

# The impact of Latvian exile literature on research in Latvia: issues in data collection

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# Introduction

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- § Introduction of the study
- § Citation analysis: selection of literature
- § Citation analysis: data collection
- § Preliminary results

# Background: exile literature

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- § Approximately 120,000 Latvians lived in exile after World War II
- § Approximately 11,250 titles were published between 1945 and 1991
- § Focus on preserving Latvian language and culture, and fighting for the independence of Latvia
- § Freely available in Latvia only after 1991

# Aims & methods

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§ Aim: to study the use of exile literature in Latvian research and its impact on research literature

Methods:

- § Citation analysis of Latvian research literature
- § Survey of Latvian researchers
- § Survey of Latvian libraries

# Citation analysis: issues considered

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- § 15 years time frame (1992-2006)
- § Literature from different fields of social sciences, arts and humanities
- § Different types of materials
- § Manual data collection

# Literature selection for analysis (1)

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§ Database - Latvian National Bibliography Database of Monographs and Serials

§ Research literature - all publications containing bibliography

§ Identification of disciplines according to the UDC class marks assigned by the National Library of Latvia

# Literature selection for analysis (2)

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- § Following disciplines were selected: history and geography, politics, literature and linguistics, philosophy and psychology, religion, education, folklore, the arts
- § Different types of materials included: books, conference proceedings, journals
- § Materials in all languages
- § Literature published in Latvia only
- § Only original works (no translations)

# Building a sampling frame

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§ Initially, 13,232 bibliographic records of books and conference proceedings with bibliographies were identified

§ After data cleaning and verification, 3441 publications were included in the sampling frame

§ 412 journal issues were added (thus, 3853 items in total)

# Sampling

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- § Combination of systematic and stratified sampling was used
- § All items were organised according to the discipline and year of publication, then in alphabetical order
- § Every 10<sup>th</sup> item was selected; thus, a sample of 385 items was drawn
- § The actual sample was considerably larger because each article in a journal, conference proceedings, or collection of works was treated as a separate item

# Data management

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§ References from bibliographies and/or footnotes and endnotes were entered

§ Altogether, 1204 items examined and 29,607 references entered into Excel database

# Issues with references

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- § Languages – only references in Latvian, English, German, and French were fully entered
- § Types of materials – references to archive materials were counted only
- § Often bad referencing practice followed

# Preliminary results

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- § Exile literature is generally seen as a part of Latvian historical and cultural heritage
- § It contains information that was not readily accessible in Latvia before independence, it offers different perspectives and opinions, and is based on sources that were not available for Latvian researchers
- § Its greatest impact has been on research in history, literature, and folklore

**Thank you for your attention!**

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