ERASMUS+ Staff Mobility
St. Petersburg State University
M. Gorky Scientific Library

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University of Beira Interior Library
2019
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I would like to thank the University of Beira Interior and St. Petersburg University for this exceptional opportunity in terms of professional and personal development.

Many thanks to all Library staff at St. Petersburg University for the knowledge and work experiences shared. A special thanks to Ekaterina for such warm welcome and for accompanying me during the amazing week at SPbU. Спасибо за все (obrigada por tudo).
We live in an age of global knowledge, with rapid advances in science and technology and acceleration in learning. We also live in an age of profound need for more cohesive and inclusive societies which allow citizens to play an active role in democratic life, thus fostering social integration, and enhancing intercultural understanding.

It is through education and training that nowadays societies and individuals can play a decisive role tackling socio-economic changes and other key challenges.

The labour market accompanies these changes, requiring professionals to be able to interact in a global setting. Furthermore, some particular skills are increasingly viewed as major sought-after assets: intercultural skills, global awareness, foreign language(s) expertise, interconnected networking, lifelong learning, tolerance and constant adaptability.

The Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme that invests in knowledge, skills and competences that will benefit individuals, organisations and society as a whole by ensuring equity, prosperity and social inclusion. This programme is also an effective instrument for personal fulfilment.

The present report aims at providing a summary of the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Programme developed at The Saint Petersburg State University (SPbU) from 13th May to 17th May 2019. It offers a brief description of the city, the university and the Library, together with an account of the main activities undertaken at the M. Gorky Scientific Library.
The main motivation for the application to the Erasmus+ Staff Training Programme was professional, since it offered an unique opportunity for the transfer of knowledge and good practises, for an increased learning process based on shared experiences, and for the discover of new ideas. It was also believed that it could foster strategic thinking leading to innovation, staff collaboration, international networks and new partnerships between the library professionals in both institutions, thus increasing and expanding the effectiveness and efficiency of the University of Beira Interior’s Library.

On a personal level, it represented a challenging experience to travel to a country outside the European Union, with an unique history and culture, and the possibility to meet new people and discover different ways of thinking and working.

At the M. Gorky Scientific Library, the main goals established for the programme were:

- Get to know the day-to-day of the Scientific Library;
- Get to know and share policies, best practices, methods and innovations in the librarianship field;
- Develop contacts with library technical staff to establish future mutual cooperation and multicultural relationships;
- Deepen mutual knowledge, thus contributing to the internationalisation of both institutions.

For that, a work plan was established before arriving at St. Petersburg (see Annex 1) to function as a guide, although there was flexibility in the schedule and tasks undertaken. Supervision during the programme was carried out by Ekaterina Polnikova, E-Resources Coordinator.
The city of Saint Petersburg was established by Tsar Peter the Great (1672-1725) at the end of the 18th century, after the Great Northern War.

The city soon became an important Russian seaport and Tsar Peter even moved the capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg between 1713–1728 (after his death it was also Russia’s capital between 1732–1918). He also commissioned the Twelve Collegia, designed by Domenico Trezzini, to house the Russian Government. In 1830 this building would house the St. Petersburg University by decree of Emperor Nicholas I.

The city's traditional nicknames among Russians are the Window to the West and the Window to Europe. It is also often called the Venice of the North due to its many water corridors. Today the city is Russia’s second-largest city (after Moscow), having taken advantage of its location along the Neva Bay of the Gulf of Finland. It is considered Russia’s cultural capital and its Historic Centre and many monuments constitute a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. St. Petersburg

During the preparation for the Erasmus+, a lot of research was done about the city and key aspects of Russian’s culture. Examples are the history of the city; practical aspects such as climate, currency, contacts with the Portuguese Embassy; memorization of key words in Russian, and, above all, research about the most iconic monuments and museums, some of which are presented on this page to serve as inspiration to all those who wish to visit this amazing city.

The Zoological Museum opened to the public in 1838 and today exhibits about 500 thousand species (but its collection consists of 17 million species).

The Botanic Garden of the V. L. Komarov Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences was founded in 1714 by order of Peter the Great, and is one of the oldest in Russia.

