



# MUSE muse.jhu.edu

# NEWS

Summer 2008 Volume 9, Number I

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference

June 26-July 2  
Anaheim, CA  
Booth #1796

### International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Annual Meeting

August 10-13  
Québec, Canada

### Frankfurt Book Fair

October 15-19  
Frankfurt, Germany

### Charleston Library Conference and Vendor Fair

November 5-8  
Charleston, SC

Project  
**MUSE**<sup>®</sup>  
*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.

## Project MUSE announces new titles and prices for 2009

Project MUSE is pleased to announce that 26 new titles have been confirmed to date for addition to its online journal collections in 2009. Among the new publishers contributing content to MUSE are the Liverpool University Press, The Western Literature Association, and The New Chaucer Society. List pricing for the journal collections for 2009 is also now available.

The journals joining MUSE in 2009 enhance its offerings in Asian studies, Women's studies, African-American studies, Latin American studies, Iberian studies, higher education, literature, and public policy, among others. Highlights of the journals joining the MUSE collections include *African American Review*; *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*; *The Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*; *Western American Literature*; *La coronica: a journal of medieval Spanish language, literature and cultural studies*; *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*; *Histoire Social/Social History* and *Anthropological Linguistics*. (Please see sidebar, page 3, for a complete list of titles confirmed as of press time.) Further additions will be announced later this summer.

Many current MUSE participating publishers continue to contribute additional journal titles; for 2009, the University of Toronto Press is adding five titles, and the Indiana University Press, University of Hawaii Press, and University of Nebraska Press are adding two titles each. Other current publishers contributing new journals to MUSE include the Catholic University of America Press, Purdue University Press, Texas Tech University Press, University of Illinois Press, and University of Pennsylvania Press.

All journals joining MUSE for 2009 will be included in the Premium Collection, MUSE's flagship online journal offering. The MUSE Standard Collection, a subset of the Premium Collection, offers libraries a relatively stable collection of interdisciplinary titles, with modest annual growth. The following titles have also been selected for addition to the Standard Collection for 2009: *African*

*American Review*, *French Studies: A Quarterly Review*, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, *Journal of Canadian Studies*, *Library Trends*, and *Western American Literature*. Further additions to the Standard Collection, as well as additions to the Basic Research, Basic College, Humanities, and Social Sciences collections, will be announced later this summer.

List prices for the six MUSE online journal collections for 2009 have also been confirmed. Beginning with 2008, MUSE committed for a three-year period to caps on price increases of 12% on the Premium Collection and 7% for all other collections; 2009 pricing reflects these caps. The 2009 list prices are as follows: Premium Collection \$34,400, Standard Collection \$24,200, Basic Research Collection \$20,400, Basic College Collection \$11,700, Humanities Collection \$12,900, and Social Sciences Collection \$9,000. Project MUSE continues to offer a model of tiered discounts on these rates based upon institutional Carnegie classification and relative usage for North America, and on World Bank country income classes and institutional programming for the rest of the world.

As occasionally happens, some journals will cease contributing new content to MUSE as of 2009 due to a change in their print publishers. Journals confirmed to go archive-only in 2009 include *Canadian Journal on Aging*, *Italian Culture*, *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, and *Renaissance Quarterly*.

Additional announcements regarding MUSE titles, publishers, and prices will be made in the coming months, and complete details will be available on the MUSE website later this summer. Specific information regarding 2009 institutional renewals will be distributed to current subscribers and consortium affiliates in August and September; libraries that subscribe via a consortial arrangement should inquire about renewal options with their consortium offices. Questions regarding MUSE's 2009 journal collections and subscription offerings may be directed to [muse@press.jhu.edu](mailto:muse@press.jhu.edu).

## DIRECTOR'S MUSINGS

A company's website is the face they show to the outside world, and the MUSE website (<http://muse.jhu.edu>) is about to undergo a facelift. Over the past several months we've been preparing for a major overhaul of the design, organization, navigation, and information contained on our site. If you've viewed an article posted since late April 2008, you've gotten a preview of the new look and feel on the journal level. In August, you can expect to see a completely updated site, more well-organized content with improved navigation, and greatly expanded information, including a revamping of the section specifically for librarians and a new section for current and prospective MUSE publishers.

It's been several years since the last website redesign, and we knew that some changes were needed. Working with a web designer with a long and successful relationship with Johns Hopkins, including MUSE and the JHU Press, we began by surveying the various constituencies we serve: scholar, librarian, editor, publisher, student and consortium head. You may have taken our web survey or been interviewed by our consultants. Over 900 people from 42 countries took our survey, and 79% of them answered every question, a testament to the support MUSE receives from the community. The results of the interviews and survey were both surprising and familiar.

The overall response to MUSE remains positive, but there is, as we knew, room for improvement. Users don't have a clear understanding of what MUSE is or the rationale behind the journals that are selected. Many didn't realize that MUSE contains current issues of journals in humanities and social science disciplines only. Because users come to MUSE from many points of entry, such as Google Scholar or links from an abstracting and indexing database, the relative lack of MUSE branding on the current website means that they can enter and leave without ever realizing where they've been or who paid for that full-text access. This is a concern to us and to many of our library customers, who work hard to educate users about the

resources provided by the library. As a result, MUSE branding and an "access provided by" statement will be featured throughout.

