



MUSE muse.jhu.edu NEWS

Fall 2008 Volume 9, Number 2

MUSE Unveils New Website with New Functions

MUSE successfully launched its newly designed website in August. The new site features a cleaner, crisper interface highlighted by left and right navigation bars that facilitate access to information on the site. The horizontal tabs along the top of the pages provide not only a consistent look to the site but a direct path to information for specific users such as librarians and publishers. Links to information about MUSE and for subscribing to MUSE are more prominent as are links to training guides, usage statistics, journal homepages and journal holdings information.

One of the most noticeable changes to the site is the placement of a search box in the upper right corner on all pages. The search box is a convenient way to initiate a quick search of MUSE journals content. It also offers the ability to search only the informational pages, to quickly locate key details such as pricing, upcoming journal additions, or supported technologies.

All users benefit from easier access, via one of the horizontal tabs, to the tools and resources MUSE provides. Included in this section are alerting tools such as RSS feeds and email journal alerts, resources such as the search plugin and now, web 2.0 social bookmarking capability. At the individual journal article level there is a wider range of functionality including the ability to email a link, find more articles from the same author(s), download/export a citation, and explore topics by subject. Color indicators allow

users to easily determine to which content they have full text access, at both the journal and article level.

A significant new feature is the linking of subject headings. MUSE has always assigned Library of Congress Subject Headings to all articles to describe the themes discussed in the articles. By linking the subject headings, MUSE provides users with a tool for quickly locating articles specifically related to their research topic. The linked subject headings also promote serendipitous exploring of MUSE content.

Additional features are planned to further enhance the new web interface. During the fall and winter, users will begin to see reference linking and a

“Related Articles” list at the journal article level, and a new cover sheet with functionality comparable to the HTML articles will be added to the PDF versions. MUSE also expects to implement the SUSHI (Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative) technology shortly, and is seeking library testing partners for this feature. Libraries interested in participating in SUSHI testing should

contact MUSE Customer Support at muse@press.jhu.edu.

The Project MUSE web site will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our users, customers, and business partners.

We welcome feedback, comments and questions at muse@press.jhu.edu.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Frankfurt Book Fair
October 15-19
Frankfurt, Germany
Stand: Hall 8.0 N978

Charleston Library
Conference and
Vendor Fair
November 5-8
Charleston, SC
Table #36

eIFL General Assembly
November 6-9
Sofia, Bulgaria

Sofia2008 Conference
November 12-14
Sofia, Bulgaria

Online Information
Conference
December 2-4
London, England
Stand #760

Project
MUSE[®]

*Today's Research.
Tomorrow's Inspiration.*

Published seasonally by Project MUSE, a collaboration of 60 not-for-profit publishers in conjunction with the Milton S. Eisenhower Library; gratis to subscribers and the library community.



Changes Afoot

Summer 2008 was a busy and exciting time for Project MUSE. As other articles in this issue of *MUSE News* detail, we've been making quite a few changes. The most obvious of these is our new website (<http://muse.jhu.edu>), which has been redesigned, reorganized, and reengineered.

As I reported in my last Director's Musings, the informational web content has been completely overhauled. Check out the revised "Librarians" section, the updated subscription information pages, and a new section devoted to tools and resources. We also added a much-desired search of the informational pages on the site.

We went deep into the journal content, adding new features and functionality on the journal homepages, tables of contents, and articles, many designed to aid users in finding content of interest to them. The MUSE site is rich with related content from almost 400 journals, more than enough to keep a user clicking and discovering relevant content for some time. There are updated and refined browse and search features, adding efficiency to the user experience.

Fueling the enhanced look and feel of the articles and tables of contents is a new behind-the-scenes workflow, based on full-text XML for every article. MUSE made the transition to XML production for current content in April, and in July we began a planned 18-month conversion project for all content posted prior to April 2008.

