$48.00 (ISBN: 9780789033963)

Sweeping changes in politics, finances, and intellectual freedoms throughout the second half of the twentieth century have created challenges for libraries interested in East European and Eurasian materials. Bibliographers searching for both retrospective and current scholarly and news-related items from these regions still feel effects of the changes. Though many regions of Eastern Europe and Eurasia have achieved greater political stability and freedom of the press, determining who publishes what and how to obtain and share it can still prove difficult.

I am not a Slavic librarian. My bibliographic experience has dealt primarily with publishers in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Americas. However, I feel it is a testimony to the contributors to this book that after reading it, I believe I could draw up a plan to collect, process, and share materials discussed here. This book's publisher included a selection of detailed positive reviews from librarians involved with widely respected Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian collections in the United States. The level of detail appears to be such that specialists benefit strongly from reading this book as well. All of the sections are somewhat centered on patrons. For example, Zilper and Van Duinen's discussion of digitization of the André Savine Collection of Russian materials focuses on maximizing accessibility and understanding patrons' search strategies. Software choices are discussed in some detail; most librarians will probably need significant IT help in implementing them.

The chapters of *Access to East European and Eurasian Culture* were originally presentations at the 2006 Slavic Librarians' Workshop. Most authors are affiliated with U.S. universities, though a scattering of Eastern European authors provide enlightening local perspectives. The book is divided into the four sections mentioned in the title: publishing, acquisitions, digitization, and metadata. Most sections discuss relevant historical events and past regulations, then frame the current situation and challenges. After this, the authors present their projects in detailed, with enough general advice to guide others. Olekšák and Kulla's chapter "The Slovak Periodical Press: Historical Development, Current Content, New Forms of Access" provides a typical example of this structure. The authors begin by laying out the Slovakia's history since World War II, emphasizing the politics and levels of censorship associated with ruling political parties. Typically I would have found the amount of background excessive. However, I soon realized that the historical information directly related to understanding why such a limited number of news publications were available during certain time periods, where I might search for retrospective issues, and why materials from the Slovak diaspora would be crucial in a Slovak collection.

I recommend *Access to East European and Eurasian Culture* to both specialists and generalists who desire to bring these cultures to their patrons. Librarians with many backgrounds will be able to plan and implement collection goals using this book's advice.

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