Private library of Emperor Nicholas II at the Hermitage Museum (the second-largest art museum in the world, founded in 1764 by Empress Catherine the Great).

The Peterhof Palace was commissioned by Peter the Great and intended for country habitation. It is known as the “Russian Versailles”.

Saint Isaac’s Cathedral was ordered by Tsar Alexander I, and built from 1818 to 1858.
The Saint Petersburg State University (SPbU) dates back to 1724 when Emperor Peter the Great founded the Academy of Sciences and Arts and the first Academic University.

In 1819 Alexander I approved a legislative proposal to re-establish the University in St Petersburg by means of reforming the Main Pedagogical Institute, and in 1821 St. Petersburg University was awarded the title of an Imperial University.

More recently, in 1992 SPbU was declared an institution of the highest level of accounting and protection enjoying special governmental support and autonomous status.

Its motto is *hic tuta perennat* (“here all in safety lasts”).

Today, SPbU has:

- 30,000 students and 5,000 academic staff members;
- 11,000 places in the halls of residence;
- 30 scholarships and over 400 winners;
- 26 resource centres;
- 400 events (concerts, exhibitions, festivals, sport events);
- 19 teams in 15 sports;

- Volunteering programmes and student unions;
- 418 degree programmes and 800 non-degree programmes;
- 485 partner universities;
- 9 Nobel Prize winners (e.g. Joseph Brodsky), and famous alumni (e.g. Vladimir Putin and Dmitry Medvedev).
4. M. Gorky Scientific Library

4.1. Brief history

The M. Gorky Scientific Library (frequently abbreviated “Scientific Library”) is one of the oldest and largest university libraries in Russia. Its main goal is to ensure the availability of learning resources and services for the university’s educational programs and the entire academic community.

The Scientific Library includes the Central Research Library and 21 subject libraries (the first one established in 1934) that play an important role of proximity to library users, and support education and research in specific thematic areas.

Although all libraries have administrative autonomy, procedures, rules and goals are common to all. About 230 staff work in the Scientific Library.

The Scientific Library’s print collection dates back to 1783, and since then many studies of the historical book collections have been carried out. Access to the print collection was, up to the 1990s, through a card index. In 1995 the electronic catalogue started to be used for new arrivals, and retrospective cataloguing of the book collection started in the beginning of the 2000s.

Today, e-resources are equally important and the Scientific Library’s electronic collection (e-journals, e-books, bibliographic and open access databases, scientometric resources) is equally impressive.
4.2. Induction

The first day was mainly reserved for general visits, namely to the *Twelve Collegia* building and the Central Research library.

There was also a general introduction to the Scientific Library and library resources through .ppt presentations. In return, a presentation was also given about Covilhã, the University of Beira Interior and its Library (see Annex 2).

4.3. Guided Tours

Throughout the week, there were several guided tours prepared, both at SPbU and to one of the branches of the National Library.

4.3.1. Central Research Library

The Central Research Library is located in the *Twelve Collegia* and has a computer room, a reading room and a room for the card index. The central stacks of the Scientific Library are positioned in many rooms throughout the building of the *Twelve Collegia*, and the team of the rare book and manuscripts collection work intensively in order to provide the bibliographic record in the electronic catalogue.
4. M. Gorky Scientific Library

4.3.2. Graduate School of Management Library (GSOM Library)

The GSOM Library has a unique book collection on Management and related fields (Marketing, Finance, Political Science), complemented by a collection in Philology, Philosophy, Sociology, among other relevant subjects. The total number of units exceeds 80,000 copies. The Library also holds all the publications by GSOM faculty, conference materials and most of course compendiums. New acquisitions are done in accordance with the content needs of GSML programmes and courses, and some specific subject databases are also subscribed.

Like many other branches, the Library has collections that were donated by alumni, professors, and scientists. All items are included in the main collection and a metal plaque is added to one of the library’s wall for posterity.

The library’s reading rooms are very comfortable, with open access to the fund (including periodicals), and there are also areas for group work. The Library is equipped with computers and there is a variety of services at the disposal of readers: photocopying, scanning, e-mail delivery of documents, and Wi-Fi. All the processes in the library are computerized, since the RFID technology is used widely.

