

# The Role of the Information and Communication Technologies in the Dissident Movement of 1960s-1970s

by Marina Nazarova  
PhD student  
Department of Sociology, City University London  
[Marina.Nazarova.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:Marina.Nazarova.1@city.ac.uk),  
[Marina.L.Nazarova@gmail.com](mailto:Marina.L.Nazarova@gmail.com)

My PhD project is focused on the role of information and communication technologies in the Soviet dissident movement of 1960s-1970s. I am interested in how dissidents built communication channels and what type of technology they used for dissemination of information. Since Open Society Archives hold solid data on dissidence, I am very grateful I had opportunity to come and conduct my fieldwork research here. I am very grateful that Visegrad scholarship could assist me with it. It was a great honor to become a part of OSA community. I would like to cordially thank Katalin Gadoros, Nora Ungar, Anna Mazanik, Judit Hegedus and other colleagues at OSA for helping make this trip as productive and wonderful as possible.

My work at OSA gave me deeper understanding on how Soviet dissident movement functioned, and what kind of information was disseminated among participants. I had a chance to look through Samizdat Archives (HU OSA 300-85), which contain 16 different categories of materials. Among all of them, with kind navigation from Anna Mazanik, I could identify documents that could be helpful for me: Administrative files (HU OSA 300-85-47), which contain 17 archival boxes. Every box represents correspondence materials disseminated between Radio liberty samizdat research staff and contributors and recipients of samizdat materials.

The main objective of my research is to understand how media technologies were used among dissidents, what role the availability of technology played in the creation of their underground media, so finding materials that can provide information about sources and recipients of samizdat materials can be very helpful for building the map of information and communication flows. The ways in which they built communication channels are crucial for understanding the role of the different communication strategies in organising and mobilising actors. The aim of the study is to find out whether dissident movement has much in common with the current media based social activism in terms of organising and mobilising participants of the movement, so I was looking for the data that could help understand how information circulated among the participants. I found correspondence materials, which represent letters, handwritten notes, memos, telexes, etc. Almost every document contains information about sender and receiver, so hopefully it will help to understand how information circulated. One of the biggest revelations from work at OSA is how intense was circulation of samizdat materials in the West. Finding these administrative files gave me a new understanding of scale of the dissident movement.

At the moment I am in the process of analysing collected data, and I would like to attach the register of documents I've done so far, based on the found materials. I hope that work at OSA archives will help me

answer my research question and also contribute to the existing scholarship on technologies in activism.  
Please find my spreadsheet attached as a separate file.

Kind regards

Marina

<b>Type of the document</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date</b>
Letter from William C. Thoma (Director, Center for appeals for freedom, Freedom house) to Dr.Keith Bush (Director, RL research)	Freedom House, New York	RFE/RL, Munich	11.04.1979
Letter from William C. Thoma (Director, Center for appeals for freedom, Freedom house) to Mr. Peter Dornan (RFE/RL)	Freedom House, New York	RL, Munich	11.04.1979
Handwritten note to Mario from Julia (in Rus)			circa 1979
Typed noted to Mrs Duke			circa 1979
Letter from Mrs Duke (European Jewish publications) to Mr Dornan (Samizdat staff, RFE)	European Jewish publications, London	Radio Free Europe, Munich	19.04.1978
Letter from Peter Dornan (RL) to Mrs Duke (European Jewish publications)	RL, Samizdat staff, Munich	European Jewish publications, London	14.04.1978
Letter from Mrs Duke (European Jewish publications) to RL Research department	European Jewish publications, London	RL, Munich	28.03.1978
RL Memorandum, suggestion for two programs	RL, Munich	RL, Munich	3.12.1969
Memo from Gene Sosin to Peter Dornan	RL, Munich office	RL, Munich office	5.12.1969
Interoffice memorandum (from David Anin to Mr Peter Dornan )	RL, Munich office	RL, Munich office	10.12.1969
Letter from John B. Dunlop (LSE) to Peter Dornan (RL)	LSE, London	RL, Munich	5.12.1974
Letter from Peter Dornan (RL) to John B. Dunlop	RL, Munich	Hamsptead, England	25.11.1974
Letter from John B. Dunlop (LSE) to Peter Dornan (RL)	LSE, London	RL, Munich	20.11.1974
Letter from Gleb Rahr (Possev) to Peter Dornan (RL)	Frankfurt am Main, Germany	Munich, Germany	12.01.1971
Letter from Cleva M. Fallon (University of Windsor) to Arkhiv Samizdata	Windsor, Ontario	Munich, Germany	20.09.1979
Letter from Prof Sidney Heitman (Colorado State University) to Dr Glenn W. Ferguson (RFE/RL)	Colorado State University, Colorado	RL, Munich	14.03.1980
Letter from Hokkaido university to Peter Dornan (RL)	Hokkaido University, Japan	RL, Munich	25.04.1979
Letter from Harald Wigforss (Swedish journalist) to Mr Boiter	Sweden	Munich, RL	6.05.1979

