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ArcheoBiblioBase Archives in Russia – Update 2011.

International Institute of Social History (IISH), Amsterdam
ArcheoBiblioBase – (ABB – **http://www.iisg.nl/abb/**)

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS (August 2011)

For the past fifteen years, the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam has generously served as the host and program developer for the online digital English-language version of ArcheoBiblioBase (ABB), the premier comprehensive directory and reference bibliography for Russian archives and manuscript repositories. Usage statistics compiled by IISH confirm that the ABB website is among the most heavily trafficked components of the IISH website, with between 1,300 and 3,000 unique visitors per month Given shifts in IISH priorities and funding limitations, however, IISH support for Russian upkeep and website maintenance for the English version of ABB expired at the end of 2010. The IISH is prepared to make the contemporary Internet database (Content Management System) developed by its programmers for ABB available free of charge to an appropriate institution that will provide for the upkeep of the database in cooperation with Russian specialists. Sadly after a year and a half of various negotiations, as of July 2011, a new home for ABB has yet to be found.

The dilemma today is that a foreign institution may not be prepared to take on ABB without provisions for data upkeep in Russia. However, so far no Russian institution has been found willing to provide sufficient guarantees for program and data upkeep of the entire database, thus making it advisable that an on-going version of ABB be made available to researchers by an appropriate institution abroad.

ArcheoBiblioBase was a collaborative project between IREX and Rosarkhiv in the 1990s. Ideally today, ArcheoBiblioBase could become part of a bilingual Internet portal in Moscow, tied into Russian-language archival websites and databases, which would establish Russia as a world leader with comprehensive archival directory, bibliographic, and international reference systems for the twenty-first century.

1. DIRECTORY CONTENT – all in electronic format in IISH-developed Content Management System (CMS) Internet database – http://www.iisg.nl/abb/

a. Repositories covered in ABB--total 665 institutions:

   Part B – 14 Federal archives under Rosarkhiv
   Part C – 26 Federal agency archives (with right of retention of their own records),
               including FSB, MID/MFA, and Ministry of Defense archives, etc.
   Part D – 29 Municipal and oblast state archives in Moscow and St Petersburg
   Part E – 53 Archives under the Academy of Sciences and other Academies,
            universities, and other research institutions in Moscow and Saint Petersburg
   Part F – 22 Archives under independent (i.e. non-state) institutions or agencies,
               currently 6 displayed on the ABB Internet site; others need updating.
   Part G –24 Archives and manuscript departments under major libraries
                in Moscow and St Petersburg
   Part H – 219 Archives and manuscript holdings in major museums –126 museums
               in Moscow and 93 in Saint Petersburg. Currently (August 2011) 41 are
                displayed on the ABB Internet site; others in database need updating.
   Part R (RusFed) – 257 State archives of Subjects of the Russian Federation outside
                of Moscow and Saint Petersburg and their reference bibliography.

N.B. As of August 2011, not all repositories in the database within Parts E, F, G, and H have been updated for display on the ABB website, due to lack of funding.

Repository Coverage: For each repository, separate pull-down menu components cover:

- **History** of the repository and its predecessors with correlated listings in English and Russian of previous names and acronyms, as well as those of component repositories whose holdings are now included.
- **Holdings** with a survey of major categories and highlights of documentation held by the archive.
 - **Multiple Divisions (Departments):** Coverage under many repositories extends to several different divisions, especially for libraries and museums where archival materials are located in different sections, or that have manuscript divisions as well as archives, and other audio-visual units.
- **Access and Facilities**, including under Access, a brief survey of relevant access restrictions and recent declassification highlights; Working Conditions, including quantity order limitation and delivery time; Copy facilities, with note about quantity limits and delivery time for photocopies or microfilm; Reference facilities, with notes about available finding aids (*opisi*) or electronic reference facilities; and the extent of Library facilities within the archive.
- **Bibliography of Guides and Finding Aids**, divided into General and Specialized component sections, with subsections indicated on the opening screen.
- For component divisions usually the 'Access,' 'Working Conditions' and 'Facilities' and 'Bibliography' components cover all divisions under a given repository. Separate rubrics for component subdivisions are provided as needed.

b. REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY: Over 8,000 numbered bibliographic records for archival reference publications:

Part A – over 1,500 (for General Bibliography of Archival Reference Publications), which is gradually being launched on the ABB website starting in Summer 2011.

Parts B–F, and R – over 6,500 under specific archival repositories, guides, specialized finding aids, and other reference publications divided between 'General' and 'Specialized' categories, relationally linked to the repositories they describe. Total number of bibliographic records in ABB is over 8000. 'Categories' of bibliographic coverage are listed in red at the top of the opening screen under 'Bibliography' for both 'General' and 'Specialized' listings.

