Association of College & Research Libraries

European Studies Section

Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee

Task Force on Revision of Name Authority Records for Russian Guberniias

Final Report

Charge:

Review all authority records for Russian guberniias in the National Authority File in relation to correct application of the qualifiers "*Russia*" and "*R.S.F.S.R.*" and make changes, if necessary.

Task Force members:

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Background:

Geographic qualifiers for Russian guberniias -- (*Russia*) and (*R.S.F.S.R.*) **--** in NARs for Russian guberniias have been inconsistently applied by catalogers over the years. Guberniias were administrative divisions of the Russian Empire, many of which continued to exist under the Soviet government until 1929. Some guberniias which fell into this category were established in the LC National Authority File with the qualifier *"(Russia)"*, despite the fact that the qualifier for geographic entities should be the latest form of name of the country in which the entity existed -- Russian Federation, R.S.F.S.R.

Many catalogers noticed this qualifier discrepancy and the ACRL ESS Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee, with the approval of the NACO coordinator, agreed to initiate a project to change qualifiers which were applied incorrectly. A chapter on establishing NARs for guberniias and information about the then-extant inconsistencies in the NAF

were added at that time to the *Slavic Cataloging Manual* (see: https://sites.google.com/site/seesscm/guberniias).

In March 2020, the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee (SCMC) chair reached out to the Library of Congress NACO coordinator, Paul Frank, in regard to a possible project to bring guberniias' authority records into compliance with the current rules. The Library of Congress supported the SCMC in undertaking this project and offered help in creating workflows and further revision of the affected bibliographic records in the LC catalog.

The Task Force was formed on May 8, 2020, with a timeline to complete its work by the end of June 2020. However, with the pandemic crisis unfolding during this time, the ending date was extended to September.

Task Force's work:

111 NARs, which had a guberniia name either in an authorized access point (MARC field 151), as a variant access point (451), or as a later/earlier name (551) were identified by the Task Force. The work was divided between six task force members.

The task force also used this opportunity to review the entire authority record for individual guberniias and make necessary enhancements, including:

- adding the 046 field for associated dates
- adding/reviewing the 781 field for indirect subdivisions
- adding information on the history of the guberniia in 670 field
- adding/verifying 551 fields for related geographic entities
- converting NARs to RDA when necessary

In consultation with the Library of Congress, a workflow for this project was created. For the complete workflow see Appendix.

As a result of this project, 12 authority records for the following guberniias were changed:

Eniseĭskai͡a guberni͡ia (Russia)
I͡Aroslavskai͡a guberni͡ia (Russia)
Kazanskai͡a guberniia (Russia)
Myshkinskīĭ u͡iezd (I͡Aroslavskai͡a guberniia, Russia)
Olonetskai͡a guberniia (Russia)
Penzenskai͡a guberniia (Russia)
Srednevolzhskai͡a oblast' (Russia)

Tambovskai͡a gubernii͡a (Russia)
Tobol'skai͡a gubernīi͡a (Russia)
Tul'skai͡a gubernii͡a (Russia)
Vladimirskai͡a gubernīi͡a (Russia)
Vladimirskiĭ okrug (Russia)

In the authority records for the aforementioned guberniias, the qualifier "*(Russia)"* was changed to "*(R.S.F.S.R.)"*, based on the date that the guberniias were dissolved. Changes were reported to the Library of Congress for bibliographic file maintenance. In total, 87 records were reported.

Issues encountered:

1) Some guberniias were identified incorrectly as direct predecessors of oblasts with the same name. For example, I͡Aroslavskai͡a oblast' (Russia) was established as a direct successor of I͡Aroslavskai͡a gubernii͡a (R.S.F.S.R.) in the NAF some time ago, and the heading "I͡Aroslavskai͡a gubernii͡a (R.S.F.S.R.)" was designated as not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under I͡Aroslavskai͡a oblast' (Russia). Research by Task Force members did not support this claim and they had to consider the number of legacy records and the difficulty in identifying which bibliographic records with names of oblasts that existed in subject headings needed correction.