The GSOM Library’s mascot is a owl.
4. M. Gorky Scientific Library

4.3.3. Faculty of Law Library

For more than a hundred years, the Law Faculty was located in the main building of the University (the Twelve Collegiums) and the need of law students and professors for literature was satisfied by the university-wide library fund.

Today, the Law Faculty Library has an open access collection that contains: Russian-language textbooks, educational and methodical literature, reference books, and dictionaries published over the past five years; textbooks recommended for study on the curriculum; foreign books published over the past two years. The content needs of GSML programmes and courses, and some specific subject databases are also subscribed.

Other collections include donated print collections (e.g. collection that belonged to Gerhard Schroeder, former Chancellor of Germany); a collection of author's abstracts of candidate and doctoral dissertations defended in legal sciences both in Russia and abroad, beginning in 1947; a fund of rare books in Russian and foreign languages, published before 1830.

The Library also has a remote access centre for the Presidential Library, which means that it has a specific reading room with access to all electronic resources and multimedia projects of the Presidential Library (see more on the Presidential Library on page 12).
The SPbU’s History Museum dates back to the 1930s, when a group of scientists expressed the need for a museum on the pages of the university’s newspaper. However, it was only in 1945 that the museum was born and staffed in order to preserve the university’s history and foster the continuing study about the university and its history.

Because most of the print collection already belonged to the library, the museum was initially included in the structure of the Scientific Library, but after 1997 it became an independent structural unit.

Today, it includes not only a print collection, but also sculptures, paintings, historical and memorial materials, important items that were used or belonged to famous professors and alumni, among other. There is also a project to create a single updated electronic catalogue of resources on the history of SPbU, together with a list of external resources related to the university’s history, and updated bibliography of university history research.

4.3.5. Presidential Library

Since there are two branches of the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg, a guided tour was organized to one of them - the Presidential Library.

Located in the historical building of the Synod, the Presidential Library opened in 2009 and is a federal electronic storage of digital copies of the most important documents on
Russian’s history, theory and practice, and language. The collection holds more than 770,000 electronic copies of books and periodicals, archival documents, audio and video recordings, photographs, educational films, abstracts of thesis and other materials. It also includes electronic reading and exhibition halls, a conference hall, meeting rooms, a multimedia complex, a television complex, digitization and storage centres for digital data, and its own publishing and printing complex.

Furthermore, The Presidential Library has 1000 remote access centres in all regions of the Russian Federation and 39 centres in 30 foreign countries. Since Portugal has yet to accommodate one of these remote access centres, it is suggested that the establishment of the first Portuguese Presidential Library centre should be within the Library of the University of Beira Interior.

The Presidential Library portal (www.prilib.ru) is daily visited by several millions of remote users.
4.4. Print collection

The Scientific Library possesses a rich print collection, corresponding to 7 million items and almost 2 million titles. The electronic catalogue contains 2,7 million records (the remaining need to be searched in the card catalogue). The basic collection dates back to 1783, when Empress Catherine the Great bought the private collection of the famous Russian official Pavel Zhukov (about 1100 volumes), and presented it to the Principal Public School and its affiliated Teachers Seminary.

Today the rare book and manuscripts collection has about 100 thousand items: manuscripts; rare books; foreign books from the 15th century to 1800; Russian books from the beginning of book-printing to 1800; books that were illegal, banned and destroyed by censorship; incunabula; first editions; xylographs; books in old Cyrillic script; and classic’s lifetime editions. The oldest relic of written language kept in the Library is a fragment of “Sluzhebnik” from the 11th century, originated in northern France.

Because of the importance of the print collection, an opportunity was provided in the
cataloguing service to see the cataloguing program (Lince), the USMARC format for bibliographic data, the authorities’ file, and the classification and subject indexing procedures.

In the rare book and manuscript collection a chance was provided to observe in loco some of the items of the Library’s important rare book collection, including a Latin book published in Lisbon in 1542, the first French-Russian grammar (1749), children’s books that were censured, and a map of the Iberian Peninsula made in the 16th century.

4.5. E-resources

One of the main themes discussed was the acquisition and management of e-resources. The SPbU is a member of a national consortium of about 1000 organizations (among these are libraries, hospitals, research labs), and benefits from the Russian State’s subscriptions made available for all educational and research institutions.

