



MUSE muse.jhu.edu NEWS

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Project MUSE Outreach to Subscribers and Users

Project MUSE values the opinions of its subscribers and users. Many of the improvements in functionality made to MUSE over the years, including features on the recently redesigned website, were the result of ideas and suggestions provided by subscribers. The feedback may come from casual conversations with librarians and scholars or from more formal surveys and focus groups where MUSE is seeking information on specific initiatives. In all instances, MUSE relies on input from subscribers to ensure that the collections and the search interface meet the needs of subscribers and their users.

Library Subscribers

MUSE attends several library and scholarly conferences each year in North America at which staff have the opportunity to speak with conference attendees. MUSE looks forward to the major meetings of the American Library Association (ALA), the Annual Conference and the Midwinter Meeting, and the National Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). MUSE usually sponsors a User Group meeting at each conference and all MUSE users attending the conference are invited. Users learn the latest news from MUSE at the meeting, such as upcoming titles or new features, and discuss anything they want to about MUSE or their subscription.

"MUSE maintains a year-round dialogue with our subscribers regarding content, functionality, and product development priorities," explains Melanie Schaffner, MUSE's Marketing and Sales Manager, "but conferences provide unparalleled opportunities for lively conversations with a diversity of opinions and multiple points of view. Regular attendance at library meetings and events helps us stay abreast of our customers' needs as well as the latest library technology advances."

As the number of international subscriptions continues to grow, MUSE's attendance at international conferences also continues to grow. (Refer to article on page 3.) In 2008, MUSE attended the VALA Conference in Melbourne, Australia, the Congress of

the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Vancouver, British Columbia, and IFLA, in Quebec, Canada.

Scholarly Users

Over the past several years MUSE expanded its outreach efforts to include attendance at conferences where scholars involved in MUSE's core disciplines of humanities and social sciences gather to discuss their work. Among others, MUSE exhibited recently at the annual conferences of the American Historical Association, the African Studies Association, the Modern Language Association, the Modernist Studies Association, and the National Women's Studies Association.

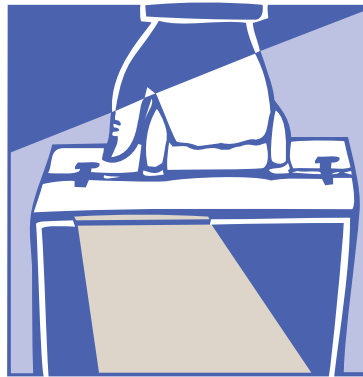
Journal editors attend the scholarly conferences and MUSE's Collection Development team often participates in informal conversations with editors exploring whether MUSE is a good fit for their titles. In general, MUSE looks for humanities and social science titles that have demonstrated broad appeal,

inclusion in selective indexes and bibliographies, strong editorial boards, or, more narrowly focused journals that can complement MUSE's existing holdings and add depth in the core subject areas.

"Talking with researchers and editors at scholarly meetings helps us identify specific titles to pursue as well as emerging areas of scholarship in the many disciplines covered by MUSE," explains Elizabeth Brown, manager of MUSE's collection develop-

ment and title selection activities. "We also learn about new ways that users are pursuing research in the online environment, which informs our decisions about new features and tools to offer on the MUSE site."

At every conference MUSE gains valuable information about the content and features that users like or need in MUSE to conduct their research. MUSE uses this information to set priorities for future enhancements and titles to include in the collection. MUSE looks forward to continued conversations with subscribers and users throughout the upcoming year.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ALIA Information Online
Sydney, Australia
January 20-22
Booth #55

American Library
Association (ALA)
Midwinter Meeting
Denver, CO
January 23-28
Booth #1046

Association of College
and Research Libraries
(ACRL) National
Conference
Seattle, WA
March 12-15
Booth #346

Association for
Asian Studies
Chicago, IL
March 26-29

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.

MUSE serves many masters: subscribers, at small and large institutions worldwide; users, be they tenured professors researching their next book or undergraduates researching their next paper; and publishers, represented by large university presses, small scholarly societies, academic departments, and all of the editors and authors involved with each. Our responsibilities differ for each, but our commitment to reaching out, listening, and communicating is consistently central to all we do.

