

A Decade of Coverage (1990-2000):
The Mainstream Library Press
and Its Coverage of Eastern Europe
and the Soviet Union and Its Successor States

Marta Mestrovic Deyrup

ABSTRACT. This study examines the coverage of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and its successor states by U.S. journals indexed in *Library Literature* between 1990 and 2000. Seventy-one journals were evaluated according to subject content, geographical coverage, document type, and year of article publication. The study found that the majority of articles focused on domestic and foreign library activities. Coverage peaked between the years 1990 and 1994, with a steady decline after that. The study reports on differences in coverage by peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed journals over this decade. [Article copies available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service: 1-800-HAWORTH. E-mail address: <getinfo@haworthpressinc.com> Website: <<http://www.HaworthPress.com>> © 2002 by The Haworth Press, Inc. All rights reserved.]

Marta Mestrovic Deyrup, MLS, MA, is Assistant Professor/Librarian, Seton Hall University.

Address correspondence to: Marta Mestrovic Deyrup, 26 Cedar Street, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 USA (E-mail: deyrupma@shu.edu).

The author wishes to thank Dr. Xue-Ming Bao, Assistant Professor/Librarian at Seton Hall University for his invaluable assistance with the design of this study and its statistical analysis. She also wishes to thank Dr. Arthur Hafner, Professor and Dean of Seton Hall Universities Libraries, for his critical reading of the text.

KEYWORDS. Eastern Europe, Soviet Union, Newly Independent States, Commonwealth of Independent States, *Library Literature*, index, journals, press, 1990s

INTRODUCTION

In the decade between 1990 and 2000, sweeping changes occurred not only in general librarianship, but also in the specialized profession of Slavic librarianship. In the case of the former, these changes primarily were driven by technology. Today, unlike 1990, most library technical functions (cataloging, acquisitions, interlibrary loan) are part of large, integrated information systems, and many library information resources are entirely electronic. While Slavic librarianship has responded to the paradigm shift in the way information is handled and disseminated, many of the changes in the field over the last decade were actually driven by external events. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the break-up of the countries that constituted Eastern Europe had a negative impact on Russian and Eastern European area studies programs in the United States. Federal funding for these programs and the libraries that supported them was cut substantially. This was coupled by a drop in student enrollment in traditionally well-attended Slavic language programs like Russian. Slavic librarianship has found itself in the unique position of simultaneously having to respond to changes in the profession at large and in its own sphere of influence. It has accomplished this in a variety of ways, among them the expansion of its activities to include new constituents outside the traditional field of Russian and East European Studies, the establishment of consortia to purchase subject-specific electronic journals and databases, and the reformatting of large sets of serials.

These changes have been well documented by Slavic librarians through internal organs, such as the Slavic and East European Section of the ACRL annual newsletters and the "Library News" section of *AAASS NewsNet* and trade publications, such as *Solanus* and *Slavic & East European Information Resources*. They point to exhilaratingly fast transformation—particularly in the area of electronic information. But there has not been a systematic analysis of how mainstream U.S. library literature addressed these developments. How did this press report on the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe? Through what sort of prism did it view Slavic Studies librarianship? The lack of literature on this topic precipitated this study and its findings below.

METHODOLOGY

The study used *Library Literature*, an index database developed by H. W. Wilson Company, as its source. *Library Literature*, which began coverage in 1984, indexes two hundred library and information science periodicals and covers the spectrum of library activities: "automation, cataloging, censorship, children's literature, circulation procedures, classification, copyright legislation, education for librarianship, government aid, information brokers, internet software, library associations and conferences, library equipment and supplies, personnel administration, preservation of materials, public relations, publishing, web sites, library literature and information science."¹

While the index, which is geared towards library generalists, provides an overall barometer of how the mainstream library press reported on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and its successor states, it does not fare so well in covering activities pertaining to area studies librarianship. *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, *Slavic Review*, *Polish Review* and *Russian History*—all U.S. publishing venues for the field—are not included in its list of sources. It also can be argued that relying solely on vendor-provided information represents a dangerous trend in research and scholarship. Nonetheless, it was felt that in order to perform the kind of statistical analysis needed for such a large project, a searchable index that used a controlled vocabulary and data set had to be consulted. On a more positive note, a comparison of the bibliographic citations issued in the annual SEES newsletters and those culled from *Library Literature* show that although Slavic Studies publications were not well-represented in *Library Literature*, most of the other U.S. journals to which Slavic librarians had contributed over the decade were. These include *The American Archivist*, *Art Documentation*, *Collection Development*, *Information Technology and Libraries*, *Libraries & Culture*, *The Serials Librarian* and *Serials Review*.

