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NEWS

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New resources for librarians on Project MUSE site

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Charleston Conference

Nov 5-8
Charleston, South Carolina

Online Information 2003

Dec. 2-4
London, England

Project MUSE recently added a valuable new resource to our website. The “For Librarians” page contains a wealth of information to help librarians find out more about MUSE and make the most out of a MUSE subscription:

- Downloadable PDF subject guides for 15 key academic disciplines covered by MUSE, including journal lists and searching tips
- An FAQ detailing how MUSE works
- Tips to encourage use of MUSE on campus and a promotional materials request form
- A tool to generate MUSE usage statistics for your library
- A tool to create a MUSE journal list that can be downloaded in formats including Excel
- MUSE journal e-mail alerts sign-up—receive weekly e-mails when a new journal is added or new issues of collection journals are released
- A conference directory where you can test drive MUSE in person and ask questions

The “For Librarians” page is the work of Project MUSE Usability and Outreach Librarian Gina Calia-Lotz and Liz Brown, Manager of User Services. Since joining the MUSE team in March, Gina has been gathering input from librarians about what resources and tools they need from MUSE. She and Liz tested the concept of the page at the ACRL conference in April and the ALA/CLA conference in June. Attendees were extremely enthusiastic about the page, especially the new subject guides.

“Talking directly with librarians is the best way to find out what tools will meet the wide variety of subscriber needs,” Gina said. “I think librarians will find the page to be very useful.”

As a former reference librarian for the Loyola/Notre Dame College Library in Maryland, Gina brings a library public services perspective to MUSE. “MUSE is a high-quality resource, yet there’s a challenge getting the message out,” Gina said. “So we wanted to create more instructional and ‘promotional’ materials that librarians could use depending on their local needs. We’re still examining feedback and working on more new resources, so we hope people will check the page often and continue to send feedback.”

E-mail Gina at gina@muse.jhu.edu and visit MUSE’s Library Resource page at http://muse.jhu.edu/proj_descrip/librarian_resources/ ■

Project MUSE Receives Award for Exceptional Content

Project MUSE was recently honored for exceptional content by readers of *The Charleston Advisor: Critical Reviews of Web Products for Information Professionals* (charlestonco.com) during the site’s Third Annual Reader’s Choice Awards. The awards recognize the best and worst products for librarians.

“We’re thrilled to receive this award,” said Aileen McHugh, Project MUSE Director of Electronic Publishing. “It’s our mission to be the most comprehensive collection of scholarly journals in the arts, humanities and social sciences available online. We’re glad that *Charleston Advisor* readers appreciate our efforts. And, we’re expanding our mission in 2004 by joining forces with over ten new partners, including several international publishers.”

In addition, *The Charleston Advisor* has awarded MUSE a 4.5 out of 5 rating, the highest score among online scholarly journal collections. Products are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 for content, searchability, price, and contract options and features. The overall score is based upon averaging the numbers for each category, with equal weighting for each element. Access the results at charlestonco.com/scorecard.cfm.

Published seasonally by Project MUSE, a collaboration of 33 not-for-profit publishers in conjunction with the Milton S. Eisenhower Library; MUSE News is distributed gratis to subscribers and the library community.

DIRECTOR'S MUSINGS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

This *MUSE News* focuses on history, one of our largest and most important subject collections, comprising nearly 40 journals in 2003. Our participating publishers' list of history titles on muse.jhu.edu/journals shows that every subject has a history, whether the subject is the world, women, events, religion, technology, and even sexuality or baseball.

Our statistics show that users value our diverse history coverage. In July 2003, the top ten most frequently used journals in history were, in order, *Reviews in American History*, *Technology and Culture*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Victorian Studies*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Journal of Social History*, and *Eighteenth Century Life*.

Even more revealing are our review-level statistics, where five of the top ten reviews in July 2003 were from two history journals, and all were bibliographies:

1. Cohen EH. Victorian bibliography for 1998, *Victorian Studies*, 42:4, 1999/2000 (Indiana University Press)
2. Current bibliography in the history of technology (1996-1997), *Technology and Culture*, 40:suppl, 1999 (The Johns Hopkins University Press)
3. Victorian bibliography for 1999, *Victorian Studies*, 43:4, 2001 (Indiana University Press)
4. Current bibliography in the history of technology (1998), *Technology and Culture*, 41:suppl, 2002 (The Johns Hopkins University Press)

5. Current bibliography in the history of technology (1999), *Technology and Culture*, 43:suppl, 2002 (The Johns Hopkins University Press)

In 2003, when change occurs more rapidly than ever before, anxiety is a national disease, human success is measured in dollars, and America's greatest export is entertainment, why should history still appeal to us so strongly?

