A CORPUS ANALYSIS OF EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Literary Text Selection in Russian Émigré Education, 1918–1939

A Corpus-Based Study of School Anthologies

Maria Kolenova
Lomonosov Moscow State University

Central claim: selective cultural continuity

02 — RESEARCH DESIGN

Research problem

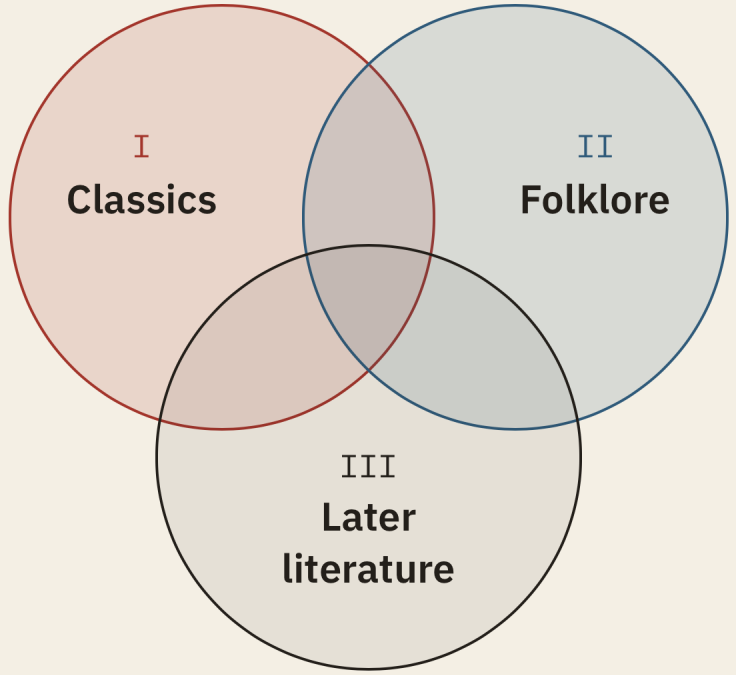
QUESTION

What did Russian émigré schools actually select for reading, 1918–1939?

HYPOTHESIS

Preservation plus restructuring — not a mechanical copy

THREE INTERACTING LAYERS



03 — RESEARCH DESIGN

Corpus and evidence

3,005

records

36

bibliographic units

DATASET

Daria Strizhkova

School Literary Canon of Emigration, 1918–1939

UNIT OF OBSERVATION

A work or excerpt in a publication

Source: Strizhkova dataset · DOI 10.31860/openlit-2025.7-B020

04 — RESEARCH DESIGN

Measuring canonical presence

Four complementary measures

01

Records

Intensity of inclusion

02

Distinct title strings

Recorded repertoire variety

03

biblio_id

Spread across bibliographic units

04

Series / projects

Spread after serial consolidation

36

biblio_id

→

20

series / projects

Bibliographic units consolidated into series and projects for a **sensitivity check**

05 — FINDINGS

The classical core

Counts and breadth of distribution differ

Author	Records	biblio_id	Projects / 20
Pushkin	193	23	14
Krylov	148	18	10
Tolstoy	126	22	13
Lermontov	108	18	13
Nekrasov	102	20	12
Turgenev	63	20	14

BREADTH

14 / 20

Pushkin and Turgenev each appear in 14 consolidated projects

with 193 and 63 records respectively

06 — FINDINGS

Folklore: a minimum estimate

273

records = **9.1%** of corpus

23 / 36

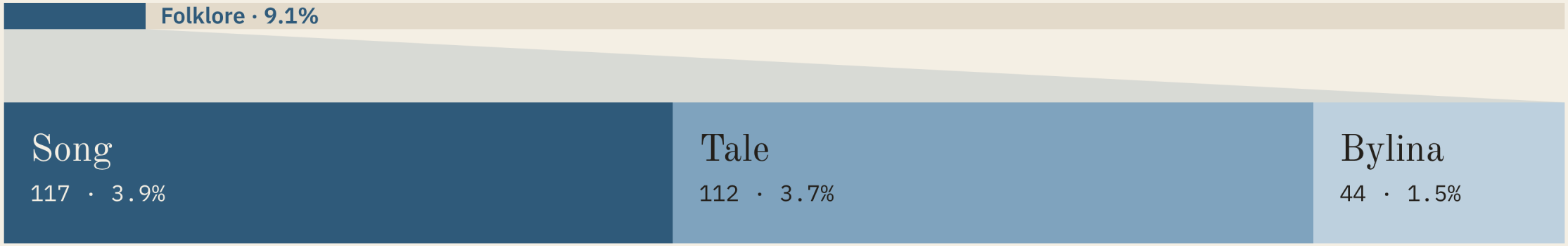
bibliographic units

15 / 20

consolidated projects

Whole corpus · 3,005 records

Forms: records · % of corpus



Rule: anonymous author AND genre = song, tale, or bylina

07 — FINDINGS

Later literature crosses political boundaries

Each author: records · bar = consolidated projects reached, of 20

DIASPORA

Balmont
54 records — 12 / 20

Bunin
19 records — 11 / 20

Sasha Chorny
15 records — 8 / 20

SOVIET RUSSIA

Blok
32 records — 9 / 20

Bryusov
16 records — 7 / 20

Sologub
11 records — 9 / 20

COMPLEX

Gorky
16 records — 9 / 20

Treated as a complex transnational case

Émigré and Soviet-connected authors coexist.