In its online web version *Library Literature* allows for sophisticated search queries of its indexed citations. To collect data for this article, queries were limited by year (1990-2000), by format (journal article) and by place of publication (United States). Keyword searches and subject searches were performed for large geographic areas and concepts, for example, "Soviet Union," "Slavic," "Russia," "Central Europe" and for the countries that constituted the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe—"Russian Republic," "Baltic States," "Albania," "Hungary," "Poland," etc. Excluded from the review was East Germany.

This study includes scholarly articles directly related to librarianship. It does not include articles that discussed issues tangential to the field, such as publishing. News briefs about events that took place in libraries but were not related to librarianship were excluded, as were book reviews. Two hundred eighty-two articles were selected under this criterion. An SPSS database was constructed that consisted of the following fields: journal title, a journal's peer- or non-peer-reviewed status, the year of article publication, document type, subject descriptor, and geographical area. The data were coded and examined for statistical analysis. Because a large number of journal titles had published fewer than five articles over the eleven-year period, they were grouped and analyzed as a unit. The following nine subject headings were assigned to the article citations:

- a. Acquisitions and serials
- b. Archives and special collections
- c. Cataloging
- d. Collections
- e. Libraries (organizational structure, administration, institutional activities)
- f. Librarianship (professional activities, conferences, exchanges, study tours)
- g. Library education
- h. Technology (information systems, library automation, the Internet)
- i. Other.

The following geographic categories were assigned to the article citations:

- a. Albania
- b. Baltic States
- c. Bulgaria
- d. Central/Eastern Europe
- e. Czechoslovakia and its successor states
- f. Hungary
- g. Poland
- h. Romania
- i. Slavic world
- j. Soviet Union and its successor states
- k. Ukraine
- l. United States

- m. Western Europe
- n. Yugoslavia and its successor states.

FINDINGS

Geographical Coverage

The articles indexed by *Library Literature* showed, for the most part, a steady decrease of coverage of this geographic area over the decade, from a high of 39 articles (13.8%) published in 1992 to a low of 9 articles (3.2%) published in 2000. Of the 282 articles examined in this study, 167 (59.1%) were published between 1990 and 1994. The last three years of the survey (1998, 1999, 2000) accounted for only 49 articles, 17.4% of all citations. Geographical coverage often coincided with the momentous events taking place in the region (see Table 1a). For example, of the 21 articles having to do with Romania, approximately a third were published in 1990, the year after the Ceaucescu regime was overthrown. The greatest concentration of articles published about the former Yugoslavia spanned a 3-year period (1992-1994), which roughly paralleled that country's break-up. Only articles pertaining to the Soviet Union and its successor states consistently were covered each year over the decade, certainly not a surprise considering the significance of this region to U.S. national interests.

Not only were articles about the Soviet Union and its successor states the most frequently distributed across the surveyed period, they outnumbered the others numerically (see Table 1b). One hundred twenty-eight articles focused on this geographic area, 45.4% of the total. Next largest was the general area of Central/Eastern Europe (12.1%), followed by Romania (7.4%), Poland (6%), Czechoslovakia and its successor states (6%), the Baltic States (5.7%) and the former Yugoslavia and its successor states (4.6%). What was perhaps somewhat surprising was that areas key to Slavic Studies librarianship—Poland and Czechoslovakia and its successor states—were not represented to the degree Romania was. This was due in large part to the coverage of Romania by journals with fewer than five publications. Although it is unclear why so many journals chose to focus on this particular area of the world, a review of *Library Literature* citations gives an indication of how news was generated by mainstream publications. The most articles on Romania ran in *International Leads*, a non-peer-reviewed journal that reported extensively on the activities of the American Library As-

