

## **The Multinational Community of Siberian Peoples: Research Information Base**

*Valentina V. Rykova, Lyudmila A. Mandrinina*

The paper objective is to present the information resources devoted to studying Siberian peoples generated by the State Public Scientific Technological Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Novosibirsk), the largest research library in Siberia. It gives brief characteristics of bibliographic DBs Scientific Sibirika, Türks of Siberia, Poles in Siberia, Human Ecology of Siberia and the Far East etc., which were compiled to support research of scientists and specialists dealing with the population in Asian Russia. Some of them were generated in frames of the library international cooperation with YERTAD, the Association of History and Culture (Turkey), and projects of the Center for Polish Science and Culture formed at the library in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland. These DBs are a reliable and convenient information source to investigate the Siberian and Far Eastern peoples. It is possible to create information and bibliographic products (databases, literature indexes, reviews) on their base on individual ethnic/linguistic groups of the population of different Siberian regions.

They are the tool to carry on bibliometric (scientometric) analysis of the documentary corps on various issues to determine the research field priorities and trends.

The development of Siberia, a vast historical and geographical region of Northern Eurasia stretching from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, inhabited by indigenous peoples called “aliens” in Tsarist Russia, took place for a long time and had a significant effect on forming the population ethnic composition of this region.

Colonizing Siberia by the Russian state started with the campaign by Yermak and his squad above the Urals in the late XVI century. At the early reign of the Romanov dynasty (XVII century), Cossacks and settlers developed East Siberia. That time, “free people” rushed beyond the Urals, and Siberia with its endless expanses became a place of exile and hard labor. In the late XIX – early XX centuries, a great number of people by different professions migrated to Siberia to develop the region due to:

- the Trans-Siberian Railway construction connected the European territory with Siberia and the Far East, and contributed to the economic development of the Asian regions of Russia;
- Stolypin Agrarian Reform of 1906 that provided for resettling above 2.5 million peasants to vacant land beyond the Urals.

It resulted in the fact that the Russians became the dominate nation in terms of population compared to indigenous peoples. The Revolution of 1917, Civil War, socialist industrialization, Great Patriotic War, post-perestroika migrations of the XX century led to resettling several million people of various nationalities to Siberia. The several century histories resulted in forming a multinational community of Siberians consisting of indigenous and newcomers<sup>1</sup>.

The flow of publications devoted to studying the region population is scattered in numerous domestic and foreign publications, therefore, the targeted databases (DBs) containing thematically related documents are significant to meet the information needs of scientists and specialists involved in investigations of the aboriginals and newcomers. The objective to track and record significant number of publications dedicated to research of Siberia and the Far East is solved by the State Public Scientific Technological Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SPSTL SB RAS). The library has been generated regional bibliographic DBs for information support with systematized scientific materials on the Siberian population life. DBs are compiled based of a legal copy of domestic literature entering SPSTL SB RAS, secondary bibliographic information, and free available Internet resources.

The information on various aspects of vital activity of peoples inhabiting the vast spaces of Asian Russia is presented in the polythematic DB Scientific Sibirika,

---

<sup>1</sup> Karikh, Elizaveta V., *History of Siberia (the XVII–XX centuries)*, Tomsk, 2013. (In Russ.).

which consists of some large thematic sections: History of Siberia and the Far East; Literature, Art of Siberia and the Far East; Economy of Siberia and Far East; Indigenous Peoples of the North and others. Besides, publications covering certain aspects of the population beyond the Urals are included in the independent DBs *Türks of Siberia*; *Poles in Siberia*; *Human Ecology in Siberia and the Far East*; *Bibliographic Aids on Siberia and the Far East*, *Siberian and Far Eastern Book* (united catalog)<sup>2</sup>. Table 1 presents the thematic sections of the DBs covering materials on the Siberian and Far Eastern population, and numbers of publications by the topic.

Table 1. Materials on the population in the DBs of SPSTL SB RAS' own generation

№	DB title, retrospective	Subject headings	Entries amount
1	<b>Scientific Sibirika, (thematic sections)</b> History of Siberia and the Far East (1991 – nowadays)	Anthropology, ethnography; historical geography and demography, onomastics; historical and comparative historical study of languages	53,423
	Literature, Art of Siberia and the Far East (1991 – ...)	Folklore, decorative and applied arts, arts and crafts	18,405
	Indigenous Peoples of the North (1989 – ...)	Ethnicity and origin; legal bases of development and self-government; ecology of traditions territories; traditional economic branches, crafts; social sphere; culture, ethnic education, medical and biological problems	40,872
	Economy of Siberia and Far East (1990 – ...)	Demographics, labor resources	25,365
	Problems of the North (1988 – ...)	Social development of the Northern zone; population and labor resources of the North; settlement systems, standard of living	23,071
2	<b>Türks of Siberia (book editions)</b> (1799 – ...)	History, ethnography, anthropology; culture; linguistics; folklore, literature; religion and beliefs	1,502
3	<b>Poles in Siberia</b> (1989– ...)	Not structured by sections	2,547

<sup>2</sup> Lavrik, Olga, Busygina, Tatiana, Rykova, Valentina, Bibliographic Information Resources on the History of Siberia and the Far East, in: *Slavic & East European Information Resources* 4 (2016), 257–267. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15228886.2016.1246318>.

