

# Audiovisual Materials

The Open Society Archives (OSA) has a relatively small but rapidly growing audiovisual collection. The audiovisual holdings were collected in accordance with OSA's general acquisition policy: to collect materials relating to the history of communism and the Cold War, human rights issues and the history of the Soros foundations network.

Materials were gathered from several sources with the intent to establish an audiovisual research center which would serve the Central and Eastern European region. This provides an explanation why the majority of OSA's audiovisual collection is not archival, meaning it does not solely contain „original“ or „master“ documents, exclusively held by the Archives. The Archives considers it inappropriate, unnecessary and in most cases impossible to collect and ship to Budapest original audiovisual documents from other countries. Instead, the goal is to build a research center, a non-circulating video library. The audiovisual holdings of OSA were intentionally designed as a regional film collection of propaganda films, historical films, and feature films produced after the Second World War in Central and Eastern Europe. (See Appendix: Acquisition Policy)

Audiovisual materials are an essential part of OSA's exhibitions: the audiovisual staff prepares video installations of relevant newsreels, documentary films, historical and propaganda films, news programs and amateur footage for each exhibit which create an overall exciting image and make the exhibits visually interesting and give full credit to the events.

Researchers can conveniently access the holdings by using the reference copies of audio and video recordings and photographs in the Research Room. In special cases, groups may also use the Archives' Meeting Room.

## **Oral history interviews relating to the activities of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty**

Fonds 305 Interviews by the Black Box Videoperiodical Foundation relating to Radio Free Europe, contains documentation of all major political and social events in Hungary during the past 10 years of transition.

The Black Box media organization was founded in 1988, before the change of the political system, by a group of independent and audacious journalists. Their goal was to document the socio-political changes taking place in Hungary, and to some extent in other countries of the region, during the transition years. Since March 1988 they have covered all significant actions taken by both the current government and the opposition, such as demonstrations, founding sessions of parties and civil organizations, round-table discussions, the exhumation and the reburial of Imre Nagy and his associates etc. Given its collection of important documentation and footage, Black Box is an invaluable source for video installa-

tions used in OSA's exhibitions in Galeria Centralis. One of the main attractions of the most recent exhibition, *Ten Years After*, was the Black Box material from 6 July 1989, documenting the Hungarian Supreme Court's public retrial of Imre Nagy and his associates.

Black Box does not only contribute to make our exhibitions more colorful and exciting. It also enriches OSA's audiovisual collections through various joint projects. In 1996, OSA and Black Box signed an agreement whereby OSA was to sponsor a project that would complete the collection of oral history interviews about the history and activities of RFE, an effort started by Black Box in 1994. In return, Black Box would provide OSA with a copy of the new interviews, along with a copy of a feature film which is still in the making. In addition, in 1999 Black Box made a generous offer: the donation of its entire RFE-related collection of oral history interviews, totalling some 100 hours. This is the first time that the collection has been made accessible to historians and researchers, which provides them with a uniquely rich resource of interviews shedding light on in-house political power struggles, relations between the various desks, and the everyday operations of the Radio from the 1950s through the mid-1990s. The collection includes the testimony of Carlo Kováts (Head of the Hungarian Research Unit), Gyula Borbándy (Editor of the Hungarian Desk), Kevin Close (former President of RFE), Ralph Walter (former President of RFE), Jan Obermann (RFE's Spokesman in 1995), Jan Nowak-Jeziorański (Director of the Polish Desk) and the former defining personalities of the Hungarian opposition: Ferenc Kőszeg, Ottilia Solt, and Gábor Demszky, among many others.

### **The death of Yugoslavia**

There is no doubt that Fonds 304 Records of the International Human Rights Law Institute relating to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia is the most frequently requested and studied collection in the Audiovisual Department. (see subchapter "Records of the international Human Rights Law Institute"). One of its most valuable aspects is its rich diversity of sources, including, but not limited to: ABC, CBS, CNN, Channel 4, the Croatian Information Center, ITN, ITV, Linden Productions, NBC, ORF, PBS, Saga, Sky News, RTV Belgrade and TV Bosnia-Herzegovina. This collection provides an overview and history of the representation of the Balkan wars in foreign and domestic media during 1992–1996.

