

International and Area Studies Library

Unit Annual Report 2019-20

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By Steve Witt, Head of the International and Area Studies Library

I Unit Narrative

Major activities and accomplishments in 2019-20

IAS contributed significantly to the Library's and University's research, teaching, and outreach missions over the past year despite the major disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three IAS faculty members earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and one submitted papers for promotion and tenure. One IAS faculty member, Global Studies Librarian, Lynne Rudasill, retired after a distinguished career in the library. IAS attracted nearly \$150,000 in grant funding for collections, graduate assistantships, and direct library programming support through the campus' Title VI NRCs. In addition, the Slavic Reference Service earned a State Department Title VIII grant, which funded a full-time AP, and graduate assistant position to enhance access to library resources, provide reference services, and support visiting scholars.

IAS's success in achieving this mission over the past year relied heavily on interdisciplinary collaborative practices. As a unit, IAS faculty collaborate closely to innovate and implement programs and practices which directly support the campus community. In the past academic year, IAS collaborated with units across campus, working directly with nearly 40 academic units, programs, and centers.

Nationally, IAS contributes a unique and substantial level of leadership nationally to the field of Area Studies and Area Studies Librarianship. As the below list highlights, IAS faculty serve in leadership roles in nearly each national organization focused on area studies librarianship with two current association presidents and numerous elected chairs and board members to important national committees that set the agenda nationally for collection development, services, and initiatives within the field.

Atoma Batoma – Chair of the Africana Librarians Council

Yoo-Seong Song – Board of the Northeast Asia Education Project

Kit Condill - Chair of the ASEES CLIR Collection Development Subcommittee through 12/31/19, and a member of the ASEES CLIR Executive Council until that same date.

Antonio Sotomayor - Vice-President/President elect of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials; Chair of LAMP (Latin American Materials Project) in CRL

Paula Carns, Secretary, CIFNAL, the Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections, Center for Research Libraries, 2017-2020; Member-at-large, American College and Research Libraries, European Studies Section, 2019-2020.

Mara Thacker - Committee on South Asian Librarians and Documentation chair person; ex-officio on the South Asian Materials Project Executive Committee; South Asia Open Archives Executive Committee.

Steve Witt – Board of the North American Coordinating Council for Japanese Library Collections; Elected to Council for East Asian Librarians Japanese Collections committee

Laila Hussein - Middle east Librarians Association, Elected Vice President 2019; Middle east Librarians Association, Elected President 2020

Shujong Jiang - secretary of Society of Chinese Studies Librarians

IAS served as a model for establishing virtual services during the COVID-19 shutdown. Working with CAS, Joe

Lenkart and Steve Witt establishing protocols and workflows to ensure that it could host its annual summer research institutes virtually. This resulted in the unit's ability to successfully host scholars and provide access to collections and services via electronic access and selective scanning. These adjustments, which occurred in the early spring of 2020 allowed IAS to continue to offer a robust suite of virtual services to faculty, students, and scholars across the US into the 20-21 fiscal year.

IAS also worked collaboratively to develop a multilingual trans-regional web archive of civil society responses to the pandemic. This unique collection includes reports and commentary from trade groups, think-tanks, academic associations, aid organizations, and advocacy groups. Each was selected for this web archive because of a substantial reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak. This archive provides documentation of how organizations responded and adjusted positions to accommodate, understand, and gain control over a rapidly changing political, economic, and security landscape.

Major challenges during fiscal year;

The challenge that overshadows others was the COVID-19 pandemic. As noted above, IAS shifted its summer activities to virtual workshops and access to collections and services quite successfully. The pandemic also impacted collection developing, causing disruption in shipping and acquisitions from countries that were forced to shut-down or limit international mail services. Finally, shifting to electronic books challenges IAS since many of the materials the unit collects are not available in electronic format because of different copyright standards and publishing traditions in the regions that we cover within our collections.

IAS has also been challenged with faculty departures. The Global Studies librarian, who covered global studies and EU studies retired, leaving a large service and collections gap to be filled. Like the Japanese studies librarians position that the unit lost, this position will likely remain vacant as the library faces budget shortfalls and hiring priorities that have shifted from subject specialist faculty positions. Global Studies duties will be covered by Steve Witt while the EU Studies duties will be covered by Paula Carns.

Finally, arbitrary changes in HR policy led the library administration to conclude that the unique, successful, and financially sustainable project, American Bibliography of Slavic & Eastern European Studies (ABSEES) could no longer be supported by the library. IAS worked with library administration and the leadership of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies to ensure that ABSEES could continue. The database service will now be hosted by the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies at the University of Pittsburg with continued support from library IT and IAS during the transition phase. Losing ABSEES was a difficult situation since it is an essential research tool to many university faculty and the broader Slavic studies community. The leadership of Kit Condill, Joe Lenkart, and AUL Chris Prom were instrumental in ensuring a successful transition of the database to its original institutional home. IAS thanks Dr. Irene Kolchinsky, longtime ABSEES managing editor, and her excellent staff for their dedication to the project and ability to ensure its long-term success.

Significant changes to unit operations, personnel, service profile, or service programs;

See challenges above.

IAS contributions to Library-wide programs

Diversity

Diversity is a core mission and element of the work of IAS. As a unit, IAS brings together the material and cultural history of peoples from around the world and encourages students, faculty, and the community to engage in dialogue and study of the diverse people that share the planet. Much of the unit's research output focuses on diversity, cultural relations, and the preservation of culture. Examples of diversity focused programming include the following:

In collaboration with the outreach coordinator at the Center for African Studies, I put together a group of Faculty and

Staff members whose task is to suggest a program of activities and events to highlight African and African American history and culture. African film screening is one of these activities. We screened 4 films in the fall of 2019.

