

# Bootleg photocopying flourishes in USSR

MOSCOW (AP) — If, as the saying goes, two men and a printing press can make a revolution, what can one man and a copying machine do?

In the Soviet Union, where the distribution of information is tightly controlled by the government, the number of photocopying machines is limited and access to them is closely guarded.

Westerners here estimate there are fewer than 20,000 copiers in the Soviet Union — about 2 percent of the world-wide total — and the number is not expected to improve markedly.

Those machines that are here are off-limits, often locked in special rooms, according to Soviet sources.

Soviet citizens say that to copy papers at their jobs, they usually need permission from three people: an immediate supervisor, that person's boss and an official of the organization's security surveillance apparatus.

Then, someone else does the actual copying.

Even senior Soviet officials apparently have difficulty getting quick ac-

cess to the machines.

Foreign businessmen in Moscow say they sometimes have had to interrupt negotiations at Soviet government foreign trade departments and return to their own offices to duplicate contracts, after Soviet officials told them without explanation that the documents could not be copied there.

Nevertheless, the Soviet government may not be able to control the flow of information as closely as it would like. The copying of materials for personal use is said to be widespread, satisfying the intellectual hunger of the intelligentsia — not to mention a craving for more money among copying machine operators.

Access to copying machines — like access to many goods in short supply here — apparently depends on whom one knows. One Soviet said recently, "The best way to get something copied is by having a friend whose job it is to copy things."

With such friends, Russians sometimes get to read books and articles the

government regards as politically unacceptable, or those simply in short supply. That is no small advantage in a country where all printed materials are censored for political content, and the works of even politically acceptable Russian writers such as Leo Tolstoy and the beloved poet Alexander Pushkin are chronically hard to find in government-run bookstores.

In the case of copying machines, though, the old Russian proverb "better 100 friends than 100 rubles" may not apply. Better both 100 friends and 100 rubles.

It is said by Russians to cost as much as 25 rubles (about \$33 and about 15 percent of the average Russian's monthly salary) to have a book reproduced in Moscow by a copying machine operator, unofficially working for himself. But business apparently is flourishing.

Underground Soviet religious groups use copying machines and underground print shops to distribute their literature, and Russians say several

copies of works by exiled author Alexander Solzhenitsyn and other out-of-favor writers have been made and passed among dissidents and intellectuals.

All such activity is not religious or political, however.

Last October, a 53-year-old Soviet Georgian man was reported to have been expelled from the Communist Party and fired from his job after making more than 100 bootleg copies of Mario Puzo's novel, "The Godfather." Song books also have been reproduced from copied scores.

The copying of such materials for personal use is not without its dangers. One citizen says the copying of materials for personal use "can be very dangerous. You have to be very cautious and know your colleagues in copying rooms very well."

The Soviet criminal code provides for a seven-year prison term for "circulating or preparing or keeping" literary materials that "defame the Soviet state and social system."

## Furry beast mimics kangaroo

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The furry creature that had residents hopping over the weekend was not a kangaroo after all, but a Patagonian cavy, described by authorities as a cross between a rabbit and guinea pig.

The identity crisis was solved Sunday after city animal control officers were called to a north Tulsa home to catch a kangaroo in a backyard.

"When I got there, there was this animal, about 25 pounds, 2 to 2½ feet long, lying in the backyard resting," Arthur Dunn, an animal control officer, said Monday.

A crowd of residents in the area had been unable to catch the beast. Two officers finally cornered it and took it to the Tulsa Zoo, where it was identified and treated for a leg injury.

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