4	<b>Human Ecology in Siberia and the Far East</b> (1989 – ...)	Ethno-medicine; human adaptation to the conditions of Siberia and the Far East and the problems of survival, public health and its protection; assessment of risks to public health	8,171
5	<b>Bibliographic aids on Siberia and the Far East</b> (XIX century – ...)	Economics, sociology, demography	806
6	<b>Siberian and Far Eastern book.</b> XVIII century – 1930: united catalog	Not structured by sections	about 3,000

The thematic sections *History of Siberia and the Far East* and *Indigenous peoples of the North* of DB Scientific Sibirika have a subject heading *Peoples of Siberia*, which records the materials on individual ethnic groups. These sections reflect more than 37,000 publications devoted to Siberian and Far Eastern peoples. Table 2 represents the statistics of publications on the indigenous peoples of Siberia – 38 names of peoples and ethnic groups. These are materials on the historical development of peoples from antiquity to the present day, anthropology, ethnography, comparative historical linguistics, historical geography, demography, etc. The largest publication amount is devoted to 11 peoples (above thousand entries), where materials on Buryats, Yakuts and Khants have the highest quantitative indicators. Yakuts and Buryats are the most numerous indigenous peoples of Siberia, but Khants are small indigenous peoples (according to the 2010 census, the number of Yakuts is more than 478,000 Buryats – above 461,000 Khanty – nearly 31,000 people).

Table 2. Publication numbers in DB “Scientific Sibirika” devoted to indigenous peoples of Siberia

№	Peoples	Publication numbers	№	Peoples	Publication numbers
1	Yakuts	8,288	20	Finno-Ugric peoples	334
2	Buryats	3,878	21	Dolgans	322
3	Khants	3,052	22	Samoyed peoples	308
4	Altaians	2,486	23	Eskimos	290
5	Siberian Tatars	1,838	24	Shors	286
6	Nenets	1,556	25	Tungus-Manchu peoples	284
7	Turkic peoples	1,496	26	Nganasans	280
8	Mansi	1,384	27	Ainu	256
9	Khakass	1,351	28	Orochs	216

10	Evens	1,311	29	Teleuts	207
11	Ob Urgy	1,267	30	Tofalars	197
12	Selkups	937	31	Itelmens	188
13	Chukchi	737	32	Ulchs	168
14	Yukagirs	665	33	Aleuts	158
15	Nanais	612	34	Kamchadals	157
16	Koryaks	468	35	Kumandas	137
17	Mongolian peoples	467	36	Negidals	132
18	Nivkhs	403	37	Oroks	130
19	Kets	357	38	Udegs	120
<b>Total</b>			<b>36,723</b>		

As mentioned, materials on the Siberian people vital activity are scattered in many sources, and a lot of analytical work is required to identify and systematize the documents. DBs dedicated to individual peoples or ethnic (linguistic) groups are an irreplaceable information basis for detailed and thorough research. In 2019–2020, the bibliographic DB Türks of Siberia was formed with publications (about 28,000 titles) devoted to studying indigenous Siberian Turkic peoples (Altaians, Dolgans, Kumandins, Siberian Tatars, Teleuts, Tofalars, Tuvinians, Khakass, Chulym, Yakuts). The number of these peoples in Siberia is more than 900,000 people. The DB was prepared in cooperation with YERTAD, the Association of History and Culture (Turkey), which initiative was to create the international e-library Otrar on Turkic peoples<sup>3</sup>. SPSITL SB RAS took part in the project “Turkic peoples of Siberia”. As the project first stage the DB Türks of Siberia (book editions) (above 1500 titles) was formed, and an eponymous bibliographic index was prepared on its base.

Besides the indigenous peoples and Russians settling Siberia since the late XVI century, the Siberian history is inextricably related to so-called “new coming peoples”. For example, the Poles, who moved to Siberia by:

- forcing to penal servitude by the Russian authority’s decision (part of Poland called the “Kingdom of Poland” was annexed to Russia at the early XIX century and remained the Russian Empire part for a hundred years)<sup>4</sup>;
- arriving to Siberia by their free will, because it seemed them to be an economically advantageous region;
- sending for the civil service, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Mustafina, Mira, *Manuscripts of the Otrar Library online*. URL: <https://liter.kz/8272-rukopisi-otrarskoy-biblioteki-onlayn/> (accessed 12.03.2021). (In Russ.).

<sup>4</sup> Andreyanova, Nadezhda, Vaschenko, Andrey, Zvonarev, Andrey. *Legal status of the Kingdom of Poland within the Russian Empire*, Moscow, 2015. (In Russ.).

It was Siberia, where the largest Polish national community in Russia was formed<sup>5</sup>.