Documentaries from this fonds have been used in OSA's public events, among which the Yugoslav Film Week (26–30 April 1999) was the most successful. The event was organized by OSA for the CEU academic community, and was prompted by the initiation of the NATO bombing campaign in Yugoslavia in 1999. The films presented attempted to objectively approach and analyze the animosities and armed conflicts between ethnic and religious groups in the former Yugoslavia.

Fonds 307, 308, 309, and 310 comprise a collection of materials dealing with the results of transitions taking place after the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. While a primary part of the Archives' mission is to document communism and the Cold War, it is also dedicated to seeking out materials relating to the aftermath of communism. While OSA's role is not to document life in Central and Eastern Europe after communism, it is imperative to document the political, economic, social and intellectual transitions in this region, because these are marked by communism's legacy. The transitional period in Yugoslavia characterized by ethnic conflicts is also part of that legacy and as such, the documentation of this process is certainly necessary.

Fonds 307 contains over 70 hours of television programs produced by VIN (Weekly Independent News), an independent news service based in Belgrade. The producers of VIN have a reputation for taking a stand against one-sided media propaganda instigated by the current political regime, and for their active promotion of objective journalism. They have been "blacklisted", and their reporting efforts are often hindered. The reports of VIN heavily concentrate on Yugoslavia's domestic problems, namely the way political decisions and foreign policy (both of which resulted in a series of wars in the region) have affected the socio-economic situation of the people of Yugoslavia. Therefore, their weekly compilation of timely political events is significant. Historians and other researchers can find within it alternative viewpoints and approaches in contrast to the more well-known profile of the Yugoslav media.



In order to preserve the film *A Father, A Son, A Holy Ghost* from damage resulting from bombing, Želimir Gvardiol, a Yugoslav film director rescued the negatives from Yugoslavia and deposited them at OSA in April 1999.

Photo by Ferenc Nemzetes. Fonds 206 Records of the Open Society Archives.

Fonds 308, 309 and 310, also referred to as the Yugoslav Monitoring Project, contain a very large set of Yugoslav materials and are one of OSA's most prized collections. The idea of the Yugoslav Monitoring Project was sparked by the political upheavals and conflicts which have taken place in the area of the former Yugoslavia for much of the past ten years. The primary goal of the project is to document on videotape everyday political events as portrayed by the official media. The project was initiated as a joint venture of OSA and Central European University's Southeast European Studies Program as it became obvious, through recent developments in both Yugoslavia and Croatia, that there was an amazing discrepancy between the official media's representation of events and the actual events taking place in all areas of life. Such blunt government-sponsored propaganda paints a lifelike picture of the political corruption currently tightening its grip on these countries. Therefore, the founders of the project deemed it necessary to build up a collection of tapes which would bear witness to this phenomenon. Also, the project underlines the ongoing cooperation between Central European University (CEU) and OSA, which considers part of its mission to serve the CEU community in its research endeavors.

The Yugoslav Monitoring Project consists of three integral parts: Fonds 308 Collective Fonds, Television News, Yugoslavia; Fonds 309 Collective Fonds, Television News, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Fonds 310 Collective Fonds, Television News, Croatia. The Archives signed contracts with individuals working for independent media houses in the three respective countries whereby all daily news broadcasts were to be taped along with any additional political or cultural programs of interest. Fonds 308, monitoring of Belgrade, is an ongoing project, given the continuing disturbances in Yugoslavia. The fonds holds many significant materials, such as footage of Slobodan Milosević's speeches throughout the years, the official media's slanted view of the student protests of 1996-97, and various political discussion programs attempting to explain and justify both the domestic and international political difficulties. The newest part of the Yugoslav monitoring collection, and one of its most interesting and valuable components, are the tapes of daily news and political propaganda programs aired during the 78-day of NATO bombing campaign. Some of the highlights of this acquisition include President Milosević's announcement of the beginning of the war on 24 March 1999; and his declaration of "victory", according to his interpretation (or "capitulation", as the West declared unanimously), on 7 June 1999.

Fonds 309 Bosnian monitoring, is important in its own right. The project was established in 1996, the year which marked the end of the bloody civil war that ripped Bosnia apart for more than four years just as the country was making the first attempt to return to normality and to establish democratic institutions and a working political system. OSA now houses more than 300 hours of significant footage recording the entire process of

Bosnia's first attempts at independence and the construction of democracy. Researchers can view events of great historical significance: the first local and federal elections, the process during which three ethnic groups which had fought each other so fiercely during the past years tried to build a federal government together or a picture of ordinary Bosnian life under UN governance. It is important to note that OSA acquired the recordings of not only one television station, but the daily news programs and other programs broadcasted by Muslim, Serb and Croatian stations. This provides a view of the same events from three differing perspectives.