Most of you are probably familiar with MUSE's start as a Johns Hopkins University library-press collaboration. That collaboration continues today and has expanded well beyond Baltimore. Several librarians serve on the MUSE Advisory Board, and we frequently turn to them and other representatives from the subscriber community for ideas, feedback, and advice. We hold user group meetings at the major library conferences, where we exhibit and often schedule formal feedback sessions at our booth. Some of the features you see now on the MUSE website, as well as ones that have yet to debut, resulted from suggestions made by librarians. The same is true for the user community. As the cover story in this issue discusses, we attend many scholarly conferences, talking with and listening to users.

Our relationships with the MUSE publishers, current and prospective, are a behind-the-scenes example of our outreach activities. The participating publishers run the gamut not only in terms of size, but also in their level of industry awareness and publishing expertise, and perhaps most important, their overall financial needs. Part of my responsibility as Director is to advise and explain the nuances of both MUSE participation and the changing publishing landscape to publishers both current and

prospective. It's not unusual for a small society that has a top-notch print journal to be unfamiliar with IP-based authentication, the realities of the global market for their content, or the important role played by subscription agents. We talk about archiving, open access, the MUSE pricing model, and strategies for their print edition. What's important to them is important to us, because we would not exist without their content.

Perhaps the most important point I make during these discussions is this: MUSE is not the right solution for every publisher. Over the years, through careful planning and many conversations, we have put together a wide-ranging mix of publishers who learn and share as part of the MUSE experience. And we continue to reach out to independent publishers in the humanities and social sciences, talking with them about MUSE and about ways they can ensure their survival, irrespective of whether they come into the collection.

If you have a suggestion about a conference we could attend, a journal we might invite, or a feature we should add, please email me at mrm@press.jhu.edu. And thank you for your support; it is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,



Mary Rose Muccie
Director, Project MUSE

MUSE Supports Access via Shibboleth

Project MUSE recently announced support for Shibboleth access. Shibboleth is a single sign-on method of authentication, which provides access to online resources subscribed to by an institution from both on-campus and off-campus locations.

Shibboleth provides users the ease and convenience of single sign-on access while providing institutions security and privacy protection for their users. The institution establishes and maintains Shibboleth access. Once an institution has enabled authentication via Shibboleth, the institution may request access to MUSE via Shibboleth by submitting a request to MUSE Customer Support. The request must include the institution's Shibboleth Identity Provider ID.

As MUSE already supports access via Athens, Athens customers in the USA and UK can now move to OpenAthens if they so desire. Existing Athens customers that have an

Athens ID on file with Project MUSE do not need to register that change with MUSE.

An institution registered to access MUSE through Shibboleth must belong to a federation. Currently, MUSE supports four federations: HEAL-Link (Greece), InCommon (USA), SURFNet (Netherlands), and UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research (United Kingdom). Others may be added depending upon interest from subscribing libraries.

Shibboleth is available only for institutional subscribers of MUSE and can be used to access MUSE collections as well as single titles on the MUSE platform. For the near term, Shibboleth will only be supported on the MUSE U.S. server at <http://muse.jhu.edu>. MUSE hopes to implement Shibboleth on its mirror site at <http://muse.uq.edu.au> in the near future.

MUSE Develops International Consortia Relationships

Project MUSE actively seeks feedback from end users and the librarians that facilitate their MUSE access. In North America MUSE staff attend and exhibit at a wide variety of library and scholarly conferences. Outside of North America it is more challenging to make direct contact with librarians and end-users at subscribing institutions, so we rely more on feedback provided by consortium heads and subscription agents.

MUSE works with many consortium organizations around the world and is always interested in developing new consortia relationships. Outside of North America, many library consortia are organized under a branch of the national government. In this structure, the consortium usually benefits from some level of government support such as staff or funding, as is the case with FinELib in Finland, HEAL-Link in Greece, NESLi in the UK, and UGC in India. In countries where the national government is not directly involved in consortium administration, one can find consortia that are organized by groups of universities working in cooperation, such as MALMAD, the Israel Center for Digital Information Services, and consortia organized by groups of libraries/librarians working together, as is the case with Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries (CSAL).

Over the past few years, MUSE has also begun to work with a type of consortium referred to as an “open consortium.” An open consortium is usually organized by a subscription agent and provides some of the benefits of a traditional consortium

structure, such as a local (native language) point of contact for the member libraries, centralized invoicing and payment, and a discount on MUSE collection prices. In an open consortium an agent may organize existing MUSE subscribers or recruit new

customers to meet the minimum of five participants required for discount eligibility. An open consortium may include members from only one country or from several countries in a geographic region, as is the case with MUSE's Mondesic

TechKnowledge open consortium, which includes subscribers from across the Middle East.