Part A (General Bibliography) coverage is not yet displayed publicly on the Internet, but as of July 2011, the Amsterdam programmer is completing the webpage display. Plans call for Part A to be launched in provisional form by the end of fall of 2011. Moscow ABB coordinator Natasha Maslova has updated coverage in many sections, but more work needs to be done and PKG will need to edit and add or update annotations in many cases.

Currently available on the ABB website is an interim selected "Reference Bibliography" in a PDF file.

2. CURRENT PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

The state-of-the-art ABB Content Management System, developed by IISH in Amsterdam, uses a MySQL database engine with '.php' front end. This is a very general standard in web-technology and should not present any problem when ported to another host. The database is running on a server using the Linux operating system, but it could also run on a Windows server.

3. ABB HISTORY

ArcheoBiblioBase was initially formed on the basis of data from the series of archival directories, bibliographies, and research handbooks compiled by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, starting with her first article on Soviet archives in 1965. Most of the bibliographic files from the pre-1991 PKG published directory and bibliography series covering archives and manuscript repositories in what is now the Russian Federation have been entered with updated annotations as part of the current database.[1] Most of Dr Grimsted's directories were produced under a series of grants (starting in 1971) from the National Endowment for the Humanities with matching funds from various other sources. Research travel abroad for gathering and verifying data was mostly sponsored by the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX). Dr Grimsted regularly held advisory seminars for IREX

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[1] Patricia Kennedy Grimsted: A Handbook for Archival Research in the USSR, Washington, DC, 1989. [Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies and the International Research & Exchanges Board]; Id.: Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR. Ukraine and Moldavia, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1988. Book 1: General Bibliography and Institutional Directory, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1988. ["Harvard Series in Ukrainian Studies" and the "Canadian Library of Ukrainian Studies."]; Id.: Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1981; Id.: Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR. Moscow and Leningrad. Supplement 1: Bibliographical Addenda, Leiden, Inter Documentation Company, 1976; Id.: Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the USSR. Moscow and Leningrad, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1972. ["Studies of the Russian Institute, Columbia University."] See also *Recent Soviet Archival Literature: A Review and Preliminary Bibliography of Selected Reference Aids.* Washington, DC, Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, 1986. [Occasional Paper, no. 204].

researchers on exchange programs in the Soviet Union, and befitted from many of their field reports. She also consulted with out-going participants in the Canadian and British exchange programs.

1990s – Earlier stand-alone Database in Fourth Dimension (ASIUS)

Developed initially with the aim of producing automatic formatted output for printed publication, with later additional alternate automatic output formats for a short-form Internet Gopher at Yale University, and then also for IDC microform catalogues. The initial aim of the ABB database system, starting at Harvard University in database format in 1990, on hard disks on stand-alone computers, under sponsorship of NEH, IREX, and other U.S. foundations, was to produce automatically formatted printed copies of updated Russian archival directory coverage, including coverage of many sensitive institutions not generally covered in official archival directories. Several such directories were produced during the 1990s as collaborative publications with Russian institutions and staff.[2]

ABB moved to Moscow in 1991, and the program was redeveloped by a Russian programmer, Yuri Liamin. Parallel bilingual data files in the ABB database were developed and maintained in Moscow in two parallel sets of data files – one English with romanized Russian bibliographic entries and a second in Russian (Cyrillic). The database was used first to produce automatic formatted output for English-language directories for IREX participants and others (starting in 1992). An initial version was presented at the International Congress of Archives (ICA) in Montreal in September 1992. By the mid-90s a Russian-language directory was published in Moscow in 1997 with several automatic indexing functions. An alternate output routine from ABB produced html files for an English-language short-version website designed by IISH director Jaap Kloosterman was launched on the IISH website at the time of the Moscow presentation of the Russian printed version (1997). Subsequently with Soros and IISH support, the data files were considerably expanded for the 2000 two-volume updated English-language printed version *Archives of Russia*.[3] Soros sponsorship in Moscow and IISH sponsorship in Amsterdam made possible the expanded publications and Internet development.

Rosarkhiv used retranslated text (with Soros funding) of the English data files from the 2000 U.S. publication in Moscow to start the Russian-language ARKHIVY ROSSII website in 2001. At that point, Rosarkhiv declined the IISH offer for cooperative development of a collaborative bilingual Internet website.