TABLE 1a. Geographical Coverage by Year

Country/Region	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Albania						1
Baltic States			2	1	3	5
Central/Eastern Europe	3	2	5	8	7	1
Yugoslavia and Successor States	1		3	2	2	1
Czechoslovakia and Successor States	1	2	2	3	1	
Romania	8	1	5		4	
Hungary	2	1		2	2	
United States				1		
Poland	4	2	4	1	1	1
Soviet Union and Successor States	14	19	15	16	6	10
Slavic		3	1	1		1
Ukraine						2
Bulgaria	1		2		2	1
Total	35	30	39	35	28	24

Country/Region	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Albania	1					2
Baltic States			2	3		16
Central/Eastern Europe	1	5	1	1		34
Yugoslavia and Former Yugoslavia		1		2	1	13
Czechoslovakia and Successor States	1	1	4	2		17
Romania		1	1	1		21
Western Europe			1			3
Hungary		1				8
United States				1	1	3
Poland	1	2		1		17
Soviet Union and Successor States	17	7	14	5	5	128
Slavic				1	2	9
Ukraine		2				4
Bulgaria	1					7
Total	22	20	33	17	9	282

TABLE 1b. Geographical Coverage by Article Frequency

Geographical Area	Frequency	Percentage
Albania	2	.7
Baltic States	16	5.7
Central/Eastern Europe	34	12.1
Former Yugoslavia and Successor States	13	4.6
Czechoslovakia and Successor States	17	6.0
Romania	21	7.4
Western Europe	3	1.1
Hungary	8	2.8
United States	3	1.1
Poland	17	6.0
Soviet Union and Successor States	128	45.4
Slavic World	9	3.2
Ukraine	4	1.4
Bulgaria	7	2.5
Total	282	100.0

Note that all percentages contain a margin of error. Figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal.

sociation. In 1990, it ran stories on policy statements by ALA concerning Romania and on a book drive launched by the ALA Disaster Relief Committee. These were followed by an article in 1992 on a Romanian Fulbright Scholar, a 1994 report on a Romanian ALA fellow at the University of Dayton, and a 1997 piece on Romanian-American international library cooperation. Thus, all the articles in this publication were event-driven, and, one suspects, a result of ALA's intense involvement in this region.

Coverage by Journal Title

Journal titles were grouped into two categories, those that had published five or more articles between 1990 and 2000 and those that had published fewer than five articles during this period. There were 17 journals falling into the former category and 54 into the latter. Of the 282 articles in the study, 180 (64%) were in journals that had published five or more articles. Of the journals that had published under five articles, 29 had published 1 article, 16 had published 2 articles, 7 had published 3, and 5 had published 4. Thus, the coverage of Eastern Europe

and the Soviet Union and its successor states by the majority of publications indexed in *Library Literature* was negligible. While the reasons for this lack of coverage are unclear, it should be noted that several highly selective academic journals did not focus on this region of the world, among them *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, *RQ* and *College & Research Libraries*. *College & Research Libraries* published only two articles over the decade, one on the transfer of library holdings and art from Germany to the Soviet Union and another on the evaluation and preservation of Slavic materials at the University of Kansas. This stands in contrast to the non-peer-reviewed *College & Research Libraries News*, which ran several reports about library activities, including those related to automation and technology.

The top five journals, in order of publication figures, were *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, which published 23 (8.2%) of all articles reviewed for the study, *American Libraries* 22 (7.8%), *The Serials Librarian* 18 (6.4%), *Libraries & Culture* 17 (6%), and *International Leads* 14 (5%) (see Table 2). The two journals focused on serials librarianship, *The Serials Librarian* and *Serials Review*, published almost 10% (28) of all articles. The two most general interest publications, *American Libraries* and *Library Journal*, published over 10% (30) of all articles.

