The Russian State Library is the largest library in Europe. It was founded on 1st July 1862 as a section of the Rumyantsev Museum and was housed in Paskov House. The books and manuscripts of N P Rumyantsev formed the basis of the library's early collection.

A law of 1862 gave the library copyright status and the right to claim one free copy of all publications printed in Russia. However, the library received no funds from the Tsarist government to buy books and to expand its reading rooms and stacks until 1912.

Despite this, the library was used by many including Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov and Lenin, to name but a few of its famous, readers.

On 6th February 1925 the library was renamed the Lenin State Library of the USSR and was given the right to claim three copies of printed matter published in the USSR. In 1945 the library was awarded the Order of Lenin for its services to readers and its protection of books.

By 1962 the library had expanded to twenty-two reading rooms, seating 2,400 - a far cry from 1862 when the library had only one reading room for twenty people. The reading rooms include three for children and young people, and separate reading rooms for rare books, manuscripts, music literature, microforms and newspapers.

After the fall of the USSR, the library was renamed the Russian State Library. It is open to non-Russian nationals on the production of a passport, although readers tickets for a period longer that a few days also require a photograph.

**NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS**

**RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY**

previously

the Lenin State Library

**Introduction**

Newspapers are not only a means of mass information but are also an important historical source. From the first issue, a newspaper reflects society and its views, and can therefore create a real atmosphere of each stage of societies development.

The role that newspapers play in preserving social, political, historical and economic information cannot be underestimated.

In 1864, shortly after it was granted copyright status, the Library received 281 newspaper and magazine titles. By 1990, this figure had grown to 9997 titles. The newspaper department was established in 1973 and two years later the collection was moved to a newly built stack in the town of Khimki, just outside Moscow.

The Library's newspaper collection is unique in its composition and chronological scope. It includes over 50,000 titles, not only in the Russian language but also in foreign languages and the many languages of the non-Russian peoples of the former Soviet Union. There are over 2,500 titles in the foreign newspaper collection. Eighteen of these titles, including Oberdeutsche Algemeine, Literature Zeitung and Salzburg, were published in the eighteenth century and 224 titles were published in the nineteenth century. In addition, the collection includes 38 titles in Asian and African languages.

The Library boasts a pre-Revolutionary newspaper collection of over 4,000 titles. It includes almost every newspaper published in Moscow and St Petersburg, with the exception of a few newspapers published before 1862. The collection includes Sankt Peterburgskie Vedomosti, Moscovskie Vedomosti, Senatorskie Vedomosti, Severnaya Pochta and Russky Invalid and represent both the bourgeois-democratic press, such as Nedelya (1868-72) and Ocherki and the liberal-bourgeois press such as Russkaya Mysl, Russkie Vedomosti, Strana and Severny Vestnik.

Of special historical importance are the newspapers of the early post-revolutionary years and the 1920's. Some 5000 newspaper titles help to document the early formative years of the Soviet state.

Recent work which has been done on co-operative newspapers, allows researchers to trace practically the entire development of the co-operative movement in Russia and the Soviet Union. This collection comprises 833 titles covering the period 1894-1989 and includes Listok Vilskogo Ekonomicheskogo Obshchestva (1899-1911), Listok Ekonomicheskogo Obshchestva Ofitserov Odesskogo Voyennogo Okruga (19081909), Machitskaya Pravda (1913) and Ranenburg Ryazanskoj Gubernii.

