

**American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies (ABSEES)
Annual Report, FY 2013**

Irene Kolchinsky, Managing Editor, ABSEES

I. Unit Narrative

EBSCO Agreement

In the spring of 2004, the UIUC Library entered into an agreement with EBSCO*host*[®] regarding licensed access to the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies (ABSEES), which has been compiled at UIUC since 1989. The online ABSEES records (1989 to the present) were moved to the EBSCO*host*[®] platform, and EBSCO*host*[®] became the vendor for the database, providing all marketing and distribution of the content. As of today, there are 176 ABSEES subscribers. In other words, the number of subscribers has grown by 25% over the last year (from 141 ABSEES subscribers in August 2012).

The agreement with EBSCO is automatically renewed every two years unless terminated upon notice at least 18 months in advance. The current term ends in April 2013, and the next term, which has been automatically renewed, ends in April 2015.

The agreement allows the Library to focus on the content creation and management of the database records and also ensures better access for researchers. Users benefit from the easy access offered by the EBSCO*host* interface as well as from the up-to-date technology that underlies all EBSCO products.

The UIUC Library provides technical support for the database with the help of a research programmer in the Library Systems office and management support from the AUL for Information Technology Planning and Policy.

Staffing

ABSEES staff consists of the managing editor who reports to Beth Sandore, Associate University Librarian for Information Technology Planning & Policy, and four or five paid indexers, most of whom are current or former graduate students at UIUC. All of the staff

members are employed as part time FTE: the managing editor works 25-30 h/week; indexers work 45-55 h/week (total).

Several library staff members and Slavic scholars from institutions across the U.S. and Canada support the work of ABSEES by submitting records on a volunteer basis.

Since August 2012, two new indexers have been hired and trained.

ABSEES Office

In April 2012, the ABSEES office was temporarily relocated from room 435 to room 450u, Main Library, because of the chimney restoration project.

ABSEES Database Updates and Plans for the Next Year

Submissions

The ABSEES staff and volunteers produce and send to EBSCO approximately 450-500 new records on a monthly basis. 5,700 new records have been added to the database since August 2012 for a total of more than 114, 200. Next year, 5,600-6,000 new records are expected.

List of Journals

Currently, ABSEES covers 378 journals, most of which are published in the United States and Canada. Some of these journals, the so-called Core Journals, are indexed from cover to cover. The list of these journals can be found on the ABSEES website (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/absees/>). Other titles are screened from cover to cover in search of materials related to Slavic and East European Studies.

The majority of these journals are available in electronic format, but some are not. In the latter instance, ABSEES indexers have to rely on the library collections, and—if the newest issues of the journals are not in the library catalog or are absent from the shelf—on the help of the library staff. Although on occasion ABSEES indexers still experience some difficulties in locating new issues of certain journals, the situation has significantly improved in the past year. The Slavic and East European Library (a part of the International & Area Studies Library) staff has become more sensitive to the needs of ABSEES indexers.

The list of journals indexed by ABSEES has been revised and updated. Titles that either ceased publication or did not contain sufficient amount of ABSEES-related materials (no records in two years) have been removed from the list. Five new titles have been added¹. Only 10 out of 378 titles (less than 3%) have average backlogs of five years, associated mainly with the addition of new titles. These backlogs should be eliminated within the next year. The backlogs associated with the recent decision to cover materials in languages other than English; (namely in Russian, Ukrainian, French and German), have been significantly reduced.

ABSEES Retrospective Content

The Agreement with EBSCO (2004) mentioned the preliminary plan on the part of the Library to add the retrospective content from the print volumes of ABSEES (1956-1988) to the online database. For several years the back-file conversion was a relatively low priority for the ABSEES management, but the situation has changed. As was emphasized during the ABSEES Advisory Committee meetings in November 2010, 2011, and 2012, the addition of this back-file content should be considered the most important next step for enhancing the database.

The back-file conversion project is carried out in cooperation with the Digital Content Creation staff and the Library Systems office staff. The Digital Content Creation staff was supposed to scan and OCR the printed volumes in-house. This stage of the project has been finished.

The next stage of the project involves the manual editing of the printed volumes due to the numerous discrepancies between the format of the entries in the printed volumes and the format of the entries in the online database. This part of the project is carried out by the ABSEES staff. Because of the laborious nature of this work and the limited funds, Beth Sandore and Irene Kolchinsky have reconsidered the original decision to edit all of the volumes and decided to concentrate on the last three volumes (1986, 1987, and 1988) only. When the editing of these volumes is complete, the research programmers in the Library Systems office will begin the next phase of the project--the conversion of the text files into a fielded format and the import of the

¹ These titles are: Slavonica, Journal of Genocide Studies, International Journal of Human Rights, Journal of Borderlands Studies, and Getty Research Journal.

fielded text into the database. When this stage of the project has been accomplished, the ABSEES staff will start adding subject headings to the records.

II. Statistical Profile

1. Facilities (n/a)

2. Personnel

Name	Title	Employment Dates
Irene Kolchinsky	Managing editor Academic hourly; 25 h/w	April 2006 –
Anne Tempest	Lead Indexer Academic hourly; 10-15 h/w	September 2006 –
James Keller	Indexer Academic hourly; 5 h/w	May 2009 – January 2013
Emily Ewers	Indexer Graduate hourly; 5-10 h/w	June 2010 –
Rosa Kleinman	Indexer Graduate hourly; 5-10 h/w	May 2012 –
Nellie Manis	Indexer Academic hourly; 5-20 h/w	September 2012 – August 15 2013
Jennifer Bylsma	Academic hourly; 10 h/w	July 2013 –

3. User Services

Irene Kolchinsky made a presentation on the current status of ABSEES to the ABSEES Advisory Committee at the American Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention (November 2012).