The Korean Studies Librarian was invited twice by the Korean government for the Eco-Delta City project. He was requested to work with the university consortium that seeks to develop guidance on building a smart city in the southern part of Korea. He participated in initial exploratory meetings and explored opportunities where UIUC could formally join the consortium. This project is currently on hold since March 2020 due to Covid-19.

Public engagement

To promote diversity and engagement in area studies resources and topics, IAS sponsors numerous public events. In the past year, IAS held 13 events with a total of 433 participants. These events are made possible through the efforts and leadership of Lisa Renee Kemplin (LOA), who provides logistical and organizational support for these programs. The below table provides further details.

IAS Outreach 2019-20

Date	Event	Participants
8/21/2019	South Asia Donor Reception	43
9/4/2019	Intro Scholarly Research	22
9/18/2019	Global Migration	52
9/25/2019	US/Russia Dialogue	22
9/26/2019		
9/26/2019	International Student Research	27
9/27/2019	Silver Fork Novels	22
9/27/2019	Donor Event	90
10/25/2019	Research Spotlight: Dr. Magnus Fiskesjo	10
11/6/2019	Navigating Scholarly Publishing	35
11/6/2019	Research Spotlight: Rini Mehta	5
11/8/2019	Pushkin Birthday/Anniversary	13
3/26/2020	Online ILL and DD	38
4/9/2020	COVID-19 Outbreak Panel	54

Other public engagement activities include:

Atoma Batoma participated in three poetry reading events. The first, Celebration of Poetry and Translation, was organized by the Center for Translation Studies and the Literature and Languages Library, on April 26, 2019. The second and third, both called Word is Seed, were organized by the Center for African Studies on Thursday, September 30th and October 25th.

Yoo Seong Song led a summer camp for Korean university students. In 2019, the Korean Studies Librarian teamed up with the Global Education & Training and successfully hosted the first camp with over 30 students from Korea. The Korean Studies Librarian participated in designing the curriculum for the camp and also led research workshops for Korean students. The program was to immerse students in understanding research methods and applying library resources to solving problems that the Korean economy was experiencing. Although the Korean institution requested to continue the program in summer 2020, it had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

Reference and Instruction

As the statistics below indicate, IAS maintains a robust reference and instruction service, which serves students and faculty in programs across campus. Within the library's reference hub architecture, IAS plays an important role. IAS contributes an average of 12 hours to the main library hub each week. In addition, IAS' subject specialists provide highly specialized reference services with nearly 95% of IAS reference requests at the READ Scale of 3 or above.

53% of IAS' reference work takes place at the 5 and 6 levels of the READ scale with a majority of reference work with 66% of reference requests from faculty and graduate students, demonstrating a clear contribution to the campus' research and teaching missions. Reference work at this level requires highly specialized linguistic and subject knowledge and multiple interactions with patrons.

International Reference:

Support for International Students: to support international education on campus, International Reference Librarian developed a library instruction program to support IASL's partnership with ISSS. Moreover, to strengthen this collaboration, the International Reference Librarian also developed the Research Connection Event for international graduate students. The Graduate College and the Writer's Workshop are supporting this event; provide training to Library staff on multicultural communications and developing better services for international students.

Slavic Reference Service (SRS): The SRS successfully addressed 1065 research queries. Some of the institutions served by SRS include the United States Military Academy at West Point, National Defense University, the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Library of Congress, National Agricultural Library, Smithsonian Institute, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Moreover, SRS provided 57 personalized bibliographic sessions to Summer Research Laboratory researchers, University of Illinois students and faculty, and independent scholars.

SRS staff organized the Online Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery Workshop to improve access to Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) materials and resources in North America. SRS staff members, Annabella Irvine (SRS Research Associate), Jan Adamczyk (Senior Library Specialist), Erik Weir (SRS Graduate Assistant), and Joe Lenkart (International Reference Librarian), presented on search strategies, transliteration systems, citation verification, ordering platforms, and REEES collections.

Summer Research Laboratories: Despite the pandemic, IAS hosted two "remote" summer research laboratories: one focused on Community College Faculty members and the other Slavic scholars. Steve Witt organized the International and Area Studies Summer Lab, which was co-sponsored by 5 Title VI NRCs and provided faculty from community college and minority service institutions from across the country with access to the Library's collections and expertise. Kit Condill and Joe Lenkart led the Slavic Research Lab, which is supported by REEEC and a collaborative Title VIII Grant from the US Department of State.

As a pedagogical partner, the Korean Studies Librarian led a program where Korean international students teamed up with Korean start-up companies for research and analysis. A total of six Korean companies worked with 11 Korean international students on campus, and the Korean Studies Librarian provided research instruction sessions and guidance on the contemporary Korean economy and business environment. This program will continue in the AY 2020-2021.

Scholarly communications and publishing

Through funding from the North American Coordinating Council for Japanese Libraries, Steve Witt and Prof. GP Persiani (EALC) partnered with RBML and Preservation to digitize the 10 meter long Horai Makimono scroll. This digitization project was accepted for the Publishing Without Walls initiatives as a fully translated and critical edition of the scroll that will be completed in AY20-21.

Collection management

International Field Work: Using a Library-funded buying trip to West Africa in March-April 2019, Atoma Batoma attended the 50th edition of *FESPACO*, the largest African film festival, held every two years in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. He met with several festival organizers and participants from around the world and brought back important documentation materials to add to the UIUC Africana collections

Mara Thacker contributed valuable expertise to a group field work project with two CONSALD colleague to further develop South Asian collections. This project, which enabled librarians to avoid duplication and combined both networks and expertise provides a novel approach to international field work that will be impactful to the areas studies field.

Collaboration with RBML: Steve Witt worked with RBML to make several significant Japanese purchases, including additions to the collections Hokusai materials. In addition, Antonio Sotomayor worked with RBML to purchase “Sermon de la Fe, en el solene y General auto que su Tribunal Santo celebros en la Ciudad de Lima...” by Luis de Bilbao from 1626. These collaborations and others between RBML and IAS have led to discussions aimed at combining IAS expertise with RBML to globalize the library’s Rare Book and Manuscript Collections.