Fonds 310 Croatian monitoring is similar to the other two fonds of the Yugoslav Monitoring Project: it traces political, cultural and socio-economic developments in the newly independent Croatian state. Croatia, even though pro-Western and democratic, has had its share of difficulties with the process of democratization in the past few years. OSA has collected over 300 hours of programs produced by state-owned media houses, thus providing researchers with significant records of often shameless media censorship and government propaganda. Programs to note are very detailed coverage of local and state elections, including interviews with the candidates as well as propaganda programs depicting President Tudjman at various state functions.

OSA's mission to acquire materials relating to human rights, and to preserve these materials for further research, is best exemplified by Fonds 319, the collection of videotapes from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The founding of ICTY was based on the need to bring those individuals to trial who were accused of crimes against humanity, given the number and nature of the atrocities committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. This act was significant in many ways: it proved, for example, that actions taken during wartime by legitimate armies or paramilitary units were subject to a code of conduct, and that they could be held legally accountable; and it held historical significance, as it led to the first trial of this nature since the Nuremberg trials of 1945.

In cooperation with Internews, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to electronic media in emerging democracies, and the International Monitoring Institute set up for the safekeeping of the original recordings, the trial proceedings of ICTY were recorded, copied, and sent to OSA both for archiving and for presentation to a broad research audience. The entire trial process the Duško Tadić hearing in its entirety, parts of testimonies incriminating General Mladić and Radovan Karadžić etc. – is now recorded on tape and available for research in Europe only at the Open Society Archives. The transcripts of the complete trial proceedings are also available in electronic format at OSA. Parts of this historically valuable collection serve as teaching aids for CEU's Program on Gender & Culture and are an element of the regular curriculum of its Legal Studies Department.

### Soviet and post-Soviet History

The most important part of OSA's collection is based on 2,500 hours of recordings of Soviet and Russian television news (Fonds 300 Records of the RFE/RL Research Institute). This acquisition came to the Archives in May 1995, after RFE/RL relocated from Munich to Prague. The bulk of the video collection is from 1992–94. There are transcripts of most of the recordings, and these are also available at OSA.

The RFE/RL Research Institute started to monitor various radio stations and television channels in order to create the most comprehensive and complete overview possible of the Soviet reality. Monitoring at Radio Liberty (RL) began with radio and later expanded to television. By 1991, RL was monitoring two radio stations and two television channels broadcasted from Moscow. This included monitoring of regular news programs according to a set schedule as well as on-demand monitoring according to need and interest. Programs were recorded on tapes which usually held two weeks worth of recorded materials. After the programs were transcribed, most of the tapes were recycled.

There were several parts of the operation: Radio Liberty in-house monitoring; Research Institute contract monitoring; Research Institute in-house TV monitoring; and contract monitoring on demand.<sup>34</sup> Although most of the tapes of the early period of monitoring were deleted, some very interesting programs survived: like a speech by Gorbachev on “perestroika”, efficiency improvement, and economic development from 1985, and the burial ceremony of K. U. Chernenko.

From the beginning OSA has emphasized the need to conduct its own expansion of its holdings relating to the history of communism and the Cold War, as opposed to relying only on donations from other institutions or individuals. For this reason, in 1996 OSA initiated and sponsored an oral history project which resulted in its present collection of a series of interviews with former Soviet dissidents and Communist Party functionaries, as well with their relatives. Some notable individuals include: Stepan Chervonenko, Ambassador of the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia in 1968; Oleg Kalugin, former General of the KGB; Nikolai Baibakov, former Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Mikhail Liubimov, retired KGB Colonel and now a well-known writer; Vladimir Erofeev, former diplomat and secretary of Molotov; Oleg Troianovskii, former USSR representative at the United Nations and World Security Council. The interviews were conducted in Russia in 1996–1997 by a prominent Hungarian historian, Miklós Kun.

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34. Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Memo: *Russian Monitoring by Radio Liberty*, 23 May 1996, RFE/RL, Administrative history, Central Files, OSA.