Publication facilities included automatic indexing and cross-referencing for authors, repository acronyms, and other features, as well as coordinating previous names and acronyms to present repository names and acronyms (although some hand-editing was

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[2] See the major directories produced from ArcheoBiblioBase: Archives of Russia. A Directory and Bibliographic Guide to Holdings in Moscow and St. Petersburg. English-language edition: edited by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted. Introduction by Vladimir Petrovich Kozlov. Compiled by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, Lada Repulo, and Irina Tunkina. 2 vols, Armonk, NY-London, M.E. Sharpe, 2000; Arkhivy Rossii. Moskva-Sankt-Peterburg. Spravochnik-obozrenie i bibliograficheskii ukazatel'. Compiled by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, Lada Vladimirovna Repulo, and Irina Vladimirovna Tunkina. Edited by Mikhail Dmitrievich Afanas'ev, Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, Vladimir Petrovich Kozlov, and Vladimir Semenovich Sobolev, Moskva, Arkheograficheskii tsentr, 1997. [Sponsored by the State Archival Service of Russia (Rosarkhiv), the State Public Historical Library (GPIB), the Historico-Archival Institute of the Russian State University for the Humanities (IAI RGGU), and the St. Petersburg Branch of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences (PFA RAN)]; Archives in Russia. 1993. A Brief Directory. Part 1: Moscow and St. Petersburg. Preliminary English version, edited with an Introduction by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted. Forword by Vladimir Petrovich Kozlov. Washington, DC, International Research & Exchanges Board, 1993 (earlier looseleaf editions issued by IREX, Princeton, NJ, July and Sept. 1992; 1991).

[3] Archives of Russia: A Directory and Bibliographic Guide to Holdings in Moscow and St. Petersburg (see Fn 2).

required). Those features have not been carried over to the CMS version, which aims only for Internet display and on-line searching rather than indexed printed editions.

Ukrainian Capacity was added in the mid-1990s, and considerable portions from the PKG electronic data files from the PKG published directory of Ukrainian archives (Princeton, 1988) were converted to separate Ukrainian files, housed in the Central Library of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kyiv. Ukrainian electronic files from the PKG 1988 published directory of Ukrainian archives were updated on line, and assisted by Ukrainian Derzhkomarkhiv Internet coverage was produced in English only for the HURI website at Harvard. When the Ukrainian Derzhkomarkhiv developed their own bi-lingual website, and the PKG bibliographic data were added to that, the ABB operation in Ukraine was discontinued. The current Internet version on the Amsterdam IISH database and website covers only the Russian Federation.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

a. Relational links between archives and full bibliographic references to their guides and other reference aids:

One of the most important features underlying ABB coverage and database structure has been the relational link between repository directory-level coverage and bibliography of reference aids. Directory coverage includes brief description and history of holdings, with all previous repository names, dates and acronyms, working conditions, access restrictions, and other vital data. Bibliography of reference aids provides comprehensive coverage of general repository-level guides and related literature, as well as specialized finding aids, including many unpublished or in-house issues. Thereby our name – Archeo-Biblio-Base!

b. Relational Links to Microform and Electronic editions:

In the 1970s, the predecessor – the bibliographical coverage of archival reference literature published by PKG (from the published Princeton 1972 and 1976 directories) – was extended in conjunction with IDC Publishers (Zug, Switzerland and later Leiden, the Netherlands; now part of Brill in the Netherlands) to produce microfiche editions of all finding aids listed. The 1996 IDC Supplement to the Princeton 1972 Moscow-Leningrad coverage, simultaneously referenced the IDC microfiche editions linking the directory bibliographic coverage with microfiche editions. When the directories of Baltic (1981) and Ukrainian (1988) repositories were issued, corresponding microfiche collections of the finding aids listed were prepared under PKG direction and issued simultaneously, bibliographically linked to the printed directories.[4] A later collection of regional guides on microfilm was produced by East View Publications.[5]

When the database version was developed in the early 1990s, a separate bibliographic field was set up to reference IDC order numbers. Later a subfield for microfilm order numbers for regional guides produced in microform by EastView Publishers, with continued relational correlation tables on the microform publishers' websites. Later in the 1990s, when so many

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[4] The collections of microfiche reprint editions (edited by PKG) comprise: Archives and Manuscript Collections in the USSR: Finding Aids on Microfiche. Series 1: Moscow and Leningrad, Zug, Switzerland, IDC, 1976; Archives and Manuscript Collections in the USSR: Finding Aids on Microfiche. Series 2: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia, Zug, Switzerland, IDC, 1981; Archives and Manuscript Collections in the USSR, Finding Aids on Microfiche. Series 3: Soviet Ukraine and Moldavia, Leiden, The Netherlands, Inter Documentation Company, 1989. (Electronic version: An updated electronic catalogue, Leiden: IDC Publishers' website, 2001).

