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In this article, the author discusses her 2008 trip to the Russian Far East (Vladivostok and Khabarovsk), visiting libraries, publishers, bookstores, scholars, and others involved with research and activities of interest to librarians.

KEYWORDS Khabarovsk, librarians, librarianship, libraries, Pacific Rim, Russia, Russian Far East, travel, Vladivostok

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This survey includes impressions from a six-week stay in Vladivostok (May 26–July 5, 2008), with two days in Khabarovsk. My previous trip to the Russian Far East was in October of 1996. At that time there were almost no computers, and a great deal of Western grant money was flowing into the region. Now there are more computers, but they are not nearly as ubiquitous as in the West. Grants from Western sources are almost non-existent, but there is money available from Russian organizations, and even from local government.

In the summer of 1988, University of Hawaii (UH) President Albert Simone, along with his wife, UH Professor of Oceanography Alexander Malahoff, and I traveled to the Soviet Union. The purpose was to renew agreements, explore new areas of cooperation, given the creation of the Center for the Soviet Union in the Pacific Asian Region (SUPAR)² at UH, and to visit the Far East. We had meetings in Moscow, Khabarovsk, and Vladivostok.

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In the heady days after the collapse of the Soviet Union, monies were available for library projects. There were two major efforts in Alaska and Hawaii that focused on the Russian Far East.

Alaska

Russian scholarship on the North has long been recognized, but somewhat difficult to access. An open exchange of information between Russia and the rest of the world was needed to solve problems that affect the Arctic Community. The Russian Far East has had long cultural and historical ties with Alaska, as well as a wealth of Arctic-related information stored in its libraries. The polar library community has been organized since the early 1970s through biennial meetings of the Polar (formerly Northern) Libraries Colloquy. The outcome of this group was to produce a union catalog called PolarPac, a CD-ROM product. The first variant included 85,293 monographic holdings from several American libraries, and serial holdings from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Finland, France, Greenland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and America. The second variant consisted of records from 32 libraries. The third variant with the Russian Far East libraries listed 194,325 records.

There were three grant projects in all. The first one, in 1989, was for developing an Alaska/Arctic database. The second one, in 1993, assisted three Russian Far East (RFE) libraries, and the final one, in 1994, was expanded to five RFE libraries. The projects were funded by the US Information Agency via the American Russian Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. At first the Russian libraries needed training, staffing, and equipment to enable them to transfer bibliographic records of their unique regional literature. There were problems of exchanging non-compatible data, and using a variety of bibliographic classification systems. Exchanging data electronically meant depending on the unreliable and inadequate telephone network.

Three libraries in the Russian Far East converted their bibliographic holdings relating to the RFE and Siberia to computer-readable format. The Russian libraries were the Khabarovsk Territorial Universal Scientific Library, the Library of the North-East Interdisciplinary Scientific Research Institute (Severo-Vostochnyi kompleksnyi nauchno-issledovatel'skii institut) in Magadan, and the Yakut State University Library. Later the Pushkin Regional Library in Magadan and the National Library of Sakha were added. They worked with participants from the Rasmuson Library of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Among the goals of the project were to strengthen the libraries as significant democratic forces in their communities by sharing professional ethics, guidelines, and practices used by US libraries; and to support efforts to make the library holdings more readily available for users in the RFE
and throughout the PolarPac world. The grants provided the latest and most sophisticated computers and a copy of WLN’s (Western Library Network) LaserCat, containing about 3.5 million citations. During the second grant, two representatives from each of the RFE libraries came to the Rasmuson Library to attend a seminar on the role of libraries in a free society and training in US library systems, techniques, and computer use. In turn the project leaders traveled to the RFE libraries for additional training.3

Hawaii

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) in Washington, DC was crucial to the Slavic field during the Soviet era as one of the only ways to do research in that country. The organization also supported librarians.4 After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, one of their grants was entitled Special Projects in Libraries and Archives. I received funding for three projects.

The first such project, in 1993, was Slavic Librarianship in the Pacific Rim. It was a six-week program that brought four librarians and one archivist from the Russian Far East to the University of Hawaii for an introduction to American librarianship. They were able to attend the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) conference in Honolulu, as well as a one-day pre-conference entitled Access to Russian Far East Collections. American West Coast Slavic Bibliographers participated, and the sessions introduced our collections to each other and covered bibliographic control, access issues, joint projects, and Pacific Rim cooperation.

In 1994, the second was entitled East Siberian and Russian Far East Library Assessment Project and held in Irkutsk and Khabarovsk. While the funding was awarded to me, it was Michael Neubert and Eric Johnson from the Library of Congress who led a four-day session in Khabarovsk on developing ties between libraries of the RFE and the US. There were presentations on librarianship in America, exchanges, e-mail, Internet, CD-ROMs, interlibrary loan, automation, joint Russian-American library programs, and sources of funding in the library field. Over fifty Russians attended—including the four librarians who had been in Honolulu.

The last project, in 1997, awarded to Michael Biggins from the University of Washington (UW) and me, invited nine librarians and one archivist from the Russian Far East for a twelve-day visit to the University of Washington. In addition to IREX, funding came from the Open Society Institute Regional Library Program in Budapest. American West Coast Slavic Bibliographers again met with their RFE colleagues for a two-day conference entitled Countdown to the 21st Century. The group attended the AAASS annual meeting in Seattle, as well as a three-day intensive seminar on issues in librarianship and library school development at the UW campus. From the
Russians in this group, three were in Hawaii and eight were in Khabarovsk; from the Americans, eight were in Hawaii and three were in Khabarovsk.

These three projects had a personal impact on the individuals who came abroad, but it is difficult to see where they in turn influenced their libraries. In fact, some of the librarians invited abroad were almost *persona non grata* when they returned home. The old Soviet trait of *zavist'* [envy] came to the fore and prevented this from being a good thing. Two recent histories of the Gorky Library⁵ do not mention the participation in all three projects by one of its librarians, Nina Ivantsova. However, she did apply what she learned in creating an excellent Web site for the library. Also, she has been active in obtaining several grants that brought new computers to her library, and enabled special conferences for librarians in the Primor’ye region to come to Vladivostok. The Central Library of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences is proud of all the computers it has acquired; this was a result of the project in Seattle. The librarian of Obshchestvo izucheniiia Amurskogo kraia [Society for the Study of the Amur Region, a.k.a. Society for the Study of the Far East] (OIAK) pushed for new shelving and the installation of sprinklers and a fire alarm system.

**TRIP TO THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST, 2008**

My trip had two purposes: it allowed me to serve as the resident director for the intensive summer Russian language program for our University of Hawaii (UH) students studying in Vladivostok at the Far Eastern National University (FENU)’s Russian School; and to visit libraries, archives, publishers, scholars, and research institutes.

It was good to greet old colleagues and meet new people and libraries. The asterisks (*) below indicate our long-standing contacts (at least from 1990). I also was able to spend two days in Khabarovsk. My colleague Amir Khisamutdinov, historian and frequent visitor to UH Hamilton Library, arranged for and accompanied me to many of the meetings.

**Vladivostok**

LIBRARIES


(no electronic catalog; no Web site)

The Obshchestvo izucheniiia Amurskogo kraia (OIAK) is the oldest research society in the Far East.⁶ The library first opened in 1884, and a history is currently being prepared by Amir Khisamutdinov. During the pre-revolutionary period the collections grew steadily, and the library maintained
exchanges with other societies world-wide—including America, Japan, and Germany. After 1917 the role of Vladimir Klavdievich Arsen’ev in protecting the library was crucial. In the Far East churches and libraries were destroyed, but OIAK survived intact.

My first visit to this library was in 1990 as director of the Center for the Soviet Union in the Pacific Asia Region. Robert Valliant and I were traveling to several cities in the Far East. At the time, Amir Khisamutdinov, the Uchenyi sekretar’ [academic secretary], already knew about us, since he had received a copy of the SUPAR Report from Boris Petrovich Polevoi, a historian in Leningrad. I had a list of things I wanted to see, among which was a full set of the Trudy Amurskogo ekspeditsii [Transactions of the Amur Expedition]. Off we went to the library, where Raisa Vladimirovna Gusenko refused to give Amir the key to the stacks. I was sent to the Society’s reading hall/meeting room and soon the volumes appeared. It was only the first of many pleasant times in this library, where I saw things not available in Western collections and only known through bibliographies.

In the early years of its development OIAK built four buildings in the center of Vladivostok—one on Svetlanskaia, the main street, and three others on Ulitsa Petra Velikogo. Originally, the library was in the Svetlanskaia building. In the 1930s it moved to the building on Ulitsa Petra Velikogo nearest Zolotoi rog [Golden Horn]. After the putsch in 1991, Khisamutdinov, then chairman of OIAK, moved the library back to Svetlanskaia. However, a time of smutnoe vremia [time of troubles] began between OIAK and the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (DVO RAN), with the latter successfully forcing the library out of the building and into four years of sitting in boxes while major repairs were made to the Ulitsa Petra Velikogo building.

Finally, in 2006, they began to unpack and opened for use a year later. The new fire alarm and sprinkler system (very rare in Far East libraries) is installed and the shelving is a new painted steel type—which is now the envy of other Vladivostok libraries. They did an inventory and cleaned all the books before putting them on the new shelves. Some criticism has been made of this old location. While the interior is all very nice, the building itself is quite old, and the ground has shifted. There are cracks in the outside walls. It remains to be seen if this will be a permanent home. Also, the library returned with only half the amount of space it had before, so that the unique newspaper collection and rare periodicals are still in storage. It is not known when or if they will ever be available for use. The reality is that OIAK is now only half a library.

There is a bibliotechnyi sovet [library council], originally established and headed by Khisamutdinov, but it has not met for many years. The librarian, Maiia Mikhailovna Shcherbakova (see Figure 1), has been trying to get it started again, but the present chairman of OIAK is often away. Ideally, this council should provide the best support for the library.
FIGURE 1 Maiia Shcherbakova, librarian at the Society for the Study of the Far East (OIAK), with Amir Khisamutdinov.

The main reading hall/meeting room is large and stately, with a painting of Arsen’ev and busts of Gek and Zavoiko. The beautiful original glass-fronted *shkafy* [bookcases] are all around the walls and mostly hold all the foreign language materials. The new “kosmicheskie” [cosmic] chairs (silvery-looking) give a very modern contrast to the stately old large wooden tables, desks, and glass-fronted *shkafy.*

The office area for Shcherbakova and her assistant has a very clean new smell. It is quite beautiful with new plaster on the walls, very modern recessed lighting, nice curtains, and other amenities. There is only one very old computer on the assistant’s desk, which is used to do correspondence and to prepare notices for lectures or exhibits. OIAK paid a person for a year to create a Web site, but in the end there was nothing. They talk about beginning to put the old catalog into some sort of computer database, but nothing has been started.

