



International Leads

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Libraries in Ukraine: A Decade of Independence

By Bradley L. Schaffner

Just over ten years have passed since Ukraine declared its independence from the crumbling Soviet Union. The decade has not been easy for the Ukrainian people as they strive to create a democratic state, a free-market economy, and a civil society. This transition period has been extremely difficult for libraries and librarians who now have far less financial support from the government for collections and general library operations than during the Soviet period. This article provides a brief overview of the current state of Ukrainian libraries as seen through the microcosm of two academic/research libraries in L'viv—the L'viv National University Library and the V. Stefanyk Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Both are major research institutions with the National University Library holding approximately three million volumes and the Library of the Academy of Science owning about seven million volumes.

The author, along with Brian Baird, the University of Kansas (KU) Libraries Preservation Officer, had the opportunity to spend May and part of June 2001 in L'viv conducting collection condition surveys at the above mentioned libraries. The University of Kansas Center for Russian and East European Studies sent us to L'viv as part of the U. S. State Department's Newly Independent States College and University Partnership Program grant that was awarded to KU and L'viv National University.

Ukraine, a country in Eastern Europe, is located between Russia, Poland and the Black Sea. As the second largest country in Europe, it is a little smaller than the state of Texas with a highly literate population of almost 49 million people. In 2000, the estimated per capita average income was \$3,850 per year with over half of the population living below the poverty line. Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, 1991. Although a decade has passed since its independence, the country is still struggling to create a truly democratic form of government.

The author first visited Ukrainian libraries in 1995. This trip, funded by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), assessed the overall situation of libraries and evaluated their current and future capability to continue book and serial exchanges with libraries in the United States. At this time I noted that, budgets for acquisitions and daily operations are insufficient and there is little money for



The main building of the L'viv National University Library
(Photo: Bradley Schaffner, June 2001)

capital improvements and systems modernization. In fact, several librarians mentioned that administrators are often forced to decide whether they should use their library's limited resources for acquisitions or to pay employees. The elimination of Soviet-era government "perks" for libraries, including free postal privileges and reliable deposit copy laws, exacerbated the poor financial situation in the newly independent state. In 2001, it appears that the financial situation is slowly improving for libraries and librarians. The government is drafting new deposit laws that will ensure that appropriate libraries will obtain copies on Ukrainian

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Libraries in Ukraine

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publications. Ukrainian librarians no longer complain, publicly at least, that they are not getting paid for months on end. Unfortunately, salaries for library staff are unremittingly low. All of the librarians interviewed last spring also talked of limited funds being available for the acquisition of some new publications. However, the resources available to fund the operation of libraries continue to be insufficient to meet the needs of the institutions.

Regardless of the financial situation, enhancements of library services are being instituted. Both the L'viv National University Library and V. Stefanyk Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine are using "smart cards" to control access into the library and to monitor a patron's use of library materials. Having spent most of my professional life visiting libraries in Russia and Ukraine on a regular basis, it came as a pleasant surprise to see this modern equipment being utilized. In the past patrons had to have a passbook, similar to a passport, to enter a library. Security at libraries was labor-intensive, with library guards checking everyone who entered and left the building. Now, libraries in L'viv have similar security devices that one would see in most research libraries in the United States. In addition to smart cards, the libraries are working to create online catalogs and to provide access to additional electronic resources, things most users in the U. S. take for granted. As with so many other things, limited financial resources are hindering progress. However, librarians in these places are determined and progress is being made despite great difficulties.

Upgrading the physical plant appears to be the biggest challenge facing many libraries in Ukraine. In the realm of facilities, libraries in L'viv are making slow improvements. For example, the main building of the L'viv National



The new building of the L'viv National University Library
(Photo: Bradley Schaffner, June 2001)

University Library has undergone limited renovation, but much work remains to be done. Most importantly, the roof over the main section of the building that houses the stacks is badly in need of repair. There has been a long-standing problem of water leaking through the skylights that provide natural illumination for the stacks. This of course, damages the books, many of which were published in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The University and government acknowledge the problem and, as resources become available, they are working to solve the problem.

