

*Survey of CEELBAS researchers' requirements:  
some implications for library provision.*

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## Background to CEELBAS

- UCL SSEES
- University of Oxford
- University of Birmingham

And partners at the Universities of:

Bath, Cambridge, Kent, Manchester, Sheffield, Warwick, and  
SOAS

## CEELBAS countries

Bosnia-Herzegovina - Bulgaria - Croatia - Czech Republic - Estonia - Hungary - Latvia - Lithuania - Macedonia - Moldova - Montenegro - Poland - Romania - Russia - Serbia - Slovakia - Slovenia - Ukraine

## CEELBAS researchers

5 postdoctoral researchers

41 research students

Plus academic staff and other research students of all the partner institutions as participants in workshops, conferences and other CEELBAS sponsored events.

## CEELBAS themes

- ❑ [Cities \(e.g. urban development and urban experiences\)](#)
- ❑ [Health, Wealth, Welfare and Demography](#)
- ❑ Migration and Diasporic Citizenship
- ❑ [New Dimensions of Social Inequality](#)
- ❑ Identities and Solidarities (e.g. regional, national and transnational, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexualities, the dynamics of trust)
- ❑ [Contemporary Cultural Processes](#) (e.g. film, mass media and cultural consumption, youth cultures)
- ❑ [Polish Foreign Policy](#)
- ❑ International Relations, Security and Energy Politics
- ❑ Knowledge-based Economies and Societies (e.g. R&D, E-government)
- ❑ Political and Economic Processes (e.g. democratisation and integration)

## CEELBAS research

The Centre encourages:

- Disciplinary, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and comparative research
- Contemporary as well as historical approaches to the above themes

## The changing pattern of research

- ❑ In the period 1981-86 there were 267 theses in the UK. 207 were on Russia, 16 on Yugoslavia and 14 on Poland. The majority were on Russian literature (Dostoevsky in the lead), language or history.
- ❑ Between 1997 and 2001 there were 669 theses. 50% were on economics, politics and international relations - across the region.
- ❑ In the 100 years of UK research on REES 54% of the 101 theses on society have been produced since 2000. Only 20% predate 1990.
- ❑ There have been 50 theses on health and welfare since 1907. 36 of them date from 2000 or later. 45 postdate 1989.

## Existing library collaborations

- Coseelis
  
- COCOREES
  - Collection descriptions
  - Desiderata list
  
- CoFoR
  - Partnership agreement
  - Transfer arrangements - now administered by COSEELIS
  
- CEELBAS Library Committee

## Survey of researchers' needs

Please give the subject of your research.

Please give the names of the top three resources that are essential to carry out your research.

Do you consider that you have access to all the resources you need to carry out your CEELBAS research?

If not, can you name any resources that you need?

## Survey results

- Only 17 of a potential 41 replies
- 47.1% had access to everything they needed
- 10 people listed resources that they needed, which were:
  - Complete, official electoral statistics
  - Oxford Analytica
  - Balkan Investigative Reporters Network (BIRN)
  - academic books especially in area of sociology
  - More Russian-language journals
  - Dialog.....

## and....

- Balkan Insight (by subscription, news for ALL Balkan countries)
- increased access to online Hungarian journals
- more contemporary romanian films
- Romanian current journals of sociology
- Medialogiya (archive of TV transcripts)
- Contemporary Playtexts (titles tbc)
- Bulgarian statistical data by ethnicity (no central govt data available/existing)
- more books on contemporary Romania
- Contemporary films (titles tbc)
- journals of Romanian studies

## Some of the issues

- Research has become much more diverse since 1989
- Current library collaborations cannot meet the demand
- Some of the gaps are in discipline rather than area coverage
- Numbers are too small to support funding bids within institutions
- Disciplines are split between departments and institutions
- Specialist publishers and suppliers are not always reliable
- Some of the material does not exist

## And some suggestions

- Librarians need to be involved when new research areas are planned.
- Area studies needs a higher profile and a clearer definition within HEIs, so we can compete for expensive resources.
- Funding bodies should take into account potential problems with library resources when funding expansion of research – and liaise with library directors.
- Negotiations with suppliers to take place at a national level for small scattered groups of researchers – and discounts for low levels of use.
- National archiving to be considered for foreign language materials where commercial arrangements are unreliable.