Whatever spare time I had was spent helping to prepare catalog cards for the English-language materials we have sent them since 1992. It was a shock when Maiia asked me to hand-write cards with the bibliographic description of each book including its title translated into Russian. It seemed like stepping back into a world that I barely remembered. Even though my hand hurt at the end of each day, the process gives one time to think. The books were from John A. White and John J. Stephan’s office libraries. It was fun to see their notes in the margins. UH scholars are now part of OIAK’s library.

Most days Maiia was very busy serving OIAK members and anyone who walked in. A journalist, working on a new edition of the Primorskii encyclopedia, which is sponsored and to be published by Zolotoi Rog, needed
information. A graduate student asked to use the *Khronograf*[^12]. Another student needed an article from an old Vladivostok newspaper. She had to be turned down. An elderly OIAK member needed help locating materials in the catalog. The phone rang often. The closure of both the Fadeev Library and the branch of Gorky Library located on Svetlanskaia (formerly housing their rare books and periodicals) makes OIAK the only library left in the center of the city. Another full-time librarian and/or support staff is needed.

One afternoon Maiia took me to the stacks to see the Afanas’ia Ponosova library. This woman was an Old Believer, who lived in the Primor’ye village of Glazkovka. What an amazing collection of incunabula and other old books! OIAK member Vitalii Sergeevich Grisechkin had a project to work with this collection in 2001. He beautifully cleaned the books and boxed them using what looked like Western preservation practices. However, the main problem is that the only materials available were Russian-made paper, cardboard, and glue. This library could use a full-time person working on preservation with proper archival products. That project is really the only attempt at preservation I had seen in a Far East library—until I went to Khabarovsk (see below). Wandering the stacks, one encounters many unique items, such as a magnificent Bible in excellent condition, which was in Arsen’ev’s library.[^13] I enjoyed this interlude with ancient books.

The society had a rather disturbing incident occur about a week before I left. Late one afternoon Maiia was alone in her office when a very tall husky man having an air of mafia or bodyguard about him said, “I want to buy the bell outside the entrance.” This was a commemorative bell Khisamutdinov had acquired from a ruined church in Primor’ye that is dedicated to all explorers and sailors who had died in the service of the Far East. Maiia said that this bell belonged to the society and was not for sale. The man responded, “If you don’t sell it to me, I will come and take it off its pedestal.” The *uchenyi sekretar’* was called, and he in turn notified the police. He also went on the radio and did several programs about the bell and its importance. Metal, it would seem, is still a very valuable commodity. The result is that yet another daily task was added to Maiia’s and her assistant’s day. Both of their desks are by windows that look directly at the bell; they now keep an extra vigilant watch.

The best library in the Far East with in-depth holdings on the region is at the mercy of several fates. Its members do not seem especially keen on supporting the library. The weather and other forces of nature could cause flooding, leaks, and/or more ground shifting. Vladivostok’s society, not unlike the rest of Russia, presently is moving away from the high value that reading and libraries held during the Soviet era.

[^12]: *Biblioteka Gor’kogo* (official name: Primorskaia gosudarstvennaia publichnaia biblioteka imeni A. M. Gor’kogo, commonly called Gorky Public Library, or just Gorky)
In October of 2005, Aleksandr Georg'evich Briukhanov, a professional journalist as well as radio personality and deputy of the Primor'ye Duma (1997–2001), was appointed director of the library. The Soviet—and now revived—system of nomenklatura appointments made this possible. He is fortunate to have a seasoned assistant director, Liudmila Osadchuk, and others who can educate him in library issues. Their main problem is space. Several years hence they have been promised a new building in an area that is now full of dacha [vacation house]-type houses with vegetable gardens. Those people will most likely not appreciate being displaced, and the location is not convenient for the main city library. The Gorky also suffered a problem connected to another building it owns on the main street, Svetlanskaia. A beautiful pre-revolutionary building housed their newspapers and rare books. Several years ago a businessman with connections had the building condemned. Years of legal struggle have left the newspapers and rare books essentially closed to the public in a deteriorating structure. It is now in such bad condition that it may cost too much money to renovate. Another issue is the decline in younger patrons, who like everywhere, are more eager to have Web resources.

Unexpectedly, my first visit to the library was devoted to me. I was greeted at the door, and taken to Senior Bibliographer Nina Semenovna Ivantsova’s room, where many people were milling about. As I entered, it seemed everyone wanted to talk to me, but there was not much time. We were all herded upstairs to a large exhibition/meeting hall with a table at the front, where I was to sit. Briukhanov came over and asked if I wanted the microphone. Yikes! Now I was very nervous. Briukhanov said a few words, then Nina recounted all our past meetings (the first in 1990), the conferences she attended in Hawaii, Khabarovsk, and Seattle; and she showed some of the interesting items our library had sent the Gorky over the years. Next it was my turn to give a speech in Russian. I really do not know what I said. The audience consisted of perhaps thirty librarians who work in various Vladivostok libraries. I was glad to spot many old friends, which made it a little easier. Among the questions they asked: Are young people going into library work? Who will take over my job when I retire? What is my background, since my last name is Slavic? What are my thoughts on computerization and the “illusion” that it will provide answers for researchers’ work in the future? The next event was in the director’s conference room. There was a long table filled with all sorts of Russian food! I spotted homemade bliny and Kamchatka red caviar. Okay, it was worth the trauma. Before any eating could begin, I had to stand by Briukhanov while he presented me a bouquet of flowers (white mums) and read a long blagodarstvennoe pis’mo [thank-you letter]. I could not believe that the words he was saying had anything to do with me. Finally, the champagne bottles—still carrying the
labels *Sovetskoe shampanskoe* [Soviet champagne]—were popped and the first toast was made. Most of the food was homemade—preserved eggplant, fish, mushrooms, sliced sweet peppers, jams, and many other items. There was still one more adventure.

It was time to leave for Tat’iana Zotikovna Matveeva’s (1918–1994) grave. It was nice to participate in the Russian custom of visiting the cemetery. I was privileged to have met her twice. In 1993, we dedicated the AAASS librarians’ pre-conference to her. She was the daughter of Zotik Nikolaevich Matveev (1889–1938), a prominent librarian, bibliographer, and scholar; and granddaughter of Nikolai Petrovich Matveev (1865–1941), the first Russian born in Japan. Eight of us headed to the Letnoe kladbishche. Matveeva’s grave used to be all alone, but now it was almost easy to miss from the unpaved road. There were gloves for everyone, and the driver had a saw and a spade. The Gorky staff had not been there for two years. It did not take long for everything to get cleaned—small trees had taken root; they were sawed off and dug up. Briukhanov removed much of the dead brush and leaves. Nina and others planted some new groundcover plants. They all decided I could leave the flowers Briukhanov had presented to me at the grave. Then we usurped a table at a nearby grave, and more food appeared and vodka! We had to drink the three obligatory toasts, while eating and each telling our memories about Tat’iana Zotikovna.

The Gorky hosts an American Corner Library, as well as a German Corner that is sponsored by the Goethe Institute, and a small collection of Japanese books. The American Corner is sponsored by the US State Department, which established thirty-two of them across the country. In the Far East, Khabarovsk, IUzhno-Sakhalinsk, Petropavlovsk, and Vladivostok were chosen. The American Consulate in Vladivostok hosts lectures in this room. The materials are the same at each center: about 1,000 items, which include books and videos. The Vladivostok center received about 4,000 additional books from the American Consulate when it decided not to maintain its library. Otherwise, little new material is added. The collection is classified by BBK. The users are teachers, university students, and clubs; books may be borrowed. The center has all the materials to study for the TOEFL exam. There is an English speakers’ program. The director is Larissa Sergeevna Filonenko, who speaks beautiful English. When the search for the library director was underway, Filonenko was a favorite, but she is considered too young for such a position. Never mind that she seems extremely capable. She showed me the ACRL SEES *Newsletter* that I send each year, and asked why This began a discussion about exchanges and how I used to send so much material to RFE libraries, but now both Russian and American postage increases are preventing further work.

During subsequent visits to the library I learned some more about the current situation. Nina spent a long time showing me their Web site. It is really a good one with a lot of good information. For two years they paid
big money for a person to work on it. Nina has received three grants (one from Soros) for equipment, conferences, and preparing for the Web site and database on-disk to send to all Primor’ye libraries. Distribution on CDs is necessary because most of them are not connected to the Internet. The section on culture and art of the Primor’ye region won a prize as the best in Russia. A nice feature of the Web site is that all of the library’s publications (primarily bibliographies) are now listed online. She also showed me the computer catalog. It is very good also. It is easy to use, and one can find newspaper articles and journal articles, as well as books. There is a problem, however. The online catalog is divided just like the old card catalogs by themes, which means the user might need to look in many places:

- Katalog knig [Catalog of books]
- Kraevedcheskii katalog [Local studies catalog]
- Katalog knig na inostrannykh iazykakh (nemetskii, iaponskii, frantsuzskii) [Catalog of books in foreign languages (German, Japanese, French)]
- Fondy Amerikanskogo ugolka [Collections of the American Corner]
- Katalog statei sektora Informkultura [Catalog of articles of the Sector on Information Culture]
- Svodnyi katalog knig bibliotek g. Vladivostoka [Union catalog of books in Vladivostok libraries]
- Svodnyi katalog analiticheskoi rospisi statei [Union catalog of abstracts of articles]
- Katalog materialov po bibliotechnomu delu [Catalog of materials on librarianship]
- Svodnyi katalog podpiski na periodicheskie izdaniia [Union catalog of serials subscriptions]
- Katalog CD-ROM [Catalog of CD-ROMs]

On another day when I was at the library it came time for lunch. Nina took me to a small, narrow room containing floor-to-ceiling issues of all parts of the national bibliography (Knizhnaia letopis’, Ezbegodnik knigi, etc.). The woman who worked there had a small desk full of papers. Toward the back of the room they had set up a tiny table around which three chairs barely fit. Nina began to take out another homemade feast—a wonderful cabbage slaw with briusniki and onions, fried pirozhki with potatoes and egg, homemade pizza (bread with ham cubes and some cheese), boiled potatoes with skins, and a chicken cutlet. For dessert there were sweet strawberries. I could only think about how our Preservation Officer would not have allowed this in my own library.

One afternoon two of our UH students met me at the Gorky after their Russian classes ended. Both were interested in the history of the Koreans in the Far East. Nina had set aside books on this topic. One student asked for...
large sections to be copied, which the library did bezplatno [without charge]. Then Nina showed them the online catalog. The same student asked if all the entries in the catalog about Koreans could be copied onto her flash drive. Nina had to go get permission; usually this is not allowed.