Handwritten note from Fin (La Pensee Russe) to Peter (Dornan?)	La Pensee Russe, Paris	RL, Munich	29.12.1976
Letter from LSE academics to Mr Scott (RL)	LSE, London	RL, Munich	18.05.1972
Telex RL			18.10.1974
Telex RL			22.11.1974
Telex RL			21.11.1974
Telex	RL, Paris (?)	RL, Munich (?)	18.10.1974
Telex	RL, Paris (?)	RL, Munich (?)	18.10.1974
Telex			18.10.1974
Statement RFE/RL (Mario Corti)	RL, Munich	RL, Munich	7.04.1978
Statement RFE/RL (Sergio Rapetti)	RL, Munich	RL, Munich	16.01.1979
Statement RFE/RL (Gianfranco Dogliani)	RL, Munich	RL, Munich	3.11.1977
Letter from Leopold Labedz (Journal of Soviet and East European studies) to Peter Dornan (RL)	Journal of Soviet and East European studies, London	RL, Munich	26.08.1977
Memorandum RFE/RL (Jim Brown)	RL, Munich	RL, Munich	11.08.1977
Letter to Peter Dornan	London	RL, Munich	21.09.1976
Letter from the Department of Russian and Soviet studies, Lancaster University to Peter Dornan	Lancaster	RL, Munich	4.10.1976
Letter from Albert Boiter to Leonid Rigerman	RL, Munich	London	5.11.1974
Letter from Albert Boiter (RL) to Prof Leon I. Twarog (Center for Slavic and East European Studies, the Ohio State University)	RL, Munich	Ohio State University, Ohio	7.07.1977
Letter from Albert Boiter (RL) to Prof Leon I. Twarog (Center for Slavic and East European Studies, the Ohio State University)	RL, Munich	Ohio State University, Ohio	7.07.1977
Letter from Prof Leon I. Twarog (Center for Slavic and East European Studies, the Ohio State University) to Dr Albert Boiter (RL)	Ohio State University, Ohio	RL, Munich	8.06.1977
Letter from Peter Reddaway (LSE) to Dr Albert Boiter (RL)	LSE, London	RL, Munich	9.10.1970
Letter from Peter Reddaway (LSE) to Dr Albert Boiter (RL)	LSE, London	RL, Munich	19.11.1970
Letter from Trond Andersen to RL Research department	Trond Andersen, Norway	RL, Munich	2.01.1970
Letter from Lenn L. Savemark, CND, to Peter Dornan, RL			29.04.1970
Letter from Lenn L. Savemark, CND, to Peter Dornan, RL			6.5.1970
Memorandum for the record from Gene Sosin (RL)			12.10.1972
Telex to Peter Dornan	London	RL, Munich	21.09.1973
Letter from Edward Van Der Rhoer to Max Ralis		Paris	5.11.1973
Letter from Peter to Leonid		RL, Munich	13.11.1973
Letter from Peter to FIM			9.11.1973

Letter from Alexey V. Levin (Russian Service, RL) to Catherine A. Fitzpatrick (Freedom House)	RL, Munich	Freedom House, New York	11.09.1980
Letter from Albert Boiter (RL) to Maxim Gori (Centro Studi)	RL, Munich	Milan, Italy	15.03.1976
Letter from Albert Boiter (RL) to Prof V. Stanley Vardys (University of Oklahoma)	RL, Munich	University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma	24.08.1976
Letter from Albert Boiter (RL) to Clayton Yeo (Amnesty International)	RL, Munich	Amnesty International, London	28.11.1975
Letter from Clayton Yeo (Amnesty International) to Dr Albert Boiter (RL)	Amnesty International, London	RL, Munich	21.11.1975
Handwritten letter from Kim Young (american student) to Samizdat Archive, RL	New Jersey, USA	RL, Munich	29.11.1975
Letter from Hans Zeinhofer to Dr Albert Boiter (RL)	Salzburg	Munich, RL	06.10.1976
Letter from Dr Albert Boiter (RL) to Hans Zeinhofer	Munich, RL	Salzburg	2.08.1976
Letter from Edward Van Der Rhoer (RL) to Victor Zorza	RL, Munich	Engand	3.07.1970
Letter from Albert Boiter (RL) to Dr Zhores A. Medvedev (National Institute for Medical Research)	RL, Munich	National Institute for Medical Research, London	6.07.1976
Letter from R.Lincoln (University of Manitoba) to Samizdat section (RL)	University of Manitoba, Canada	RL, Munich	5.12.1980
Letter to Leonid (RL) from Arkadiy Polischuk (emigre) in Russian	Austria	RL, Munich	9.09.1977
Letter from Prof V. Stanley Vardys (University of Oklahoma) to Peter Dornan (RL)	University of Oklahoma	RL, Munich	27.07.1977
Letter from Robert L. Tuck (RL) to Prof Leon I. Twarog (Center for Slavic and East European Studies, the Ohio State University)	RL, Munich	Ohio State University, Ohio	22.11.1977
Letter from Prof Sidney Heitman (Colorado State University) to Peter Dornan (RL)	Colorado State University, Colorado	RL, Munich	17.04.1978
Letter from Prof Sidney Heitman (Colorado State University) to Peter Dornan (RL)	Colorado State University, Colorado	RL, Munich	28.04.1978
Telex from Peter Dornan (RL) to Prof Sidney Heitman (Colorado State University)	RL, Munich	Colorado State University, Colorado	20.10.1978
Telex from Sosin (RL) to Peter Dornan (RL)	RL, Munich	RL, Munich	16.10.1978
Letter from Prof Sidney Heitman (Colorado State University) to Peter Dornan (RL)	Colorado State University, Colorado	RL, Munich	12.06.1978
Letter from Andrew Fedynsky (Smoloskyp) to Peter Dornan (RL)	Ukranian information service Smoloskyp, USA	RL, Munich	9.08.1978