Digital content creation: Antonio Sotomayor began collaboration with Dr. Jerry Davila (Lemann Chair in Brazilian History) to develop a digital library for Brazilian Studies, with partners in Brazil, France, Germany, and the US.

Hussein Laila, Moustafa, Teresa Ann Barnes (History Department), Mauro Nobili (History Department), Project title: “Scholarly Gaming Environments” as Vehicles for Research, Teaching and Engagement.” Funded by Discovery Partners Institute’s (DPI), 2019. Total: \$15,000.

IAS continued to support library internet archiving projects, partnering with AUL Prom to help develop sustainable strategies for collecting digital ephemera for future scholars. In response to COVID-19, IAS librarians worked together to create a multi-lingual and multi-regional archive of sites featuring civil society organization responses to the pandemic from around the world. This collection currently contains nearly 3 millions documents. Under the leadership of Kit Condill, IAS also began another collection focused on border disputes. The Borderlands web archive currently contains over 1 million documents.

Review progress made on Unit Annual Goals for FY20 (as enumerated in the FY19 Unit Annual Report)

The COVID-19 pandemic was a significant impediment to reaching FY19 goals. Despite this, IAS made significant progress on its FY19 goals. Of note, IAS continued to build its capacity to build digital collections, completing several major digitization and establishing further web archiving projects. Working with RBML and Preservation, IAS digitized the Horia no Makimono Scroll, which is featured in the following digital exhibit (<https://exhibits.library.illinois.edu/s/illinois-digitization/page/japanesescroll-2019>). In addition, IAS embarked on two new web archiving projects, working with Chris Prom to develop a new funding model for web archiving that will utilize collections funds to ensure a sustained ability to collect and archive digital ephemera. New collaborative web archive collections in IAS include Global Civil Society Responses to COVID-19 and Borderlands.

IAS also worked with Advancement to build upon recent major gifts to support IAS and areas studies collections with the specific goal of institutionalizing funding for the International Buying Trip Program. Furthering this program remains a goal for FY19.

Unit Annual Goals for FY21

Increase capacity to build digital collections with emphasis on traditional strengths of IAS: ephemera and fugitive literatures. In the realm of digital collections this will mean a focus on web and social media archiving; SD1. Pro-active and trusted partners in scholarship, discovery, and innovation 2, 3

Expand collaboration with RBML to support initiatives to globalize the rare book and manuscript collections at Illinois (SD2. Transformative learning experiences 3

Develop Capacity for Research Data Service Management; SD3. Societal and global impact 4

Coordinated support for Undergraduate Research Initiatives; SD2. Transformative learning experiences

Continue to strengthen diversity initiatives through programming; Chai Wai Series: “Race, Social Justice, and Ways of Knowing”. SD3. Societal and global impact: 1, 2,

Expand work with advancement to build upon recent major gifts to support IAS and areas studies collections with the specific goal of institutionalizing funding for the International Buying Trip Program SD3. Societal and global impact 4.

Support new organizational structure of the International and Area Studies Centers to ensure that the library continues to be able to support these important academic programs, which are receiving new support and attention from the Office of the Provost as a part of the campus’ new strategic initiatives. SD2. Transformative learning experiences; SD3. Societal and global impact

Mentor graduate and undergraduate student workers to inspire the next generation of library and information science professionals. SD4. Strategic investments for a sustainable library environment 5

What the unit needs to support these specific goals and your overall mission

IAS’ ability to attract a robust amount of grant support from across campus provides a significant resource base for building distinct collections and employing graduate students with linguistic and area studies expertise.

A longstanding unit need is funding for its international field work program. Illinois is one of the only of its peer institutions that does not have a formal funding program designed to ensure that its area studies experts can build upon international academic networks, support distinctive collections through purchasing trips, and maintain critical expertise required to support what are considered unique and important collections to research institutions.

IAS also requires further access to digital technologies that enable scholars to engage and manipulate digitized content. Having specialized software such as ABBYY Finereader within IAS would greatly serve scholars and enable IAS librarians to further collaborate with patrons in research projects.

Number of GAs (FTE and Head Count) employed during FY20;

1.25 FTE Graduate Assistants with a Head Count of 4

Funding: 1 State; 3 Title VI NRC grant funding from Center for Global Studies (1) and the Center for Russian, East Asian, and Eurasian Studies (2).

GA’s provide support for collection development, develop library resources such as libguides, support reference and instruction, and develop programming within the unit.

II Statistical Profile

1. Facilities

Fall User Seating Counts:

Rm 321

Other- 189

Laptops- 2281

Computer- 24

Flatbed Scanner- 2

Printer-0

RM 309

Other- 314

Laptops- 504

Computer- 2

RM319

Other- 111

Laptops- 224

Bookeye Scanner- 115

Microform Readers- 71

Combined Room Totals:**Other = 614****Laptops = 3009****Computer = 26****Spring User Seating Counts:****Rm 321**

Other-131

Laptops-1024

Computer-25

RM 309

Other-19

Laptops-188

Computer-0

RM319

Other-51

Laptops-121

Bookeye Scanner-96

Microform Readers-31

Flatbed Scanner-2

Printer-2

Combined Room Totals:**Other = 201****Laptops =1333****Computer =25****Number of hours open to public:**