In regard to computers, the distinct habit of the Soviet era when librarians were the “keepers of information” still lingers. While most of the library staff has, or has access to, computers, in Nina’s room (with the bibliography staff of about eight people) there are three new flat-screen ones, mostly for common use. In the reading hall there are four computers for the public to check only the online catalog. Another older computer is located right next to the reference desk for the librarian to look on the Web. If users need the Internet, they are referred to a room upstairs where there are some eight to ten computers for Internet and word processing; a patron must pay to use them.

Established in 1995 there is a Library association of Primorskii krai, presently headed by Briukhanov. It meets at least once a year for about a week, usually in the summer. The 2008 one-week meeting was held in Bol’shoi kamen,’ which is near the beach and has facilities for cooking and sleeping. The Gorky Library is in charge of the official program; meetings are held every day. Annual awards are given out. About 300 people attended, including representatives of all types of libraries from all regions of the Russian Far East.

*Fundamental’naia biblioteka Dal’nevostochnogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta (DVGU) [Far Eastern National University (FENU) Fundamental Library], also called Institut nauchnoi informatsii–Fundamental’naia biblioteka DVGU.

http://ini-fb.dvgu.ru/

Electronic catalog: http://ini-fb.dvgu.ru:8000/cgi-bin/gw/chameleon

The fabulous-looking, nearly completed DVGU library was right outside my dorm room window (see Figure 2). It is quite unlike any other building in Vladivostok. The outside looks like marble. It is new, modern, and yet has a stately air. It remains to be seen if the materials will hold up. During several days of rain the water cascaded in sheets down the sides over the large glass windows. Eventually, they will acquire a filmy haze if not cleaned. The top floor for exhibits or receptions, which is covered by three medium-sized glass pyramids, leaked several times during construction.

The new library opened in May 2009 and is a state-of-the-art facility primarily full of large working areas containing desks with computers and as many online databases as money will allow. As the Deputy Director who toured us around the still-unopened building (June 2008) said, “We have a million and a half books in our library collections, but by the time we open, we are hoping to reduce that by a million.”
FIGURE 2 New building of Far Eastern National University (FENU) Fundamental Library.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Karachentsev, the Deputy Director, is a tall energetic young man, who is a physicist by training. He has DVGU Rector Kurilov’s full support in emphasizing computers and information services. The library is incredible. Of course, everything is new and clean and still being worked on. Most floors are devoted to some subject, like science, humanities, social sciences, librarian/staff offices, and so on. Each floor has a rather small area in the center of the building for stacks, which will be nine to ten shelves high. Around the core are offices, and special rooms full of computers on individual desks. They will be hooked up to the Internet and databases the library purchases. Wood floors, beautiful stained glass designs, and French doors opening into large spaces characterize each floor. On the top floor was an incredible exhibit space reminiscent of the glass pyramid entrance to the Louvre. The only problem is that it was very hot and sunny (I hope they have air conditioning)—not good for any book displays. On one of the lower floors there is a very European-looking exhibition hall used to display art. The main staircase is floor-to-ceiling glass with a view out toward Amur Bay.

The staff is about 40% librarians and 60% techies, i.e., computer support staff. Librarians receive the lowest pay. A reorganization has taken place and the former director of the library, Olga Pavlovna Elantseva, a historian by training, is now second in command and reports to Boris Nikolaevich Grudin, whose title is Director of Information Technology and the Fundamental Library. All in all, this library seems at the forefront of new developments.
During a trip to Vladivostok in May of 1990, I first met Anna Grigor’evna Tret’iakova (see Figure 3), who was then the head of DVGU Library. We barely shook hands as Tret’iakova turned me over to one of her deputies. This library was on my list of places with which we wanted to have an exchange of materials. The library had reopened only in 1952 after being closed at the height of the purges and through World War II, and they were trying to develop their collections. We began, and still continue, to send them our duplicate English-language materials appropriate for an academic library.

Several years ago Anna retired as the head of the DVGU Library and became the editor of the journal *Vlast’ knigi.* She wrote a letter informing me that I was on the editorial board. Last year my appointment was unsuccessfully challenged by Olga Elantseva, who did not think that a foreigner should be on the board.

A fanatic lover of *bliny,* Anna Grigor’evna invited me to her apartment for * obed* [dinner]. She prepared bliny with caviar; a *blinchatyi pirog* [tart
made of bliny] filled with mushrooms; bliny folded into squares, filled with meat, and fried; bliny filled with jam; and just plain bliny to eat with sour cream or butter. After several toasts to this first real meeting, Anna confessed to me that she could not meet with me in 1990 because the KGB had come to her and said that I was a CIA spy! We looked at several family photo albums. Her grandfather was sent to the camps in Barnaul—for having a horse and nice shoes he was considered a kulak. Despite her tough upbringing, Anna was educated at the Leningrad Institute of Culture. I told her my experience there in 1977 with the two guards at the entrance with rifles who were not happy that I had dropped in to see a professor, who happened to be out “sick.” Anna eventually came to Vladivostok, where she met her husband, Ivan, then a young navy lieutenant, who worked as an engineer. It was a delightful afternoon. It turns out that Anna does not drink the usual na pososhok (a last drink for the road); we must have had at least five before I was allowed to leave.

*Izdatel'stvo DVGU (FENU Publishing House).

Located on the top floor of one of the main university buildings, the director’s office has a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows that look right at the new Pokrovskii Church with its metallic gold and blue domes. Under the directorship of the energetic Tat’iana Vladimirovna Prudkogliad, a constant stream of books and periodicals is published each year—when there is paper. The press was established in January of 1982 and publishes about 250–300 items per year. I asked about templans [annotated thematic lists of forthcoming books], but most of the staff looked at me strangely. These are not compiled regularly. Prudkogliad did provide what lists they had of their past, current, and future publishing plans. We also had a tour of their printing facility (tipografiia) in the basement. It consists of a series of perhaps ten rooms, each having a piece of equipment needed in the offset printing operation. These machines were made in Germany after World War II and are now very old. It is not sure how much longer they will last. The press not only publishes the works of the university’s teachers and professors, but also the textbooks needed for classes.

Then Tat’iana and I discussed some problems concerning Far East publishing. Because there are no regularly produced bibliographies, it is difficult to know what is being done. Because there is no Web site for the press, it is even more of a mystery what is published. A Web site might even give the opportunity for people to purchase books from any location. Since there is no attempt at marketing, Far East books reach central (Moscow and St. Petersburg) distributors erratically. Because of numerous problems with equipment, staff, and a steady supply of good paper, important books are printed in a print run of not more than 200 and frequently 100. Staff really did not show much interest in my comments. After all, DVGU Press does not
even participate in the obligatory deposit copy plan with Knizhnaia palata [Book Chamber] in Moscow or the local Pechatnyi dvor (see below).

Biblioteka Instituta koreevedeniia DVGU (Library of FENU’s Institute of Korean Studies).

(no electronic catalog; no Web site)

Under the direction of Tat’iana Gennad’evna, this is a small but focused library: everything in Russian and Korean to support their programs. One room holds the book stacks and another room houses the newspapers and journals. A very pleasant reading room—many windows and displays of current periodicals—is available for students and faculty. This Korean Studies Center was built with South Korean money, but some of the rarer materials in the library were provided by North Korea. We met with Vladimir Vasil’evich Verkholiak, the soon-to-retire director, and Igor’ Anatol’evich Tolstokulakov, one of the institute’s scholars on Korean history, and political-economic problems.

Nauchnaia biblioteka, Gosudarstvennoe uchrezhdenie kul’turny Voennosistoricheskogo muzeia Tikhookeanskogo flota (NB GUK TOF) [Scientific Library, State Institution of Culture, Naval-Historical Museum of the Pacific Fleet], often called Biblioteka Muzeia Tikhookeanskogo flota [Library of the Museum of the Pacific Fleet].

(no electronic catalog; no Web site)

AND


(no electronic catalog; no Web site)

These two libraries are like night and day. The reason Amir Khisamutdinov and I wanted to visit them was to see if they had any remnants of the Russian library in Dairen, whose fate is rather murky; it is rumored that the Soviet army and/or navy brought all or some of it back to Vladivostok at the end of World War II.¹⁸

During the Soviet era the Naval Museum and library were located in the old Lutheran Church right next to the funicular. After the collapse in 1991, the Lutherans wanted their church returned. The museum and library moved to a much more accessible central location on Svetlanskaia. It includes a nice outdoor space to display cannons, tanks, and other naval and military equipment. Because the history of the Pacific Fleet is on display, and the library is funded by the Navy, there is a certain air that admission is into a controlled and secretive place. The current displays have not been updated from the Soviet interpretation of events.

Before we could go to the library we needed to have an introduction by the Uchennyi sekretar’ of OIAK, to which both Khisamutdinov and I belong.
We arrived early and took in the outdoor display. I looked through the periscope of a submarine from the Russo-Japanese War. At the appointed time we were escorted into the director's office. Evgenii Vladimirovich Zhuravlev is young and is wary of outsiders. The library is basically for Navy personnel. He began by saying that their library has nothing and is closed. He thinks they have about 20,000 volumes; the librarian later revised this to maybe 10,000. Khisamutdinov said he believed there were books in their collection that came from the library in Port Arthur, because the former librarian had told him this about twenty years previously. Zhuravlev called for his librarian, Galina Vasil'evna Rasskazova to join us. She repeated often and annoyingly that everything is zakryt [closed].

Then the director said that he did not think it would hurt to show us the fond—we could look but not touch. Galina was not happy, but led us back downstairs to a nondescript unmarked door to the left after one enters the museum. As we stepped into this forbidden territory, Galina found two chairs and said, “Sit down!” We did. It turns out that Mrs. Rassakova is the wife of a well-known Pacific Fleet admiral. She ran around looking for a folder of photocopies of stamps in books that she had already done. We began to look at the books nearest our chairs. Then I stood up and walked over to a small doorway through which I could see the main book stacks. Almost at the point I was leaning over the threshold, Galina appeared: “It is not allowed!” I wondered what would happen if I put my toe over the line. In the folder of photocopied title pages we right away found stamps from S. M. R. (South Manchurian Railway). Galina did not know this was the IU. M. zh. d. (IUzhno-Man'chzhurskaia zheleznaia doroga) in Dairen. The stamps were in English and Japanese. Other stamps were from the Biblioteka Zaamurskogo okruga [Library of the Zaamur okrug]. We talked with her some more. She had participated in one cooperative project, to identify which libraries in Vladivostok have which issues of Morskoi sbornik [Naval collection]. The list is very useful for helping patrons. Amir asked if the library had Gordenev's book on Morskie obychai [Naval customs]. She checked and it was on the reference shelf. She showed Galina the introduction where he writes about using the special collection of Russian émigré materials at the University of Hawaii. She gave no indication this was of interest.