Ironically, additional financial resources for construction could also have a negative impact on collections. New buildings and improved heating and cooling systems could adversely effect the condition of publications housed in these libraries. About twenty years ago the L'viv National University Library constructed a building to house some technical service operations and stack space. The building has a modern heating system that is, unfortunately, not able to optimally regulate the climate of the building. Because of the fluctuations in temperature, hot and dry in the winter and humid and hot in the summer, many of the publications in this building are becoming brittle much more quickly than books stored in the main

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Message from the IRRT Chair

By H. Lea Wells

New Orleans' good food and good times didn't disappoint as IRRT leaders converged to do the round tables' business at ALA Midwinter. On Friday, prior to well-attended IRRT subcommittee meetings on Saturday January 19, 2002, the International Relations Office and International Relations Committee chaired by Nancy John hosted a planning meeting. See details elsewhere in this issue.

At the Executive Board meeting on Sunday morning we heard reports from each of the subcommittees and liaisons. The minutes were presented by secretary/treasurer Jeannette Pierce and accepted by the board. We reviewed and accepted the budget with a positive net balance. The chair reported on annual conference business, Nancy John on IRC business, and Michael Dowling brought us up-to-date on IFLA and other actions of his office. We are fortunate to have Michael and his capable assistant Delin Guerra managing international relations for the association.

International Visitors Center subcommittee led by Bleue Benton is preparing to greet and assist international attendees. Watch for an invitation from Paul Belloni to sign up for a hosting session in Atlanta. I urge you to answer his call and enjoy the opportunity to talk with international colleagues in a restful location. Orientation and Mentoring chair Inga Fillipo is soliciting funding for a reception similar to last year's so that our visitors and mentors can socialize after the orientation session. Introductions to Atlanta and to ALA are planned.

The best reception at ALA is our own IRRT reception which will take place Monday, June 17, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Freight Room in the historic Floyd Building. The Georgia Freight Depot was built in 1869 and is one of the oldest buildings in downtown Atlanta. See details at http://www.state.ga.us/gba/services/freight_room.html. Thanks to Shamima Amin and her committee for ensuring another wonderful party! Letters have gone out soliciting funding to assist with reception costs. If you know a vendor, or are a vendor who would like to help sponsor this premier event, please get in touch with me at lea_wells@ncsu.edu. We will recognize your contributions at the reception.

Activities of the International Posters Committee chaired by Marty Kesselman and the International Papers Committee chaired by Susan Schnuer are on target. The Program Committee chaired by Artemis Kirk is inviting an international specialist to open the program with comments on the role of librarians and information specialists as international ambassadors. There will be a brief membership meeting and presentations from the field by

Paul Miller, who has spent two years in Azerbaijan, and another librarian from elsewhere. The Executive Board voted to make the Program Committee a standing committee with two-year terms. As part of its charge the Program Committee will develop a mechanism to coordinate international programs at future conferences. The program for Toronto 2003 will be on international standards.

The Sister Libraries Subcommittee chaired by Sarah Long and Mary Sherman continues its work promoting connections between international and American libraries. Committee members are planning a program for 2003. Membership continues with its campaign to add IRRT members. The handsome new brochure prepared by Publications Subcommittee, chaired by Barbara Kile, is available to anyone who would like brochures for recruitment. Contact Barbara at kilebar@rice.edu or Ravil Veli at velir@plattsburgh.edu. May Chang, our Webmaster, has done a wonderful job updating the IRRT website <http://www.ala.org/irrt/>. She will be expanding content in coming months. The Nominating Committee under the leadership of Fred Lynden presented the slate of officers which was accepted by the IRRT Executive Board. We can look forward to fine leadership from dedicated members. Be sure to vote for your choices in the upcoming election.

The IRRT Executive Board voted to send a congratulatory message to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The Sustainable Libraries Interest Group will apply for IRRT subcommittee status at annual conference. Thelma Tate, IRC, requested that IRRT publicize the centenary celebration of Nobel Prize winner and UN diplomat Ralph Bunche. Look for more information at the IRRT program in June.

At the International Relations Planning Meeting (see details elsewhere in this issue), members expressed interest in identifying and translating ALA documents that might be useful to international librarians. We also support the Global Reach Web site (register at <https://cs.ala.org/global/>). The purpose of the database is to gather international activities of ALA members into one database to facilitate ALA's and the State Department's identification of expertise when needed. I encourage you to register. IRRT agreed with prioritization of items in the International Agenda document prepared previously and will participate in these initiatives and in future planning meetings to advance the agenda. So, subscribe to ALAWorld at <http://www.ala.org/work/international/lists.html>. Register at the Global Reach Web site <https://cs.ala.org/global/>. Invite a colleague to join IRRT! Each one, invite one, or more! See y'all in Atlanta!