Decision: Keep the treatment unchanged. However, to indicate that this treatment is not correct, add a note in the 667 field: *The Guberniias Task Force of the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee of the European Studies Section of ACRL determined that [name of the oblast' or guberniia] is not a direct successor to [name of guberniia], but the subject usage treatment should continue.*

2) Some NARs for guberniias included both "*(R.S.F.S.R.)"* and *(Russia)"* as qualifiers, one in the authorized access point and another in the variant access point. Variant access points were added some time ago and are in total agreement with RDA LC PCC/PS 16.4.2.: *If the smaller place existed when the larger place had an earlier name, and the name in the resource pertains to the earlier period, consider recording a variant access point from the form that shows the earlier name of the larger place if the qualifier is appropriate for the smaller place.*

The group did not want to remove information from the authority records that was added earlier, but the question arose whether to start adding variant access points with the qualifier "*(Russia)"* to all guberniias with authorized access points with qualifier "*(R.S.F.S.R.)"*. The group discussed this and some members saw the benefit of doing so

while others had concern over the possibility of introducing more confusion by giving two different qualifiers for the same entity in the same record. The group became aware of cases when catalogers who were not knowledgeable about "Russia/RSFSR/Russian Federation" complexities, reversed some authorized access points with the correctly applied qualifier *"(R.S.F.S.R.)"* to ones with the qualifier *"(Russia)".*

Decision: Not to remove the existing variant access points with qualifier *"(Russia)"* for guberniias' names, but not to add new ones in revised authority records to avoid confusion.

3) Most guberniias had a complex history over the two centuries of their existence, with many name changes, territorial mergers and splits. The availability of resources on guberniias' history made it possible to trace numerous guberniias name changes. This information was entered into 670 fields and, where possible, into other relevant MARC fields in authority records. However, it was recognized that tracing the entire 200 years of history of administrative reform in Russia could be a daunting task that might require significant research and possibly the need to create NARs for intermediate guberniias' names.

Decision: Include all relevant information on the history and name changes of guberniias in the authority records. Review the accuracy of existing 551 fields in authority records for related guberniias and add new 551 fields for related guberniias when it was easy to establish a relationship and a NAR for the related guberniia that already existed. Do not create new authority records for intermediate names.

4) In the process of reporting bibliographic file maintenance, a question came up: whether to add a qualifier "(*R.S.F.S.R.)"* at the end of the guberniia name when used as an indirect subdivision in authority records field 781. Many guberniias NARs lacked this qualifier in their 781 fields, but some had it. After consulting with the NACO coordinators, it was brought to the group's attention that this qualifier should be always added per SHM H 1023, *sec.3(b)(2)(ii)* and H 830 which states that geographic qualifiers should be in the latest form of the name at the time the entity ceased to exist and that *any other data included in the qualifier to differentiate the heading, including names of obsolete jurisdictions, should be retained in parentheses.*

For example, $z Russia (Federation) $z Eniseĭskai͡a guberni͡ia **(R.S.F.S.R.)**

The group undertook a subproject to review all 781 fields for guberniias and assure their compliance with the SHM H 830.

After the task force completed its charge, an announcement about the changes was posted to Slavlib and SlavCat listservs, and an update given at the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee meetings at ALA 2020 Annual and ALA 2021 Midwinter. At this time, the task force has decided not to undertake a project to correct subject headings for guberniias in OCLC records. During one of the ALA meetings, it was suggested that a project to clean up OCLC records with changed headings could be a good project for those catalogers who work remotely.

Next steps:

1. Revise the existing chapter in the *Slavic Cataloging Manual* on Russian guberniias in light of this project
2. Write a new chapter in the *Slavic Cataloging Manual* on the geographic qualifier "(*R.S.F.S.R.)"* used in indirect subdivisions, and edit the existing chapter on qualifiers for geographic entities

APPENDIX

Workflows:

Verify, through authoritative reference sources, such as *Bol'shaia Sovetskaia entsiklopediia, Bol'shaia Rossiiskaia entsiklopediia*, Russian Wikipedia and other (mostly online) sources, the year when a guberniia was established/abolished, review the existing name authority record for the guberniia, add relevant information in the record and change the qualifier if necessary.

