

# Review Articles

## Bibliographic Controls in the Soviet Union

*Obshchaia bibliografiia. Uchebnoe posobie dlia uchashchikhsia biblioteknykh tekhnikumov.* V. N. Denis'ev. (At head of title: Ministerstvo kul'tury RSFSR. Upravlenie uchebnykh zavedenii.) Moskva: Gosuderstvennoe izdatel'stvo kul'turno-prosvetitel'noi literatury, 1954. 223p.

An interesting survey of the historical background and organization of bibliographic controls in the Soviet Union is contained in Chapter 3 of V. N. Denis'ev's *Obshchaia bibliografiia* (General Bibliography).

Registration of printed matter in imperial Russia was begun by the government in 1837, and until 1855 a "Guide to newly published books" was regularly included in *Zhurnal Ministerstva narodnogo prosveshcheniia* (Journal of the Ministry of Public Education). After being suspended for a certain time, government listing of books was renewed in the form of *Spisok izdanií vyshedshikh v Rossii* (List of Publications Appearing in Russia, which continued until 1903. In July 1907 the Russian government began to publish a special weekly bibliography entitled *Knizhnaia letopis'* (Bibliographic Chronicle).

After the revolution of 1917, the Soviet of People's Commissars in its decree of June 30, 1920, made it incumbent upon the People's Commissariat of Education of the RSFSR to place under bibliographic control all printed matter appearing in the RSFSR. Consequently, on August 3, 1920, this Commissariat issued an order making it mandatory to register any printed material, and by the same order set up the Russian Central Bibliographic Chamber (Rossiiskaia Tsentral'naia knizhnaia palata). In 1925 it was renamed the State Central Bibliographic Chamber of the RSFSR (Gosudarstvennaia Tsentral'naia knizhnaia palata RSFSR), and in 1935 it was reorganized into the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber (Vsesoiuznaia knizhnaia palata).

At present all publications printed within the territory of the U.S.S.R. must be registered with the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber, which also performs the functions of a bibliographic center for the RSFSR. In addition, all constituent republics (with the exception of the Karelo-Finnish SSR and the Moldavian SSR) and certain autonomous republics maintain their own bibliographic chambers, which register and list all publications appearing within the territory of the constituent or autonomous republic. Thus, any book published in a republic having its own bibliographic chamber is listed twice: by the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber in its union-wide *Knizhnaia letopis'* (Bibliographic Chronicle), and by the local bibliographic chamber in its own bibliographic chronicle, which appears under varied titles. In the *Knizhnaia letopis'* the book is described in Russian, with a notation as to the original language in which the book is written. In the local chronicle the book is listed in the original language.

The basis of bibliographic control in the Soviet Union is the so-called "mandatory copy." According to law, all printing and reproducing houses in the U.S.S.R. must send to the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber free of charge a certain number of copies of every publication issued. This includes books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, maps, music, posters, diagrams, charts, reproductions of paintings, etc. One copy of each publication is retained by the Bibliographic Chamber for the Soviet Press Archives (Arkhiv sovetskoï pečati), but the others are distributed free of charge to major depository libraries. In addition to these free copies, the publisher must also send 150 copies of certain types of publications at the regular price to the Distribution Center for Research Libraries (Tsentral'nyi kolektor nauchnykh bibliotek), which supplies university and specialized libraries, as well as the major provincial, regional and constituent republic libraries.

The principal bibliographic tool in the Soviet Union is *Knizhnaia letopis'* (Bibliographic Chronicle), published weekly by the

All-Union Bibliographic Chamber. This guide lists all books and pamphlets published in the Soviet Union, regardless of language or field of interest. All publications are described in Russian, and in the case of publications issued in another language, the name of the language is indicated. Bibliographic data given in *Knizhnaia letopis'* include author's surname and initials, title and subtitle of publication, place and date of publication, publisher, pagination, format (in centimeters), number of copies printed, and price. Annotations describe bibliographic data contained in the publication, and frequently give the contents of a compilation. All materials listed in *Knizhnaia letopis'* are divided into thirty-one subject classes. Quarterly author indexes and an annual index to series are published.

*Ezhegodnik knigi SSSR* (Bibliographic Annual of the USSR) is published on the basis of the issues of *Knizhnaia letopis'* for that year. Since 1945 the *Ezhegodnik* has been issued in two volumes, one for each semester. It has been published for the years 1925-1929, 1935, 1941-1953. All publications listed in *Knizhnaia letopis'* are included in *Ezhegodnik knigi SSSR*, with the exception of materials having limited circulation. The same division into thirty-one subject classes used in *Knizhnaia letopis'* is used in *Ezhegodnik*. The latter also includes an index to authors, compilers, editors and illustrators of the publications listed.

A corresponding annual listing of serial publications is to be found in *Letopis' periodicheskikh izdanii SSSR* (Chronicle of Serial Publications of the U.S.S.R.), which has been issued by the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber since 1933. In it are listed all magazines, newspapers, series, bulletins,<sup>1</sup> etc., appearing in the Soviet Union during the year, regardless of language. In 1938 and 1939 this annual was called *Ezhegodnik periodicheskikh izdanii SSSR* (Annual of Serial Publications of the U.S.S.R.). From 1939 to 1949 the *Letopis' periodicheskikh izdanii* consisted of two parts: (1) periodicals, series and bulletins, and (2) newspapers. A radical change in the contents of the publication took place in 1951. Instead of listing all magazines, news-

papers, etc., appearing during the year, the *Letopis' periodicheskikh izdanii SSSR* lists only new or discontinued serial titles, or changes in title, for the period January 1, 1950, to April 1, 1951. Since 1951 it consists of two parts: the first part lists new and discontinued serial titles, as well as changes in title; the second part provides information regarding numbered series (transactions, scientific notes, etc.) received by the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber during the corresponding year. Consequently, at the present time the basic guide to serials is *Letopis' periodicheskikh izdanii SSSR* for the year 1949, but the *Letopis'* for 1951 and subsequent years provide information only about serials that began publication in those years, or had changes in title, or ceased publication. Complete lists of all magazines, newspapers and other forms of serials of the Soviet Union in the future will appear only once every five years.

