

Collection Development from Late 19th to Early 20th Century: The Slavonic Library at the National Library of Finland

Emilia Pyykönen, Assistant Librarian
“Book Collections in Russia around 1917”
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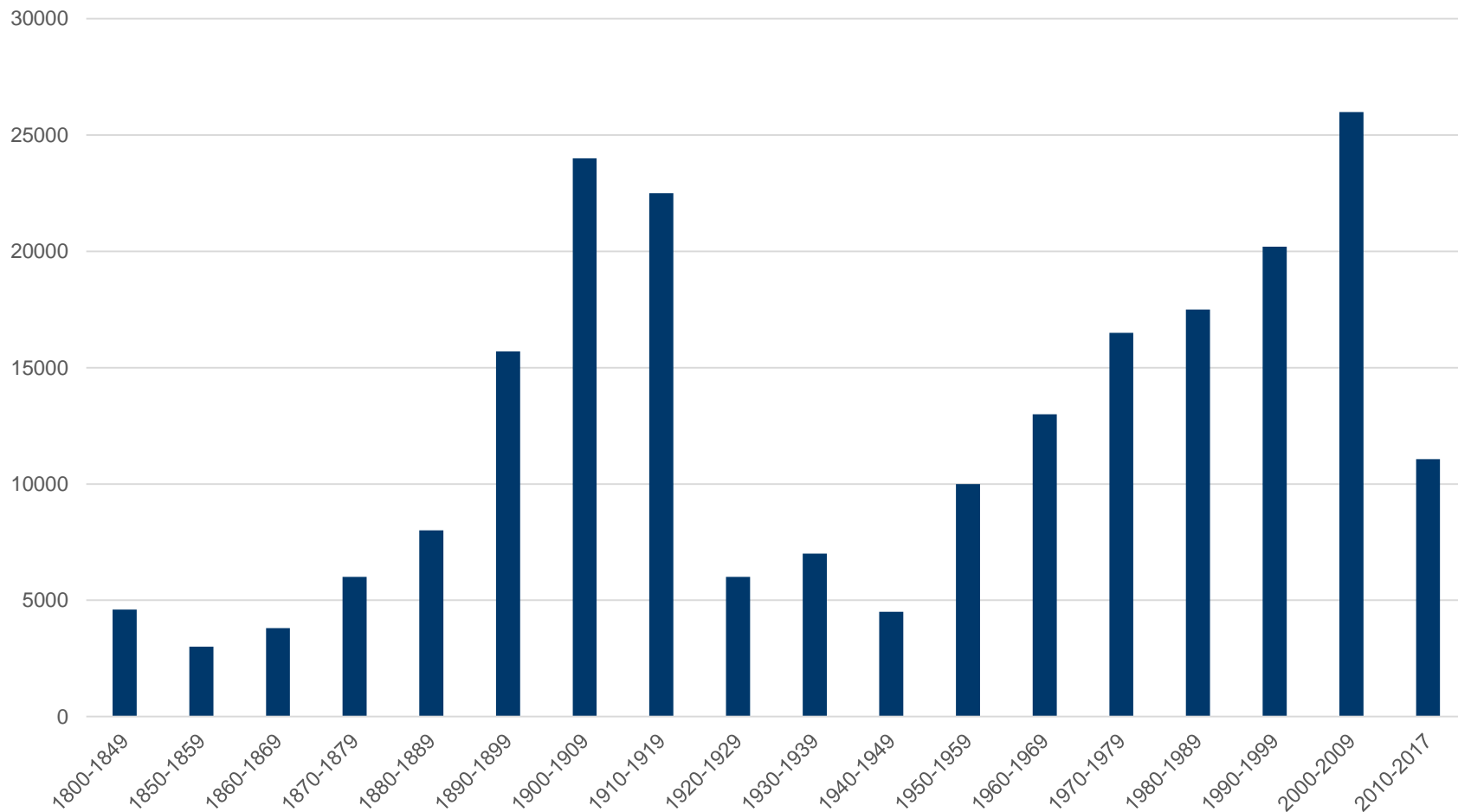
Collections of the Slavonic Library represent the whole spectrum of Russian history

- Legal Deposit Collection of all printed works published in Russia during 1828–1917
- Soviet literature, especially Soviet emigrant literature
- Newly published academic works in the field of Russian Studies

Russian pre-revolutionary periodicals as an open collection



Catalogued items



Legal Deposit Collection 1828–1917

- Books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, printed photographs, sheet music, postcards, brochures and flyers, written in a variety of languages
- The most extensive part of the Legal Deposit Collection is the Slavonic Collection with its estimated 110,000 items written in Russian. The Slavonic Collection forms the core of the Slavonic Library.

Professor Jakov Grot (1812–1893)



Collections of the Slavonic Library 1/2

- The periodicals from the legal deposit years, published by academies, scientific societies and Russian universities, especially in literature, philology and history
- More general journals and magazines
- The collection of the Russian Silver Age journals is complete
- Literature on theology and ecclesiastical history
- Bibliographies, book and library catalogues, dictionaries, maps and atlases

Collections of the Slavonic Library 2/2

- Russian emigrant literature, including periodicals and newspapers
- Polonica Collection: 20,000 monograph titles and 10,000 periodical & newspaper titles written in West and South Slavic languages
- Primary sources related to Russian history from the 18th century
- Rare first editions of Russian eighteenth-century fiction

Growth of the collection

Until the First World War	5,000 volumes annually
1919	236 volumes
1924	127 volumes

The National Library of Finland



How did the Russian Revolution affect the Slavonic Library?

1. The loss of legal deposit status > rethinking **the acquisition policy**
2. The library was seen as **a unique entity with a great potential** for research in the future
3. In the 1960s, American historians discovered the Slavonic Library's value for western scholars and the library achieved **international fame**

Thank you!

emilia.pyykonen@helsinki.fi



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND