

Poles in Siberia: A Database on Russian-Polish History

Liudmila Andreevna Mandrinina / e-mail: mandrinina@spsl.nsc.ru

Department of Scientific Bibliography of the State Public Scientific-Technological Library of the Siberian Branch, Russia

Valentina Viktorovna Rykova / e-mail: onbryk@spsl.nsc.ru

Department of Scientific Bibliography of the State Public Scientific-Technological Library of the Siberian Branch, Russia

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The paper objective is the bibliometric analysis of DB Poles in Siberia: to determine IA type-specific composition, characterize its elements, show the core periodicals (magazines with the largest number of publications), present complex materials on the Polish leaders (personalities), represent trends of scientific problems Poles in Siberia development.

Key words: *bibliographic database; bibliometric analysis; Siberia; Poles; history; information source*

The history of Poles for several centuries is inseparably linked with the history of Russia and, in particular, Siberia. Unfortunately, Poles settling in Siberia did not have natural reasons commonly. Siberia was a place of exile – and not only in times of Tsarist Russia, but also in the more recent Soviet times. Members of the Polish uprisings of 1830 and 1863 were exiled in Siberia, Poles were deported here during the unrest in Poland in 1905–1907 and in the Soviet period those deported from Western Ukraine and Belarus. Some Poles moved to Siberia on their own, because they seemed to Siberia to be an economically advantageous region. Russia's largest Polish national community was formed in Siberia. Merging different peoples took place under various circumstances, but eventually there was a positive result – mutual (cultural, scientific, etc.) enrichment. The history of Polish people has become an integral part of Russian history [Solov'ev, 2003].¹ It should be noted that in Russia there are a significant number of public organizations dealing with the Russian Poles (culture, education, ethnic and national issues). In 1992, part of them joined the all-Russian public organization, the Federal Polish National-Cultural Autonomy “Congress of Poles in Russia”. It currently consists of over 50 organizations: Polish House (Moscow), “Ognivo” – the Polish cultural autonomy (Irkutsk), Polish House (Krasnoyarsk), “Polonia” – the Polish public organization

¹ Solov'ev S. (2003). *Istoriia padeniia Pol'shi. Vostochnyi vopros*. Moskva, AST, Asterel', p. 364.

(Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), as well as representatives of regional public associations of Poles in Russia.

State Public Scientific Technological Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (GPNTB SO RAN) develops international cultural relations, exchanges experiences with foreign libraries. Russian-Polish ties in the field of book culture become a natural part of international scientific cooperation. In September–October 2012, GPNTB SO RAN together with Józef Mianowski Kassa (the oldest Fund of science support in Poland) implemented a project on organization of Polish-Russian scientific seminars “SIBIRICA – Poles history in Siberia in Polish and Russian scholars study” (<http://www.spsl.nsc.ru/win/poliak.htm>). The project involves Biblioteka Narodowa w Warszawie [the National Library of Poland] that shows the interest of the Polish units of scientific information in cooperation with the Russian documentation centers. In 2013 the Center of Polish Science and Culture was founded in GPNTB SO RAN to promote contacts, to maintain dialogue between the Polish and Russian researchers and artists, to disseminate information about the achievements of Polish science and culture, to propagate knowledge about Polish culture in Russia.² The international conference “Issues of Russian-Polish history and cultural dialogue” was held in GPNTB SO RAN the same year (<http://bsk.nios.ru/content/problemy-rossiysko-polskoy-istorii-i-kulturnyy-dialog.html>). Annually, events in frames of Days of Polish science and culture occur. Thus, in December 2016, the General Consul of the Republic of Poland in Irkutsk Krzysztof Swiderek took part in a “round table”. The conferences, workshops, and meetings discussed issues of methodology, historiography and source base of studying the history of Poles in Siberia were considered bibliologic aspects of the Polish-Siberian history. The topics of SIBIRICA bibliographic recording and reports on GPNTB SO RAN’s activities in the field of studying Poles history in Siberia presented at these scientific events³ were of great interests.