We returned to the director's office and told him what we had found. Galina now understood more about what we wanted. She said if she was ordered to look through every book for library stamps, she would. The director asked us to write a zaiaavljenie [announcement]. The director admitted that they really did not have anything “secret.”

Referred to as Biblioteka Pikulia, or just Pikulia—under Dom ofitserov flota [Naval Officers' House], the building is along Aleutskaia a couple of blocks from the train station. As the visitor enters, a VERY giant white statue of Lenin with his arm raised and striding forward greets him/her. We wondered if this library would have the same closed restrictions as the Naval
Museum Library. As we walked toward the desk of the dezhurnaia [woman on duty] at the other end of the long room, we saw a framed portrait of Stalin on someone’s desk. We never asked who occupies the first floor. The dezhurnaia directed us to the third floor to find the director. The building is old, and originally the headquarters of the Ussuriisk Railroad Company before 1917, where the main administrator lived. The original staircases remain.

As we reached the top of the staircase we saw the director’s office door was open. We knocked and entered. Svetlana Alekseevna Ibragimova was in the middle of cleaning the floor herself! It was actually a vykhodnoi den’ [day off]. We talked a bit and made an appointment to return the following week.

When we returned, the director had not arrived, so we visited the lending library. The librarian was very nice and showed us the stacks. It is a rather large circulating collection from which readers may borrow. It consists of popular fiction (detective and romance novels), history, and classic literature.

Svetlana Ibragimova arrived and took us to the second floor main reading room, which might have been the parlor of the original living quarters. It is richly decorated and maintains a quietly elegant atmosphere. There are nice exhibit cabinets with the obligatory green plants near the windows. A piano is in one corner and a photocopy machine in the other. There are displays of the newly received journals and books. Beautiful old wooden desks are available for readers. The primary clientele is the Navy, however, anyone may buy a user’s card and work here. The materials are paged. There is a computer on a table near a window. I thought perhaps they had some or all of their holdings in a database, but no, they do not do anything on the computer.

On the way to see the rare books on the staircase landing below the first second floor is the card catalog and a few small tables. The basement is where the rare books are kept. It was a very small, cramped space with lots of dust. The lady in charge of the rare books helped us look for Dairen stamps. We did find a few items with the S. M. R. (South Manchurian Railway) stamp on title pages.

Back in the director’s office we noticed that the ceiling had partially fallen. This had happened during a bad rain that had caused severe leaks in the building. Luckily, none of the book collections were affected. They have been waiting for years for it to be repaired, and frankly do not know if it will ever happen. The Navy is talking about closing many of their libraries (including the two described here) and other buildings, and not just in Vladivostok. Svetlana said that money to support a library is no longer a priority. She served us tea and cookies and candy, and then wanted us to sign the guest book—the last visitors were in 2006.
The first time I visited this archive in 1990 it was still located in the former Polish Catholic Church. By 1991 the Church had claimed back their property. A new building was built for the archive on Aleutskaia, but as often happens, they found they had to share it with the Russian State Historical Archives of the Far East (see the next entry).

Aleksandr Stepanovich Pasevin, a retired army officer and recently appointed director, was waiting at the front door to greet us. Amir Khisamutdinov, two of our UH students, and I were taken to Pasevin’s office. He is very enthusiastic and eager to bring this organization into the twenty-first century. He is in the process of purchasing scanners and computers and hopes to begin putting a lot of material online. The senior nauchnyi sotrudnik [literally, scholarly colleague], Iuliia Shchukovskaia, provided a very intensive introduction to the materials they hold on the Koreans in the Far East (this was the topic of both UH students’ interests). She explained how the archives are organized and where various files are located. This archive does not have a printed opis’ [inventory].

The items they showed us were amazing. Shchukovskaia talked also about files on the Chinese and Japanese. They showed us some books and newspapers from their library—including issues of Vladivo-Nippo (both Russian and Japanese versions—the former in the original, the latter in photocopy). The Hakodate City Library has a long run of this newspaper. I suggested to them that a cooperative project to digitize it would be excellent, given its extreme rarity. Next we looked at a most wonderful item—the first field/war newspaper Vestnik Man’chzhurskoi Armii [Herald of the Manchurian Army], printed in various places for the year 1904 during the Russo-Japanese War. The issues are all different sizes and on various types of paper. Next we had a quick tour of the library—first the newspaper room, and then another room for books. The stacks did not show a large collection, but they have many materials in storage.

Then we went back to Pasevin’s office. He opened a bottle of champagne, which popped nicely but sprayed all over him and the table. Among the people in the room was Anna Pavlovna Popovich, a tallish blond woman, very quiet and shy, who is the head of all archives in Primor’ye. Both she and Pasevin had to leave, because this archive is in a court battle with Toropov (see the next entry) over archival space. Those of us who remained talked to various members of the archive staff, including the assistant director. They explained how there used to be only one archive, but it was during the war that some materials were evacuated to Tomsk and that part was put under

*Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Primorskogo kraia (GAPK) [State Archive of the Maritime Region].
the Federal system. This is a pity, because now files are split. For example, the Primorskii archive has the files of the students at the Vostochnyi institut, but Russian State Historical Archives of the Far East has the files of the professors. The meeting held here was very warm and enthusiastic.

Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi istoricheskii arkhiv Dal’nego Vostoka (RGIA DV) [Russian State Historical Archives of the Far East].


This is the federal archive reporting to and receiving its funding from Moscow. The atmosphere here was very subdued and Soviet in tone. We arrived hoping to find the director, Aleksandr Anatol’evich Toropov, but he was not in. We wandered in a maze of closed doors in the basement and at last reached the office of Natal’ia Anatol’evna Troitskaia, the assistant director. She remembered me from a conference dedicated to Chekhov, which we had attended in Iuzhno-Sakhalinsk in 1990. I had one task at this archive: to see if they would let me see and copy the Vostochnyi institut (VI) files for Gustav Raufast, a lecturer in French. His great-great-grandson in Paris had asked me to try. Troitskaia confirmed that the Vostochnyi institut files are closed for use. However, she said she would look into the matter, that there may be information on Raufast that is not in the VI files. She said we should return next week and meet with Toropov.

It would appear that the VI files are closed due to politics. After the archive returned from Tomsk in 1995, the VI files were freely used. But around the time of the one-hundredth “anniversary” (1899–1999) of DVGU [Far Eastern National University], Toropov appears to have taken the side of Rector Vladimir Ivanovich Kurilov. The university published a series of documents they say supports the claim that the old Vostochnyi institut may be claimed by DVGU as part of its history. 24 The problem is that the rector of rival DVGTU [Far Eastern National Technical University], Gennadii Petrovich Turmov, also claims the Vostochnyi institute, as their main building is actually in the original building of the VI. To prevent any possible discovery of the real truth, Toropov closed the files.

When we returned and met with Toropov and Troitskaia, everything was very congenial. They had done some preliminary checking on Raufast and could find no lichenoe delo [personal file], but they had made a list of documents where he is mentioned. Toropov said they would continue to check, and then send a list of what there is. At that point we could decide what copies we want. Among other topics, Toropov says there are no plans for modernizing his archive—i.e., computer scanning, making databases, and so on, because Moscow still does not have a standard for archival descriptions. This reason seems to be an excuse to continue restricting access to this and other archives.

Within a month after my return I received a two-page letter from an archivist listing everything they had discovered about Raufast! This satisfied...
the relative in Paris. We did not ask for any documents to be copied. Indeed, I do not know how payment could have been made.

*Nauchnaia biblioteka VGUES (Library of Vladivostok State University of Economics and Services).

http://lib.vvsu.ru/russian/

Tat’iana Vladimirovna Grekhova, director of this library, called me shortly after I arrived, but there was no time to see her before she left for the Crimea conference (Krym 2008). Tat’iana was a participant in the Khabarovsk and Seattle meetings (see Introduction). She has traveled to the University of Washington several times, as it is their main exchange partner. Twelve years ago I had seen the nearly completed renovations to the library for which Tat’iana had obtained computers and had begun an online catalog. It was all very much ahead of its time.

The library is split into three separate locations. They have about one million volumes and about 21,000 registered users. A large main reading room still has many computers against one long wall, but these are only for accessing the online catalog. After filling out request forms by hand, students may ask at the reference desk for the books they want. A smaller room on another floor, where the foreign-language materials are located, has fourteen computers available for Web searching, as well as a modest number of desks for study. The librarian in this room showed me the new journals they receive—I would say not more than ten titles. They have not received any new books for several years. The only acquisitions in English have been in economics via a grant that Grekhova received, but these are now dated. A third reading area was devoted to the sciences.

The VGUES library has been the topic of two articles by UCLA Department of Information Studies professor John V. Richardson, Jr. The first one is a report on his 2003 visit to the Russian Far East courtesy of the US Department of State. The purpose was to lecture and consult with Russian universities interested in developing new library and information science programs. During that visit, Richardson identified three universities wanting to raise the existing qualifications of librarians—PRUK, FENU, and VGUES. Primorskoe regional’noe uchilishche kul’tury (PRUK) [Primor’ye Regional Cultural College] offers specialized secondary education in cultural professions including a specialization in librarianship. The Far Eastern National University (FENU) has, he continues, begun “preliminary discussions about a library and information science program that would focus on a major in history or philology with a LIS minor, a discussion of a possible high school major in LIS, as well as an Institute program for those who already are working in a library, but without a diplom degree in LIS.” At the VGUES School of Information Technology and Electronic Systems there are professional development courses for librarians, which they would like to expand to establish a new school. Grekhova has long hoped to establish a library school in Vladivostok.
Richardson's second article (2006) says this is its author's third visit to Vladivostok. It is a short and curious article in that it describes VGUES in detail—its mission, goals, faculty, curriculum, students, facilities; but does not say anything about library education.