Nevertheless, the Library's largest collection is made up of newspapers from the Soviet period, which are listed in the reference book 'Gazety SSSR 1917-1960 g.g.' (Newspapers of the USSR 1917-1960). Soviet newspapers can be divided into the following categories; national all-union newspapers such as Pravda, Izvestia, Literaturnaya Gazeta and Lesnaya Promyshiennost national republican,
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The Newspaper Department has
improved its services to readers by
not only setting up a classified card file but by
preparing printed catalogues of
its stock. For example, in 1977 the
Library published 'Russian
pre-Revolutionary newspapers in the
holdings of the Lenin State Library of the USSR' which
contained over 4,200 newspaper titles, while in 1985
the Lenin State Library of the USSR' which contained over
4,200 newspaper titles, while in 1985
it published 'Newspapers in foreign European languages in the
stocks of the Lenin State Library of the USSR'. From 1982-1989
the Newspaper Department joined with other Russian libraries to
produce the catalogue 'Newspapers of the first years of
Soviet power 1917-1922' which included newspaper titles in Russian,
languages of the non-Russian peoples of the former
Soviet Union and foreign languages.
This is not the only time that the
Newspaper Department has worked with other Russian libraries.
To satisfy the demands of its readers, the Library
produced the index 'Foremost newspapers stocks of research
libraries of the country' which gave details of the newspaper
stocks of over a hundred Russian libraries. In addition, the
Newspaper Department is in close contact with other Moscow
libraries and this allows reference and information work to be
conducted on a broader basis and at a higher standard.
An important task of the Newspaper Department is a
library reference service to its readers and organisations ranging
from secondary schools to parliament. In 1990 over 6000
such references were carried out.
The department began to
microfilm its collection in the
1940's. From 1972-1991, 220 title of current newspapers were
microfilmed as were some pre-
Revolutionary newspapers and every issue of the twenty-five-all
union newspapers.
O A Yadykina
Head of the Newspaper Department
Ed. Note
Thanks to Lisa Davies NLW for her assistance with this article.
NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE

NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION MICROFILMING IN FRANCE
The case of ACRPP
(Association for Conservation and Photographic Reproduction of the Press)

In 1958, the Bibliothèque Nationale decided to set up a programme on preservation and access to its periodical holdings. For many years the physical condition of such items had been a cause of much concern to the staff who tried to find a suitable solution on several levels:

- physical and material protection of newspapers
- access facilities for users
- preservation information for newspaper publishing companies concerning their own collection.

Being anxious to involve public and institutional partners and to get them to participate in newspaper preservation problems, the Bibliothèque Nationale decided to found an association which should have aptitude according to French law to develop safety programmes for the library's own holdings and thus facilitate the joining of public and private interests in one and the same structure. The association should also be free to operate, to invest and to engage staff - not always easy within a government body.

Because of its inability to act directly with a view to the preservation of its own holdings, the library committed such activities to the association which became a reality in May 1958. In 1958, the technical potential was quite limited: cameras, developing and duplicating machines, films too, did not reach the standard we know today. There were no standards for micrographics, processing and fabrication were not yet well settled. Everything had to be defined, set up or invented. ACRPP did it by adjusting the specific equipment needed, but especially by establishing a real method for newspaper microfilming when studying the requirements of the Bibliothèque Nationale as well as those of its users and of the newspaper companies. The experience gathered during all these years is now part of the almost universal technical heritage - in France and in all countries where microfilming is used.

Today, ACRPP works in two directions:

- microfilming the most important French current newspapers
- microfilming of retrospective newspaper holdings.

ACRPP has gained its own special know-how in this field.

Two workshops share the various tasks carried out:

one in Marne-la-Vallée (East of Paris) where ACRPP’s head office is located;

another in Provins, a hundred kilometres East of Paris, in the Newspaper Preservation Centre of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

ACRPP’s partners are the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and French Public libraries. Its catalogue (last edition: 1995, no. 15) lists some 5600 title entries of periodicals on microfilm. It is a real union catalogue of French newprint, unique in its way, a necessary tool for all research work on French newprint and its history.

ACRPP is rightly proud of its forty-year long adventure, since spring 1958. While new techniques are developing rapidly, creating rivals to microfilming, and gradually reducing its importance as a means to conveying information, ACRPP continues to carry out its task of recording 60 million images on microfilm. whose future and survival will now be governed by digitisation.

But an age has gone. The technical environment has changed, and so has the political and institutional environment. The Bibliothèque Nationale has become the Bibliothèque Nationale de France which cares for new trends. ACRPP therefore faces the future with determination, anxious to pursue its initial aim which remains the same: to preserve newspapers whose fragility is as vast and worrying as during the worst decades of the late 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Before the paper disappears completely from our daily environment, many newspapers will have been published in paper format. They must be preserved in order to circulate the information they contain before they crumble into dust. If the god Mercury will give life to ACRPP, it will still have its day. If Mercury....

