***Virtual Slavica: Digital Libraries, Digital Archives.* Edited by Michael Neubert. Binghampton, NY: Haworth Press, 2005. (Published simultaneously as *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, Vol. 6, Nos. 2/3.) 231 pages. $49.95 hard cover; $22.95 paper.**

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Virtual Slavica: Digital Libraries, Digital Archives is the first major work to address the issue of technology and Cyrillic language resources, thus providing an important "snapshot of Slavic digital librarianship" for the profession. The volume consists of eleven individual articles by leading American and Russian Slavic librarians. These articles are united by the common theme of "information delivery to the 21st century user" of Slavic materials.

Addressing themselves to the particular issues of working with Cyrillic materials (with implications for digital projects in other non-romanized languages), the authors describe "lessons learned" and provide a practical guide for the creation of future digital projects. *Virtual Slavica* offers real solutions to problems faced by librarians and scholars on the front lines of digital project development. It will appeal to students of information science, researchers, librarians, and archivists. Finally, it will occupy a prominent position on every Slavic librarian's shelf.

Broad in scope but packed with useful detail, *Virtual Slavica* provides an overview of the current state of Slavic librarianship as it crosses over into the digital frontier. The work

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describes in considerable detail the planning, development, and application of several ambitious Slavic digital projects, including the Comintern Archives Database and its online offspring (in the two articles by Ronald D. Backman and Tatyana Doorn-Moisseenko); the Central Eurasian Interactive Atlas Project (Alexander Perepechko, Eileen Llona, Dmitry Sharkov, Michael Hunt, and Michael Biggins); the highly useful Fundamental Digital Library of Russian Literature (*Fundamental'naia Elektronnaia Biblioteka*, or FEB, discussed by Joseph Peshio, Igor Pil'shchikov, and Konstantin Vigurskii); and the cross-cultural "Meeting of Frontiers" project hosted by the Library of Congress (Sandra J. Bostian). Brad Schaffner chronicles his "grant adventures in the digital frontier" and shows how commercial vendors and universities can work together on grant-funded projects "to create and provide access to important research materials" even when unforeseeable problems arise (p. 12). Janet Pilch provides an extremely useful report on current copyright law (always important territory), while Angela Canon's thorough treatment of digital reference in Slavic emphasizes the wisdom in relying on "both print and digital resources" in today's world (p. 8). Jane W. Jacobs and Malabika Das bring the reader up to date on "Making the Cyrillic OPAC a Reality. Miranda Remnek's essay on "Adding Value to Slavic Electronic Texts" demonstrates the value of text encoding as way to "maximize the use of technology" in scholarly research.   Kevin S. Hawkins gives readers a clear explanation of the Cyrillic font/keyboard problem with practical solutions for multilingual computing, transforming technical detail into readable prose. Last but not least, Michael Neubert's introduction, which highlights each article in this useful volume.

Virtual Slavica* is one book that every Slavic librarian will want to read cover to cover. The work is an essential acquisition for every college library facing issues of making Slavic digital resources readily available to users. The volume usefully includes an index and reference notes.