08 — FINDINGS

Significant absences

NOT RECORDED IN THE AUTHOR FIELD

Tsvetaeva **Nabokov / Sirin**

ALSO ABSENT

Mayakovsky **Akhmatova** **Mandelstam** **Pasternak** **Khlebnikov**

These are **corpus-level absences**, not proof of exclusion from all émigré schools

REPEATED SELECTED WORKS

Blok, “Palm Sunday”	8
Balmont, “Towards Winter”	5

09 — FINDINGS

Comparison with imperial anthologies

Reference: 108 anthologies/readers, 1805–1912 · 10,473 occurrences



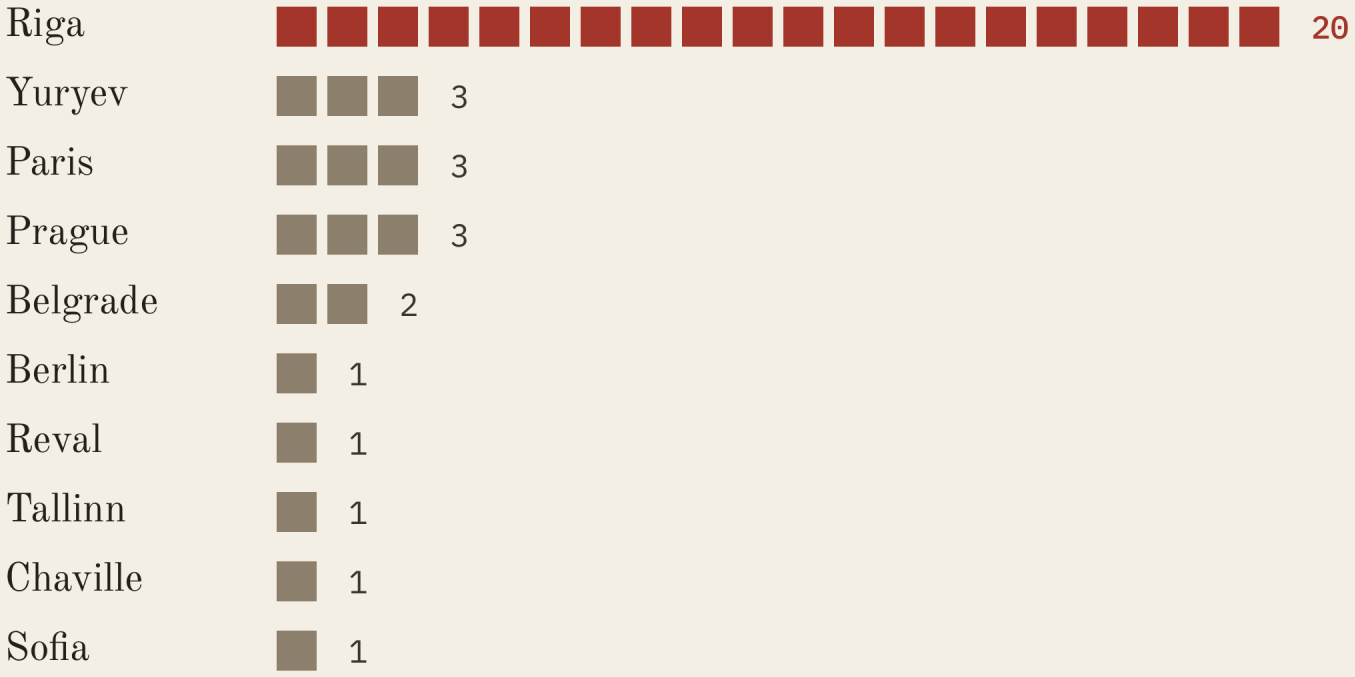
Compare rank and structure, not absolute totals — bars are scaled within each period.

Imperial data: Vdovin, Leibov and Kazakova · DOI 10.31860/openlit-2021.9-B003

10 — LIMITS

Corpus geography and bias

Bibliographic units by place of publication · one square = one unit



20 / 36

bibliographic units were published in **Riga**

Publication concentration and series structure affect interpretation

11 — DISCUSSION

Interpretation and pedagogical relevance

I

Classics

Established literary repertoire

II

Folklore

Recurrent traditional forms

III

Later literature

Selective chronological extension

PEDAGOGICAL RELEVANCE

Heritage-language education: useful analogy, not historical identity

LIMIT OF THE EVIDENCE

The corpus documents **availability of texts**, not learning outcomes

12 — DISCUSSION

Conclusions

1. Preservation of part of the classical core
2. Reordering within that core
3. Folklore as a widely distributed minimum layer
4. Later literature selected across political-geographical lines

NEXT

- Semantic title matching
- Manual attribution
- Thematic coding
- Teaching sources

13 — SOURCES

Core sources

ÉMIGRÉ CORPUS, 1918–1939

Daria Strizhkova, *School Literary Canon of Emigration, 1918–1939* (dataset)

DOI 10.31860/openlit-2025.7-B020

IMPERIAL ANTHOLOGIES, 1805–1912

Vdovin, Leibov and Kazakova, imperial anthologies dataset

DOI 10.31860/openlit-2021.9-B003

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Thank you

Maria Kolenova

Lomonosov Moscow State University