Second China/U.S. Conference on Libraries

By Beverly P. Lynch

Strategic Policy Directions for China/U.S. Library Cooperation was the theme of the Second China/U.S. Conference on Libraries held in Flushing, New York, and Washington D.C., August 11-16, 2001. The invitational conference, attended by seventy librarians from China and the U.S., was the result of a recommendation adopted by the First China/U.S. conference held in Beijing in August 1996, that a second China/U.S. conference be held within five years. Members of the planning committee, chaired by Gary E. Strong, U.S. and Heping Zhou, China, were: Gary E. Strong, Margaret Yu-lan Chou, Michael Dowling, Hwa-Wei Lee, Beverly P. Lynch, James G. Neal, and Winston Tabb from the U.S.; Heping Zhou, Beixin Sun, Weici Wu, Yingchi Xu, Liping Sun, Yuanliang Ma, Guilan Li, and Dongjiang Qiu from China.



The U.S. Conference Planning Committee members Gary Strong and Beverly Lynch chat at the conference site. (Photo: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)

The keynote addresses given by Xiaopu Zhou, Deputy Director, Library Department, Ministry of Culture, China, and Robert S. Martin, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services, set the direction of the conference. Many of the themes presented in their papers were expanded upon by other speakers and in the discussion sessions and were considered at the day-long session at the Library of Congress. Ms. Xiaopu Zhou outlined the remarkable activity in library development in China. She referred to the China Digital Library Consortium initiated by the National Library of China and observed that there is a growing consensus in China towards a service oriented direction. Robert Martin in his keynote referred to funding opportunities through his agency, the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS). He described some of the projects of importance to preservation and access to materials funded by IMLS and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The four conference themes: Information Policy, Resource Sharing, Human Resources, and the Role of Libraries in International Development were considered in invited papers and in the small discussion groups after each session.

Information Policy --Xiaojian Ni, Director of the Capital Library, Beijing, described an interesting case study seeking to understand the concept of "essence information". His work extends much of the research being carried on in the U.S. on the information seeking behaviors' of users. What emerged in the discussions following Ni's paper was the

recognition that similar research is being carried out on similar topics in both countries. The diffusion of knowledge, that is, how an idea is transmitted from one community to another; and the library as an institution, that is, how the librarianship grows more alike from one country to another are questions being addressed by researchers in China and the U.S. Much of the information presented at the conference was related to these questions. James Neal, Dean of University Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, emphasized the several issues of intellectual property

and copyright. It was noted that the issues related to copyright are of greater concern among librarians in China now than they had been at the 1996 conference. Discussion centered on local and national jurisdictions; and how libraries get copyright authorization from the publishers.

Resource Sharing

--Yuanliang Ma, Director of the Shanghai Library, described an area consortium initiative that extends the most important resources of the seventy-five public, academic and several special libraries of the area. Many of the early resource sharing programs in the U.S. were designed by librarians who



Professor Zhu Qiang, Editor of China's *Journal of Academic Libraries* and Dr. Donald Riggs, Editor of *College & Research Libraries* in the U.S., discuss continuation of an article exchange program between two journals.

(Photo: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)

then sought governmental support. The current work in Shanghai was begun first by the government and then implemented by librarians. Whatever the original model, librarians must make the model work. Rush Miller, Director of University Library, University of Pittsburgh, described the Gateway Service Center for Chinese journal articles which emphasizes an important partnership program the University of Pittsburgh library established with several university libraries in China. Miller observed that research libraries must

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From ALA's Internaitonal Desk by Michael Dowling

Now that the *Global Reach* international participation website is up and active we would like for all IRRT members who have been involved in international activities to visit the site and create your own profile. Please take the time in the next few weeks to visit the site to input your information. To access the site and create your own profile please visit <http://www.ala.org/work/international>, and click on the *Global Reach* link.

For IRRT members planning on going to IFLA 2002 in Scotland, August 18 - 24, 2002, a reminder that the early registration deadline is May 15! Please remember to include the ALA IFLA membership number **US-0002**, on the registration form to receive the IFLA discount rate.