Both Richardson articles reflect what can happen when one works through interpreters and is not as versed in the country’s history as might be desirable. The 2003 article reviews the history of Vladivostok, but did not have the benefit of any reference to John J. Stephan’s *Russian Far East: A History*. We read that the first American Consul appointed to Vladivostok was William W. Morton in 1875 (Richardson 2003, 138). However, Stephan says, “President William McKinley appointed a prominent black jurist, Richard T. Greener, as the first US consul in Vladivostok (in 1898).” One notices that FENU closed in 1939 “for political reasons.” Usually, this is referred to as the purges (Richardson 2003, 141). Other comments on this article are as follows: PRUK is hardly a university; it is rather a small teachers’ college. Among the librarians I met, very few had even heard of it. For an article about librarianship education, there is only one paragraph on the Khabarovsk State Institute of Art and Culture. This is still the only library school in the Russian Far East. At the time of his visit, Richardson thought there were good prospects for graduates (Richardson 2003, 143). However, even during my last visit in 1996 and most certainly at present, everyone I met lamented how difficult it is to find anyone to work in libraries, let alone new graduates. This situation is due to extremely low salaries, and a perception that this is no longer a prestigious job. In evaluating technological factors, i.e., computers and access to the Internet, Richardson found two to eleven percent of the population owned computers (he states one number in the text and the other in a footnote) (Richardson 2003, 145). He does not mention some of the reasons at that time for this: the high cost of a computer compared to salaries, little money for phone lines or paying for electricity, and also a high rate of computer robberies. In the past few years cell phone use has exploded in Vladivostok, and there are many well-used and reasonably-priced Internet cafes in the city. The number of home computers may have risen. Finally, the Khabarovsk Far Eastern State Research Library (DVGNB) publishes a library journal: *Vestnik Dal’nevostochnoi gosudarstvennoi nauchnoi biblioteki* [Herald of Khabarovsk Far Eastern State Research Library], which often discusses issues in librarianship. VGUES is rarely in the literature.

*Tsentr’naia nauchnaia biblioteka Dal’nevostochnogo otdeleniia Rossiiskogo akademii nauk (DVO RAN) [Central Scientific Library of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences].

http://lib.febras.ru/

Director Tat’iana Nikitichna Mikhailiuk (see Figure 4) was waiting at the door to greet Amir Khisamutdinov and me. The library is located in the
Institute of Geology building on the second floor. At the top of the stairs is an indoor garden. To the right and left are long, long corridors, which are clean and painted a light green. Tat’iana began the tour by opening each of the endless doors on one side of the corridor where librarians and staff are located. We looked in on each fond [department]—cataloging, ordering, bibliography, etc. In the registration department we talked with a woman about the obligatory deposit law. The woman said it works—mostly—but they often find missing titles and have to hunt down the books. During the Soviet era this was the library designated for the obligatory copies, but that has now changed to Pechatnyi dvor (see below) at the Gorky Library. She did not seem happy about this change.

In almost every room Mikhailiuk made a point to say that her staff has computers. This fact was important to her, because she said the last time I visited her, in 1996, I commented that lack of computers was a deficiency. When we reached the fiscal officer’s room, she and her assistant were drinking tea and rushed to hide their cups. A lively discussion ensued. I said this was about the most important position in our library. The Russian lady was very animated and said that she not only must be a bookkeeper, but she is expected to be a computer programmer as well. They also are paying bills and doing everything online—BUT are required to keep a paper trail.

In the main reading room there are tables, many with computers to check the online database, and three computers for Internet searching. Another smaller area as one enters the reading room has some chairs near the shelves along the walls that display the currently received periodicals. Behind the reference desk is the staff entrance to the stacks. They have very tall stacks to the ceiling—maybe nine or ten shelves, tightly packed. Staff
need ladders to retrieve materials. There is virtually no space and no real idea of any hope for a future new building. There are two floors of stacks. To go to the second level, one uses a ladder of narrow metal steps.

In a room beyond the reading hall containing Chemical Abstracts, a long table had been laid out with food. It looked beautiful. Amir opened a bottle of French white wine (Muscat), and we drank a toast. The food was fabulous—Tat’iana’s homemade paporozniki [fern shoots] were perfect—and I ate the whole bowl! AND there was caviar on bread—and freshly cut tomatoes, cucumber, radish, peppers, mushrooms, and fish pâté on bread. There were many toasts and as many questions from the ladies who work in the library (both librarians and staff): do we have a preservation/restoration department, what about a rare book collection, what about exchanges, what about whatever. Funny, they never asked about money! I thought that was a bit odd—or maybe they do not have money and know we don’t, so it was not necessary to discuss it.

Tat’iana recounted her memories of Seattle. I think she remembers incorrectly what I did—it would seem that I was wonder woman. She said I cried when they all left; maybe I did. She also confessed that she could not work for two months after she returned to Vladivostok. The shock had been too much. Tat’iana could not believe that at night they cleaned the streets. She also described the campus and the visit to Microsoft.

After we all had tea—with everyone else eating candy and me finishing the caviar and paporozniki—Tat’iana brought out the books she had set aside for me. The librarian at the Academy’s Botanical Garden Library had brought many beautiful books; almost all were on heavy, glossy paper. I would have liked to take them, but I know what their fate would be in Hawaii. First, our scientists do not read Russian; second, our library seems to be under a constant regime of chistka [weeding] and the science staff just do not think foreign language material should take up shelf space; and third, they were so heavy. In the end, I left them.

This is a very nice library, which works under difficult conditions—not enough space (i.e., no separate building), and their collections are scattered throughout the city wherever branches of the Academy’s institutes are located. There is an almost stately feel to this library—orderly, clean, pleasant rooms. The Web site is nice and the electronic catalog easy to use; however, most of the information pages were last updated in 2004. My visit to the toilet was an excellent surprise. It is very clean, nicely tiled, with soap on the counter.

*Primorskii gosudarstvennyi muzei im. Arsen’eva [Arsen’ev Maritime State Museum, commonly called the Arsen’ev Museum].

http://www.museum.ru/M1406
(no electronic catalog)

After the collapse of the Soviet Union a delegation from this museum went to California around 1993 and collected a huge amount of material from
Russian émigrés in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas. It required a container to bring it all back to Vladivostok.

At the appointed time Amir Khisamutdinov and I arrived at the Arsen'ev Museum for our meeting with Director Vladimir Nikolaevich Sokolov. We were told to wait in the hall. A woman came by—Nina Beslanovna Kerchelaeva. She asked what we wanted. Amir briefly told her; she said, “Impossible.” We heard a loud crash in the director’s office. Then the door opened, and Sokolov came toward me. We shook hands, and across the room at a VERY large table was the publisher Aleksandr Vladimirovich Kolesov. A woman had come in to clear up some broken glass. Had those two men been drinking? There was no explanation.

The meeting was tense and awkward at first. Amir and I were on one side of the table, and Kolesov and Sokolov on the other. Sokolov seemed cheerful enough, but he began by saying, “What do you want?” I replied, “To know more about your library collections,” to which Amir added, “Especially on the emigration.” It was Boris Alekseevich D’iachenko and Kerchelaeva who had gone to California. Sokolov explained that the woman who took care of this collection is sick and will have an operation; therefore, the collection is closed for the foreseeable future. We suggested perhaps someone else could be assigned. Sokolov then called Kerchelaeva into his office. We already knew what she thought. I said that the emigration materials are so rare that it is important for scholars around the world to know what is where. They said there is no list of what they have. We gave them a copy of the catalog of the University of Hawaii’s collection of Russian materials from China. We reviewed other important publications, like Olga Bakich’s *Harbin Russian Imprints* (New York: Norman Ross, 2002). I urged them to think about a list or a publication, and suggested they contact Nadezhda Vasil’evna Ryzhak, head of the Otdel literatury russkogo zarubezh’ia [Department of the Russian Emigration] at the Russian State Library. Sokolov and Kerchelaeva agreed to another meeting.

At the next meeting, Kerchelaeva was waiting at a side entrance to take us up a couple of flights to her working office in a dusty back room. Contrary to her earlier statement, she had two folders for us. The first one was a list entitled Arkhiv Nikolaia Nikolaevicha Protopova [Archive of Nikolai Nikolaevich Protopov], which he had typed himself. It was very disorganized, but an interesting list. There are long runs of South American journals and newspapers: *Nasha strana* [Our country], *Russkoe slovo* [Russian word] (Argentina), *Seiatel’* [The sower], and many others. Other titles are from Los Angeles (*Rodnye dali* [Our own distant lands], *Soglasie* [Harmony]), Seattle (*Bituleten’ Russkogo kolonii* [Bulletin of the Russian Colony]). There are representations of publications from New York, Germany, Sacramento, Cleveland, Jordanville, Chicago, Australia—the majority of which have only few titles. There is a run of the Shanghai newspaper *Kitaisko-russkaia pechat’* [Chinese-Russian press]. Many photographs are listed. There is
supposed to be a nearly complete run of *Rubezh* [Border], which Kolesov had obtained from the last editor’s widow. Kerchelaeva said the collection has 1,600 newspapers (not titles), and 1,500 books. The second folder notes large gifts from Japan and North Korea. These are not itemized lists, but just brief descriptions of how many units.

There is no list of monographs. In discussions we asked about Zhiganov’s album *Russkie v Shankhe* [Russians in Shanghai] (Shanghai, 1936). The library has two copies. One is decorated with silver trim with the title in silver on the front cover; it was purchased from Globus in San Francisco. The other copy was from the collection of M. G. Storchilo. Amir asked if their copies had the missing *Izdatel’stva* [Publishers] section. Of course, said Nina. Amir asked if we could see. Okay. One of the copies was brought out. We turned to where it should have been; their copy also is defective. This was a big surprise for Nina, who had relied on the table of contents. If she had read Zhiganov, she would know that all the copies are defective.

The elderly California Russian émigrés gave their materials, in most cases, generously (i.e., free) in order for them to return to the *Rodina* [motherland]. I wonder how they would feel knowing that everything has remained closed. There was some recent news that the Museum has assigned a new person to work with this collection, and they have been in touch with Ryzhak. We can only hope that this collection will become better known.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

Newspaper *Vladivostok*. One of our UH students is a journalism major, so we went to meet some Russian journalism interns working at the paper. An old acquaintance, Tamara Nikolaevna Kaliberova, also works there. She has devoted the past few years to writing about the Russian emigration, has traveled many times to France to meet with Larissa Andersen, and has worked many times at the Turgenev Library in Paris. She presented me with her book on Larissa Nikolaevna Andersen, plus a pamphlet of a performance that Larissa did in Shanghai in 1951. In addition, she gave me copies of the articles in the paper from her Russian emigration series “Russkie bez Rossii” [Russians without Russia] and “Frantsuzskii bloknot” [French notebook].