Cooperation between the historian and OSA has already resulted in the production of several films, including *The Daughter of the Marshall*, *Elizaveta Tukhachevskaia* and *The Blind Spots of 1968*.

In addition to this collection, OSA encourages research in this area by granting scholars research allowances and other financial support enabling them to expand OSA holdings through their work. OSA and CEU nurture a two-way cooperation. The Oral History Teaching Program (OHTP) under the auspices of the CEU History Department is planning to develop its own special collection of oral history interviews which it will share with the Archives. At the same time OSA provides materials to the CEU academic community, thus enabling the OHTP to conduct invaluable research by working with materials from OSA's existing collection.

As a result of the fruitful cooperation, Miklós Kun decided to donate his entire video collection to the Archives for safekeeping and professional use. Over thirty unique documentary films relating to the 20th century history of the Soviet Union and Communism, including propaganda films from the 1920s about the labor camps in Solovki and the construction of the White Sea Canal in the USSR during the 1930s, are now housed in the Archives.

Notable titles are: *Secret and Manifest* – an infamous Soviet anti-Semitic propaganda film; *Parade of Gymnasts of the Soviet Union, 1945*; *Politburo. The Newest Story (1917–1934)* and *Burial ceremony of Stalin* (propaganda film, 1953); political party film of the mass meeting of the Liberal Democrat Party of Russia (Zhirinovskii) in Moscow, 6 August 1994.

As mentioned, one of the main missions of OSA is to document the circumstances of post-communist life when the legacy of communism is still a defining factor. The aftermath of the Cold War is still very much visible in the example of the Chernobyl disaster. OSA's holdings relating to this disaster, a collection of over 40 hours of oral history interviews, needed to be smuggled out of Belarus in 1998 due to the country's political circumstances (Fonds 331 Audiovisual Interviews Relating to Chernobyl).

The oral history project was initiated by an independent-minded and politically progressive group of Belarusians who refused to remain indifferent to the consequences of the Chernobyl tragedy and the government's refusal to face the social, ecological, and medical problems caused by the atomic explosion. In order to preserve and document for future generations the consequences of the disaster on ordinary lives, and to reveal the real picture of this tragedy, two Belarusian journalists, Svetlana Alexievich and Tatiana Loginova joined efforts to create an archives entitled *Zhirye golosa Chernobylia* (Live Voices of Chernobyl).

Work on the collection started in May 1995 and finished in 1996. The two journalists and their team conducted 97 interviews and recorded several hundred stories of witnesses. The interviews paint a disturbing image of the victims of the disaster: not only those who suffered from the immediate effects of the explosion, but also those whose



lives have been completely altered in the last 10 years. One of the most evident problems has been a change in the make-up of the population, namely a large number of people were deported and forced to abandon their homes leaving behind all of their accumulated assets. At the same time, people from other areas were offered attractive living and working arrangements if they relocated to the Chernobyl area, without being provided with adequate information about the many risks looming in the radioactive area. Neither of these groups were able to find their proper places in their new environments: both faced discrimination and hostility from the “natives”, and their longing for the homes they had left behind continues to overshadow their lives.

Those who were ordered to the dangerous Zone in 1986 as soldiers, physical laborers (to gather the harvest, exterminate animals, cut the hay, load brick and cement, etc.), chauffeurs, airplane pilots, and electricians, tell personal stories of their days and weeks in Chernobyl and the consequences of the time they spent there. They tell of their utter ignorance of the dangers, of the intentional misinformation by the government, and of their continuous personal struggles during the past ten years as they try to come to terms with often terminal illnesses.

The interviews also include the stories of other workers, doctors, teachers, journalists and priests who were residents of the most dangerous areas, and who face the horrible consequences of the catastrophe on a daily basis. The most harrowing descriptions are the accounts of the widows whose husbands were ordered to the Zone in 1986 for one to two weeks without receiving any prior information or instruction. In five years time, these men died amid horrible pain and suffering.

This collection of interviews is invaluable not only for historical research, but also as proof of the disaster’s consequences after many years of secrecy and denial. These tapes are now available at OSA for viewing by both researchers and the public.

### **The 1956 Hungarian Revolution**

Fonds 306 Audiovisual Materials Relating to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution pays homage to one of the most defining moments of Hungary’s modern history. This is a topic which for decades had been glossed over and misinterpreted, and OSA took on the responsibility to collect as many original pictures and footage of the Revolution as possible, and to document how this event had been presented in the last 40 years.