Once again we are looking for **Mentors** to help assist international librarians attending the ALA Conference in Atlanta. We are asking that mentors be available to meet

with their mentees on Friday, June 14 at 3:00 p. m. before the International Orientation. Further details will be forthcoming. If you are interested in possibly serving as a Mentor, please send an email message to intl@ala.org

Joanna Lee will be the new library student intern from Dominican University who will be assisting the office with the mentoring program and other conference activities.

Due to budgetary restraints, ALA will not be able to provide stipends for book fair programs to Zimbabwe and Hong Kong this year. The Hong Kong Book Fair is still offering a 'Hong Kong Book Fair/U.S. Librarian Invitation Program' to the 13th Annual fair which will be held July 17-22, 2002. The fair will provide ten selected U.S. librarians who collect Chinese language materials four nights of hotel and free registration. The deadline for application is April 15, 2002. Please visit the IRO website for more information.

News and Announcements

The ALA International Librarians Reception will be held on Monday, June 17, 2002 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Freight Room, Georgia Railroad Freight Depot. The Freight Room is the oldest standing building in Atlanta and it served the Georgia Railroad as the main freight depot for over 100 years. Advanced tickets are \$25 before May 17, 2002 and can be purchased through ALA online registration form or through ALA International Relations Office, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, e-mail: intl@ala.org. Tickets can also be purchased on site for \$30 at registration desks of the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta registration.

Ellen Bosman, Associate Librarian and Head of Technical Services at Indiana University Northwest, has been selected to receive the 2002 Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund Award. In October 2002, Ellen will travel to Melbourne and address the Australian Church Library Association, and conduct research about Australian church libraries. The Bogle-Pratt International Library Travel Fund is sponsored by the Bogle Memorial Fund and the Pratt Institute/School of Information and Library Science. An Award of \$1,000 is given to an ALA member to attend their first international library conference.

Balkan Connections, dedicated to increasing cultural understanding between the Balkans and America, is sponsoring a tour of Bulgaria to visit Bulgarian public, school, and academic libraries May 25 through June 8, 2002. As part of the tour, American Librarians will be asked

to participate in three library conferences. Conferences in Varna, on the Black Sea, and Plovdiv will focus on Information Literacy and Acquisition and Use of Electronic Databases. We have also been asked to participate in the Bulgarian Library Association's conference on Library Ethics. Speakers are needed for all three conferences. The trip will also include visits to major archeological and cultural sites in Bulgaria. Nancy Bolt, Colorado State Librarian, is the lead American on the trip. For more information, visit <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~nancybolt>

The IRRT's International Visitors Center Committee (formerly Hospitality) is looking for volunteers for the International Visitors Center at this summer's ALA conference in Atlanta. The Center will be located in the convention center and provides information on the conference and about Atlanta. There will be a computer (for foreign librarians only) and a place to meet up with friends and relax. Volunteers assist international visitors in answering questions and giving directions at the conference. If you know your way around Atlanta, so much the better, but if not, local information and maps will be provided. It is a great opportunity to meet a variety of people. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paul Belloni, University of Chicago, at plb4@midway.uchicago.edu or 773-702-8699. Most people may not know their schedules for the conference yet. If you think you can help please contact Belloni who will work with you in early May for scheduling.

China/U. S. Conference

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build partnerships around the world. Miller commented that cooperative programs must be mutually beneficial to last, and to be successful, global partnerships must be based on mutual trust and mutual interest

Human Resources --Jose-Marie Griffiths, member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, described how the WWW is changing the work of librarians, who now are knowledge managers. Participants in the discussion sessions recognized the interest in enabling faculty exchanges, as was proposed by Dr. Griffiths. Areas of collaboration between ALISE (Association for Library and Information Science Education) and the education committee in the China Society for Library Science were discussed and will be followed up, e.g., invitations to Chinese educators to the ALISE conference, identification of suitable textbooks for translation, identification of authoritative websites and free materials suitable for instructional purposes, the development of datasets useful for instructional purposes and available on the web. In the area of distance learning it was observed that a collaborative, distance education course in International librarianship would be very interesting to pursue and a proposal for a joint Chinese/American effort to develop such a course emerged as an important initiative.

