Appendix A to Research Statement

Below is the text of the letter sent to prospective Editorial Board members describing the Electronic Archive “Project for the Study of Dissidence and Samizdat.” To date, the confirmed Editorial Board members include Professors Benjamin Nathans (University of Pennsylvania), Gerald Janecek (University of Kentucky), Peter Reddaway (George Washington University), Allan Reid (University of New Brunswick), Arseny Roginsky (International Memorial Society), Yaacov Ro’i (Tel Aviv University), Stephanie Sandler (Harvard University), Susanne Schattenberg (Forschungsstelle Osteuropa an der Universität Bremen), Cécile Vaissié (Université de Rennes).

Dear ****,

I am writing to invite you to be part of the Editorial Board for an electronic archive, entitled Project for the Study of Dissidence and Samizdat (PSDS) being developed with the help of funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under my direction at the University of Toronto Libraries. This Electronic Archive will feature four main components at its launch, scheduled for 2015:

1. The **Database of Soviet Samizdat Periodicals** – this resource, in English and Russian, features bibliographic information about approximately 300 samizdat editions, sources of information on them, and location of archival holdings of samizdat copies. It has been publically available since 2011, and has been acknowledged by experts as an unparalleled resource on this type of samizdat. [http://samizdat.library.utoronto.ca](http://samizdat.library.utoronto.ca)

2. **Electronic Editions of Samizdat Journals** – high quality digital photographs of full issues of a number of remarkable samizdat journals were taken in the archive of the Institute for the Study of Eastern Europe, University of Bremen. We are preparing electronic publication of full issues of these journals, and including searchable text and commentary for two of them, the literary and religious-philosophical journal 37, and the neo-futurist art journal Transponans.

3. **Illustrated Timelines of Dissidence** – an overview of the Democratic Movement and an overview of the Jewish National Movement with photographs collected from some of the major collections of relevant materials. The two separate timelines will provide an introduction to the movements and communities, raising questions about how different groups evolved and what their distinctive concerns were.

4. **Interviews with Activists** – Interviews with editors and authors of a variety of Samizdat journals and interviews with other activists including Jewish Refuseniks will be presented on the site.

The Electronic Archive is designed to be both an attractive introduction to the topic for students and other interested members of the public, and a resource and platform for scholars working on the topics. The components represent the outcome of partnerships with the Memorial Society (Database, Democratic Dissident Timeline, Interview with Activists), the Open Society Archive (Database), and the research project of Dr. Josephine Zitzewitz at Oxford University (Electronic Edition of 37). They represent also collaboration with Israeli scholars (Jewish Movement Timeline, Interviews with...
Activists), collaboration with Dr. Ilja Kukuj of the University of Munich (commentary to *Transponans*), and collaboration with filmmaker Laura Bialis (Interviews with Activists). One of the goals of the Project is to help increase awareness of the brick-and-mortar archives and collections on which the electronic archive draws. Another goal is to provide a place for publishing materials and scholarship that may be well suited to this electronic format.

The Project for the Study of Dissidence and Samizdat (PSDS) adopts the principle of peer-review for digital work used for the website “Nines,” devoted to nineteenth-century scholarship, [www.nines.org/about](http://www.nines.org/about). While PSDS exists on a much smaller scale, it reflects the same commitment to rigorous scholarship in digital scholarly resources. Therefore, your assistance is requested to strengthen the electronic archive by becoming part of an editorial board of authoritative specialists who possess the expertise to critique components already developed or to be undertaken in the future.

As a member of the editorial board for the electronic archive PSDS, you would review one of the components before launch in 2015. Requests for your participation subsequently would be unlikely to exceed one request every year or two years as existing components are enhanced or new components are added. Should you have suggestions for possible developments or collaborations, they would be welcome.

Sincerely,

Ann Komaromi,
Assistant Professor and Director of the Project for the Study of Dissidence and Samizdat