With the development of OSA’s first exhibition *The Representation of the Counter-revolution*, 1996, which was geared towards a large audience, OSA acquired its first audiovisual materials relating to the 1956 Revolution. This collection includes both audio and moving-image recordings and historical films which interpret the events of 1956 as a counter-revolution. Some interesting examples are *At Midnight* and *Dawn*. This holding



also includes a propaganda film from 1958 (*How it Happened*, directed by Ilona Kolonits), which attempts to analyze the events of 1956 and interpret it as a counter-revolution, by utilizing original archival footage. These same archival moving images were used again in a German documentary (also available in OSA's holdings) which calls the events of October–November 1956 revolutionary, *Ungarn im Flammen* (*Hungary in Flames*).

Perhaps the most interesting and, for historians, most attractive part of this small, but unique collection is a compilation of more than two hours of Hungarian news broadcasts which include János Kádár's comments, speeches, and interviews regarding the events of 1956 (Newsreels 1957–1989). The Archives would like to express again its gratitude to the Hungarian 1956 Institute and the Hungarian Film Archives for providing copies of moving picture images which contributed to the success of the OSA exhibition dealing with the 1956 Revolution.

Fonds 306 also includes video recordings of the conference *Hungary and the World, 1956. The New Archival Evidence*, held in Budapest in 1996. This conference, organized as a joint venture of the Hungarian Academy of Science, the Hungarian 1956 Institute, and OSA to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the revolution, was a ground-breaking event in Hungarian historiography. The complete recordings of this event present fresh ideas on the problem of 1956 and the conference opened a new dialogue on the subject. The tapes are open to researchers.



Audiovisual materials on compact shelving, at the air-conditioned archival depository.

Photo by Ferenc Nemzetes. Fonds 206 Records of the Open Society Archives.

### Materials donated by institutions in the Soros foundations network

Following the March 1997 closure of the Belarusian Soros Foundation (BSF), its records were shipped to OSA in 1999. The most valuable parts of the collection are the video recordings by the Mass Media Center – a group of independent journalists in Belarus, sponsored by BSF – which document the main political events in Belarus in 1994–96, including parliamentary sessions, press conferences of political parties and independent civil groups, demonstrations, the 1996 referendum, etc. The collection also includes interviews with the most prominent personalities in the democratic forces of Belarus. This 70-hour video collection (raw, unedited material) documents the conflict and struggle between the political authorities and the opposition of the country under the leadership of Lukashenko.

The Soros Foundation Hungary has had good relations with the Archives from the outset: it was the first among the institutions in the Soros foundations network to donate audiovisual materials: approximately 15 hours of video recordings of news reports, documentary films, press conferences, etc.

The most interesting of these is a two-part documentary film produced by Black Box in 1995 which documents the establishment of the 10-year-old Foundation as well as its main activities (*A nyitás alapítványa. A Soros Alapítvány története – The Soros Foundation*).

OSA has audiovisual records from all the former and current campuses of Central European University: in Budapest, Prague, and Warsaw. In the near future a researcher will be able to follow the history of CEU by exploring the photography collection of OSA which was accumulated by the Public Relations Office at CEU Budapest.

The Open Society Archives was given the East European film collection of the Student Welfare Office of CEU Budapest in 1998. This collection contains English-subtitled versions of the region's "most remarkable" 45 feature films from the last 40 years. The collection was created by the Hungarian film historian György Báron and was used for CEU film events. Notable titles are: Roman Polanski's *Knife in the Water*; Miloš Forman's *Loves of a Blonde*; and Sergei Parajanov's *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*.

A valuable video collection from CEU Prague's Public Relations Office provides special insight into the public programs (conferences, lectures, seminars, opening and closing ceremonies of academic years) of CEU Prague, 1991–1994.

Since its foundation in 1995, the Open Society Archives has had an active public programs schedule. The Archives has made the documents it holds accessible and it uses them for cultural and educational purposes. For its exhibitions OSA collects copies of audiovisual documents from various sources, such as MTI – Hungarian News Agency, the Moving Image Section of the Military History Archive, the Hungarian Film Archive;

the National Photo Archive, and the Österreichische Rundfunk (ORF). Materials displayed remain with the Archives and are incorporated into the holdings after the exhibitions are closed.

