



MUSE muse.jhu.edu NEWS

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New Features and Functionality Added to Project MUSE

Project MUSE continues to facilitate access to content in our online journals by implementing features that expand the number of ways in which MUSE journals and articles can be searched. MUSE recently added several new features.

Browser Search Plugin

Project MUSE is pleased to offer users a MUSE search plugin for their browser. The search plugin is a tool that allows you to search MUSE from any web page you are viewing. When this plugin is installed, MUSE content may be searched even when MUSE is not open in a browser window. The Project MUSE search plugin can be added to any browser that supports Sherlock and OpenSearch Search Engine Plugins. The search plugin adds Project MUSE to the list of search engines that are available in the search box in the upper right corner on your browser. Installation is easy and takes just a couple of seconds. To read about and install the Project MUSE search plugin, please go to the page "How to Install the Project MUSE Search Plugin" on http://muse.jhu.edu/about/librarians/search_plugin.html.

RSS Feed for 2008 Titles

MUSE added a new RSS feed, "Upcoming Journals for 2008," that provides immediate notification about the launch of new 2008 titles. When you first subscribe to this feed, you are provided with a list of all titles confirmed to join MUSE in 2008. Then, when each of the new titles first becomes available online, subscribers to the feed receive notification that the journal has launched along with a link to the Table of Contents of the new issue. This feed may be of particular interest to faculty and graduate students who would benefit from immediate notification when a particular title becomes available online in MUSE, or to librarians

responsible for updating their library's journal holdings or A-Z list.

Information about all MUSE RSS feeds, including the simple instructions for subscribing, are available on the MUSE RSS Syndication page: <http://feeds.muse.jhu.edu>.

Pilot Program for Back Issues

Project MUSE recently added the full range of back issues of two of its long-held journals, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* and *Journal of Democracy*. These back issues were added to the MUSE collections at no additional charge to subscribers. Current issues of the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* are available to subscribers of MUSE's Premium Collection, Standard Collection, Basic Research Collection, Basic College Collection, and Humanities Collection. Subscribers now have access to all the back issues as well, which include Volume I, 1963, through Volume 37, 1999. Similarly, current issues of the *Journal of Democracy* are available to subscribers of the Premium Collection, Standard Collection, Basic Research Collection, Basic College Collection, and Social Sciences Collection. Subscribers to those collections now have access to all back issues, which are Volume I, 1990, through Volume 5, 1994.

The addition of the back issues of these two journals is part of a pilot program at MUSE to determine the feasibility of expanding coverage to include back issues. MUSE is in the early stages of the pilot program and anticipates adding additional back issues for selected journals published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

MARC Records for MUSE Journals

In response to requests from librarians, MUSE has developed and made available MARC records for all MUSE journals. MARC records are used to update holdings in library online catalog systems. Records are available for the journals in each of

(Continued on Page 3...)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**UKSG Annual
Conference**
April 7 – 9
Torquay, England

SLA Arabian Gulf
April 15 – 17
Doha, Qatar

**Congress of the
Humanities and
Social Sciences**
May 31 – June 8
Vancouver, BC, Canada

**National Women's
Studies Association
(NWSA) Annual
Conference**
June 19 – 22
Cincinnati, OH

**American Library
Association (ALA)
Annual Conference**
June 26 – July 2
Anaheim, CA

**Project
MUSE®**
Scholarly journals online

Published seasonally by Project MUSE, a collaboration of 60 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

The 2008 Project MUSE collection contains current content from 340 high-quality scholarly journals from 80 publishers. But are you aware of the variety of publishers with whom we work?

In the early years, MUSE was known for bringing important journals from mid-sized and large university presses online. The collection included titles from Texas Tech University Press, Penn State University Press, Indiana University Press, and the University of North Carolina Press. As time passed, the mix of MUSE participants evolved, and today the majority of the MUSE publishers are small, independent publishers. Of the 80 we currently work with, 65 have between one and five journals in MUSE, and for many this represents all of their titles. Publishers in this category are varied and include scholarly societies such as the American Folklore Society, with the *Journal of American Folklore*, and research institutes such as The Academy of American Franciscan History, with *The Americas*, as well as independent titles such as *Journal of Narrative Theory*, published from the Department of English at Eastern Michigan University

This mix of publishers results in a variety of levels of experience and knowledge regarding electronic delivery of content and a range of needs that MUSE must meet. Talking with our publishers has never been more important and we are committed to keeping the conversation open and ongoing.

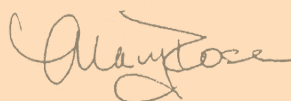
MUSE has long had an Advisory Board, made up of representative publishers who worked with the staff and provided feedback and insights on operational decisions. For 2008, we have revamped the structure of the MUSE advisory bodies and created two separate groups to meet the broad needs of both the MUSE publishers and the scholarly community we serve.

The previous MUSE Advisory Board has been restructured into a Publisher Working Group, and we have gone to great efforts to ensure that it contains representatives from all sizes and types of MUSE participating publishers. It is made up of an equal number of members from publishers with one to five active MUSE titles, six to 12 active titles, and over 12 active titles. We've included a representative from a scholarly society with a title in MUSE and plan to add a participating publisher from outside North America.

The 2008 MUSE Advisory Board is made up of key individuals from scholarly communication and digital scholarship, notably in the humanities and social sciences, as well as users, librarians, and representatives from the MUSE publishers. The Advisory Board will work with us on strategic directions and long-term issues, and the Publisher Working Group will consult on day-to-day policies and procedures.

In upcoming Director's Musings, I will report on discussions and plans that result from our conversations with these important groups. And as always, I welcome a conversation with you. Please email me at mrmm@press.jhu.edu with comments, questions, or suggestions.