Overwhelmingly, journals chose the Soviet Union and its successor states as their primary focus. Of the 182 articles published by journals with five or more publications, 85 covered this geographic region. *Libraries & Culture* published approximately 16% of this number, *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* 15%, and *American Libraries* 11%. However, when all seventeen journals are examined individually, the stress each places on geographical regions is somewhat different. For example, *American Libraries* devoted six articles to topics about Central/Eastern Europe as opposed to nine about the Soviet Union and its successor states—two-thirds, a rather large percentage. *Serials Review* published nine articles on Central/Eastern Europe, as opposed to one on the Soviet Union and its successor states. *Serials Review* is an interesting case. This peer-reviewed publication ran articles by several Slavic bibliographers at major institutions on journal subscriptions from the region—a topic of particular interest in the mid-1990s, and significant enough to have caught the interest of the journal's publishers.

For journals that published more than five articles, the frequency of publication over this decade was as follows. *The American Archivist*, *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science*, *Conservation Administration News*, *Library Journal*, *Library Resources & Technical*

TABLE 2. Frequency of Journal Title

Title	Frequency	Percentage
The American Archivist	9	3.2
American Libraries	22	7.8
Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science	8	2.8
Bulletin of the Medical Library Association	5	1.8
College & Research Libraries News	10	3.5
Conservation Administration News	6	2.1
Illinois Libraries	5	1.8
International Leads	14	5.0
Journal of Education for Library and Information Science	6	2.1
Library of Congress Information Bulletin	23	8.2
Libraries & Culture	17	6.0
Library Journal	8	2.8
Library Resources & Technical Services	5	1.8
Microcomputers for Information Management	6	2.1
The Serials Librarian	18	6.4
Serials Review	10	3.5
Wilson Library Bulletin	8	2.8
Under 5 articles	102	36.2
Total	282	100.0

Services, Microcomputers for Information Management and *Wilson Library Bulletin* published the majority of articles prior to 1996. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* and *Libraries & Culture* published the majority of articles after 1995. Only *American Libraries*, *The Serials Librarian* and *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* published steadily throughout the decade on this geographic region.

One can make several assumptions about the reasons for this situation. It is likely that library school programs in Russia and Eastern Europe did not become "Westernized," i.e., focused on a user-services model of library education, until the mid to late 1990s, perhaps precluding earlier coverage by *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*. Many of *Libraries & Culture's* articles about the region were conference proceedings, and thus limited by date. Of the two journals having comprehensive coverage, *American Libraries*, as the organ

of ALA, has an international scope and *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* reports on that library's many international exchanges with Russia and Eastern Europe. *The Serials Librarian* is somewhat surprising in that it so frequently provided an important venue for articles about Slavic studies librarianship—perhaps an indication of the professional activities of Slavic bibliographers.

Because of the insignificant number of articles produced individually over the period by the remaining 56 journals, statistics were not broken out. However, journals with fewer than five articles published articles consistently on the entire geographic region throughout the decade. Coverage was fairly evenly divided between the first and second halves of the decade, with the greatest number of individual articles published in 1996. One suspects that these journals were not interested, per se, in this geographical area, but instead in publishing articles of interest to their specific readership. For example, *Illinois Libraries* ran articles on Slavic-American collections in the state. *Judaica Librarianship* ran articles on Hebraica found in Russian and Eastern European libraries. Slavic studies librarianship was not a particular focus, except in certain cases. For example, *The Reference Librarian* published an article on the Slavic reference service at the University of Illinois and *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* published several pieces on cataloging Slavic and East European language books.

Subject Coverage

Subject coverage was divided into nine broad areas: acquisitions and serials, technology, cataloging, collections, libraries, librarianship, archives and special collections, library education, and other.