The most interesting group of audiovisual materials in this fonds is a collection of propaganda films made by Hungarian, Czechoslovak and Soviet military organizations and military academies, and by open or covert propaganda agencies. Notable titles are: *Rákosi elvtárs harcos fiait közt* (*Comrade Rákosi Among the Young Warriors*), Hungarian, 1952; *Megvédekem népünk otthonát* (*I Shall Defend My Hungarian Homeland*), Hungarian, 1953; *A politikai tiszt a csapat lelke* (*The Political Officer is the Heart of the Troop*), Hungarian, 1950; and *Baráti segítségnyújtás Csehszlovákiának* (*Czechoslovakia Receives a Helping Hand*).

Audio and video recordings of OSA's public events, such as conferences and public lectures in 1996–1999 are also accessible to researchers.

The video collection of the Archives has significantly grown through the accession of the records of the Open Society Institute Budapest in 1998 (Fonds 207). More than 50 documentary films from the Sarajevo Film Festival co-organized and sponsored by the OSI, Budapest in 1995 were acquired. They include marvelously-made and shocking films (with English or German subtitles) from and about the Sarajevo war period, 1992–96, and produced by various Bosnian, English, French and American production companies.

Notable titles are: *Sarajevo. A Street Under Siege*, a series of more than 30 episodes; *Traveling Children*; *Bums and Dogs*; *Godot Sarajevo*; *Origins of a War*; *Amelas' School Holidays*; *Water and Blood*; *A Man Called "Boat"*; *Survival Brew*; *My Mother the Shehid*; *Waiting for Packages*; *War Art*.

The other group of films in Fonds 207 that might attract researchers is the portrayal of George Soros as both a successful financier and a philanthropist. Notable titles among these are: *Soros: The Prophet and the Loss*, a Channel 4 production; *An Immigrant's Tale*, a CNN production; and *The Philanthropist (Portrait of George Soros)*, a VPRO production.

The films of the Soros Documentary Fund were received in 1998. OSA was donated 26 films of various international programs. The Soros Documentary Fund (SDF) was initiated in 1996 to support documentary film and video projects addressing issues of contemporary human rights, freedom of expression, social justice and civil liberties by filmmakers in the United States and abroad. Since its inception, the SDF has supported more than a 100 film and video documentaries from over 16 countries in Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and from the United States.

One of the most powerful documentaries to have benefited from SDF support is *Calling the Ghosts*. This film tells the story of two women raped during the war in Bosnia.

It helped raise public awareness of the role rape played during the war and significantly contributed to the effort leading to the declaration of rape as a war crime under international law.

The Archives is planning to screen SDF at Central European University and at film festivals covering a wide range of subject matter, including human rights, gender issues and other contemporary issues of concern.

More notable titles are *Russian Sex Trade (Bought and Sold)*, US; *Life in a Ghetto*, Bulgaria; *Ethnically Clean. War Criminal: Dušan Boljević*, Yugoslavia; and *Licensed To Kill*, US.

# The Library

What is usually referred to as the Open Society Archives (OSA) Library is the collection of books and periodicals accumulated by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), the Open Media Research Institute (OMRI) and through OSA subscriptions and acquisitions.

What the Radios created can best be termed a documentation center: the acquisition and description of materials did not happen according to classic archival or library rules, but rather in a manner aimed at serving the information needs of broadcasting, programming and analysis. The types of literature which were obtained, and which unit processed the materials, varied not only by country but also by time period. Eastern European newspapers, for example, were handled by the Eastern European Archive. Russian newspapers representing the central press were handled by the Library, where they were stored and bound. The Russian regional press was handled by the Russian Samizdat Unit. The policy for dealing with journals and newspapers was totally revised by OMRI in May 1995. From then on, all journals were acquired and held by the Library. This was a more logical division of labor, as the Library was geared up for large-scale acquisitions – the role of the Archives in analyzing and abstracting the incoming material remained.

At the beginning, the *Library at Radio Free Europe* was part of an operating division, the News and Information Service. RFE had a general book collection (primarily Western language materials) and country collections categorized according to language. Each of the language collections had certain strong fields of concentration reflecting the requirements of a particular nation's broadcasting service. The Czechoslovak Collection's most important fields were political history, economic conditions and relations, communist theory, and literature. The Hungarian Collection was particularly strong in materials on social and economic conditions in Hungary, while the Bulgarian Collection concentrated on internal politics, the Party, and ideology. The Polish Collection was strong in the history of the Second World War and the immediate post-war period, as well as literature, culture, and church-state relations. The Romanian Collection was very good in international affairs, international law, and economics.