Next we met with editor-in-chief Sergei Pavlovich Bulakh, who replied to my question about how he deals with censorship by saying it is not really a problem. Or, rather that he knows how to work around this to continue to stay in business. He gave a long explanation that it was not so much dependent on personalities or politics (Putin, Medvedev, etc.), but more a matter of economic constraints (money was needed for taxes, to pay for paper, salaries, etc.). If one does not have enough income, it limits what one can do. The popular English-language version of this paper, *Vladivostok News*, is issued about once a week (http://vlad.tribnet.com/).
Literaturnyi kruzhok im. Larissa Andersen (Larissa Andersen Literary Circle). Held in the elegantly refurbished Pushkin Theater, this inaugural meeting of this organization was hosted by the organizer, Tamara Kaliberova. Attendees included Gennadii Turmov, Amir Khisamutdinov, Liudmila Drobysheva, Maiia Shcherbakova, Anna Tret’iakova, Aleksei Buiakov, Evgenii Kniazev, Olga Mal’tseva and other prominent literary and artistic people. I was asked to speak about our collection of Russian materials from China.

The meeting began with Tamara talking about Larissa Nikolaevna Andersen and showing a letter she had received just two days ago. She now opened it and read Larissa’s words of congratulations for the success of the first meeting. There was some official business—who would be head of the group. Kaliberova was chosen by unanimous vote. A vice-chair and secretary were elected. Next Turmov got up and said there was a foreign guest—me—and did I not want to say a few words? Fortunately, I had a copy of the catalog of our Russian China imprints (see note 30), and managed to say a few words about the collection and how good it was they were honoring Larissa Anderson with this kruzhok. I presented the catalog to Tamara. There were many questions from the audience. Next, Turmov began talking about the newest member of the Professor’s Club.

He presented me with a certificate, a medal, and a pin. This ended the first meeting of the kruzhok. Turmov then invited the group to adjourn to have some drinks. As people left, an older man with a University of Hawaii sweatshirt on came up to talk. He had been in Honolulu when the frigate Pallada was there in 1992. He is an artist, part of a group that lived in the Kuril Islands for over forty years, painting. He had organized a vystavka [exhibition] of his art in Hawaii, to which many people came.

Our group was finally resettled up another level in an attic-like room. We all sat at a long table; Turmov opened champagne; others had vodka. There was hot tea, and candy from St. Petersburg. There were many toasts.

President Gennadii Petrovich Turmov of Dal’nevostochnyi gosudarstvennyi tekhnicaskei universitet (DVGTU) [Far Eastern National Technological University (FENTU)].

University’s Web site: http://www.fentu.ru/

Turmov began his career as a shipbuilder at Dal’zavod, served in the navy as an engineer, and next became a teacher and then rector of DVGTU. For the past several years he has been in a more honorary position as president. He is a prolific author, who gave me nearly fifty books, most by him and others co-authored. Turmov has a large personal collection of postcards and has included many of them in his publications. He heads the local branch of a UNESCO-sponsored Professor’s Club, which he invited me to join. In 1997 Turmov traveled to Hawaii to participate in meetings of heads of universities in the Asian-Pacific region.
Gennadii Turmov, the man who built the museum and assembled most of the collections, gave Amir Khisamutdinov and me a private tour. The four-story building is rather large with interesting architecture: the outside is covered in beige plastic siding and trimmed with a red roof and red trim around the windows.

The areas of the museum are arranged as follows:

- **History of the pre-revolutionary Vostochnyi institut (Oriental Institute), 1899–1917.** Its collection includes the desk of the first director, Aleksei Matveevich Pozdneev, and a chair where Her Imperial Majesty Empress Mariia Fedorovna sat (the mother of Tsar Nicholas II). All of the furniture is from that era. Many old pictures, art objects, and other memorabilia were found scattered all over the city. There is a beautiful old music box that belonged to Pozdneev, who left it behind when he emigrated. The museum has a Royal and an Underwood typewriter (this one belonged to Apollinarii Vasil’evich Rudakov). On display was the *lichnoe delo* [personal documents] from one of the faculty members who was killed in the purges. While looking at a photo of a large group of institute people, Turmov said, “Look at these people, their bright hopes,” and then barely under his breath, “‘They’ took all this away.”

- **History of the various faculties of FENTU.** Devoted to the university after 1917 and up to the present. Many artifacts (forms, papers, photos, etc.) from the Soviet era—including the china service from which Gerald Ford and Leonid Brezhnev drank! Displays on each of the main departments, including the present-day Vostochnyi institut. An outside hallway displays all the awards the university has received.

- **Russo-Japanese War, 1904–1905.** There is quite a collection of old books, swords, medals, guns, some rifles, drums, and many old photos. The pre-revolutionary medals were quite sparkling and new-looking; one presumes they are imitations. After all, the real ones would have had diamonds and other precious gems. A “gem” that caught my eye in one of the cabinets was a beautiful book: *Al’bom Port Artur* [Album of Port Arthur].

- **Rare books from the FENTU Library.** On display are publications from the Ostromirov Bible to early Soviet literary works; the emphasis is on beautifully printed and nicely illustrated works of literature. Along the walls are framed pictures of Mark Twain, Shakespeare, Pushkin, etc.

- **History of the Pushkin Theater belonging to FENTU.** There are many items from artists—including Fyodor Shaliapin’s gramophone. Although he never came to Vladivostok, the gramophone came via a relative of his, who managed to give it to a sailor, who brought it to Vladivostok.
• Daily life in Vladivostok. A large collection of photographs from Evgenii Nikolaevich Digo documents the daily life of a Vladivostok family from the early revolution to the present.

• Various materials of scientific interest. The basement is full of rocks (gemstones in the rough), dinosaur bones, Bohai pottery, plants and animals fossilized in stone, some shards from anthropological digs, a nice display of china from the now closed Artem farforny zavod [Artem Ceramic Factory].

Pechatnyi dvor [Printing Court], the annual book fair. Located on the ground floor of a grey but elegant-looking Stalinist-period building, which is called The Grey Horse by locals, is the office of Pechatnyi dvor. Natal’ia Ivanovna Kuz’mina is the head of the Information Center for the Maritime Book [Primorskaia kniga] (see Figure 5). She and her assistant work for the Gorky Library. They share a nice, large room with the Soiuz pisatelei [Writers’ Union]. Since this library is required by law to receive an obligatory copy of every book published in the Far East, they are like a mini-Knizhnaia palata [Book Chamber]. However, in practice, this system does not work well. They must constantly pursue books they did not receive. One example, the FENU Publishing House, was mentioned above. This work often creates a problem, because many people want to deal in cash if selling their books. However, the library needs “paper” (i.e., invoices, so they can pay by check).

Another duty is to organize and host the annual book fair, which was in its twelfth year as of 2008. From the 2007 catalog of exhibitors one can gain a good idea of the number of active publishers: Vladivostok (22),

FIGURE 5 Pechatnyi dvor. The author speaking to Natal’ia Ivanovna Kuz’mina, head of the Information Center for the Maritime Book, and her assistant.
Khabarovsk (9), Magadan (3), Iuzhno-Sakhalinsk (3), Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka (2), Komsomol’sk-na-Amure (1), and Ussuriisk (1). The organization issues two publications: a journal entitled *Pechatnyi dvor, Dal’nii Vostok Rossii* [Pechatnyi dvor, Russian Far East] (Vladivostok, 2001–), and *Izdano v Primorskom krae* [Published in Primorski krai] (Vladivostok, 1997–). I asked if this latter title could be put online. Kuz’mina said they may think about it in the future, but for now they still publish it in paper. Many regional libraries do not have computers, and many have different systems. For now, paper is the best. I told them that this kind of information about what is being published is so important and would be welcome in the West. She showed me many of the books that have won prizes in previous years. She said that distribution is often a problem. Authors, publishers, and book trade organizations try to help distribute publications.

Salon-biblioteka im. Pushkina. One day walking down Svetlanskaya street I noticed a very nice brass sign that said *Salon-biblioteka im. Pushkina* [Pushkin Salon-Library]. When I entered, two women came to ask if I needed help. It turned out to be a children’s library that is being repaired. In the meantime many closed libraries in town have given them their books to sell, so they are functioning temporarily as a store.

Aleksei Mikhailovich Buiakov. Aleksei Mikhailovich Buiakov was a KGB officer and is now an independent scholar working on a variety of topics. His latest books are on medals received by White Russian officers in China, and medals awarded to OGPU and NKVD officers from 1932 to 1940. Both contain biographies. His books are published in small print runs and are often not for sale.

Nadezhda (Nadia) Glebnovna Razhigaeva. A scientist at DVO RAN, Razhigaeva is the editor and publisher of *Russkaia Atlantida*, a journal devoted to Russians who lived in China. Her father had repatriated from China. She often asks for copies of titles in our collection for use in her journal.

∗Aleksei Mikhailovich Buiakov. Aleksei Mikhailovich Buiakov was a KGB officer and is now an independent scholar working on a variety of topics. His latest books are on medals received by White Russian officers in China, and medals awarded to OGPU and NKVD officers from 1932 to 1940. Both contain biographies. His books are published in small print runs and are often not for sale.

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Khabarovsk Libraries

∗Dal’nevostochnaia gos. nauchnaia biblioteka (DVGNB) [Far Eastern State Research Library].

http://www.fessl.ru/

In 1994 this library was under the direction of Aleksandr Ivanovich Bukreev and undergoing a *kapital’nyi remont* [major repairs]. It was closed to the public. We walked about over the torn-up floors, wiring, and equipment. I was anxious to see how it had all turned out. The entry foyer is now quite nice, with a huge chandelier that Bukreev bought in Alaska during
his frequent visits after 1991. Anyone wishing to enter the library must head toward a tiny-looking doorway on the left where a “control” desk sits. The woman there did not look happy, because all day we were in and out with no piece of paper; I think one needs a reader’s card and maybe a propusk [permit], date- and time-stamped. So much for reforms.

Up the stairs and to the right is the office of Raisa Viacheslavovna Naumova, the zamdirektor [assistant director]. Her young looks and enthusiasm almost seemed out of place, but in our discussions it was obvious she likes her job. We went into the large director’s office, which I saw for the first time in August 1981. The director, Irina Viktorovna Filatkina, was away at the Crimea Conference (Krym 2008). Viktor Ivanovich Remizovskii, the library’s former head of publications, who is now one of the editors of Dal’nii Vostok; Svetlana Akulova, the head of exchanges; and a man with a movie camera met with Raisa and me. Somewhat later, my old acquaintance Tat’iana Vasil’evna Kirpichenko, the Senior Bibliographer, arrived; she is on pension, but continues to work.