Within the framework of the Polish-Siberian cultural dialogue GPNTB SO RAN has generated subjected bibliographic database (DB) Poles in Siberia, which reflects materials on the history of the Polish people life in Siberia. DB is unique and has no analogues abroad. It includes publications on the Russian Far East, as in certain periods of the history the term ‘Siberia’ designated the entire territory of Russia beyond the Urals. DB reflects the documents published mostly in Russian (95%). The National Library of Poland collects publications in Polish and other languages on the history of Poles (<http://www.bn.org.pl/katalogi-i-bibliografie>)

² Troyak I. (2014). *Novye aspekty pol'sko-rossiiskikh svyazei v oblasti nauki o knige*. Trudy GPNTB SO RAN, 7, pp. 681–686.

³ Mandrinina L. (2013). *Problemy istorii poliakov v Sibiri: analiz dokumentopotoka materialov nauchnykh meropriyatii (na osnove baz dannykh sobstvennoi generatsii GPNTB SO RAN)*. *Problemy rossiisko-pol'skoi istorii i kul'turnyi dialog*. Novosibirsk, Institut istorii SO RAN, p. 524.

and it makes no sense to duplicate its work. DB Poles in Siberia is formed on the basis of fundamental DBs of GPNTB SO RAN's own generation: Scientific Sibirica, Siberian and Far Eastern Books (union catalog), The history of books and book business in Siberia and the Far East, as well as materials from secondary sources (electronic catalogs of other libraries, remote databases, monographs and articles' references.⁴ On the 1st of March 2017 DB includes 1369 bibliographic records of documents (it is replenished currently). Most of the documents reflected in DB Poles in Siberia is available in SPSTL SB RAS's stocks. Each user may become a virtual reader of SPSTL SB RAS, and can order the document full text on the library homepage (www.spsl.nsc.ru). The necessary item will be delivered by email in two working days.

The temporal frames of DB publications are 1989–2016. IA includes bibliographic records on monographs; theses and dissertations; articles from journals, anthologies, newspapers (optional), proceedings of conferences, meetings, seminars, etc. and other documents.

Scientific conferences, symposia, seminars are the most effective ways to promote scientific thought, to develop new ideas and directions. Lively views exchange, recent scientific findings are reported in their scenes. Proceedings of scholarly events make up 44.5% (606 titles) of IA. More than 200 international, national and regional conferences took place during the period from 1989 to 2016 on the mentioned above problem, some of them were held in GPNTB SO RAN: The problems of the Russian-Polish history and cultural dialogue.

Tracing the publications dynamics, it should be noted that rise of publications number in some years was primarily due to proceedings of humanities conferences (international, national, regional), where research results on the Polish history in Siberia were reported. Thus, 50% or more publications of 1992, 1998, 2003, 2005, 2007–2009, 2011–2014 are conferences' proceedings. The amount of publication for last 6 years is close to the previous 10-year period. Besides, it should be noted that literature published in 2016 comes to the library nowadays, that's why we can conclude that number of publications in 2010s will be much greater. It shows the growing interest of researchers to this problem.

The main topics of scientific events reports were the following:

- Polish scientists contribution in studying Siberia (geology, geography, hydrology, biology, ethnography, linguistics, etc.);
- memories, diaries of exiled Poles as sources on the history of Poles in Siberia;
- deportation of Polish citizens to Siberia (2nd half of the XIX century, 1940–1956);
- Poles children in Siberia (repatriation of orphans in Siberia, Polish children's home);

⁴ Busygina T., Lavrik O., Mandrinina L., Rykova V. (2015). Evoliutsiia bibliograficheskoi deiatel'nosri v protsesse sozdaniia informatsionnykh resursov v GPNTB SO RAN. *Bibliosfera*, 4, pp. 49–56.

- peasants-immigrants (the late XIX – early XX centuries);
- Circum-Baikal uprising of Polish political exiles (1866);
- intercultural interaction in Siberia;
- museology (studying materials on the history of Poles in Siberia);
- Polonia movement;
- Polish village in Siberia;
- Polish diaspora in Siberia;
- Polish intelligentsia in Siberia;
- Polish literature and Siberia;
- Polish troops, military formations in Siberia (1830, 1920);
- Polish organizations and centers of Polish culture in Siberia;
- Polish special immigrants (1940–1941);
- Polish language in Siberia;
- Polish and Russian culture (libraries, education, music, art);
- Poles – Old believers in Siberia;
- Polish builders (Trans-Siberian, Taishet-Ust'-Kut Railways, etc.);
- religion (Catholicism) in Siberia;
- Poles exiling to Siberia (political, criminals).