And we're not done yet. Expanded linking based on a "more by this author" feature is coming, as is reference linking both across MUSE and beyond via

CrossRef. We will debut a rich cover page for the PDF articles, replicating the functionality found on the XHTML version of the article.

As a major player in the world of online scholarly content, MUSE has a responsibility to change. Evolution is essential to address the developing needs and expectations of MUSE users. What might this mean for the future? We've already made a small inroad into the world of social technology: MUSE has a page on Facebook ([http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=7276792222#/pages/Project-MUSE/18038965834?ref=share](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=727679222#/pages/Project-MUSE/18038965834?ref=share)). Please become a fan of MUSE; write on our wall or tell us what you think about the new website and features. We have plans to expand our use of social technology, both within and about MUSE. We will debut our first podcast, on one of the key features of MUSE, the Library of Congress Subject Headings (now linked to a broader list of subject headings and articles that use them and fueling our impending "related articles" functionality). Mixed-format content may be in our future.

These are some of the things either in the works or being considered for the MUSE of tomorrow. I welcome your ideas as well. Send them to mrm@press.jhu.edu.

Best wishes,



Mary Rose Muccie
Director, Project MUSE

MUSE on Facebook

MUSE has taken a first step into the world of social technology by creating a page in Facebook. Facebook is a social networking website where users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profile to notify friends about themselves.

While visiting the MUSE page, run a search for articles in MUSE. Yes, it is possible to search the full text articles in MUSE from Facebook. The new search box that appears on

each page on the new MUSE website also displays on the MUSE page on Facebook, adding yet another avenue for users to easily access and discover content in MUSE. Please become a fan of MUSE; write on our wall or tell us what you think about the new website and features.

Check out the MUSE page at:
<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=727679222#/pages/Project-MUSE/18038965834?ref=share>.



Find us on
Facebook

New MUSE Journals for 2009

The following titles are confirmed to join MUSE's online collections in 2009.

African American Review
American Music
An Sionnach: A Journal of Literature, Culture, and the Arts
Anthropological Linguistics
Archives of Asian Art
Azalea: Journal of Korean Literature & Culture
Black Women, Gender & Families
The Bulletin of Hispanic Studies
Bulletin of the Comediantes
The Byron Journal
Canadian Public Policy
Conservative Judaism
La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Spanish Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
Franciscan Studies
Genocide Studies and Prevention
Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies
Histoire Social/Social History
Historically Speaking
Hume Studies
International Development Planning Review
International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics
Intertexts
JEGP, Journal of English and Germanic Philology
Journal of Education Finance
Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies
Journal of Song-Yuan Studies
Le mouvement social
MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S.
The Middle East Journal
The Pluralist
Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Perspectives
Revista Hispánica Moderna
Romani Studies
Studies in American Jewish Literature
Studies in American Naturalism
Studies in the Age of Chaucer
Tenzo
The Tocqueville Review/La revue Tocqueville
Town Planning Review
U.S. Catholic Historian
Western American Literature
Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature

Publisher Profile

MUSE Accessibility Benefits African Studies Association

The African Studies Association (ASA) was founded in 1957 as a non-profit organization open to all individuals and institutions interested in African affairs. Its mission is to bring together people with a scholarly and professional interest in Africa. The ASA also provides information and support services to the Africanist community. The association is a member of the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Council of Area Studies Associations, and the National Humanities Alliance.

As publishers of *African Studies Review* and *History In Africa: A Journal of Method*, the African Studies Association joined MUSE in 2005 and added both journals to MUSE's online collection. According to Carol L. Martin, PhD, Executive Director of the African Studies Association, the decision to join MUSE was based on a desire to increase access to the journals to the scholarly community. Going online in MUSE was an opportunity to "promote the mission of the association; to highlight the latest thinking and the latest research and analyses of Africa and encourage scholarly debate across disciplines," said Martin.