[5] Guides and Other Reference Aids for Regional Archives in the Russian Federation. A Microfiche Collection, Minneapolis, East View Publications, 2009.

repositories changed their names a correlated catalogue was produced for the IDC website with the new names of archival repositories (with official acronyms) in the Moscow-Leningrad volumes correlated to earlier printed versions. More recently in the 2000s, a field has been added with hot links to electronic versions of reference publications available on the Internet, but the link between archival repository and reference literature is always preserved.

5. UPDATING SINCE THE 2000 *ARCHIVES OF RUSSIA* PUBLICATION.

Most of the updating since 2000 has been handled in Moscow with IISH support by Natasha Maslova in consultation with Patricia Grimsted, specialists at the State Public Historical Library (GPIB), Rosarkhiv, and direct consultation by visit, phone or e-mail with many of the individual archives covered. Given the curtailment of IISH support starting in 2011, alternate arrangements will be needed as part of a permanent institutional home for ABB. More substantive updating is still needed for many repositories.

Natasha Maslova has drafted an extensive input handbook, on the basis of earlier instructions for input prepared in the 1990s, which will be essential for others assisting input. Natalia Maslova is prepared to continue the updating function, but funding must be found for support. More substantive updating would now be desirable, especially if funds could be found to cover an additional assistant in Saint Petersburg.

6. RECENT WEBSITE USAGE STATISTICS

Statistics compiled by IISH confirm that the ABB website is heavily trafficked by researchers throughout the world. Between March and December 2009, IISH counted between 1,295 and 1,843 unique visitors per month. In October 2009 alone, the site had 3,043 visits and 96,321 page-views. In the first four months of 2010, the site had over 7,500 unique visitors, 10,728 visits and 331,570 page views, with a high for the month of April of over 2,200 unique visitors, over 3,000 visits, and over 100,000 page-views. Most recently for May 2011, IISH recorded 1,373 visits to the ABB website. This level of usage speaks to the importance of continuing the English version of ABB.

7. MORE TECHNICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

a. Bibliographic standards

Given the bilingual data files planned for publication in both Russian and English, it was not possible to adhere to strict library bibliographic standards, which did not have all the fields needed for both language files (with alternate variant usage), or the added fields for annotations and microform and more recently electronic format hot links.

For publication output, we adhered to a modified Chicago Manual of Style (CMS), as developed over the years for PKG published directories with Princeton University Press, with variants as required for correlated microfiche catalogues by IDC Publishers (now part of Brill).

We have never used MARC trained librarians or MARC fields for bibliographic data, which would have greatly added to the cost of production and upkeep. Although we explored this possibility at several instances in connection with NEH grant requirements, but we always provided needed explanations of our variant usage. However, ABB bibliographic data fields cover all needed MARC fields and more, and our usage in this respect was approved by

NEH.

Our bibliographic data-entry system may be complicated, because many fields and sub-fields are involved, but we have been able to train Russian assistants for data entry in the 1990s, when most of the data entry was done. Our data-entry system is much less complicated and more intuitive than MARC data entry.

b. Transliteration standards
Bibliographic records in the 1990s included both original Cyrillic Russian data and romanized data in Library of Congress transliteration (as per AACR II) without ligatures. The older Cyrillic data files in the Russian language have been preserved in electronic form and are still available in Moscow, but they have not been updated since the early 2000s nor transferred to the Amsterdam CMS system.

Bibliographic data in the current English-language IISH CMS are all romanized.
Geographic references use standards of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, as used by the Library of Congress, with some cross-references to other widely used forms of geographic names.

c. Library, Microform, and Internet Hot Links for Bibliography
For U.S. researcher access to finding aids in the US (pre-Internet availability), library location fields and call numbers were added to aid researchers with verification of archival holdings for planning research visits in the Soviet Union (mostly then under IREX). Librarians have accordingly cooperated in checking and reporting their holdings against our listings, for example, in the Library of Congress, Harvard University, and the University of Illinois, among others.

For potential microform duplication or now digitization purposes of small pressrun and rare Russian editions, we have also added locations in Moscow (including VNIIDAD and the Central Rosarkhiv library (now under GA RF), and some Rosarkhiv office holdings.

Recently, library locations for original printed editions have not been kept up to date, because many of the most important reference editions are now available in digital versions on the Internet, and hot links are provided within ABB repository bibliographic listings.

d. International Archival Standards
When we started ABB in 1990s, there were no repository-level international standards, although the ICA has since been developing them.

Our data fields were adapted to Russian needs and usage, and the needs of foreign libraries and researchers in acquiring and circulating data about Russian repositories and reference bibliography.

When IISH started development of the CMS, we discussed revamping repository and bibliographic fields to conform to new developing ICA standards, but IISH then decided it would be too costly to convert and that our standards were indeed appropriate to Russian usage and researcher needs in Russia and the post-Soviet environment.