Overwhelmingly the journals covered two topics: libraries (27%) and librarianship (23.8%) (see Table 3a). The former consisted of institutional news; reports about international cooperation between U.S. and foreign libraries; the socio-economic problems of libraries abroad; disasters, such as war, fire and theft of materials; information policy and services, and the like. The latter consisted primarily of reports about librarian exchanges, study tours and conferences. The top-ranked subject areas covered by the journals that had five or more publications, were as follows: *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* (libraries), *The American Archivist* (archives and special collections), *American Libraries* (libraries), *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science* (libraries), *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* (equally split

TABLE 3a. Subject Coverage

Subject	Frequency	Percentage
Acquisitions and Serials	34	12.1
Technology	26	9.2
Cataloging	10	3.5
Collections	25	8.9
Libraries	76	27.0
Librarianship	67	23.8
Archives and Special Collections	24	8.5
Library Education	9	3.2
Other	11	3.9
Total	282	100.0

between technology and librarianship), *College & Research Libraries News* (librarianship), *Conservation Administration News* (archives and special collections), *Illinois Libraries* (libraries), *International Leads* (librarianship), *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* (library education), *Libraries & Culture* (libraries), *Library Journal* (equally divided between libraries and archives and special collections), *Library Resources & Technical Services* (cataloging), *Microcomputers for Information Management* (technology), *The Serials Librarian* (acquisitions and serials), *Serials Review* (acquisitions and serials), and the *Wilson Library Bulletin* (libraries). Of publications that had fewer than five articles, the most common subject area was librarianship.

The top five journals covered these subjects in very different ways. For example, *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* focused its coverage primarily on the activities of its divisions, such as the Law Library, the Congressional Research Service, the cataloging department, and so forth. It highlighted both its collections and its international partnerships with foreign libraries. *American Libraries* reported on the state of libraries and library services abroad and individual activities of librarians, many of which extended beyond those of simply attending conferences and study tours. *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* and *American Libraries* tended to run short features. *The Serials Librarian* published articles exceeding ten or more pages. These articles were technical in scope and emphasized collection development issues.

The journal ran a two-part, 20-page article on Bulgarian periodicals, a 28-page article on serial and book exchanges with the former Soviet Union, and a 12-page article on the circulation and distribution of Russian newspapers and journals. *Libraries & Culture* published scholarly library research and reports of academic conferences. There were articles on scientific communication during the Cold War, the destruction of Jewish libraries in Poland during World War II, and cultural activities in prison libraries in the Soviet Union. These articles tended to be comprehensive in scope and length. Lastly, *International Leads* focused on international cooperative activities between U.S. libraries and librarians and their partners abroad.

Examining this data by geographic area, however, reveals a different pattern (see Table 3b). The major subject area of articles that pertained to the Soviet Union and its successor states was not libraries (22%) but librarianship (27%). This was the result of the number of articles that addressed librarian exchanges and conferences, whether sponsored by ALA, IFLA, or other organizations. Central/Eastern European coverage was equally split between libraries and librarianship. Together they constituted about two-thirds of all subject coverage about the region. Articles about Yugoslavia and its successor states, for the most part, focused on the war and its effects on domestic libraries. The remaining geographic areas and their subject area coverage are as follows: Albania (equally divided between libraries and librarianship), the Baltic States (libraries), Bulgaria (acquisitions and serials), Czechoslovakia and its successor states (equally divided between libraries and librarianship), Hungary (technology), Poland (equally divided between acquisitions and serials, and libraries), Romania (libraries), Slavic (equally divided between acquisitions and serials, and cataloging), the United States (libraries), and Western Europe (equally divided among acquisitions and serials, librarianship, and library education).

The frequency of articles published on these subject areas followed no particular pattern other than that the bulk of articles, as noted previously, appeared in the earlier part of the decade, as opposed to its final years. The largest number of articles on acquisitions and serials (7) was published in 1994, on technology (5) in 1993, on cataloging (2) in 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1998, on library collections (6) in 1996, on libraries (15) in 1990, on librarianship (14) in 1990, on archives and special collections (8) in 1992, on library education (3) in 1998, and on other topics (3) in 1998.