Fall –hours (includes winter break)/56 hrs per week=1006

Spring- hours/56 hrs per week (Physical space closed March 24-end of semester)=

Summer I- hours/40 hrs per week-(Physical space closed at time of report)= 0

Summer II- hours/52 hrs per week-(Physical space closed at time of report)= 0

Interim- hours/40 hours per week-(Physical space closed at time of report) =0

Total 1006**Faculty and Academic Professionals**

Name	Title	%
Joe Lenkart	Associate Professor, International Reference Librarian and Manager of Slavic Reference Service, Area of Focus: Central Asian Studies	100
Atoma Batoma	Associate Professor, African Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: African Studies	100
Shujong Jiang	Associate Professor, Chinese Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Chinese Studies	100
Mara Thacker	Associate Professor, South Asian Studies & Global Popular Culture Librarian, Area of Focus: South Asian Studies	100
Antonio Sotomayor	Associate Professor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Associate Professor Spanish and Portuguese Area of Focus: Latin American and Caribbean Studies	100
Laila Hussein Moustafa	Associate Professor, Middle East and North African Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Middle East and North Africa	100
Steve Witt	Associate Professor, Head of International and Area Studies, Area of Focus: Global Studies and Japanese Studies	100
Kit Condill	Assistant Professor, Russian, East Eurasian Studies Librarian, Area of Focus:	100

	Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies	
Robert Paul Geraci	Research Associate Professor	100
Yoo-Seong Song	Associate Professor, Korean Studies and Economic Librarian Area of Focus: Korean Studies	25
Marek Sroka	Andrew S. G. Turyn Professor, Central European Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Central European Studies	25
Paula Carns	Associate Professor, Area of Focus European Union Studies	0
Bella Irvine	Visiting Research Specialist, Slavic Reference Service (Title VIII Grant Funded)	100

Civil Service:

Jan Adamczyk (50%)

Xiaoping Qi (40%)

Lisa Renee Kemplin (100%)

AHs:

Irene Kolchinsky (ABSEES)-Fall

Student Hourlies: \$54,837**State Hourly Budget Allocation:****Graduate Hourlies:**

Head Count: 14

Funding Breakdown:

Title VI REEEC: 2

Title VI CGS: 2

Title VIII Grant: 1

Endowment: 1

State: 8

SAs:**Head Count: 13****Funding Breakdown:**

State: 12

Endowment: 1

3. User Services

- Gate Count (as reported during FY19/20 Sweeps Week).
Fall **711** Spring **643** = Sweeps Week Annual Extrapolation **16,512**
- Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)
Charges **353** Renewals **446** Discharges **349**
- Reference interactions (from DeskTracker)
1,256 (with average Read Scale of 4.7)

For the reporting period, IASL's staff, subject specialists, and the Slavic Reference Service successfully addressed reference queries. Based on Desk Tracker statistical analysis, faculty, graduate students, and librarians are the primary

patron groups for IASL.

Instruction

IAS faculty and staff provided 27 instruction session to 390 students.

All subject specialists participate in instruction. Joe Lenkart led the instruction team with support from graduate students Mariah Schaefer, Kevin Adams, and Maeve Prusnick. The team developed instruction and resource guides for 5 class sessions, including Latin American Cultures (ANTH 182), Government and Politics of China (PS 343), and Authoritarian Regimes (PS 397). Around 67 students were reached through the instruction team sessions this year.

4. Other statistics (optional)

Online Presence

IAS's social media presence continues to grow, with both Facebook and Twitter gaining new followers. Facebook saw a 1.45 percent increase and ended the fiscal year with 628 followers, while Twitter saw a 12.32 percent increase and ended the fiscal year with 456 followers.

International and Area Studies Library Annual Report, 2019-20

Appendix 1: Slavic Reference Service Activities and Impacts

Author: Joe Lenkart, Associate Professor

The **Publishing Trends in Eurasia (October 24, 2019)** and the **Non-Traditional Publishing online (November 7, 2019)** workshops organized by the SRS demonstrates these linkages at the national and international levels. SRS graduate assistants Olga Makarova and Kevin Adams collaborated with scholars and librarians to structure these critical discussions about publishing cultures in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. SRS GA Makarova worked with representatives from the Book Chamber of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Association of Publishers and Book Distributors, the Jagiellonian University Library (Krakow, Poland), and the Estonian National ISBN Agency to discuss current trends in publishing activity and their implication for scholars in the field. Well-over 52 participants registered for this workshop.