The RFE catalog cards were filed in one large sequence: authors, titles, and subjects in one alphabetical scheme. The best materials dated from the beginnings of the Radios through the 1970s.

The *Library at Radio Liberty* had a Soviet and Russian focus in its acquisitions. Over half of the material was in Russian; and 15 percent was in other languages of the USSR. The rest of the publications were in Western languages, with English being the strongest, followed by German and French. It also had a good collection of books published outside the Soviet Union, including most of the imprints of *émigré* publishing

houses. The collection was organized according to the traditional Dewey cataloging system. The reference collection included dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, directories, gazetteers, atlases and the like. Publications from other Western research institutions were acquired by exchange. The majority of them were given directly to analysts and were never catalogued.

The two former book collections of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty were consolidated in 1975.

Some communist newspapers could be subscribed to, and these were sent directly to RFE – *Pravda*, for example, arrived in Munich the day after it was published in Moscow – but in many cases, particularly with specialized periodicals or provincial and local newspapers which the Soviet authorities were not anxious to circulate outside their country, RFE had to resort to a variety of dodges – false addresses, third parties, multiple subscriptions – in order to obtain copies. These limited-copy newspapers were better sources of information, because they were less rigorously censored than the central press.

According to the 1989 annual report of the Chief Librarian, Iwanna I. Rebet, the RFE/RL Library had about 120,000 volumes: the RFE Library holdings came to about 68,000 volumes, while the RL collection amounted to approximately 52,000 volumes. After the RFE/RL Research Institute in Munich was closed, part of the library came to OSA together with the archival collections, and the rest was delivered to RFE/RL in Prague.

The *Library at the Open Media Research Institute* was formed as an independent educational and research organization to conduct research and analysis primarily for RFE/RL. Its general book and periodicals collection continued to emphasize the interests of RFE/RL, with special attention to the former Soviet Union.

In 1996–1997 the OSA Library received two huge shipments of books and periodicals from OMRI. Journals and dailies (mostly from the region) subscribed to by the Institute were also directed to the Library.

### Computerization

Until 1993 a card catalog was used by RFE/RL. Then the Library in Munich installed the ALEPH library system, which was deleted by RFE/RL staff in the Spring of 1995 during the move to Prague. OMRI had a temporary library catalog which listed new acquisitions.

In 1996 the Archives created electronic records about more than 8,000 volumes of the General Book Collection with the help of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Microcon project.





- The Library donated duplicate copies to several other Hungarian and foreign libraries and foundations. The University of Michigan Library, for example, received a series of RFE/RL publications, and the Hungarian National Library was given 41 years of *The New York Times* on microfilm (over 1,500 rolls).

### Periodicals

The OSA Library holds the periodicals collection of the Radios and OMRI. It also continues to acquire subscriptions to periodicals from the former Soviet Union and the Balkan states. The collection includes publications from and about Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Altogether over 30 languages are represented. Coverage is significant from about 1950 to the present. The collection amounts to about 6,000 serial titles. The Library also contains newspapers and journals on microfilm and microfiche (approximately 40,000 items) including complete sets of *Pravda* from 1917 and *The New York Times* from 1941. They are available in the Research Room by self service or on request.

Special collections include *Russian Regional and Informal Press* and *Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports* on Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Central Eurasia, and China between 1977 and 1994 (12,449 pieces of microfiche). Other governmental publications of importance are the *Confidential US State Department Central Files. The Soviet Union. Internal Affairs 1949-1959* and the *CIA Research Reports. The Soviet Union, 1946-1976*.

One of the most interesting collections, *Russian Regional and Informal Press*, dates from the late 80s and the early 90s, and contains not only Russian language journals and newspapers, as its name suggests, but materials published in the various languages of the former republics of the Soviet Union. On 12 June 1990, the law *O pechaty i drugikh sredstvakh massovoi informatsii* abolished censorship and the state publishing monopoly. This made it possible for those publications until then published secretly as samizdat to be circulated legally. Through this unique collection one can see the process whereby the anonymously authored, primitively duplicated works turned into professional publications. There were also many short-lived local papers published by various towns, associations, schools, universities, trade unions, and churches; quite frequently these were published irregularly. Between 1995 and 1997 OMRI continued adding to this collection, and in 1999, the OSA Library acquired more than 400 Russian and Ukrainian regional publications on microfiche to further enhance it.