The history of the Polish people has become an integral part of Russian history. The desire of Poles to study the history of their people, to learn the names and activities of compatriots lived in Siberia deserves respect. Studying the Siberian history of Poles, revealing the research priorities and trends on the issues of Russian-Polish history got its development in the projects of the Center for Polish Science and Culture created at SPSTL SB RAS in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland (Irkutsk) in 2013. In the project framework, the Polish-Russian scientific seminars SIBIRICA – the history of Poles in Siberia in the studies of Polish and Russian scientists were organized; the bibliographic DB Poles in Siberia as an information base to support scientific activities was generated by SPSTL SB RAS. The DB is being replenished and currently includes above 2,500 publications for 1990–2021 devoted to the Polish people contribution to science, culture, education, healthcare in Siberia; their lives in Siberia and the Far East. The DB services allow receiving information about Polish personalities, whose activities related to Siberia. Headings of persons include, if possible, information that gives a detailed description of a particular figure (dates of life, types of activities, etc.). The DB contains bibliographic information about nearly 1000 Poles in Siberia.

Compiling bibliographic DBs as results of SPSTL SB RAS' international cooperation with foreign partners shows the demand for this information resource type.

The DB *Siberian and Far Eastern Book. XVIII century – 1930* (united catalog) is of undoubted interest for researchers of the history of the Siberian and Far Eastern population. It was prepared in frames of the project “Program to develop the Retrospective National Bibliography of the Russian Federation (for the period up to 2020)”<sup>6</sup>. It reflects materials on the Siberian and Far Eastern peoples (topics: history, ethnography, folklore, peasant, urban economy, health care, education, religion, etc.) published in Asian Russia for more than two hundred years.

A distinctive feature of the information resources generated by the SPSTL SB RAS is systematizing documentary arrays by subject-thematic and geographical headings, which greatly facilitates the search for relevant (especially regional) material of specialists. The records in DBs of SPSTL SB RAS' own generation include a full bibliographic description, a section of subject-thematic headings, a geographical heading, an annotation, and translations of titles to foreign publications.

Recently, using information of Internet resources in the practice of bibliography is especially relevant, that entails changes in organizational forms of work. Particular attention is paid to electronic regional editions without printed analogues on various knowledge fields (history, culture, ethnography, etc.) concerning certain Siberian and Far Eastern territories to meet information needs of users engaged in regional

---

<sup>5</sup> Shaidurov, Vladimir, The Polish community of West Siberia in the late XIX – early XX centuries: formation and development features, in: *Bulletin of Altai State University* 4–3 (2009), 253–258. (In Russ.).

<sup>6</sup> Program to develop the Retrospective National Bibliography of the Russian Federation (for the period up to 2020). URL: <http://www.rba.ru/content/about/doc/nacbibl.pdf> (accessed 30.11.2021). (In Russ.).

research. There are hyperlinks from the bibliographic descriptions to the full text of e-documents, which allows the DB users to view documents of interest outside the library.

To improve the information and bibliographic services for scientists and specialists, DBs compilation is accompanied with their content using bibliometric (scientometric) techniques. Their results give an idea of the temporal, specific, thematic, linguistic structure of the studied document corps, contribution of individual research teams and scientists to the specific topic elaboration; show the most productive periodical and significant monographic editions in a particular field of knowledge; present a list of scientific events (conferences, symposiums, working meetings) related to a particular issue.

SPSTL SB RAS' researchers have carried on the bibliometric analysis of information arrays of DBs Poles in Siberia and Türks of Siberia (book editions)<sup>7</sup>, as well as publication flows on individual Siberian peoples (Sakha, Nanais, Dolgans and others)<sup>8</sup> (Rykova 2014, 2015, 2021) that allowed them to obtain the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of their content.

It should be concluded that the DBs of SPSTL SB RAS' own generation are a reliable and convenient information tool to study the Siberian and Far Eastern population. Based on them, it is possible to create information and bibliographic products (databases, literature indexes, reviews) on individual ethnic (linguistic) groups of the population of different Siberian and Far Eastern regions. Applying DBs services, everyone has an opportunity to carry out the scientometric analysis of the documentary arrays on various issues, to determine the research field priorities and trends.

---

<sup>7</sup> Mandrinina, Lyudmila, Rykova, Valentina, Poles in Siberia: a database on Russian-Polish history, in: *Czech-Polish Historical and Pedagogical Journal* 11 (2019), 107–111. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5817/cphpj-2019-013>; Mandrinina, Lyudmila, Rykova, Valentina, Busygina, Tatiyana, Balutkina, Natalia, Database Türks of Siberia – the information basis of Türkological research, in: *Siberian Anthropological Journal* 3 (2021), 21–31. DOI: 10.31804/2542-1816-2021-5-3-21-31. (In Russ.).

<sup>8</sup> Rykova, Valentina, Nanais – the Far East aboriginal people: analysis of documentary flow of DB Scientific Sibirika, in: *Historical Informatics* 4 (2014), 11–14. (In Russ.); Rykova, Valentina, Analysis of the documentary flow of DB Indigenous Peoples of the North dedicated to the research of the Sakha people, in: *North Eastern Humanitarian Bulletin* 4 (2015), 122–124. (In Russ.); Rykova, Valentina, Turkic people of the Siberian Arctic: analysis of information in foreign and domestic databases, in: *Humanitarian Scientific Bulletin* 8 (2021), 33–40. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5503681. (In Russ.).