Among the other bibliographic tools issued by the All-Union Bibliographic Chamber, mention should be made of *Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei* (Chronicle of Magazine Articles), *Letopis' gazetnykh statei* (Chronicle of Newspaper Articles), and *Letopis' retsenzii* (Chronicle of Reviews).

*Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei* has been published since 1926, and at present appears weekly. Prior to 1938 it was entitled *Zhurnal'naia letopis'* (Magazine Chronicle). It furnishes data about articles, documentary materials and pictorial reproductions contained in serials of the U.S.S.R. printed in Russian. It likewise includes materials from transactions, reports, series, bulletins, periodical and non-periodical compilations, and literary-artistic almanacs. *Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei* does not index articles contained in popular magazines, such as *Rabotnitsa* (Working Woman), *Molodoi kolkhoznik* (Young Collective Farmer), strictly official publications, children's magazines, and a few other types. Some 900 serial issues are indexed. Each issue of the *Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei* lists the serial numbers indexed in that issue, and the last issue of the year gives a comprehensive listing of all serials indexed throughout the year.

*Letopis' gazetnykh statei* (Chronicle of Newspaper Articles) began publication in 1936. Until 1938 it was entitled *Gazetnaia*

<sup>1</sup> By the term "bulletins" is meant periodicals of a regulatory nature, primarily consisting of official materials.

*letopis'* (Newspaper Chronicle). At present it is published weekly, and describes articles and documentary materials carried in newspapers of the U.S.S.R. printed in the Russian language. These articles are indexed on a very selective basis, and emphasis is placed on the central newspapers, such as *Pravda*, *Izvestiia*, *Komsomol'skaia pravda*. Each issue of the *Letopis'* contains a list of the newspapers indexed in that issue.

*Letopis' retsenzii* (Chronicle of Reviews) has been published since 1934, and appears quarterly. From 1939 to 1941 it was entitled *Bibliografiia retsenzii* (Bibliography of Reviews). It lists reviews and critical analyses from magazines and newspapers pertaining to new or newly reprinted publications, music, maps, theatrical presentations and motion pictures of artistic value. At the end of each issue of the *Letopis'* there is an alphabetic list of authors and titles of the publications reviewed. The index to the fourth issue of each year also summarizes the contents of the preceding three issues, thereby serving as an index for the whole year.—*Rudolph Smits, Library of Congress.*

## Libraries in the Southwest

*Libraries in the Southwest: Their Growth—Strengths—Needs.* Ed. by Lawrence Clark Powell. (Occasional Papers, No. 3) Los Angeles: University of California Library, 1955. 70 p. Paper, apply.

On April 16, 1955, the Rockefeller Foundation, Occidental College, and the California Library Association co-sponsored a conference at Occidental College to consider the growth, strengths, and needs of librarianship and libraries in the Southwest. With the publication of *Libraries in the Southwest: Their Growth—Strengths—Needs*, the papers presented at this conference are now available in an attractive format.

Six papers were given at the conference which some five hundred librarians, trustees, and other friends of southwestern libraries attended. In the first paper, Glenn S. Dumke, dean of the Occidental College faculty, seeks a "Definition of the Southwest." Erna Ferguson presents "A Writer's View of South-

west Libraries" and tells in a graceful manner of the growth of the library in Albuquerque, New Mexico, "from the time when a group of ladies put themselves out and worked hard to get a few books together until we have a highly professional service which is serving beautifully well, and with a very great appreciation of the depth and validity, and the value of all those cultures that have gone to make us what we are."

In the third paper, Edwin Castagna, city librarian at Long Beach, California, surveys "Public Libraries in the Southwest" and finds that "public library service throughout the Southwest, except for most of Southern California, is spotty and unevenly developed." He believes that progress can and will be made if southwestern librarians are willing to pool their knowledge, their resources, their hope, and their courage. In discussing Mr. Castagna's paper, San Diego's city librarian, Clara E. Breed, emphasizes three common problems which face southwestern librarians: a tremendous growth in population without a corresponding increase in library services, inadequate financial support of libraries, and shortage of librarians.

The fourth paper, by Fernando Pesqueira, director of the University of Sonora Library, is in Spanish, but an English summary of his description of the "Libraries of Northwestern Mexico and Their Needs" has been provided. Donald M. Powell, University of Arizona reference librarian, in his discussion of Señor Pesqueira's paper makes some interesting comparisons with development of libraries in northwestern Mexico and in his own state.

Patricia Paylore, University of Arizona assistant librarian, deals in a most interesting manner with "The Effect of Climate and Distance on Libraries in the Arid Regions," with special emphasis on libraries in Arizona. Julia Brown Asplund, who, until her retirement after fifty years of service, was with the New Mexico State Library Extension Agency, describes briefly the way in which New Mexico has developed its State Library Service with "a budget of \$2,000 in 1929 to one of \$100,000 in the appropriations of the legislature of 1955."

The final paper in this volume is Lawrence Clark Powell's discussion of "The Re-