Best wishes,



Mary Rose Muccie
Director, Project MUSE

Project MUSE Awarded Serials Solutions' KnowledgeWorks Certification

Project MUSE was recently awarded the designation "KnowledgeWorks Certified" by longtime partner Serials Solutions. MUSE is among the first content providers to receive this new designation created by Serials Solutions to acknowledge content providers and publishers with whom they have developed the best possible working relationships.

Serials Solutions unveiled the new program at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia in January. MUSE prominently displayed the certification at the MUSE booth in the exhibition hall during the entire annual meeting.

MUSE has partnered with Serials Solutions for many years to provide mutual customers with access to MUSE bibliographic metadata and content. MUSE easily met all the requirements for the new certification, which included areas such as ability to provide periodically updated title lists, specific bibliographic data, and direct delivery of the data to Serials Solutions in an agreed-upon format. Mutual customers, primarily librarians, benefit directly from this formal recognition of the sharing and delivery of data between Project MUSE and Serials Solutions. Librarians can now be assured that 'KnowledgeWorks Certified' Project MUSE will continue to collaborate with Serials Solutions to provide them with high-quality bibliographic data and the best possible access to their MUSE collection.

Top 20 MUSE Journals in 2007

These journals were accessed most often in 2007.

Advertising & Society Review

American Quarterly

Bulletin of the History of Medicine

Callaloo

Eighteenth-Century Studies

ELH

Human Rights Quarterly

International Security

Journal of College Student Development

Journal of Democracy

MFS Modern Fiction Studies

MLN

Modernism/modernity

New Literary History

Postmodern Culture

Reviews in American History

Social Forces

Technology and Culture

Theatre Journal

World Politics

(“New Features and Functionality...” Continued from Page 1)

MUSE’s six collections. The record sets are full-level description in the MARC21 format and include Library of Congress (LC) subject headings. Each collection’s record set includes journals launched as of the beginning of the current subscription year. Updates to the record sets will be added periodically during the year as new journals are launched.

Downloading the records is easy. Look for the link to “Download MARC Records” on the For Librarians Page on the MUSE website, <http://muse.jhu.edu/about/librarians>.

Redesign of the MUSE website

MUSE announced in January at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia that it is embarking upon a redesign of the MUSE

website. A redesigned website will provide MUSE users, publishers, subscribers, and potential subscribers with easier access to information and resources on the site. In an effort to gather information about possible additions and improvements to the site, MUSE conducted an online survey from early December through mid-January. Data gathered from the survey will be used along with the results of other research to determine how a new design will best meet the needs of all MUSE users. MUSE’s goal is to have the beta version of the new site available by the ALA Annual Conference in June. The new site is expected to go live in August. Announcements about the progress of the site redesign will be made as we draw closer to those dates.

MUSE Expands Outreach to Scholars

Project MUSE is expanding 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. MUSE will host a booth in the Exhibits Hall at many of these conferences where it will highlight MUSE journals pertinent to the scholarly nature of the conference. Materials illustrating journals that make up the full, interdisciplinary breadth of MUSE will also be available.

MUSE’s presence at the academic conferences contributes to a greater awareness of MUSE among the researchers and scholars. The conferences offer MUSE the chance to learn first hand from the academics and researchers how they use MUSE in the classroom and in their own research work. Information learned about scholars’ favorite journals and subjects in which they are doing research is helpful to MUSE when selecting journals to add to the MUSE collections. MUSE continually evaluates its collections with the goal of providing depth and breadth in subjects within the humanities and social sciences disciplines. An additional benefit of attending academic conferences is that it offers MUSE the opportunity to meet casually with publishers and editors who express interest in placing their journal in MUSE. Since the beginning of the year, MUSE has attended two conferences: the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, the professional association for all historians, and the annual conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, which is devoted to the scholarly study of film, television, video and new media. MUSE anticipates exhibiting at additional scholarly conferences during the year.



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Using MUSE to Your Advantage: RSS Feeds as a Research Tool

The RSS feed is a handy tool that you can use to organize and keep track of journals in your areas of interest or research. RSS feeds are similar to email alerts except that rather than clutter up your email inbox with notices, RSS feeds are gathered in one place and read at a convenient time of your choosing. In order to read your RSS feeds you must have a feed reader. An RSS reader is a web-based or desktop application that automatically gathers feeds from all of your selected websites and makes them available for reading. Many are free of charge.

A growing number of scholars and researchers use feeds to keep up with a variety of information important to their areas of study. Feeds can be organized in the feed reader into categories based on personal interest, such as journals available online in a field of study. Librarians may recommend the use of MUSE RSS feeds to faculty, master's, and doctoral students who may want to know immediately when a particular title becomes available online in MUSE.

MUSE currently offers two RSS feeds, *Latest Issues* and *Upcoming Titles (2008)*. Each feed offers timesaving benefits as well as easy access to articles in MUSE.

Latest Issues Feed

- Obtain easy access to favorite journals in MUSE
- Stay informed of the content appearing in your favorite journals
- Receive links to the four most recent issues of journals of interest to you
- Easily scan the contents of recent issues of your favorite journals
- Receive an updated feed automatically when a new issue of a journal that you have selected goes online

Upcoming Titles (2008) Feed

- Keep track of all new journals scheduled to go online in MUSE in 2008
- Be notified when any, or all, of the 36 new titles for 2008 first become available online
- Receive instant notification when the first issue launches for a journal relevant to your research and study
- Use the feed to access the Table of Contents of a journal and quickly scan the contents of that issue.
- Scan the contents of many journals all from one location

Read about and subscribe to MUSE RSS feeds at the MUSE RSS page: <http://feeds.muse.jhu.edu>.

MUSE NEWS

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