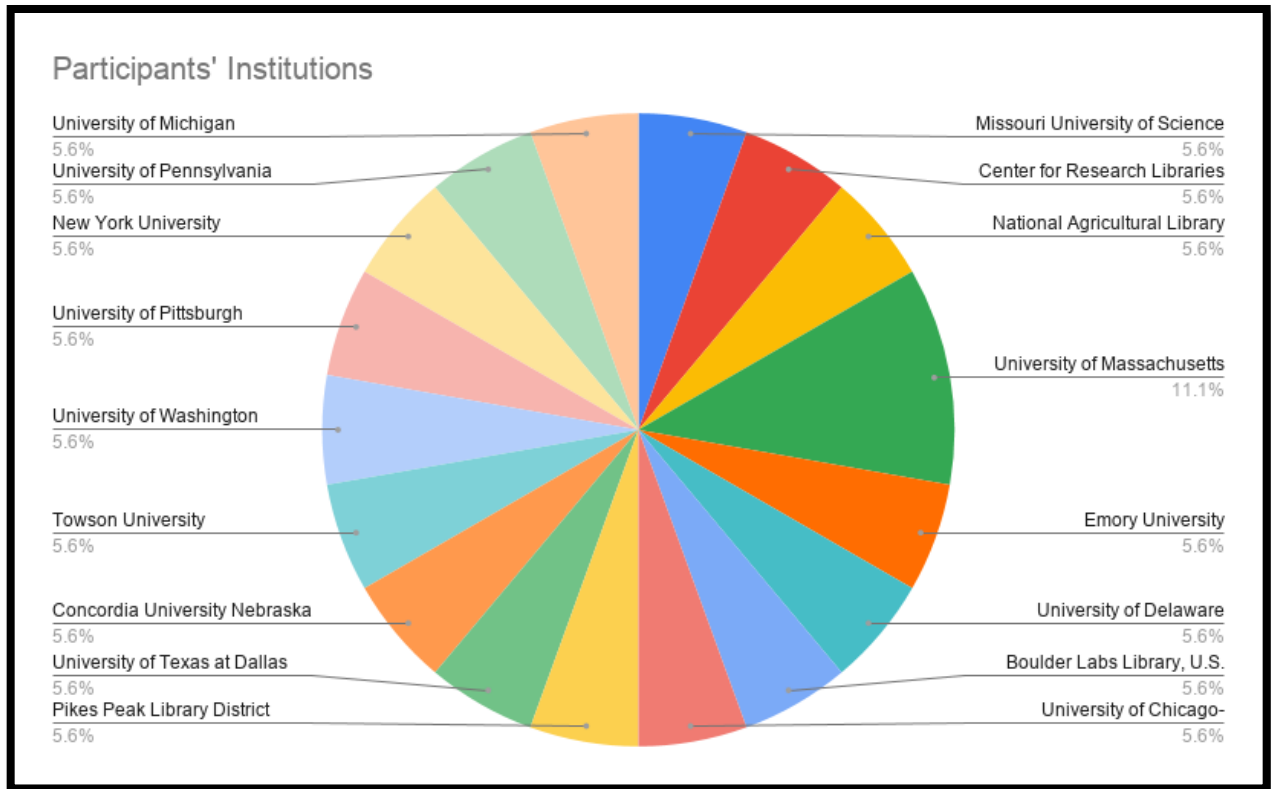
Likewise, SRS GA Adams initiative a national conversation on non-traditional publishing and digitization in REE&E studies. This online panel discussion featured Ann Komaromi (University of Toronto), Olga Zaslavskaya (the International Alternative Culture Center), Veronika Trotter (Indiana University Bloomington), and Mark Yoffe (George Washington University). Sixty-seven participants registered for this workshop. These included participants from the British Library, Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, University of Belgrade, Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, Harvard University, and University of California Berkeley.

ILL Symposium: REEE Collections in the Digital Universe: Retrieval Strategies (February 12, 2020)

On February 12, the SRS and REEEC welcomed ILL librarians from 15 institutions. At this one-day symposium, participants presented institutional assessment reports on foreign language materials as well as general trends in resource sharing among research institutions. Representatives from the National Agricultural Library, the Center for Research Librarians, University of Delaware, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions all presented their findings.

In addition, SRS staff members Irvine, Adameczyk, Lenkart, and Adams as well as symposium participants led thematic group discussions. Discussion themes included working with foreign language materials, ILL assessment strategies, international resource sharing, trends in REEE digital resources, and staff training methodologies to enhance resource sharing among research institutions. Moreover, the SRS staff presented their preliminary findings of a survey conducted to assess ILL professionals and services in relation to working with foreign language materials. The Institutional Review Board at the University of Illinois approved this research project. SRS staff will submit their manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal in May.

Figure 1: ILL Symposium Participants by Institution.



National training webinar for ILL librarians (March 27, 2020)

The SRS is recognized for creating a unique national training program for ILL librarians to help improve access to vernacular language materials. The workshop theme for 2020 was “Periodicals” – transliteration, searching, and locating periodical guides. The SRS staff members Adamczyk, Irvine, and Lenkart conducted hands-on training exercise and shared curated lists of resources with workshop participants. In addition, this workshop featured two subject librarians from Indiana University and University of Illinois to provide coverage for East Asian and Middle Eastern Studies related periodical inquires. Sixty ILL professionals from well over 20 states, including 13 department heads and 11 supervisors, participated in this training workshop.

Figure 2: National training webinar for ILL librarians. Workshop Participants by Title.