More than 360 articles on the history of Poles in Siberia are included (over 26% of IA) in 124 collections of papers reflected in DB, 8 of which are the most “productive” – (160 articles or 45 % of this type of documents) including six collections devoted directly to the Polish issue: “Benedikt Dybovskii” (Novosibirsk, 2000), *Siberia in the history and culture of the Polish nation* (Moskva, 2002), *Memories of Siberia: memoirs, essays, diary entries of Polish political exiles in Eastern Siberia, the first half of the XIX century* (Irkutsk, 2009); *Poles in Buryatia* (Ulan-Ude, 2012); *Poles in Altai. Altai in Poland (XVIII–XXI centuries)* (Barnaul, 2013); *Polish exiles in Siberia in the second half of the XVIII – early XX centuries in the perception of the Russian administration, migrants and indigenous peoples of Siberia* (Omsk, 2015). The book “*Sibir v istorii ...*” is a commemorative edition dedicated to Bronislav Pilsudskii (1866–1918), an exile, convict, prominent researcher of culture of Amur and Sakhalin peoples. The book was prepared with the participation of the Congress of Poles in Russia, Wrocław University, Centre for Eastern Studies and the Department of Ethnology of the Seminary of the Divine Savior Society, “Polish Community” Association.

Articles in periodicals are 16 % of IA total number, 222 publications in 80 titles of journals. “Core journals” (the edition with the highest number of publications) consists of 10 periodicals. In the rest magazines the number publication varies from 4 to 1.

Among the journals that are not included in the “core” are editions of state universities (Buryatian, Omsk, Khakasian, Kemerovo, etc.) and local history magazines. We believe that the topic of the Polish-Siberian history is relevant and, therefore, it may be wise to think about a separate journal or thematic issues on

the history of Russian-Polish and Polish-Siberian relations considering the information dispersion on many sources.

Monographs are about 5 % of IA publications (63 titles). Point basic books published in 2015–2016: Korol'kov A. "Polish character in Siberia" (Irkutsk, 2016); Ostrovskii L. K. Poles in West Siberia in the late XIX – early XX centuries (Novosibirsk, 2016); Shostakovich B. S. Polish phenomenon of Siberian history (XVII century – 1917 (Moscow, 2015); Kuchin'skii A. Siberia. 400 years of the Polish Diaspora links, martyrdom and achievements of Poles in Siberia exploration (Moscow, 2015); Mitrenga-Ulitina S. Language of Polish inhabitants of the village Vershyna in Siberia (Lublin, 2015) (in Polish).

DB Poles in Siberia services provide information about the Polish famous people, whose activity has been related to Siberia. Categories dedicated to personalities, if possible, include information that gives a detailed description of a particular figure. For example: *Dybovskii Benedict T. I.* [in Polish: *Benedykt Tadeusz Dybowski*] – Polish-Russian geographer, zoologist, physician, linguist and social activist; 1833–1930.

The bibliographic DB provides information on the activities of approximately 200 Poles (about 450 publications). Some of the materials are devoted to Polish researchers of Siberia. They should be divided into two groups by their investigation directions: 1) natural-geographical research: geology, geography, hydrology, cartography, botany, zoology; 2) Human studies: archeology, anthropology, ethnography, linguistics (Table 2). It should be noted that some of the Polish leaders, possessing encyclopedic knowledge, were generalists and have been studying both the nature and peoples of the region. E.g., B. Pilsudskii was sent to Sakhalin for the organization of meteorological observations, and became a world-known scientist due to the work on studying indigenous peoples of the Far East – Ainu, Nivkh, Oroch.

Not all DB publications are browsed for personalities and require further serious work on the direct study of texts to identify factual data about Poles, Polish organizations, etc.

The analysis of DB Poles in Siberia has shown that the study of the Polish theme in Russian history has a strong scientific basis, the publications dynamics is of a positive trend. Study results on the Poles history are presented at numerous conferences and published in books and magazines. There is a need to publish special journal or thematic issues on Siberian Poles history and Polish-Russian relations. The necessity of further analytical work on replenishing DB Poles in Siberia with documents of the pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary periods expanding the range of subjects of primary and secondary sources in order to reveal materials on the activities of Poles in Siberia is obvious.