Role of Libraries in International Development --James Cheng, Librarian, Harvard-Yenching Library, traced the



At the conference site in New York, a reference librarian (middle) introduces user services of the Flushing Public Library to Dr. Robert Martin, Director of IMLS (back), and a group of American participants. (Photo: Sha Li Zhang, August 2001)

areas of cooperation between China and U.S. librarians. He urged that continuing programs be "people-centered". Leadership programs such as the UCLA Senior Fellows program and programs for middle managers were recommended. He acknowledged the many valuable opportunities for cooperation but

emphasized that human resources were the most important.

Recommendations from the Conference

--The conference papers be placed on the conference web site so they will be available to the larger community; and that press releases about this conference contain the web

site address: http://www.worldling.org/us_china_conf2001/

--The organizers of first and second conference are American Library Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, The Library of Congress, The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, The China Society for Library Science, and The National Library of China. They continue the very successful series; and organize a third conference in China no later than 5 years from now. (There was strong interest in two or three years, but also it was recognized that it is difficult to organize international conferences and to fund them.)

--The American Library Association and the China Society of Library Science establish a bilateral working group to continue to advance cooperation between China and the United States, seeking collaboration from the various interested agencies in China and the U.S. in such efforts. And the ALA and CSLS establish a secretariat to provide information on various collaborative activities.

--The conference recommended the development of collaborative research projects between colleagues in China and the U.S.

--The conference supported the development of a course in international librarianship, with specific emphasis on China and U. S.; the development of such a course should be a joint effort between China and U.S. educators.

Finally the conference adopted a RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE SOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS for Transmittal to the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters. The full text of the conference summary is available at http://www.worldling.org/us_china_conf2001/Summary.htm (Beverly P. Lynch is Professor and Director of Senior Fellow Program at UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. She was the U.S. Conference Planning Committee member for both first and second China-U.S. Library Conferences)

Welcome New IRRT Members!

Ghulam Ahmad
 Lisa Allen
 Donald Balley
 Josephine Banks
 Kitti Canepi
 Clara Chu
 Joyce Dabielson
 Helen Dunn
 Deva Eswara – Reddy
 Rosemary Franklin
 Doris Gebel
 Jason Hannawalt
 Dick Kawooya
 Sean Knowlton
 Rhonda Lorenz
 Angela Margerum
 Judy Marsh
 Kristin McDonough
 Rebecca Rhodes
 Marlene Rotunda
 Lora Shinn
 Jayme Spencer
 Candace Vasquez
 Linda Whitaker
 Joseph Wojtowicz

Report from the International Relations Committee

By Nancy John, Chair

ALA IRC Planning. The International Relations Planning Document, 2000-2005 was reviewed by the new IRC International Relations Planning Group which consists of IRC representatives from ALA's other divisions. The group identified from the planning document a couple of priorities for the upcoming year that would have impact across the association: 1) identifying publications, mainly standards and guidelines from ALA that can be translated into other languages; 2) publicizing the Global Reach database; and 3) Reviewing the planning document.

Afghanistan. The Near East and South Asia Subcommittee is considering what ALA should be doing. Those with interest in helping Afghanistan to recover its lost libraries and to strengthen its collections can contact the IRO.

Cuba. Also at IFLA, ALA signed the Protocol to Cooperate with ASCUBI (the Cuban Library Association) – a document that Council saw last summer. The IRC Subcommittee on Latin American and the Caribbean is developing the detailed action plan that will improve libraries, librarians and library education in both the U.S. and Cuba. Regular contact with ASCUBI has been established.

Mexico. Despite the widespread reluctance of Americans to travel, 165 ALA members attended the Guadalajara Book Fair in November 2001, with \$100 travel grants from ALA matched 4-1 by the organizers of the Feria del Libro, Guadalajara. 103 libraries, primarily public and academic, from twenty-eight states were represented. Nearly \$900,000 will be spent buying approximately \$1.6 million worth of materials, given the attractive on-site discounts.

Zimbabwe. The financial situation at ALA as well as the political situation in Zimbabwe means that ALA participation in the Zimbabwe Book Fair is unlikely in 2002. This program has had enormous impact on the diversity of U.S. library collections, increased availability of African publications in the U.S., and fostered ongoing interaction with colleagues in Zimbabwe and South Africa, including a U.S. library hosted Web site for the Zimbabwe Library Association, increased coverage of African publications in U.S. review media, and ALA participation in the Africa's 100 Best Books Program.