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 provide one of the greatest reminders of the importance of history—and of libraries and publishers.

Long before this day, publishers and librarians recognized the importance of creating and preserving the works of great historians of the East and West, even if popular culture ignored many of these works.

We will never know if greater attention to history scholarship would have prevented September 11. Due to the efforts of scholars, librarians, and publishers, however, we now have digital libraries that can disseminate the works of historians worldwide. These digital libraries enable everyone to learn the history of the diverse subjects surrounding September 11—the events, the technology, the cultures, the religions, the women, the ideas, and the economics—not only from the perspective of America but also from the perspective of the world.



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SUBSCRIBERS

Project MUSE Statistics as of July 31, 2003

Total Database Package Subscribers 1,012

By Institution Type

Large Academic (>2,000 FTE)	625	62%
Small Academic (<2,000 FTE)	181	18%
Community/Junior College	142	14%
Public Libraries	6	1%
High Schools	19	2%
Other Special Libraries	38	4%

By Location

United States	832	82%
International	180	18%

By Collection

Full Database	863	85%
Arts & Humanities	35	3%
Social Sciences	11	1%
Johns Hopkins U. Press	103	11%

How Subscribed

Direct	114	89%
Via Consortium	898	11%

New Subscribers since 1/1/03 70

For 2003:

Participating Journals	221
Participating Publishers	33

Project MUSE Staff Members Selected to Present Research at Ausweb 03

Project MUSE's Web Development Specialist Brian Wingenroth and UNIX Systems Administrator Thom Maszczenski were selected to present their recent research on mirror sites at the 2003 Ausweb Conference in July in Australia.

Wingenroth and Maszczenski jointly submitted "Transparently Guaranteeing Fault Tolerance, Geographic Affinity, and Load Balance Mirror Sites" for the 2003 Ausweb Conference.

"The fields of technology and the Internet are always evolving, with new ideas and software constantly entering the market," said Wingenroth. "By presenting our research, we hope to encourage discussion about the use of current and emerging Internet technology to improve access to online resources from both the content provider and end-user perspectives."

In addition, Project MUSE was featured in a paper presented at the 2003 Digilib Conference by Teal Anderson, Web/Usability Specialist at the Digital Knowledge Center of The Johns Hopkins University's Milton S. Eisenhower Library. Anderson's research discusses usability-testing experiences with the Project MUSE search interface, as well as with a library catalog and an online sheet music resource. The focus of the paper is on improving usability testing methodology for digital libraries. Digilib, a conference aimed at promoting scientific discussion and information exchange regarding digital information and usability, was held in September in Finland.

New Journals for the 2004 Collection

American Periodicals: a Journal of History, Criticism and Bibliography
The Canadian Historical Review
Canadian Journal of Linguistics
Canadian Journal of Sociology
Canadian Journal on Aging
Canadian Modern Language Review
Canadian Review of American Studies
China: an International Journal
Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East
Contemporary Literature
Cuban Studies
Early Music
Eire-Ireland
Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Film and Television Studies
Francophonies d'Amerique
The Hemingway Review
History Workshop Journal
The Journal of Developing Areas
The Journal of Japanese Studies
Journal of Latin American Geography
Journal of Narrative Theory
Journal of Scholarly Publishing
Latin American Politics and Society
Luso-Brazilian Review
Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism
The Missouri Review
Music and Letters
Nabokov Studies
Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues
The Native Plants Journal
Population Review
River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative
South Central Review
Steinbeck Studies
Studies in American Indian Literature
University of Toronto Law Journal

CAMPUS CASE STUDY:

MUSE a vital resource at Quinnipiac University

Founded in 1929, Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut is home to more than 8,000 students studying a broad range of liberal arts subjects. We talked to Charles Getchell, Quinnipiac's Library Director and David Valone, Historian and Director of Cultural Programming at Quinnipiac, for their take on how MUSE has impacted their school.

Why is MUSE so important to Quinnipiac?

Charles: All of the MUSE journals are scholarly journals, which is what students request for their research projects. This is important because students generally need information instantaneously, rather than reading an abstract and then requesting the journal through inter-library loans. Through MUSE, we achieve our goal of supplying quality, instantaneous resources.