N = 60

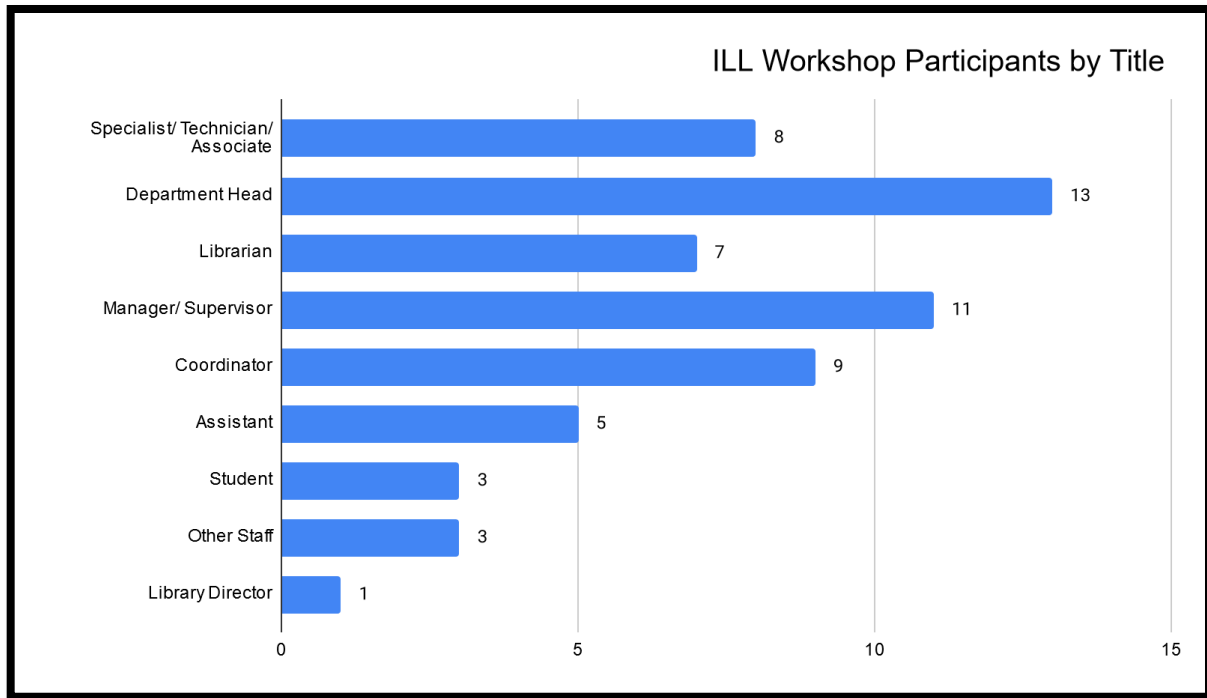
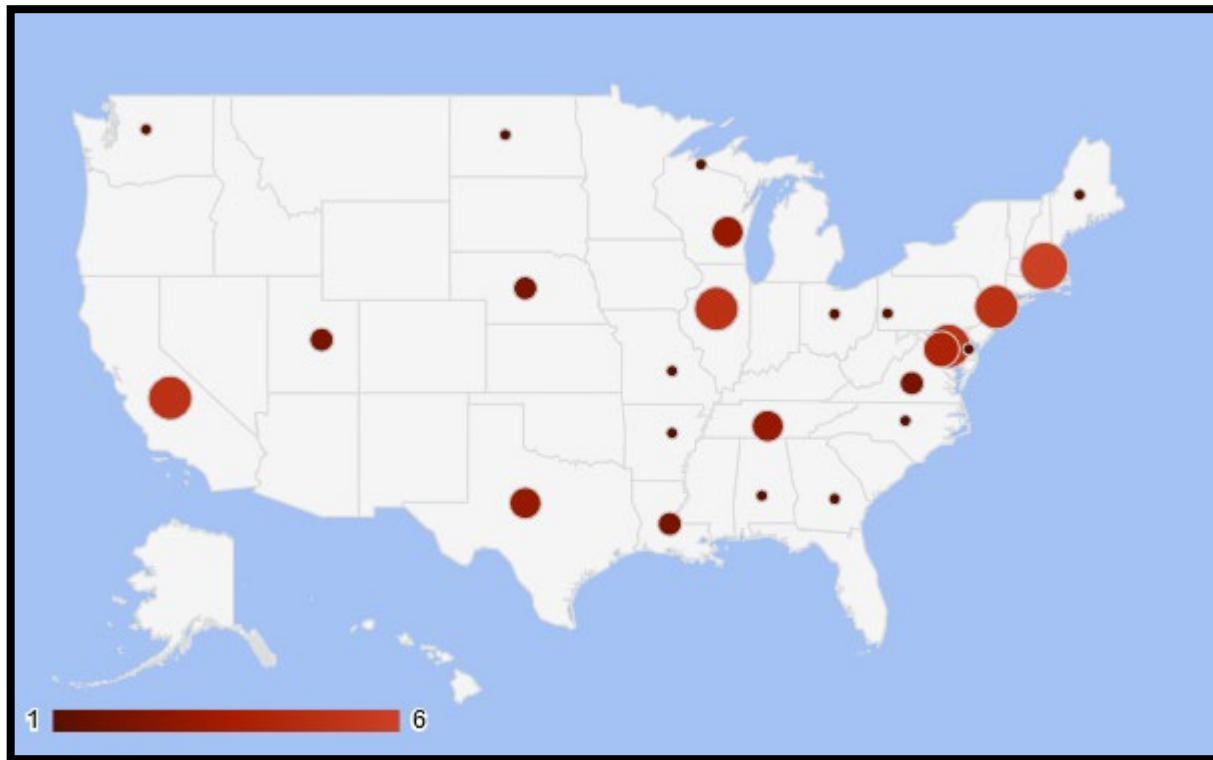


Figure 3: National training webinar for ILL librarians. Workshop Participants by State.



REEES Policy Research Roundtable (April 29, 2020)

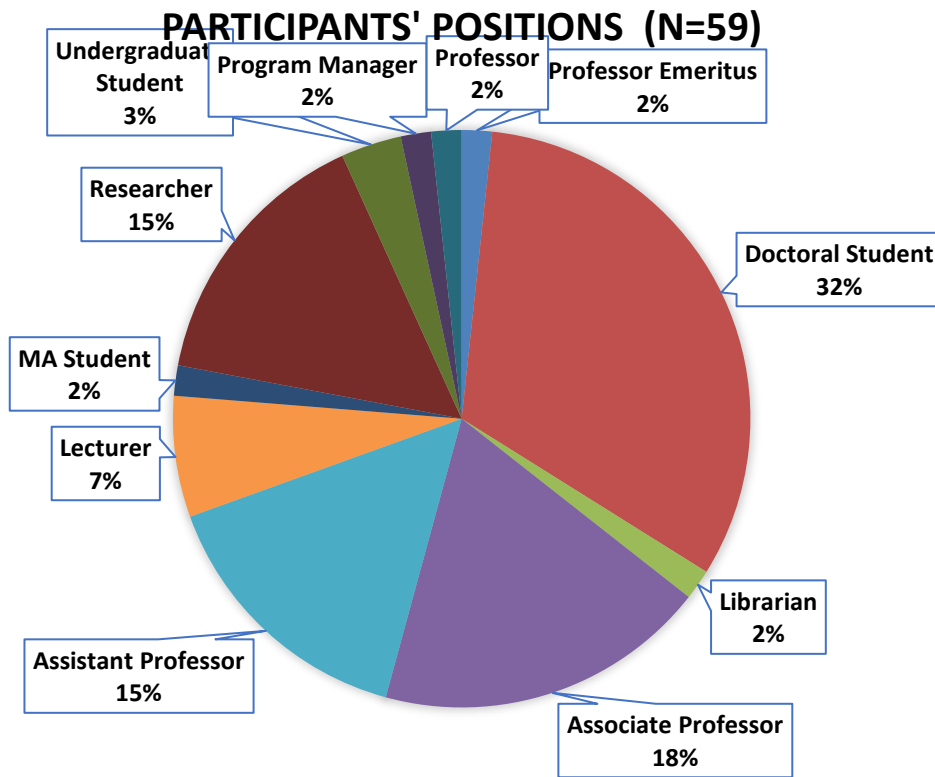
On April 29, the SRS hosted the fourth annual REEES Policy Research Roundtable. Dr. Erik Herron (West Virginia University) and David Satter (Hudson Institute) were the featured panelists. It is the goal of the roundtable to bring together scholars to discuss policy relevant research. Scholars and information science professionals from 11 institutions, including Library of Congress, Auburn University, University of Kansas, and the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (Erevan, Armenia), participated in this event. Dr. Herron addressed the challenges of working with electoral data in Ukraine, while David Satter discussed his forthcoming monograph, *Never Speak to Strangers and Other Writing from Russia and the Soviet Union*, which chronicles the transformation of the Soviet state from the 1970s to its collapse in 1991.