Jesús Muñoz of MUSE's EBSCO Spain/Portugal open consortium describes the open consortium structure as a “flexible and economical” way for libraries to acquire the humanities content they need. Shige Ono, of the Kinokuniya subscription agency in Japan, indicates that there

are competing interests making it challenging for new electronic products to gain a foothold in the Japanese library market; however, the open consortium program has helped introduce MUSE collections into a broad spectrum of libraries.

Project MUSE has found that an open consortium can provide benefits to libraries when a more traditional consortium structure does not exist, or when existing consortia limit their acquisitions to specific content types. MUSE also benefits, with enhanced reach to new subscribers in emerging markets, and assistance from a local partner with billing, payment, currency, and customer support issues. Organizations wishing to explore consortia relationships with Project MUSE are invited to contact our office at muse@press.jhu.edu.



New Promotional Material

MUSE will debut a new promotional item at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in January at MUSE booth #1046. The new item is actually a series of bookmarks illustrating subjects discussed in MUSE journals. The bookmarks are designed to help with outreach efforts with faculty or to be included in orientation packets to increase awareness of subjects covered in Project MUSE journals. Librarians may use the online request form under the [Librarians](#) tab on the MUSE website, to request a supply.



Top 20 MUSE Journals in 2008

These journals were accessed most often in 2008.

<i>American Quarterly</i>	<i>MLN</i>
<i>Bulletin of the History of Medicine</i>	<i>Modernism/modernity</i>
<i>Callaloo</i>	<i>New Literary History</i>
<i>Eighteenth-Century Studies</i>	<i>Postmodern Culture</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>The Review of Higher Education</i>
<i>Human Rights Quarterly</i>	<i>Reviews in American History</i>
<i>International Security</i>	<i>Social Forces</i>
<i>Journal of College Student Development</i>	<i>Technology and Culture</i>
<i>Journal of Democracy</i>	<i>Theatre Journal</i>
<i>MFS Modern Fiction Studies</i>	<i>World Politics</i>



Using MUSE to Your Advantage: Search Tools for Librarians

MUSE NEWS

MUSE provides a variety of search tools and resources for librarians on the MUSE website. Find search help, a guide to searching, a form for OpenURL linking, and a search plugin for your browser.

SEARCH HELP

Access the index of search help from several pages such as the [Search](#) page, the [Help](#) link on each page, and in [Training Materials](#) under the [Tools & Resources](#) and [Librarians](#) tabs.

- Find tips for using truncation, special characters, punctuation and Boolean searching.
- Refine a search for more focused results.
- Apply limits to a search.
- Mark, save and export search results to RefWorks and EndNote.

SEARCH HELP HANDOUT

Searching and Working with Your Results is a condensed version of the search help available in PDF format. Find it on the right side navigation bar on the [Search](#) and [Search Results](#) pages or in the [Training Materials](#) under the [Tools & Resources](#) and [Librarians](#) tabs. Use this PDF:

- In library instruction classes.
- As a handout for students and faculty new to MUSE.

SEARCH SCREEN HELP

Search help is available on the main search page. Click the orange question mark next to a search box or option for a description of that field.

HOW TO CITE ARTICLES IN MUSE

Under [Tools & Resources](#) and [Librarians](#) click the link for [Training Materials](#) then [How to Cite Articles in Project MUSE](#).

- Find examples of MUSE articles in MLA and APA formats.
- Print the PDF version of the page from the link on the right side navigation bar. Find it also on the [Search](#) and [Search Results](#) pages on the right side navigation bar.
- At the article level, click on [Download/Export Citation](#) in the right side navigation bar to see the article in MLA, APA, Chicago, and EndNote formats.

ENHANCE SEARCH CAPABILITIES

Under [Librarians](#), click on [Administrative Tools](#)

- Set up links to your OpenURL-compliant linking server for articles retrieved in MUSE and, if you subscribe to JSTOR, for direct links to JSTOR articles.
- Add the MUSE [Search Plugin](#) to the list of search engines in the search box in the upper right corner on your browser. The plugin enables MUSE searching from any web page.

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