During the meeting we talked about our exchange and how it had broken down on both sides, primarily due to postage problems. Naumova suggested that we exchange electronic publications. This is an interesting idea, although I haven’t a clue if it would work. At some point we talked about DVGNB’s Web site: I said I liked it very much and often checked the catalog, but many times it was not working. Naumova talked about East View’s database of library resources, which includes the journal of her library, Vestnik DVGNB. [Herald of DVGNB]. She seemed to think this gave the journal a lot of exposure. I cautioned her that not many libraries had purchased this database. Naumova was surprised. She then said my visit was “historic” and that it would be filmed. It was a bit annoying having a man follow Tat’iana and me around with a camera. I had the distinct feeling that they have little to no contact with the West. Their annual reports published in the Vestnik DVGNB mention visits to and/or from China and Japan, and sometimes international conferences held in Moscow or St. Petersburg. American visitors from the Consulate in Vladivostok or the Embassy in Moscow come to visit the American Corner and give lectures.

With Tat’iana as my guide, we first went to her kraevedenie [regional studies] office, which had been created during the renovation. The bibliographers used to sit out in the large reading room with the catalog. There are now two large rooms, one for readers and a separate room for the bibliographers. Maybe there are twenty desks in this room with the walls covered with books—new receipts and reference materials needed for work. We sat down and talked. The first time I had met Tat’iana was in 1981. In later visits she had been very helpful in providing copies of newspaper articles for Ella Lury Wiswell. Tat’iana asked about Olga Bakich’s journal, now ceased, Rossiiane v Azii [Russians in Asia]. The journal was mentioned many other times during the day; it is greatly admired. Two ladies checked my desiderata list of missing items, and went racing off to see what they could fill in.
A tour of the library with the cameraman in tow was next. In 1999 an Internet reading room with twelve workstations was set up, which readers pay to use. Three rooms are full of the old catalog. I forgot to ask what percentage is in the online catalog. There are computers on staff and librarians’ desks, but not all; and they are very old. At the head of the main stairs along the hallway landing are three large framed boards that tell the story of the library—its founding, first publications, and head librarians; and on the one that deals with the modern era, is the cover of a green folder with UH (University of Hawaii) on it, and two covers from John Stephan’s books, as well as Rossiiane v Azii. Although there is no explanation of all this, it does show there is a connection with UH. There were some photos of China and Chinese librarians. The library has several reading halls, some of which are rented out for conferences in the summer to make money. There is also a small exhibition hall. We saw the abonnement [subscription] room, and also a special room off the entry foyer that reminded me of the Nicolas de Basily Room at the Hoover Institution. It is a special-events “museum” room with beautiful wallpaper, an old-style sofa, chairs covered in velvet, a wall of photos of previous head librarians, and a piano.

Next we met with Svetlana Akulova, who took us to her place of work. It is in a building next to the library, on the third floor. A business owns the building, but decided to give the library space on the second floor. It is very cramped for growth. Svetlana actually is only half-time working with exchanges—largely, because they do not have many—UH, Leipzig, Library of Congress, China, and a few in Japan. The other half of her job is heading the German Corner, which is sponsored by the Goethe Institute. There is also an American Corner (same collection as in Gorky), and a Japanese Corner. The latter two are sponsored by their consulates. The extent and scope of the Russian Far East’s international contacts with the Asian-Pacific rim countries has increased public interest in languages, history, and cultures of their Asian neighbors. The Library’s Department of Foreign Literatures is working to increase its holdings (70,000 items in 60 languages). One of the universities in Khabarovsk has a foreign languages department that teaches Chinese, Japanese, Korean, English, and German. The reason for the German interest is that many of the Volga Germans were exiled to the Far East, and their children are now wanting to revive the language of their parents and grandparents. Gimnaziium No. 4 in town also specializes in teaching children foreign languages.

DVGNB Otdel redkikh i tsennykh izdanii [DVGNB Department of Rare and Valuable Publications]. Next Tat’iana called in the head of the library’s Rare and Valuable Publications Department, also known as the Rare Books Library, Aleksandra Valer’evna Voropaeva, who was waiting at the door. She has been working with rare books for about fifteen years. The building has undergone extensive renovations and was just waiting for finishing touches, like the fire system to be inspected and approved, before bringing back
the books. The opening was in September of 2008. There are new wood floors, two beautiful exhibition rooms with nice wood and glass cabinets, and elegant draperies. Upstairs we saw the new shelving for the books (see Figure 6). Down in the basement is a small laboratory for the only conservator in the Far East. She has been sent to St. Petersburg for training many times under Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian National Library. It is a small room with hardly any special paper or acid-free supplies with which to work. They were very proud of a new machine they had just received, a dehumidifier. Another man in town apparently works with bookbinding; they send that work to him. I hope that this woman will train others. There are about 15,000 books and periodical issues in this collection. The earliest imprint is 1482, and they also have a copy of the Ostrozbskaia biblia [Ostrog Bible] of 1581.

Back in the main library we went up to Kirpichenko’s room, where Natal’ia Nikolaevna Bendik was waiting. We had first met at a conference in Sakhalin in 1990, and again in Khabarovsk in 1994. She is an archivist in the Khabarovsk State Archive, but also now runs her own “archive business,” primarily doing genealogical work and finding documents for businesses. In addition, she teaches a course at the Institut kul’tury [Institute of Culture] on archives. Bendik reported that the archives have been working with the files of Biuro po delam rossiiskikh emigrantov (BREM) [Russian Emigrants Bureau], and have the names in a list on the computer—but one must use it on-site.

Right before I was getting ready to leave, one of the ladies listening to all our talk went off to get forms to register me as a reader. I do not know
if it was for the “control” lady at the entrance, although I did not have to show it, or that they just wanted my name on record. I filled out a small anketa [questionnaire], and she then brought me a temporary chitatel’skii bilet [reader’s ticket].

During the Soviet era DVGNB was the main library in the Far East. It was like the Lenin Library in Moscow, or the Gosudarstvennaia publichnaia nauchno-tekhnicheskaia biblioteka [State Public Science and Technology Library] in Novosibirsk. Now it has lost some of its former status. There is not much financial support for the staff to travel, and libraries in other Russian Far Eastern cities—Vladivostok, for example—are out of the habit of reporting their holdings in the old Soviet hierarchical manner. The obligatory deposit system does not work as well as it did in the past. The renovations are now looking a little worn. I heard several complaints during the day: imagine, after all the updates that were made, the toilets were not touched. Only certain areas of the library are air-conditioned. There is almost no space left for new acquisitions; remote storage is being discussed.

Two publications highlight some basic facts about the library.49 The DVGNB is the largest library in the Russian Federation’s Far Eastern District. Its current collection is about 3 million items. The OPAC, created in 1994, contains 670,000 bibliographic records. Every year around 45,000 readers register, with about 600 users daily. The library is a designated research institution for studies in librarianship, bibliography, book science, and other related disciplines. It serves as a methodological center for the Institute of Culture. They publish a series of bibliographies and journals—one of which is the Vestnik DVGNB [Herald of DVGNB]. An electronic library entitled Dal’nii Vostok Rossii [Far East of Russia] is in progress. A union catalog of libraries in Khabarovsk is in development. In 2005 DVGNB organized the first regional book fair with 28 exhibitors, but also it participates in the Vladivostok Pechatnyi dvor.


http://ecrin.ru/content/view/203/9/
(no electronic catalog)

Pavel Aleksandrovich Minakir, director of the institute, took me to their small library focused on collecting economic materials. The little reading room has one lonely old computer in the corner that can be used for the Web. There are about 50,000 units (volumes or items) in the library collection. Minakir said that every researcher at the institute has a computer in his/her office that is connected to the Web, and also to all the databases the library can afford to purchase. It is easy to work in one’s office, so that the library itself is not heavily used. Researchers can read The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, etc., online.
En-Suk (Ena Mikhailovna) Bak is the librarian; I first met her in 1990. The collection consists mostly of economic journals. The library relies heavily on statistical publications from government offices in Moscow, and much of this material is now in electronic format; some is still in paper. The institute has a few exchanges of students and scholars with Korea, Japan, and China, but almost nothing with the US.

Just as an aside, the institute does offer two amenities, both in the basement: a beauty salon (hair cuts for men and women, perms, dyes/tints), and a full spa. The latter has a changing room with closets, showers, steam room, swimming pool with cold water, and a living room and kitchen to relax in when one is finished. Minakir has been providing the spa for free as a benefit to his employees, but it is the single biggest cost item in the budget. As a result, he is planning to start charging.

Other Meetings

Journal Dal’nii Vostok [Far East] and editor Viktor Ivanovich Remizovskii. Dal’nii Vostok is the only Far Eastern journal to survive after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It first began publication in 1933. One of the editors, Viktor Remizovskii, formerly worked at the DVGNB (see above), but was asked to leave after he published a novel about crime and drugs, which the head of the library did not consider appropriate. This sounds like a rather ridiculous reason; there may have been something else. His main work over the years has been compiling a list of repressed geologists. He has 5,800 names in a card file.50

Remizovskii’s office is located in the Dom literatury [House of Literature], a small red-brick building near the library and the Grodekov Museum. He had prepared many of his books for me, but no longer had the ones we lost in our 2004 flood. We talked about Dal’nii Vostok; he is only one of four or five editors. He had a nice flat-screen computer on his desk.

Publisher Chastnaia kollektsiia and director Viktor Petrovich Buria. Chastnaia kollektsiia works closely with the Gosudarstvennyi arkiv Khabarovskogo kraia [State Archives of the Khabarovsk Region] to publish works that include documents. The director, Viktor Buria, is greatly interested in the Russian emigration and published a catalog of Russian materials from China modeled on the catalog of Hamilton Library’s collection (see note 30).51 He also tends to publish photo albums that are not political in nature and can generate some money.52

Conclusions

The city of Vladivostok looked good overall. Buildings have been maintained, although the modern glass roofs on top of old pre-revolutionary buildings don’t look quite right. There is new construction, but it is mostly
apartments selling for a million dollars. The streets seem cleaner. There are portable toilets in many locations; this is a good thing. There are many restaurants—some good, but most are expensive. One of the most popular places, the Hare Krishna restaurant, has been forced out of its prime location on Okeanskii—I remember being in the city when it opened in 1991. Changes are coming. Putin selected Vladivostok to host the APEC meeting in 2012. Great sums of money are beginning to pour into the city. A major priority is to build three bridges, the first one from Russkii ostrov, one of the former bases of the Soviet/Russian Pacific fleet, to the city center. The island will be developed with many luxury hotels to host the meetings. Afterward the Far Eastern National University is supposed to move there. Needless to say, many are shaking their heads since the newly built FENU Library has just opened. Will it stay in town and the rest of the campus move to Russkii ostrov?

