Beyond the Russian Language
Rare Collections of the National Library of Finland

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen
Information Specialist
Special Collections
Research Library
National Library of Finland

Slavic Reference Service Workshop, 05.04.2018
A Brief History of the National Library

- **The Missale Aboense**
  - 1488
- **Finnish ABC book**
  - 1543
- **The New Testament translated into Finnish**
  - 1548
- **The Royal Academy of Turku and its library founded**
  - 1640
- **The library of Imperial Alexander University**
  - 1828
- **Name changed to the National Library of Finland**
  - 1919
- **University of Helsinki Library established**
  - 2006

- **1828/45**
  - University moved from Turku to Helsinki in 1828. New Library building opened in 1845.

The National Library of Finland

Slavonic Library at the National Library
The Legal Deposit Collection that was accrued in 1828–1917 includes deposit copies of printed matters in all subjects published within the borders of the Russian Empire.

The Slavonic Collection, based on the Russian literature, was established in 1848 as a separate Russian Library and operated under the auspices of the University of Helsinki Senate.

The Russian Library was united with the University Library only in 1924 and re-named as the Slavonic Library after the World War II.

The Slavonic Library is continuously accumulating its collections by serving research related to Russia and Eastern Europe. In 2017, the Slavonic collection consist of 450 000 titles of publications, which is around 15% of all collections at the National Library.
Polonica

- **Polonica** is one of the most versatile collections at the National Library.

- Originally the books of current Polonica were part of the Foreign Collection and they were accrued as legal deposit copies, mainly from Poland.

- The motivation for establishing the Collection was related to the development of Slavonic studies at the University of Helsinki. In order to support the discipline, the Russian Library, intended to gradually accumulate a small reference library including central works on all Slavonic peoples and their literature.

- The exact founding date of the Polonica Collection is not known, but the Rector's reports from the academic years 1902–1905 mention that the establishment of such a collection was well underway.
During the 19th century, the most of the Polish-language literature collected through legal deposits arrived from Vilnius, Kiev, Mogilev and Piotrków in addition to St. Petersburg and Warsaw.

University of Vilnius held a special significance in the divided Poland of the early 19th century. The golden age of printing in Vilnius was in the 1830-1850s. Polonica comprises a total of over 650 titles from this time period, of which approximately 430 are from Vilnius.
The beginning of the 20th century was a time of rapid expansion of the Polonica Collection. During the last two decades of the legal deposit period, the collection acquired more than two thousand titles, mainly Polish-language fiction printed in Warsaw. The collection also features the more experimental genres of Polish short stories and poetry from the early 20th century.

Literature printed before the year 1918 dominates the Polonica Collection with over 3,000 titles, nearly 2,200 of which were printed in Poland. Works printed in Lithuania number over 600, while works printed in countries that are currently known as the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and Russia number approximately one hundred for each country.
Polonica

- The Polonica only features approximately 250–400 titles per decade from the interwar period. The expiration of the legal deposit right naturally contributed to the decrease in acquisitions, but focusing acquisitions on scholarly literature also played a part.

- The period after the World War II is perhaps the most fragmented, but it provides researchers excellent opportunities to study a range of themes through the materials in the collection. One of the themes is the emigrant literature, written in the Slavonic languages.

- Exchange agreements and donations are an integral part of Polonica and highlight the diversity represented by the collection's wide range of languages. In 1972, the Slavonic Library had a total of 118 exchange agreements, mainly with the Polish libraries.

- Materials can be searched and requested through the database with the location code of the Polonica Collection (H2 Pol. – xx xxx).
The Legal Deposit Collections from the Period of Russian Rule

- Legal deposit copies in the **minority languages** of the Russian Empire, received in 1828–1917.

- The **10 special collections** were separated from the foreign collection as their own main collection in the beginning of 1980s.

- An important entity of Islamic literature printed in Russia.

- Fiction and poetry, devotional literature, history, folklore, grammar guides, dictionaries, translated literature, economical and political publications, newspapers and periodicals as well as various ephemera.

- The collections have been only partially catalogued.

The Legal Deposit Collections from the Period of Russian Rule

- Arabica
- Armeniaca
- Caucasica
- Estonica
- Georgica
- Hebraica
- Lettonica
- Lithuanica
- Persica
- Russica
Fenno-Ugrica

- Fenno-Ugrica is a digital collection from more than 1500 monographs and over 20 000 newspaper and journal issues in 20 Uralic languages, spoken in Russia.

- Materials are digitized mainly from the collections of the Russian National Library.

- The copyrights are cleared in cooperation with the National Library Resource in Moscow.

- Contains some material in non-Uralic minority languages as well.
After 1917, the languages were converted into a medium of popular education, enlightenment and dissemination of information pertinent to the developing political agenda of the Soviet state. The deluge of literature in 1920s-1930s suddenly challenged the lexical orthographic norms of the limited ecclesiastical publications from the 1880s.

Newspapers were written in orthographies and in word forms that the locals would understand. Textbooks were written to address the separate needs of both the adults and children. New concepts were introduced in the language. This was the beginning of a renaissance and period of enlightenment.
Fenno-Ugrica of the National Library of Finland is a digital collection of publications in Uralic languages. The Fenno-Ugrica collection includes more than 1500 monographs and over 110 newspaper and journal titles in 20 languages.

