

One for the books

Nearly 18,000 Russian books recently earmarked for burning are coming to Miami instead.

They were in a Rockville, Md., bookstore's collection of 1 million Russian books targeted for burning or pulping as part of a warehouse eviction.

Karen Dawisha, professor of political science and director of Miami's Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, heard about the situation when two friends at the Library of Congress (LOC) told her they were working with Librarian of Congress James Billington to save the collection.

"Billington had been here the previous year to give the first Havighurst Lecture and obviously had been impressed with the University's commitment to become a major Russian center," Dawisha says. "This is a major addition to our Russia collection, which is outstanding in certain areas of the 19th century, but needs work on the 20th century."

"The Libraries are excited to make these quality Russian-language materials available to Miami student and faculty scholars," adds Dean and University Librarian Judith Sessions. "They make an already strong collection even stronger. We're very grateful to the Library of Congress for entrusting them to us."