TABLE 3b. Subject Coverage by Geographic Area

Subject	Albania	Baltic States	Central/Eastern Europe	Former Yugoslavia and Successor States	Czechoslovakia and Successor States
Acquisitions, Serials		2	4	1	3
Technology		2	3		1
Cataloging		1	2		1
Library Collections		1	1	2	1
Libraries	1	8	11	4	4
Librarianship	1	2	11	3	4
Archives, Special Collections			2	1	1
Library Education				2	1
Other					
Total	2	16	34	13	17

Subject	Romania	Western Europe	Hungary	United States	Poland
Acquisitions, Serials		1	1		5
Technology	2		3	1	2
Cataloging					1
Library Collections			1		2
Libraries	11		1	2	5
Librarianship	7	1			1
Archives, Special Collections	1		1		
Library Education		1			1
Other			1		
Total	21	3	8	3	17

Subject	Soviet Union and Successor States	Slavic	Ukraine	Bulgaria	
Acquisitions, Serials	9	3		5	
Archives, Special Collections	17	1			
Cataloging	2	3			
Libraries	28		1		
Librarianship	34		2	1	
Library Education	4				
Library Collections	13	2	1	1	
Technology	12				
Other	9				
Total	128	9	4	7	282

Peer-Reviewed or Non-Peer-Reviewed Status

Each journal in the study was assigned peer- or non-peer-reviewed status. Of the 71 journals in the study, 33 were peer-reviewed, and 38 were not. This ratio is similar to that of the total number of articles in the study (282), of which 133 or 47.2% were in peer-reviewed journals and 149 or 52.8% were not—again, a relatively close percentage (see Table 4a).

However, there was a striking difference in four areas of subject coverage between peer- and non-peer-reviewed journals. About 88% of articles on acquisitions and serials and 77% percent of articles on library education were in peer-reviewed journals. About 65% of articles on libraries and 66% of articles on librarianship were in non-peer-reviewed journals. Of the remaining subject areas, the coverage was relatively equal. These statistics are perhaps not surprising, considering that non-peer-reviewed journals tended to cover general news stories. Peer-reviewed journals, which targeted a professional audience, were more likely to cover topics of interest to their readership. Slavic bibliographers tended to place their articles in more technically oriented publications, which accounted for the number of articles on acquisitions and serials in peer-reviewed journals. Thus, their interests perhaps contributed to the way Slavic studies librarianship was portrayed over the decade in the mainstream press.

As for geographic coverage, the most obvious differences were seen in the Baltic States (69% of articles were in non-peer-reviewed journals), Romania (90% were in non-peer-reviewed journals), Hungary (75% were in peer-reviewed journals), Poland (65% were in peer-reviewed journals), the Slavic world (77% were in peer-reviewed journals) and Bulgaria (71% were in peer-reviewed journals) (see Table 4b). This situation probably reflects the fact that in the case of Romania, as noted earlier, many of the non-peer-reviewed articles were news pieces. This was true as well with non-peer-reviewed articles about the Baltic States. Peer-reviewed articles about Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria focused on serials and acquisitions, document delivery, library education, and the automation of libraries. Peer-reviewed articles on the Slavic region as a whole covered among other subjects cataloging problems, approval plans and collection management.

There appeared to be more articles published by non-peer-reviewed journals in the earlier part of the ten-year period (1990-1992) and more articles published by peer-reviewed journals in the latter part of the de-

TABLE 4a. Peer-Reviewed vs. Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal Article Frequency

Kind of Journal	Frequency	Percentage
Peer-Reviewed	133	47.2
Non-Peer-Reviewed	149	52.8
Total	282	100.0

TABLE 4b. Peer-Reviewed vs. Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles by Geographical Area

	Albania	Baltic States	Central/ Eastern Europe	Former Yugoslavia and Successor States	Czechoslovakia and Successor States	Romania
Peer-Reviewed Journal	1	5	18	7	9	2
Non-Peer- Reviewed Journal	1	11	16	6	8	19

	Western Europe	Hungary	United States	Poland	Soviet Union and Successor States	Slavic
Peer-Reviewed Journal	1	6	1	11	60	7
Non-Peer- Reviewed Journal	2	2	2	6	68	2

	Ukraine	Bulgaria	Total
Peer-Reviewed Journal		5	133
Non-Peer- Reviewed Journal	4	2	149
Total			282

cade (1996-2000), although the reason for this did not seem to be clear (see Table 4c).