Jean-Marie Arnout
Inspecteur général des bibliothèques

Geoff Smith, who was Head of the British Library Newspaper Library from 1994 has been promoted to a new post of the Head of the British Library's Modern Collections, with overall management responsibility for the Newspaper Library. We wish him well in this important post.

Congratulations to John Byford on succeeding Geoff. John joined British National Bibliography in 1970. He worked in various areas of BL including Head of Cataloguing in what was BLBSD. His previous post was Head of Modern English and Reader Services. He represented BL on Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, also the Governing Board of ISDS, was secretary for 4 years of IFLA Section on Serial Publications; secretary for 4 years of IFLA Coordinating Board for Collections Services. (At the time when the Round Table on Newspapers was created.) Co-edited "ACRR, DDC, MARC and friends" and LA Publishing 1993.

Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia Raamatu­kogu: Eestis ilmunud saksa-, veneja muu­keel­ne perioodika 1675-1940.
Toimetanud E. Annus.

This is an important volume of the Estonian retrospective national bibliography, and it covers periodicals in German, Russian and other languages in Estonia, 1675-1940.

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This is an important volume of the Estonian retrospective national bibliography, and it covers periodicals in German, Russian and other languages in Estonia, 1675-1940.
The compiler is the excellent bibliographer E. Annus. As mentioned in the preface, the work took a number of years and was realised by the Library of the Estonian Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the National Library of Estonia Tallinn, the Library of the Literature Museum in Tartu, the University Library of Tartu, the Estonian Historical Archives (Tartu), the National Library of Latvia (Riga) and the Russian State Library (St. Petersburg.). Latvia is particularly important in this context because Riga was the capital of the province of Libonia which included Southern Estonia, until 1917. St. Petersburg has been included because its State Library received the Estonian legal deposits until 1917. The catalogue contains 384 German, 270 Russian, 19 English, 20 Yiddish, 7 Swedish, 5 Esperanto, and 6 French language periodicals. The main body of the book contains two alphabetical listings, one for the Roman, and one for the cyrillic alphabet. There are no indications given in the descriptions as to whether a serial was considered a newspaper or not. So it is left to the user to follow key-words like newspaper or not. So it is left to the user to follow key-words like

from Andrew Phillips, Wilbert Ubbens, Majken Bremer-Laanman, and Galina Kislovskaya.

Each member present described newspaper related developments pertaining to his or her institution or country.

MEMBERSHIP

Geoffrey Hamilton has become a personal member of IFLA and is to remain a member of the Round Table.

proposal for membership had been received from Tunisia on behalf of M. Mohamed Raouf Belhassen, and from the Russian State Library on behalf of Olga Yadkina.

***

Ursula Schadlich of the Biblioteca Nacional in Chile has become a member and attended one of the meetings in Istanbul.

***

There was discussion of the feasibility of extending membership in other parts of the world, including South Africa, Japan and China. It was agreed that membership proposals from institutions in these countries and others would be welcomed, with the understanding that the workings language of the section was English.

Financial Report

Geoff Smith tabled the report. This showed a healthy financial position. The annual report and formal financial statement to IFLA was submitted before the Beijing conference.

Date and venue for next business meeting

It was agreed that the end of April or May were suitable time for the meeting to allow preparation for the main conference. Bob Harriman suggested the 1997 meeting might be held in Washington to coincide again with the United States Newspaper Program meeting. (It was subsequently agreed that Henry Snyder would explore the possibility of the meeting being held in California).

The theme of the Open Meeting was be Asian newspapers, and the workshop dealt with the preservation of newspapers through microfilming or digitisation. The workshop was organised jointly with the Conservation Section. The papers for the Open Meeting had been forwarded to IFLA HQ by the required date. As neither Bob Harriman nor Geoff Smith were able to attend the conference it was agreed that Hartmut Walravens and Else Delaunay, who was a speaker, would chair and act as Beijing liaison for the Open meeting and the Workshop respectively.

FUTURE

IFLA CONFERENCES

1997 Copenhagen
1998 Amsterdam
1999 Thailand?
2000 Portugal
2001 Boston, USA or South Korea
2002 Edinburgh?
2003 St. Petersburg

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