If the qualifier was applied correctly:

1. Add **670** field, citing sources consulted, with historical information about the guberniia, and especially the date when it was dissolved, and any variant/earlier/later names if found.
2. Add **046** to the record with known dates for the guberniia's existence, especially the date when the guberniia was dissolved.
3. If there is authoritative information about earlier/later names, add this information to the record (in 670 field), and **551** field (if name is established. If not established, do not add). This might require adding a reciprocal 551 field in another NAR for earlier/later name. Please be careful when adding earlier/later names to the record. Guberniias might have changed their territorial borders, along with the names, so information should be verified whether it was territorially still the same geographic entity.
4. If guberniia is a direct predecessor to a later geographic entity (and authoritative information supporting this is available), add **667** MARC field with this note: SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under [name of the later geographic entity].
5. Change Fixed field Subj to n and Subj use to b to reflect this treatment.

6. If a record already includes 667 field: *SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under [name of the later geographic entity]*, but existing research proves that this later geographic entity is not a direct successor to guberniia, leave this note in and do not remove the related 551 for immediate successor. Delete the subfield #w b or relationship designator "Successor" from the 551, if present.
7. If dealing with cases such this, add this note in 667 field: T*he Guberniias Task Force of the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee of the European Studies Section of ACRL determined that [name of the oblast' or guberniia] is not a direct successor to [name of guberniia], but the subject usage treatment should continue.*
8. Add **781** field, if missing, for indirect subdivision. Make sure that a qualifier for (*R.S.F.S.R.)* at the end of the guberniia's name is present. For example:
   781 0‡z Russia (Federation) ‡z Orenburgskaia guberniia **(R.S.F.S.R.)**
9. Examine the record for any other errors/discrepancies.
10. If the NAR is coded AACR2, upgrade to **RDA.**

If the qualifier is not applied correctly:

1. Add **670** field, citing sources consulted, with historical information about the guberniia, and especially the date when it was dissolved, and any variant/earlier/later names if found.
2. Add a new **151** with correct qualifier
3. Place form of name with incorrect qualifier in **451** with #w nne
4. Change incorrect qualifier in variant access points in 451 to a correct one
5. Add **046** to the record with known dates, especially with the date when guberniia was dissolved.
6. If there is reliable, authoritative information about earlier/later names, add this information to the record (in 670 field), and **551** field (if name is established. If not established, do not add). This might require adding a reciprocal 551 field in another NAR for earlier/later name. Please be careful when adding earlier/later names to the record. Guberniias might have changed their territorial borders, along with the names, so information should be verified whether it was territorially still the same geographic entity.
7. If guberniia is a direct predecessor to another entity (and authoritative information supporting this is available), add **667** MARC field with this note: SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under [name of the later geographic entity].
   Change Fixed field Subj to n and Subj use to b.
8. If a record already includes 667 field: *SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under [name of the later geographic entity]*, but existing research proves that this later geographic entity is not a direct successor to guberniia, leave this note in and do not remove the related 551 for immediate successor. Delete the subfield #w b or relationship designator "Successor" from the 551, if present.

9. If dealing with the case as described above, add this note in 667 field: T*he Guberniias Task Force of the Slavic Cataloging and Metadata Committee of the European Studies Section of ACRL determined that [name of the oblast' or guberniia] is not a direct successor to [name of guberniia], but the subject usage treatment should continue.*
10. Add **781** field, if missing, for indirect subdivision
11. Examine record for any other errors/discrepancies.
12. If the NAR is coded AACR2, upgrade to **RDA**.
13. Report change of name and LCCNs for bibliographic records to be changed (BFMs) to NACO (Reporting mechanism needs to be worked out - it would be reported to NACO on a regular basis, as coming from the Committee)

Useful information: officially name "Российская Социалистическая Федеративная Советская Республика" was adopted in July 19, 1918, after the publication of the Constitution of the RSFSR, July 10, 1918, and was a name of the entire country as successor to imperial Russia until 1922. When USSR was formed in 1922, this name was used only for the Russian (proper) part of the new Union.