Virtual Introductions to Collections and Services: Facilitating Access in the Time of COVID-19

To assist REE&E scholars and VSRL participants, the SRS organized four virtual sessions on collections and services in the time of COVID-19. The first event, “Introduction to Collections and Services at the University of Illinois (June 16, 2020),” was led by SRS Senior Library Specialist Adamczyk, SRS Research Associate Irvine, SRS Manager Lenkart, and REEES Librarian Condill. Fifty-nine participants attended this session, which included doctoral students (32%), associate professors (18%), assistant professors (15%), and others (See Figure 5). In addition, the SRS provided 34 personalized bibliographic sessions during the VSRL (See Figure 6). The second event, “SEEE Collections at the Slavonic Library, National Library of Finland (June 23, 2020),” was conducted by Reference Librarian Emilia Karjalainen (Slavonic Library, Helsinki). To further assist VSRL participants, the SRS staff collaborated with Reference Specialist Angela Cannon (Library of Congress) to host the third event, “Introduction to SEEE Resources at the Library of Congress (June 24, 2020).” Together, these sessions saw increased participation from doctoral students (See Figure 7 and 8).

To facilitate a discussion on publishing in academic journals, the SRS collaborated with Professor Harriet Murav (Editor, *Slavic Review*) to host an information session for REE&E scholars. Twenty-one participants attended the event. Doctoral students (48%), associate professors (19%), and Researchers (19%) were the main participant groups (See Figure 9)

FIGURE 5: INTRODUCTION TO COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES



**FIGURE 6: VSRL PERSONALIZED BIBLIOGRAPHIC SESSIONS
PATRON TYPE (N=34)**

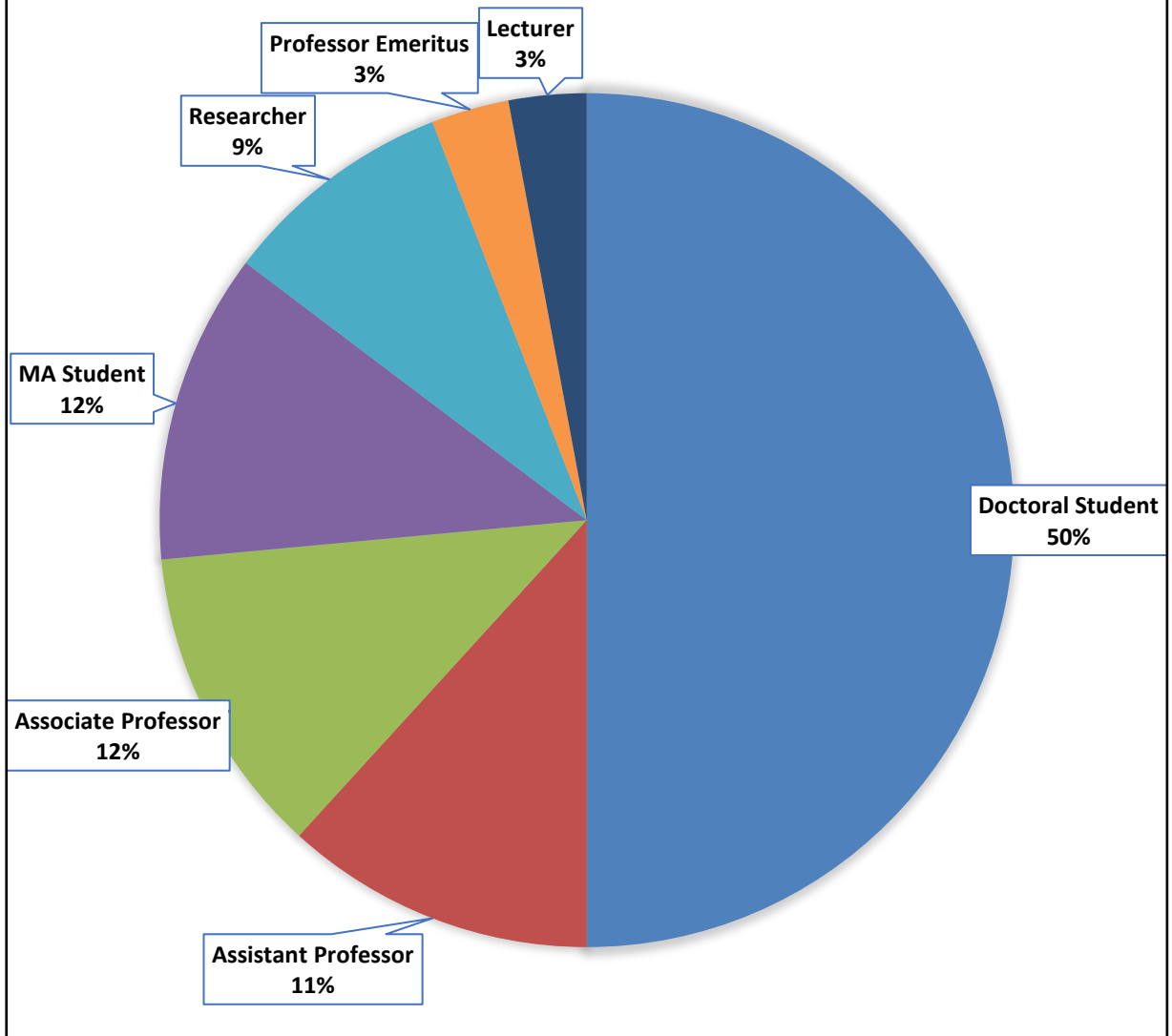


FIGURE 7: SEEE COLLECTIONS AT THE SLAVONIC LIBRARY, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND PARTICIPANTS' POSITIONS (N=18)