Khabarovsk always has had a much different feel than Vladivostok. For one, it always appeared to be better run under the long-term governorship of Viktor Ivanovich Ishaev. Public transportation is good. The expansive tree-lined Murav’ev-Amurskii Street with extra-wide sidewalks handles the city’s population so well that one never feels crowded. An absolutely garish memorial church has been built on Komsomol'skaia ploshchad' [Komsomol Square] across from the elegant old territorial library (DVGNB). It was the site of the pre-revolutionary cathedral, but present-day architects created a tall, skinny chapel of red brick painted dark brown, with white trim and bright blue spires. It is a monument to those who died in the square during the revolution and civil war. On the other hand, one can stand in the square and see on a hill in the distance a very elegant white cathedral with gold domes—very traditional Orthodox style.

The observations made in the present article can be summarized into the following categories:

• Computers

While there are certainly more computers around than twelve years ago, they are mostly on the desks of library staff, and for the most part are not new. The average number of computers available to library users to search the Internet is not more than five. The only library I saw that approaches Western standards is the DVGU Library. In the Gorky Library most workers have computers on their desks. There were two or three photocopy machines around. Nina Ivantsova has received three grants for her library—for computers and creating a Web site. Tat’iana Kirpichenko (Khabarovsk) said that after the Polar Pac funds in the early 1990s, they have had nothing and are still using those computers. In DVO RAN Central Library new computers were sitting on everyone’s desk. In the reading hall there were three computers for the Internet, but when we tried to read e-mail, they did not work. The library
had one room with a scanner, photocopy machine, and an audio-visual control cabinet. In the DVGU Russian School and Kafedra izdatel'skogo dela [Publishing Department], the computers are working, but so slowly that one could write a book while waiting for a connection. Someone said this was deliberate—to keep down the amount of searching on the Internet and the use of e-mail. A recent article describes access to information resources as a crisis, and advocates more federal support for Far East libraries to update computer equipment and pay for more Internet services and access to digital databases.

● Budgets and Buildings

Libraries are still poorly funded. They fell from the heights in the Soviet era of being ideologically at the very top of society into a descent that now puts them near the bottom of anyone's priorities. Salaries are extremely low and it is difficult to attract young people. The new DVGU Library, the OIAK Library, and the Rare Book Library (Khabarovsk) were the only examples of new physical buildings or renovations. The DVGNB and VGUES libraries had been renovated a decade ago, and while nice, are beginning to show signs that new attention is needed. The Gorky Library is in very bad condition and has been promised a new building, but not in a central location. The DVO RAN Central Library is running out of space, but not a word has been said about any new location for that library.

● Contacts

Librarians here have little-to-no contact with Western colleagues. China and Japan are the most frequent visitors. Occasionally, the Goethe Institute in Germany sends people—the Gorky Library and DVGNB both have German corners. Exchanges are nearly gone—in fact, only the DVGNB sends out materials. Many libraries receive materials, but cannot reciprocate. Even in a more practical everyday matter of being connected—e-mail is not evident. It probably is in proportion to the small number of computers. There are certainly no networks like Slavlibs that would keep Russian Far East librarians in touch with each other, or with colleagues in the rest of the country.

● Publishing

There are several problems concerning Russian Far East publications. First, there is no place to find out what is being published. Even librarians there do not know. The annual Pechatnyi dvor book fair, trying to function like a regional Book Chamber, has been issuing a bibliography, *Izdana v Primorskom krae*. However, it is only for their own use. They promised
it would soon be on a Web site. Second, how does one buy what is being published? MIPP is the best supplier of Russian Far East imprints, but even they are not comprehensive. I returned with 274 titles. A search of WorldCat showed that 90 of these titles (33%) are held by other libraries. The example of the publisher DVGU illustrates the problem: this press, arguably the largest in the Far East, does not participate in the obiazatelnii eksempliar [obligatory deposit] system, because it costs too much money, and the press has no interest in marketing their books. The print runs are small and they mostly sell out. Everywhere I went, I tried to encourage libraries, journals, and publishers at least to create a Web presence, so that anyone outside of the Far East (this would include their own country—Moscow and St. Petersburg in particular) could find out about what they are doing.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was money available for various library projects and support for Russians to attend library schools in America, as well as for practicing Russian librarians to attend workshops and/or conferences. It would be most interesting to see an analysis of how much money was involved, how many librarians, and what affect it had on libraries and librarianship in the Russian Far East. Several librarians in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk dreamily remembered the Polar Pac days.

Over a decade ago an article by the director and librarians at the GPNTB in Novosibirsk touched on some of the issues mentioned in this article. They looked forward to future exchanges with foreign libraries (both books and people). They noted even at this time that the system of obligatory deposit did not work well. Small print runs, territorial remoteness, a great population dispersion, and no real system of book supply were problems. The authors predicted that the Internet would help make resources better known (online catalogs); some regions were working on national bibliography databases (Sakha, DVGU). They proposed working through IFLA to create international projects—publishing, creating shared databases.36

The past years have seen several new histories of Russian Far East libraries. However, in none of them did I find any discussion of participating in the Hawaii or Alaska grants, nor any indication that these were useful. The titles are as follows: published by the Primorskaia gos. publichnaia biblioteka im. A. M. Gor’kogo: Biblioteka: vzlglad v istoriiu [The library: a look into history] (Vladivostok, 2007), and T. A. Samoilenko, comp., Biblioteka: khranitel’, vospitatel’, prosvetitel’: bibliograficheskii ukazatel’ [The library: preserver, educator, teacher: bibliographic index] (Vladivostok, 2007); Biblioteka DVGTU: istoriia i sovremennost’ [The library of DVGTU: history and current state] (Vladivostok, 2000); and Khronika Dal’nevostochnoi gos. nauchnoi biblioteki, 1894-2003 gg. [Chronicle of the Far Eastern State Scientific Library, 1894-2003] (Khabarovsk, 2004). Only the first title (on p. 48) carries a note that the director and workers (i.e., librarians) participated in international conferences.
Russian Far East libraries and librarians are still on a long road toward the twenty-first century. They—like us—are trying to determine what role libraries will play in the coming years. Some of the major issues in American/Western librarianship include digitization, preservation, information delivery (interlibrary loan by means of digital scans; delivering books and articles to researchers’ offices), virtual reference libraries, print resources largely being stored, and, most of all, budget cuts. Worldwide developments will probably force Russian libraries to address these areas, just as it once did the use of computers and online catalogs.

NOTES


2. Established in 1986, the Center for the Soviet Union in the Pacific Asia Region (SUPAR; after 1991 called CeRA or Center for Russia in Asia) lasted until 2003. The Center issued a twice-yearly report. See note 8.


7. V. K. Arsen’ev (1872–1930) was an explorer whose more than 60 works describe the geography, wildlife, and ethnography of the Ussuriisk Taiga, the Primor’ye, and areas around Vladivostok. Perhaps his best-known work is Dersu Uzala, which was adapted into a film by Akira Kurosawa.

8. Robert Valliant was the compiler and editor of the center’s SUPAR Report (no. 1, 1986—no. 13, 1992) and the RA Report (no. 14, 1993—no. 17, 1994).
9. Trudy Amurskoi ekspeditsii [Transactions of the Amur Expedition] (Saint Petersburg, 1911–1913), 41 parts, variously called tom [volume] or vypusk [issue].

10. Fridol'f (Fabian) Kirillovich Gek (Heeck) (1836–1904) was an early Finnish settler in Vladivostok, and Vasilii Stepanovich Zavoiko (1810–1898), a naval officer, was military governor of Kamchatka, director of the newly created port of Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, and promoted to Admiral in 1874. Zavoiko’s bust was rescued by OIAK members when his statue was knocked down and replaced by Sergei Georgievich Lazo (1894–1920), commander of Primor’ye partisan units, who was killed by the Whites. There are currently plans to take down Lazo and return Zavoiko to his original place on Svetlanskaya.


12. The Khronograf is a Church Slavic manuscript with a 497-page listing of events from 1617 to 1725. For further information, see A. Khisamutdinov, “On byl svidetelem smerti Petra Velikogo” [He was a witness to the death of Peter the Great], Vladivostokskoe vremia 1995, no. 9:7.


21. Valentin Savvich Piku’l (1928–1990) lived in Leningrad and joined the navy. Some of his books include Slovo i delo [Word and deed], Tri vozrasta Okini-san [Three ages of Okini-san], Favorit [Favorite], and Chest’ imei [I have the honor].

22. This URL, for the archive’s official site, produced a not found error message on October 16, 2010. However, it was operational on September 10, 2010, when Google captured it and its subsidiary pages. On the page referenced in the second URL, the newspaper Ul’tro Rossii announces the opening of the archive’s official site on December 5, 2009.—Ed.


29. For example, A. A. Gromovik, “Problema kadrovogo defisita v bibliotekakh i sposoby ee resheniia v otseke molodogo spetsialista” [The problem of lack of staff in libraries and ways to solve it in the view of a young specialist], *Vestnik Dal'nevostochnoi gosudarstvennoi nauchnoi biblioteki* 2006, no. 2 (31): 111–114.


Primorskii krai]. This second title is issued irregularly by the Gorky Library; I was given the volume for 2005 (published 2006) and 2007, no. 1 and 2.

40. His publications include: A. M. Buiakov et al., eds., Chest’ i vernost’: 70 let voennoi kon-

41. Russkaia Atlantida (Cheliabinsk, 1998– ), 30 issues to date. There was a partial Web site at http://rusharbin.com/content/view/16/36/, but it was not available as of November 7, 2010.

42. This library has undergone many name changes: Nikolaevskaya publichnaia bibli-
oteka Priamurskogo otdela Imperatorskogo Russkogo geograficheskogo obschestva (1894-1919), Biblioteka kraevoego muzeia (1930–1931), Dal’nevostochnaia kraevoia nauchnaia biblioteka (1931–1937), Khabarovskyia kraevoia nauchnaia biblioteka (1938-1982), Khabarovskyia kraevoia universial’naia nauch-

43. See my review of Vestnik DVGNB (see note 28).


47. Tikhookeanskii gosudarstvennyi universitet (TOGU), http://www.khstu.ru/rus/.


49. Filatkina, “Between East and West” (see note 46), and the DVGNB 110th anniversary leaflet: Dal’nevostochnaia gosudarstvennaia nauchnaia biblioteka—regional’naia nauchno-informatsionnyi tsentr, 1894–2006 (one page, printed on both sides, 6 columns).


52. For example, Profsoiuz dal’nevostochnykh zheleznodorozhnikov [Union of Far Eastern Railway Workers] (Khabarovsk, 2005) and Veterany finansovykh organov Khabarovskykh kraia [Veterans of the financial organs of Khabarovsk krai] (Khabarovsk, 2005).

53. Ishaev was Governor from 1998 to May 2009; he is now the Polnomochnyi predstavitel’ [Plenipotentiary Representative] of President Medvedev in the Russian Far East.


55. Izdano v Primorskim krae (see note 39).