The regional press and the informal press were handled by the Russian Samizdat Unit, and a database was created for them. OMRI maintained the database on the regional press. The OSA Library will keep records on the journals and dailies of the

regional press in the same database with the other periodicals, indicating the original source (see subchapter “Samizdat Archives”).

*Polish Independent Publications, 1976* – is the most complete collection of opposition and samizdat periodicals issued up to 1988. It was filmed by IDC from the serial holdings of RFE in Munich, the Polish Library in London, and the Feltrinelli Foundation in Milan, and from the Polish collections of other contributing libraries in Europe and North America. Titles include not only documents of KOR, the unofficial Committee for the Defense of the Workers, but complete serials of well-known national periodicals such as *Tygodnik Mazowsze* and *KOS* as well as many clandestine publications of all kinds including bulletins and leaflets originating from factory, local, and regional Solidarity branches, academic and student circles, peasant organizations, political groupings, and religious and cultural groups.

The *Prague Spring 1968* collection contains dailies and periodicals covering all spheres of social life ranging from the two important Communist Party newspapers *Rudé Právo* and *Pravda* (Bratislava), and economic publications such as *Hospodářské Noviny* and *Zemědělská Ekonomika*, to a number of relatively little-known though important military periodicals such as *A Revue*. Publications of all legal political parties, cultural and even satirical magazines (*Dikobraz*, *Roháč*), and a number of Czech and Slovak regional dailies are included in the collection. The selection covers a period ranging from early 1967 to late 1969, illustrating the reform period, the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, and the so-called “normalization period”.



Microfilm reels of *Pravda* (Moscow) from the Russian Press Collection, Library, OSA.

Photo by Mark Snowess. Records of the Public Relations and Development Office, Central European University.

The *Bulgarian Regional Press* collection consists of 88 bound volumes of local newspapers and covers the period between 1945 and 1949 and between 1962 and 1987.

The Library handles the collection of the Radios' own publications on microfiche (*Background Reports*, *Situation Reports*, and others), while the original hard copies are listed as a separate archival subfonds (see subchapter "The Publications Department").

## Books

The OSA Library's holdings also include the small reference section (dictionaries, bibliographies, directories, biographies, statistical handbooks, and encyclopedies) located in the Research Room as well as maps and history textbooks published in the region after the Second World War, and the *Hungarian Cold War Collection*. The latter has been augmented by several donated and purchased special items presenting the history, politics, and culture of post-war Hungary, with particular emphasis on literature about the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

The Library also collects publications about the history of RFE/RL and the history of broadcasting.

As a part of an archival fonds, the OSA Library holds 68 books and periodical titles from the International Human Rights Law Institute relating to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Based on an agreement with the CEU Library, OSA systematically buys newly published literature on the Cold War and history of communism, thus continuously enhancing and updating the RFE/RL book collection now located within the CEU Library.

There is also a small but rapidly-growing section of *Archival and Information Management Publications*. As a member of 13 professional associations, the Archives regularly receives newsletters, journals, directories, and annual reports from them. The collection includes:

- current and recent issues of professional journals;
- significant handbooks, readers, bibliographies;
- international standards, reports, and guides.

The OSA Library is a non-circulating library, but the materials are open to all on-site researchers. The *Western Press Collection*, a collection of newspapers and journals in English, German, French, and Italian, the *Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian Collection* and periodicals from the former Yugoslavia are kept together with new periodical titles in the Archives' stacks and are available upon request. Back issues of newspapers and journals in other languages of the region are located in the Archives' remote warehouse on

the basement level of the CEU dormitory. Researchers are asked to put in a request for the periodicals they need in advance, at least one or two days before they come to use the collection, to allow time for delivery from the warehouse.

The OSA website includes catalogs for periodicals and special book collections.

Descriptions from the Western Press Collection can be found also in the *Union Catalog for Foreign Periodical Literature in Hungary* (in Hungarian) both on CD-ROM and online <<http://www.iif.hu/db/npac/>>. Our other language collections of periodicals also will be added to this union catalog which serves as a background for interlibrary-loan requests.