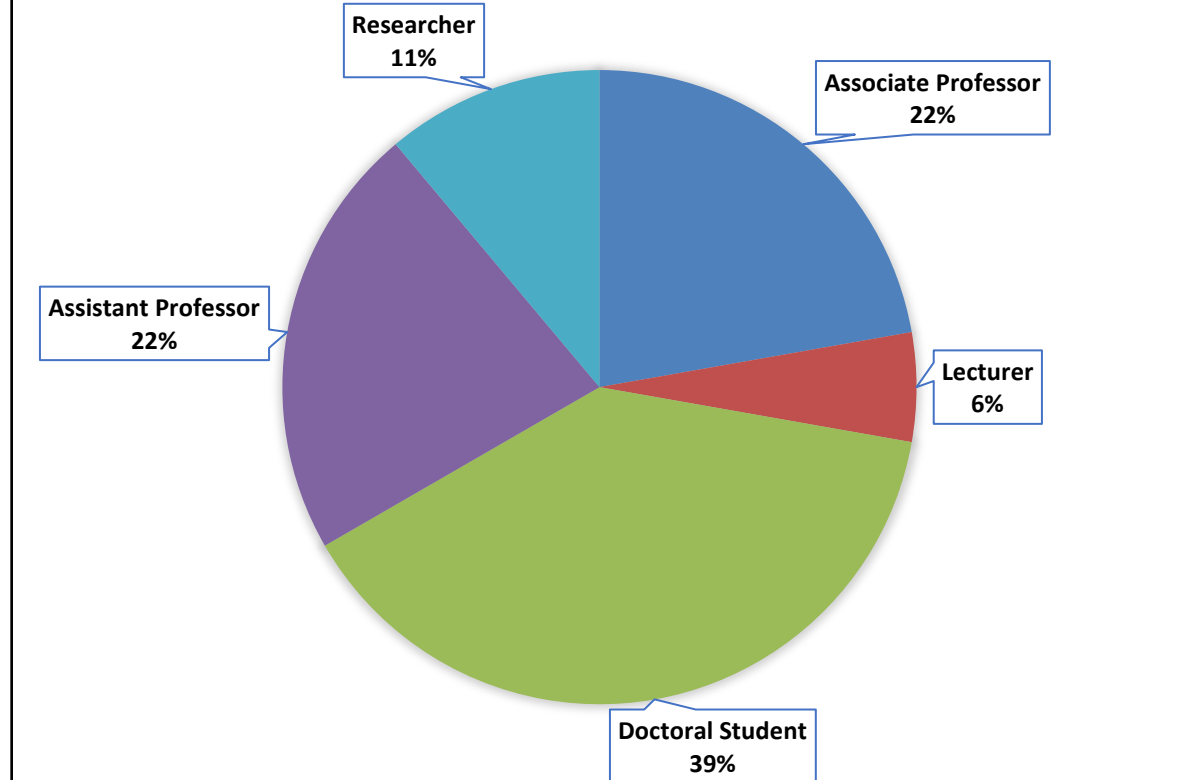
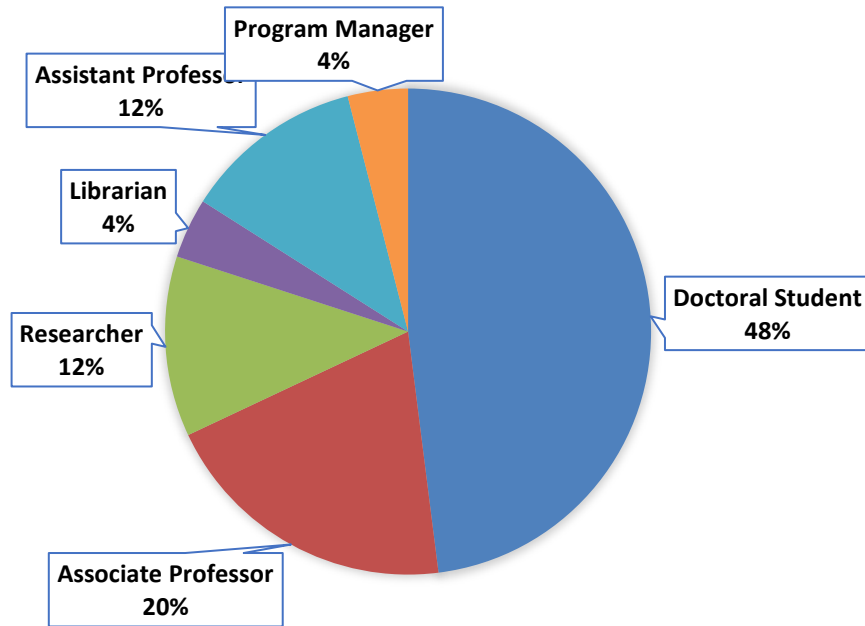


FIGURE 8: INTRODUCTION TO SEE RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS' POSITIONS (N=25)



**FIGURE 9: MEETING WITH THE EDITOR OF SLAVIC REVIEW
PARTICIPANTS' POSITIONS (N=21)**