Sources to consult:

1. Большая советская энциклопедия (1st edition, 1926-1947), available online in PDF format http://in.1543.ru/pub/bse/)
2. Большая советская энциклопедия (2nd edition, 1949-1958) available online on the same page as the 1st edition http://in.1543.ru/pub/bse/ but in Djvu format, which will take long time to load. 2nd edition might not be as helpful, as guberniias already didn't exist at the time when it was compiled, and articles on guberniias were not added.
3. Большая советская энциклопедия (3rd edition, 1969-1981) - online http://bse.uaio.ru/ OR http://www.rubricon.com/bse_1.asp
4. Большая российская энциклопедия https://bigenc.ru/
5. Russian Wikipedia for Список губерний and История административно-территориального деления РСФСР
6. Other online (or print) resources. There could be some online resources with authoritative and detailed information for individual guberniias.
7. Chapter on Guberniias in the Slavic Cataloging Manual
https://sites.google.com/site/seesscm/guberniias

Example: changes not needed

046 ǂs 1796 ǂt 1929 ǂ2 edtf Added
151 Orenburgskaia guberniia (R.S.F.S.R.)
451 Оренбургская губерния (Р.С.Ф.С.Р.) **Added**
451 Orenburg (Russia : Guberniya)
451 Orenburg (R.S.F.S.R. : Guberniya)
551 Ufimskaia guberniia (R.S.F.S.R.) **Added**
551 Srednevolzhskaia oblast' (R.S.F.S.R.) **Added**

667 For 1796-ca. 1929 headings only: Old catalog heading: Orenburg, Russia (Government)
667 Non-Latin script reference not evaluated. - **Added**
670 Orenburgskoe gubernskoe statisticheskoe biuro. Statisticheskiĭ spravochnik Orenburgskoĭ gubernii, 1926: ǂb t.p. (Orenburgskoĭ gubernii)
670 Russian Brockhaus: ǂb v. 22, p. 129 (Orenburgskaia gubernīia; established 1796)
670 LC data base, 05-03-93 ǂb (hdg.: Orenburgskaia guberniia (R.S.F.S.R.)) LC APIF file (usage: Orenburgskaia gubernīia) LC PreMARC file (hdg.: Orenburg, Russia (Government)
670 Bol'shaia sovetskaia ėntsiklopediia, 1926-1947, via WWW, April 30, 2020: ǂb (Оренбургская губерния = Orenburgskaia guberniia; after the dissolution of guberniia biggest part of it became Orenburgskaia oblast', and smaller parts were integrated into Cheliabinsk oblast' and Bashkir ASSR) **- Added**
670 Bol'shaia rossiĭskaia ėntsiklopediia, via WWW, April 30, 2020: ǂb (Orenburgskaia guberniia (with center in Orenburg), originally established in 1744, renamed to Ufimskoe namestnichestvo in 1784 (with center in Ufa), reinstated as guberniia by the decree of Paul I on December 23, 1796. In 1865 was split into Orenburgskaia and Ufimskaia giberniias. In 1919-1920 was disintegrated. Became a guberniia again on December 8, 1921, but comprised of different components. Abolished May 14, 1928, and merged into Srednevolzhskaia oblast') **- Added**
781 0ǂz Russia (Federation) ǂz Orenburgskaia guberniia (R.S.F.S.R.) **Added**

Example: change needed

046 ǂs 1896-06-04 ǂt 1920-05-11 ǂ2 edtf Added
151 Chernomorskaia guberniia (R.S.F.S.R.)
451 Черноморская губерния (Р.С.Ф.С.Р.)
451 ǂw nne ǂa Chernomorskaia guberniia (Russia) **Added**
451 Chernomorskaya guberniya (Russia) Change to: Chernomorskaya guberniya (R.S.F.S.R.)
667 Non-Latin script reference not evaluated. **Added**
670 Bor'ba trudiashchikhsia Chernomor'ia za vlast' Sovetov, 1972
670 LCCN 74358107 ǂb (Chernomorskaya guberniya, Russia)
670 Bol'shaia rossiĭskaia ėntsiklopediia, via WWW, April 30, 2020: ǂb (Черноморская губерния = Chernomorskaia guberniia, formed June 4, 1896; in May 11, 1920 ceased to exist and became part of Kubano-Chernomorskaia oblast') Added
781 0ǂz Russia (Federation) ǂz Chernomorskaia guberniia (R.S.F.S.R.) **Added**

Submitted by Larisa Walsh, April 8, 2021