The key benefit to being in MUSE, according to Martin, is the accessibility of the journals to scholars. An online presence in MUSE not only reaches scholars in the field of

African Studies but also provides professionals in other disciplines with access to the interdisciplinary content included in the journals. With the number of worldwide subscriptions to MUSE continuing to grow, *African Studies Review* and *History In Africa: A Journal of Method* can literally be read in all corners of the globe. While worldwide exposure to journal content is important and the key reason for joining MUSE, the ASA, like other learned societies contributing content

to MUSE, also appreciates the financial benefit associated with being a MUSE publisher.

How do learned societies themselves use MUSE? Dr. Martin said she uses MUSE as a tool for developing

content for the ASA's journals because it allows her to "see how topics discussed in *African Studies Review* are discussed in journals from other learned societies and to compare content in similar journals to gauge whether the content in ASA journals influences discussion of themes significant to the discipline." In a tribute to MUSE's efforts to keep publishers informed of initiatives and plans for future development, Dr. Martin volunteered that she "appreciates MUSE's policy of open communication. And the fact that publishers have an opportunity to participate and express their opinions" on MUSE's vision and plans for the future.

For more information about the African Studies Association, go to <http://www.africanstudies.org>. To see a list of all journals in MUSE, go to <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals>.



Reminder:

Keep current with news and updates at Project MUSE, including a summary of newly added journals and features, by signing up to receive the MUSE e-newsletter, a quarterly electronic newsletter. Sign up at http://tools.muse.jhu.edu/cgi-bin/newsletter_signup.cgi.



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT #1717

Using MUSE to Your Advantage: Focus Your Search Using Options

Search options on the Advanced Article Search page can help you design a more focused search. Use the options to specify type of content desired, publication year, and more.

TYPE OF CONTENT

Almost 57% of MUSE content is categorized as articles, which includes articles, editorials, commentaries, works of fiction, drama and poetry. Almost 43% of content is reviews, which is book, film, exhibition, performance reviews, and more.

- Limit your search to Articles, Reviews, or types of literary works.
- The default is all articles and reviews.

NOTE: For some of the titles common to MUSE and JSTOR, MUSE provides links to articles from the back issues archived in JSTOR. If your institution participates in JSTOR, you may be able to retrieve full-text JSTOR articles when searching in MUSE. Check the box to 'Include JSTOR back issues' in your search.

BY YEAR

- Enter a 4 digit year in each box to search a range of dates.
- Enter a year in the first box only to specify that year forward. (i.e. 2003 in 'From' to retrieve articles published in 2003 to the present.)

- Enter the same year in both boxes to specify that year only. (i.e. 2006 in 'From' and 2006 in 'To' will limit to articles published in 2006.)

BY JOURNAL

Limit to individual journal title(s) by selecting from the list of all MUSE titles. Make multiple selections or "de-select" a selection by holding down the control or command key. *NOTE:* restrict a search to only titles to which your institution subscribes by checking the box for 'Only content I have full access to.' Then select titles from the list.

BY DISCIPLINE

Limit by discipline(s) by selecting from the list of all MUSE disciplines. Hold down the control or command key to select multiple disciplines or to de-select a selection. *NOTE:* restrict a search to only titles to which your institution subscribes by checking the box for 'Only content I have full access to.' Then select disciplines.

BY ARTICLE LANGUAGE

Look for articles written in a language other than English. While the majority of articles in MUSE are written in English, search for articles in other languages by selecting from the pulldown list.

MUSE NEWS

2715 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218-4363
Phone: 410-516-6989
Fax: 410-516-6968
muse.jhu.edu
muse@press.jhu.edu

For Project MUSE technical and customer support, call 410-516-6989 or email muse@press.jhu.edu.

To subscribe to MUSE News, send an e-mail with your name and address to muse@press.jhu.edu

Project MUSE is a registered trademark of the Johns Hopkins University Press.

©2008 The Johns Hopkins University Press

Content may be freely distributed provided that the proper attribution is given.