The electronic collection subscribed by SPbU includes more than 190 licensed electronic resources on 70 different platforms, including 600,000 e-books, 83,000 e-journals (corresponding to 355 years of journal access) and other e-resources. All academic community has access to all resources 24/7. Subscriptions are processed centrally at the Scientific Library, but some subject libraries have the autonomy to subscribe individual resources.

In 2018 electronic resources had 453,915 visits and 909,202 full-text downloads.

The Scientific Library develops a digital collection of Russian books and periodicals of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Library also provides access to authoritative indexes of science citation, which
allow to follow the trends of development of various branches of science and evaluate the contribution of the authors of SPbU into the world of science.

Many of the electronic resources analysed during the Erasmus+ programme would be worth mentioning, but a choice was made to refer to only the ones found more useful for the UBI Library: the Russian Index of Science Citation (RISC), VuFind, Elasticsearch, and Artstor.

RISC is a bibliographic database of scientific publications in Russian. Launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Education and Science in Russia, it was integrated into Web of Science in 2016. The database aims at expanding the presence of Russian research, and enhance both scholarly literature search and bibliometric research evaluation (Moskaleva, 2018).

Another important resource is VuFind – an open source programme that functions as a search engine. This enables users to search and browse through all of the library’s resources (catalogue records, locally cached journals, digital library items, institutional repository and other library collections and resources).

The library also uses Elasticsearch (a search engine with multitenant-capable full-text
4. M. Gorky Scientific Library

engine with an HTTP web interface) together with Kibana (an open source plugin for Elasticsearch that provides users with data mining and visualization).

Artstor (www.artstor.org) is a digital library with over 2.5 million images from reliable sources that have been rights-cleared for use in education and research and that have been curated with high-quality metadata from cataloguers, curators, institutions and artists themselves.

The following are some of the links to E-resources:

- Library catalogue: www.library.spbu.ru
- E-books - https://find.library.spbu.ru/vufind/
- E-journals - http://cufts.library.spbu.ru/CJDB/SPBGU/browse
- E-resources - http://cufts.library.spbu.ru/CRDB/SPBGU/
- Repository: https://dspace.spbu.ru

Finally, there was also opportunities to talk about the Open Access policies in Russia, and the role of the SPbU’s institutional repository.

4.6. User training

Although the training programme was not extensively discussed, a few current trends similar to Portuguese library training programmes were debated, namely the need felt by library staff to find new ways to raise student’s interest in training sessions, such as the use of social media platforms for information diffusion as an alternative to the traditional training in class.

The Scientific Library has been developing training sessions directed to teachers so that they can transmit the information directly to their students in their classes. Another example is the use of training videos shared in social media (GSOM Library).
The participation in the Erasmus+ Staff Training Programme in Saint Petersburg was an unique privilege. It represented the opportunity to gain competences and have personal, socio-educational and professional development abroad.

Getting to know the day-to-day of a big university library and the efforts to constantly meet user's needs were, undoubtedly, an inspiration. Also, it was uplifting to see how the Scientific Library tackles current problems that affect libraries worldwide.

Since not all librarianship areas were covered, further participation in other Erasmus+ Staff Training Programmes will be highly beneficial, especially in areas such as user training, services for users with special needs, and library networks.

Finally, it is hoped that the experience presented in this report can serve as inspiration to other colleagues at the University of Beira Interior.
Bibliography


13-17 May
Staff Mobility Program at M. Gorky Scientific Library | Graça Gabriel

**Main goals:**
- Get to know the day-to-day of the M. Gorky Scientific Library and library branches;
- Get to know and share policies, best practices, methods and innovations in the librarianship field;
- Develop contacts with library technical staff to establish future mutual cooperation and multicultural relationships;
- Deepen mutual knowledge, thus contributing to the internationalisation of both institutions.

