

## **EAP1511**

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### **Methodology Report**

Upon completing a preliminary survey of the collection, the project team established the following selection criteria for the EAP1511 pilot project to ensure a focused and feasible approach within the project's scope:

- Based on feedback from the Advisory Panel, we decided to reduce the number of books initially included in the project. Given the time constraints of a pilot project, this step was necessary to ensure that we could focus on the most critical and historically valuable materials.
- The decision was made to prioritize documents from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. This subset of the collection represents about one-third of the total archive. The remaining materials pertain to the second half of the 20th century, during the Soviet era, when many religious minority groups, including the Seventh Day Adventists, operated either illegally or semi-legally. By focusing on the earlier period, we aim to highlight the historically rooted religious diversity and the wider connections between religious communities in the region and those in other parts of the world.
- The team concentrated on periodicals dating from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. This is an exceptional and unique collection that stands unparalleled in its historical significance. It includes journals, newspaper supplements, Bible lessons, morning spiritual readings, and prayer readings, primarily published by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. These periodicals, written in Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, and Romanian, were produced across the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, Adventist communities in exile (such as those in Harbin), and other regions. Given their rarity and value, this part of the collection was deemed a priority for digitization.
- The project also incorporated manuscripts and objects significant to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. This includes printing equipment used for samizdat, liturgical objects, prophetic and biblical maps, photographs, and personal belongings of church members. These items provide crucial insights into the religious life and resistance practices of the Adventist community under repression.
- Within the books, liturgical items, and photographs collections, due to the extensive number of items, the decision was made to digitize only a few representative examples from each collection. This approach allowed for a more streamlined and manageable digitization process without compromising the diversity or richness of the materials.

- In cases where items were deemed too fragile for digitization, such as certain books and maps, the institution opted not to include them in the process. The preservation of these delicate materials remains a priority, and alternative conservation strategies may be considered in future projects.
- The audio collection and film negatives were not included in the project.