Document Type

Library Literature assigns separate descriptors for each document type. In the case of this survey, the following descriptors were assigned to the 282 articles in the study: bibliography, biography, exhibition, feature article, interview, speech, and symposium. The majority of citations (239) were given the descriptor feature article. This accounted for 84.8% of all articles under review. The next most common type of articles was speeches, which accounted for 8.9% (25) of the total, followed by bibliographies, interviews, exhibitions, then symposiums and biographies. Only *Libraries & Cultures* had a clear majority of speeches as its document type (12), which reflected its coverage of international conferences. The breakout by document type is shown in Table 5.

CONCLUSIONS AND THOUGHTS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Mainstream U.S. library journal coverage of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and its successor states, as indexed in *Library Literature*, appears to have been linked to news events—whether they were political,

TABLE 4c. Peer-Reviewed vs. Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles by Year

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Peer-Reviewed Journal	9	14	6	19	18	11
Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal	26	16	33	16	10	13
Total	35	30	39	35	28	24

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Peer-Reviewed Journal	17	12	12	9	6	133
Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal	5	8	11	8	3	149
Total	22	20	23	17	9	282

TABLE 5. Document Type

Document Type	Frequency	Percentage
Bibliography	11	3.9
Biography	1	0.4
Exhibition	2	0.7
Feature article	239	84.8
Interview	3	1.1
Speech	25	8.9
Symposium	1	0.4
Total	282	100.0

economic, or reflected institutional or individual activity abroad. Two hundred eighty-two articles were included in this survey, a significant amount of data. However, the fact that most of the articles were produced by seventeen journals shows that this area of the world was not a major focus of U.S. library journals over the decade between 1990 and 2000. It is particularly telling that the drop in coverage was so precipitous after 1994, perhaps indicating that American journals were more interested in how political events affected the field than in developments in Slavic area studies or international librarianship.

In summary, the most frequently covered geographic area was the Soviet Union and its successor states. This was consistently true for all eleven years of the study. Other findings were, perhaps, not so obvious. The top five journals, in order of article publication, were *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, *American Libraries*, *The Serials Librarian*, *Libraries & Culture*, and *International Leads*. Their inclusion reflects both the nature of the journals and the vagaries of the publications themselves. For example, *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* and *American Libraries* clearly have an international focus, whereas *Libraries & Culture* was included in this study because of its publication of conference proceedings. Journals of a technical nature, such as *The Serials Librarian* and *Serials Review* did a far better job covering developments in Slavic studies librarianship than did more general interest publications. Of the five top journals, three were non-peer-reviewed and two were peer-reviewed. Subject coverage for all journal articles focused primarily on two areas: the activities of libraries and of librarians. Although there was little difference in the number of articles published by peer- and non-peer-reviewed journals, there was a sub-

stantial difference in the subject matter of these two different kinds of journals. Peer-reviewed journals covered more often the subject areas of acquisitions and serials, and library education, whereas non-peer-reviewed journals covered libraries and librarianship more frequently. Peer-reviewed journals covered more often Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, and the Slavic world, whereas non-peer-reviewed journals covered more often the Baltic States and Romania. Non-peer-reviewed journals published more articles in the earlier half of the decade, whereas peer-reviewed journals published more articles in the latter half of the decade.

Overall, the coverage of this part of the world began to taper off at the beginning of the new century. Because the study looked at an eleven-year time span that coincided with such a momentous period in history, it is perhaps unfair to expect the library literature to have maintained or increased its coverage of the area. Certainly, future publications will look at the region differently, as it becomes more integrated into Western Europe. Further research might look at a broader range of data. Most likely, studies of Western European publications, publications from the geographical area under consideration or those focused solely on the publishing activities of Slavic studies librarians will show a different picture of events than those provided in this analysis. However, this study shed some light on the activities of mainstream U.S. library journals over the period between 1990 and 2000.

ENDNOTE

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Received: 27 August 2001

Revised: 9 January 2002

Accepted: 9 January 2002