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### Schedule

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<td>General visit to the University of St. Petersburg (e.g. main buildings, Information Technology Research Centre); General visit to the M. Gorky Scientific Library and library branches; Presentation of the University of Beira Interior and its Libraries.</td>
<td>Acquisitions (collection management, software, procedures); E-resources (databases, OA resources, repository, catalogue); Cataloguing, subject indexing and authorities file.</td>
<td>Communication and marketing (resource dissemination, communication of scientific research, library networks established locally/nationally or internationally, activity planning and organization); Front desk service.</td>
<td>User training program (training sessions, training for international/disabled students, training materials, communication and marketing); Interlibrary loan service; Visit to the Hermitage Museum.</td>
<td>University’s internationalization policy (program towards foreign students, international projects; support to spin-off companies); Visit to the National Library.</td>
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Annex 2
Staff Mobility Program
St. Petersburg Central University

Graça Gabriel
University of Beira Interior (Portugal)
Main Library

Covilhã and Star Mountain

- Covilhã is located in the Portuguese central region, at the bottom of the highest Portuguese mountain range called Star Mountain (Serra da Estrela);
- It is called town of wool and snow because in the past it was a major centre for wool and textile industries and because of the snow in the Winter in the mountain;
- Major economic activities today include textiles, tourism, food industry and agriculture;
- The population is about 35000 people;
- The city also privileges public art and has beautiful gardens.
The University of Beira Interior (UBI) is a public university, founded in 1979. UBI is organised into five Faculties:
- Sciences (Departments of Physics, Mathematics, Informatics, and Chemistry);
- Engineering (Departments of Informatics, Science and Technology, Electromechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Aerospace Sciences);
- Human and Social Sciences (Departments of Management and Economics, Sociology, Psychology and Education, and Sports Sciences);
- Arts and Languages (of Communication and Arts, and the Languages);
- Health Sciences (Department of Medical Sciences).

All departments of the university grant bachelor's degree, degree, master's degree and Ph.D.;
In the academic year 2017/2018, the University had 8060 students, 734 teachers/researchers, and 265 staff;
The university has five centres:
- Library (includes the Printing Service);
- CFIUTE (Center for Teaching and Interaction with Companies);
- CREA (Learning-Teaching Resource Center);
- Optics Centre;
- Museum of woollen manufacture;
- UBI Medical (R&D Medical Center);
The Cova da Beira Hospital Center is the teaching hospital of the University of Beira Interior.
University of Beira Interior: libraries

- UBI had its first Library in 1982, at the University’s main campus. As the university grew, new branches were needed: Human and Social Sciences Library, and the Health Sciences Library. The Main Library was transferred to a new building in 2001. Today the Library also integrates the Printing Service.

- 24 staff members bring diverse services to the academic community (front desk, reference service, interlibrary loan, acquisitions, cultural events, diverse collections, database trials, self-printing, professional printing, computers, individual/group study rooms, Wi-Fi, spaces open 24/7 - 365 days a year, bar/restaurant, etc.).

University of Beira Interior: libraries

- The Library motto is *Ubi sapientia, ibi libertas* (where there is knowledge/wisdom, there is freedom).
University of Beira Interior: libraries

RCBibliotecas
COVILHÃ
Rede Concelhia de Bibliotecas

Staff mobility program | St. Petersburg Central University | Graça Gabriel
University of Beira Interior: libraries

In 2017 the Libraries welcomed Luisa, Librarian at Universidad de Almaría (Spain), in her ERASMUS+ Staff Program.

In 2019 we welcomed María Teresa Rodríguez Facal, Library Director of the Informatic Library at the University of Coruña (Spain), in her ERASMUS+ Staff Program.
University of Beira Interior: libraries

Currently I’m a Librarian at the UBI’s Main Library;
• Main duties: supervision of the cataloguing team; subject indexing, classification and elaboration of the authorities file and supervision of another staff member in these tasks; user training; communication and marketing; Koha manager (cataloguing, authorities and administration modules);
• Representative of the Library in the national Koha Work Group and in RIBBSE;
• Manager of the European Documentation Collection.
Previously I was:
▪ Language teacher at Lancaster College;
▪ College Librarian at the London School of Commerce;
▪ Information Services Librarian at the Cambridge University Engineering Department;
▪ Library assistant at the University of Aveiro Library;
▪ ...

M. Gorky Scientific Library and library branches

Main goals:
• Get to know the day-to-day of the M. Gorky Scientific Library and library branches;
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