Biblioteca Alexandrina. The long-awaited opening of the Biblioteca Alexandrina is expected in April 2002. The IRC, with Council's endorsement, has prepared a congratulatory certificate, in Arabic and English, for the opening and an announcement encouraging other U.S. library associations to send congratulations as well.

Campaign for the World's Libraries. ALA's generous "gift" of the Campaign for America's Libraries becoming the Campaign for the World's Libraries, has resulted in seven countries (U. S., Canada, Mexico, Iceland, Italy, Japan, and Turkey) now using the Campaign with many others in the process of considering joining up. Midwinter meetings between the IRC and the Public Awareness Committee set in motion the process which will make ALA's training and advocacy materials, generalized to eliminate U.S.-specific references, available for translation in other '@ your library' countries. The first country to receive training will be Mexico this spring.

WTO. On September 25, 2001, ALA President John W. Berry asked the International Relations Committee to discuss the IFLA Position on The World Trade Organization at the 2002 Midwinter Meeting and to make a status report to Council at one of the meetings in New Orleans. The IRC IFLA Subcommittee met with ALA Washington Office Staff, the chairs of the Committee on Legislation and the OITP Advisory Committee, and the Secretary General of IFLA during this conference. They recommended to the IRC that we take no specific action with regard to the statement itself.

A more international ALA. This topic continues to be of concern, especially as the financial picture gets gloomier. We need to work hard to keep international issues in the forefront. One area that we began to address at Midwinter is ALA publishing and a variety of international issues: UNESCO coupons, bank transfers, special arrangements, marketing/reselling of IFLA pubs like FAIFE report, international read posters, pre-order for carry home at conference. Also of concern is paying for ALA registrations in foreign currencies and with UNESCO coupons.

Workshop in Yerevan, Armenia. The Emerging Democracies subgroup of the Eurasia and Central Asia Subcommittee is hard at work planning and raising money for its follow-up to the successful 2001 conference (<http://www.ala.org/work/international/caucasus/index.html>).

IFLA 2002. ALA President-elect Mitch Freedman is planning a workshop for the IFLA RTMLA/Section on the Management of Library Associations on the topic of association strategic plans, their implementation, and the progress to date for achieving pay equity for their constituencies.

ALA 2003. The IRC Subcommittee on Europe and Canada is looking at what special issues should be considered for the upcoming ALA meeting in Toronto in June 2003.

Libraries in Ukraine

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building. The main library is an old building with thick stone walls. This design, particularly in the stack areas, results in fairly stable climate conditions. Both temperature and humidity remain reasonably constant, throughout the year. As a result, the books do not become brittle as quickly as in the new building. While the climate in the old building is conducive for the preservation of printed material, it is often uncomfortable for the employees and patrons of the library. Installing new heating systems in the old building may make it more pleasant for the human occupants, but it will negatively impact the collections housed in the building.

Both libraries that I visited currently utilize large old churches as remote storage facilities. These buildings were confiscated by the Soviet government and turned over to the libraries. The Ukrainian government is in the process

of returning these buildings to their rightful owners. Thus it will place additional financial hardships on the libraries that are now searching for new storage facilities. Like the old main building of the L'viv National University Library, these churches provide ideal conditions for the storage and preservation of materials. The temperature and humidity in these buildings remains fairly constant throughout the year. If new buildings are constructed, expensive HVAC systems will need to be installed to match preservation capabilities of the current buildings. Of course the biggest challenge will be finding the funds to purchase or upgrade appropriate buildings for the libraries.

Other progress, not necessarily dependent on additional funds being available, is also being made. Library services are moving away from the Soviet model of censorship and control to one of patron service and assistance. These are positive development that greatly enhance the ability of libraries



A remote library storage room
in a Catholic Church in L'viv.
(Photo: Bradley Schaffner, June 2001)

to serve the needs of their patrons. Despite all of the challenges that they are facing, library employees and administrators at the institutions visited last spring continue to have a surprisingly optimistic outlook for the future of libraries in Ukraine! (*Bradley L. Schaffner is Head of the Slavic Department and Coordinator for International Programs at the University of Kansas Libraries.*)

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