David: Students typically find it difficult to locate real scholarly journals, many use search engines on the web where the source of the information is unknown or unreliable. Since MUSE has only scholarly journals, I encourage students to utilize MUSE, therefore guaranteeing quality content.

Charles: It's clear that MUSE listened to librarians because the search engine is extremely user-friendly, and every file is full-text/full-image, peer-reviewed, and scholarly, which is what students and faculty want.

How do you feel about the MUSE collection?

Charles: MUSE's quality, depth and breadth is impressive. And we're impressed by their commitment to updating and adding new titles. As a historian, I'm especially pleased with the new social and cultural history titles, like the *Journal of Military History*, and *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History*. Both journals are very different and showcase different facets of history. Although *Oral Tradition* is considered a 'Social Sciences' title, or *Journal of Folklore Research* is an 'Arts & Humanities' title, many times it's a nice supplement to the history journals. Also, we were one of MUSE's first subscribers and we like the fact that MUSE is a non-profit run by a university press.

How has MUSE changed your research?

David: Ten years ago, I would drive to a large research library for journals, pay a library fee, chase the needed journals among hundreds of shelves and several floors, and photocopy the content so that I could take it home to read. With MUSE I can search electronically for journals and articles, do advance searches to zero in on the best resources, review the articles in full-text, full-image and print them, if needed. These features really set MUSE apart from other electronic resources. ■

Project MUSE Confirms New Titles, Prices for 2004 Collection

Project MUSE is pleased to announce the complete list of new journals for 2004 and firm prices for 2004 subscriptions. Among our new participating publishers are several international partners such as the University of Toronto Press, Singapore University Press, and the Indian Institute for Population Studies (Thailand). New journals joining the collection will expand MUSE's coverage in diverse subjects such as music, area studies, film studies, demography, literature, and legal studies.

The "2004 Full Collection," including all current titles plus the 36 new journals listed at left, will have an annual subscription fee of \$20,000. This is less than an 18 percent increase from the current year's subscription rate with the benefit of more quality content. For the 2004 subscription term only, subscribers may maintain the "2003 Full Collection." This includes the

journals in the current 2003 Full Collection, without the new 2004 titles, with a list price of \$18,000.

We will again offer two discipline-oriented journal collections: Arts & Humanities at \$14,800, and Social Sciences at \$11,400. The Johns Hopkins University Press package's list price will be \$5,000. Several other publisher collections will also continue to be offered. Complete details on the titles included in the 2004 MUSE collections will be available shortly on our website. All subscriptions to MUSE include available backfiles; unlimited campus-wide access, downloading, and printing; ICOLC-compliant statistics reporting; and enhanced online functionality.

Subscribers are reminded that all current subscriptions will expire on December 31, 2003 and to renew early to ensure uninterrupted access. ■



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PUBLISHING PERSPECTIVES:

New to MUSE for 2003— The Journal of Military History

Project MUSE offers the largest selection of history journals available online, and we're pleased to announce that a prestigious title has been added to our collection. *The Journal of Military History* is the official publication of the Society for Military History (SMH), and contains articles, book reviews, memoirs, research notes, documents of note, a list of recent military history articles published by other journals, an annual list of military history doctoral dissertations, and an annual index.

In 2002, MUSE approached SMH about making *The Journal of Military History* part of the MUSE collection, although SMH lacked the capability to publish electronically. At the same time, the journal's printer requested that all files be saved as Acrobat PDFs. The printer sent a team to SMH to educate them on how to create the new PDF file format. This eliminated the concern on converting the files for electronic publishing, and therefore allowed them to join MUSE.

The Society for Military History was founded in 1933 as the American Military History Foundation, and has undergone several name changes throughout the years. Headquartered at the Virginia Military Institute in Richmond, SMH's mission is to stimulate and advance the study of military history. Its more than 2,300 members include many of the nation's most prominent scholars, soldiers, and citizens interested in military history. In addition to publishing *The Journal of Military History* quarterly, SMH accomplishes its goals in several ways, including recognizing significant contributions to the study of military history and hosting conferences.

Dr. Larry Bland, managing editor for *The Journal of Military History*, said exposure to other libraries is the main benefit of being a MUSE member. "Our print subscription base is 3,200, which is quite large. By joining MUSE, we're getting into many more libraries, especially ones overseas," he said. ■

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