In addition to the prints in Uralic languages, Fenno-Ugrica contains six special collections. Lapponica for Sami languages, Zingarica for Roman languages, Hebraica for Yiddish, Institute of Estonian Language for Livonian and Komi National Library for Komi languages. Moreover, the sub-collection Learned Societies contains digitized publications of the Finnish Antiquarian Society and the Fenno-Ugrian Society.

The material of Fenno-Ugrica has been produced by the National Library of Finland in the Digitization Project of Kindred Languages in 2012-2015 and Minority Languages Project in 2016. The both projects have been funded by Kone Foundation.

The material available in Fenno-Ugrica have been linked into the Uralica, which is an open portal for Fenno-Ugric publications, digitized in several libraries in Estonia, Germany and Russia.

You can read detailed information about the project in the blog.

Requests and enquiries: ki-palvelut@helsinki.fi

Collections

- Special Collections [1692]
- Periodicals [29651]
- Monographs [1283]
- Word lists [26]
Fenno-Ugrica

- <TextLine HPOS="283" VPOS="1461" WIDTH="798" HEIGHT="158">
  <String HPOS="283" VPOS="1461" WIDTH="326" HEIGHT="158" CONTENT="Repo'/>
  <SP HPOS="610" VPOS="1473" WIDTH="62"/>
  <String HPOS="673" VPOS="1473" WIDTH="24" HEIGHT="106" CONTENT="i'/>
  <SP HPOS="698" VPOS="1461" WIDTH="66"/>
  <String HPOS="765" VPOS="1461" WIDTH="316" HEIGHT="122" CONTENT="kana.'/>
</TextLine>

- <TextLine HPOS="281" VPOS="1651" WIDTH="1084" HEIGHT="160">
  <String HPOS="281" VPOS="1651" WIDTH="328" HEIGHT="160" CONTENT="Repo'/>
  <SP HPOS="610" VPOS="1693" WIDTH="62"/>
  <String HPOS="673" VPOS="1663" WIDTH="230" HEIGHT="146" CONTENT="repi'/>
  <SP HPOS="904" VPOS="1651" WIDTH="60"/>
  <String HPOS="965" VPOS="1651" WIDTH="400" HEIGHT="120" CONTENT="kanan.'/>
</TextLine>

- <TextLine HPOS="279" VPOS="1843" WIDTH="1128" HEIGHT="154">
  <String HPOS="279" VPOS="1843" WIDTH="320" HEIGHT="120" CONTENT="Miko'/>
  <SP HPOS="600" VPOS="1885" WIDTH="66"/>
  <String HPOS="662" VPOS="1881" WIDTH="366" HEIGHT="84" CONTENT="ammu'/>
  <SP HPOS="1034" VPOS="1881" WIDTH="66"/>
  <String HPOS="1101" VPOS="1843" WIDTH="306" HEIGHT="154" CONTENT="repo!'/
</TextLine>
Fenno-Ugrica

Dataset, incl. AltoXML, CSV, TIFF, TXT

User copy PDF
The Glasnost Collection

- The Glasnost Collection of the Slavonic Library contains 944 titles of periodicals and newspapers, flyers and bulletins.

- The publications in the collection are a part of the new press of the perestroika and glasnost era in the Soviet Union.

- The printed matters in the collection cover a geographically widespread area from Murmansk to Novosibirsk but at its core are newspapers and flyers printed in Leningrad, Moscow and the Baltic countries.

- Collection has been contributed to by employees of the Slavonic Library as well as instructors and researchers of the University of Helsinki.

- Enables to study the changes in Soviet / Russian society until early 1990s.

List of titles in Glasnost Collection
The Glasnost Collection: Civic Society
The Glasnost Collection: Revived Religious Movements

Russian Orthodox

Sionist

Islamic
The Glasnost Collection: Political Movements
The Glasnost Collection: Political Movements

Social Democratic

New Communist
The Glasnost Collection: Political Movements

Anti-Soviet

Liberal

Orthodox Monarchist Union
The Glasnost Collection : Political Movements
The Glasnost Collection: Political Movements

Anarchist
The Glasnost Collection: Political Movements

Apocalyptic
The Glasnost Collection: Sex and Eroticism
The Glasnost Collection : Pseudoscience

Astrology, Horoscopes
The Glasnost Collection: Pseudoscience

Naturopathy

Mental development
The Glasnost Collection: Baltic States
The Glasnost Collection: Environmentalism
Search from the Database

The materials of Slavonic collection are accessible through Finna.
- If the item is published after 1917, search in Cyrillic alphabet is fine
- If the item is printed with the old Russian orthography, use transliterated (ISO 9 Standard) Russian > Search Tips

The majority of Polonica’s items have been catalogued, as well as there is linking between the online catalogue and Fenno-Ugrica.

If the metadata cannot be retrieved, please, contact the staff of the Slavonic Library for consultation: kk-slav@helsinki.fi

Have a look at the ResearchGuide of Russian and Eastern European Studies.

For the materials deposited in the Special Collections, one should contact the librarian for consultation: kk-erik@helsinki.fi
Thank you for your attention!

www.kansalliskirjasto.fi
kk-slav@helsinki.fi