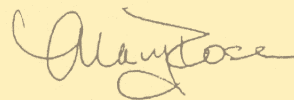
We received feedback on the need for more content- and search-related features and functionality, and if you've looked at an article from a recently posted issue, you'll see some of the new features we're adding. We'll be enhancing navigation across MUSE content with expanded links to related content, both by the same author or in the same subject area. The MUSE journal search engine continues to be refined and expanded as well.

Many librarians pointed out that, while there was a great deal of information on the site specifically for them, such as collection comparison tools and tutorials, they often can't locate it easily. We heard you and are implementing a search specifically for the informational pages. We're also completely redoing the subscription information pages, reorganizing the information specifically for librarians, and collecting the tools and resources in a designated area. Links will be added as appropriate between all related areas.

MUSE publishers, both current and prospective, will have a dedicated area on the new website. Here we'll put information on recommending or submitting a title for consideration and an explanation of the MUSE production requirements. A password-protected area for member publishers will contain information specific to them.

We hope you're as happy with our new website as we are. Please let me know what you think. I welcome your comments at [mrm@press.jhu.edu](mailto:mrm@press.jhu.edu).

Best wishes,



Mary Rose Muccie  
Director, Project MUSE

## MUSE on NINES

MUSE is pleased to announce that select MUSE journals are now searchable in NINES providing subscribers and their users with another avenue for discovering and accessing articles in MUSE. NINES, Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-century Electronic Scholarship, is a federation of peer-reviewed resources, citation records, and research tools, made freely available to students and scholars of nineteenth-

century culture. MUSE has a significant collection of journals focusing on nineteenth-century studies and the collaboration with NINES is a unique opportunity to expand the reach of those journals. MUSE provided NINES with the metadata for the journals resulting in over 8,000 articles now searchable via the NINES search engine. For more information about NINES and the MUSE journals included, go to <http://nines.org/collex>.

## New MUSE Journals for 2009

Additional titles are expected to be announced later this summer.

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

*African American Review*

*An Sionnach: a journal of literature, culture, and the arts*

*Anthropological Linguistics*

*Archives of Asian Art*

*Azalea: Journal of Korean Literature & Culture*

*The Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*

*Bulletin of the Comediantes*

*Byron Journal*

*Canadian Public Policy*

*La corónica: a journal of medieval Spanish language, literature and cultural studies*

*Genocide studies and prevention*

*Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*

*Histoire social/Social history*

*International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics (IJFAB)*

*Intertexts*

*Journal of Education Finance*

*Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies*

*Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Perspectives*

*Revista de Hispánica Moderna*

*Romani Studies*

*Studies in American Jewish Literature*

*Studies in the Age of Chaucer*

*The Tocqueville Review/La revue Tocqueville*

*U.S. Catholic Historian*

*Western American Literature*

*Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*

## MUSE Website Redesign Moving Right Along

The redesign of the MUSE website, details of which were announced in January at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia, is progressing quickly and on target to be unveiled in August.

The primary reasons for redesigning the website are to provide users with improved functionality and easy navigation around the main components of the MUSE website: the journal content and the subscriber tools and information.

MUSE solicited information from its users to determine how best to improve the features and functionality on the website so that all MUSE customers benefit from the redesign. The information was gathered via an online survey and through interviews with librarians, publishers, and consortium administrators. The survey was available online from mid-December through mid-January, 2008. Over 900 people worldwide signed in to participate in the survey with nearly 79% of respondents completing the survey. Of those completing the survey, the majority identified themselves as: librarians, 32% of respondents; undergraduate students, 22%; graduate students, 22%, and faculty, 13% of total respondents. Evidence of MUSE's growing reputation as a valued resource around the world was seen in the number of countries represented in the survey. Subscribers from 42 countries participated. While the majority of respondents were located in North America, countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, India, and Germany showed strong participation. We were excited to see participation from MUSE users in countries as widespread around the world as Argentina, China, Egypt, France, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden, and Turkey.

### Improved Formats

The first phase of the redesign was introduced in April with the launch of the new format for the Table of Contents (TOC) and for articles (HTML article format only). The new, streamlined TOC format allows for quick scanning of the contents of a journal and for easy navigation from the current issue to past issues of the journal. The new article format has a cleaner appearance and added functionality including the ability to download the article citation, email a link to the article to a colleague,

and explore other MUSE articles related to the search topic.

The launching of the new TOC and article formats coincides with MUSE's conversion to an XML based workflow. An XML based workflow gives MUSE the ability to easily expand and enhance functionality. When the new site unveils in August, many of the new tools and features available on the site will be the result of working with XML. Articles added to MUSE since the April introduction of the new format offer users a preview of the enhanced functionality that will be available in August.

### Linked Subject Headings

The most significant enhancement on the newly designed articles, Table of Contents, and search results, is the linking of the Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings. Linked subject headings are a powerful discovery tool for users. They offer researchers more extensive searching capability by providing an easy connection to additional articles in MUSE related to a research topic. MUSE has always assigned LC subject headings to articles to help users identify the topics discussed within an article and in turn, to select articles most suitable to their research. Now, by simply clicking on a subject heading, users can move from subject to subject, article to article, exploring topics and articles related to their search topic. One of the many benefits of the linked subject headings is the ability to refine a research topic when articles with a more specific focus are needed. Conversely, the linked subject headings can guide a user to articles with a broader approach when the assignment requires a more general discussion of the research topic. For those who appreciate the possibility of finding that perfect article by serendipity, the linked subject headings are just the tool for that exploration of MUSE content.

### Sneak Peek at ALA

MUSE will demonstrate how the new site will look and operate at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim in June. Please come to the User Group Meeting or stop by the booth, #I796, to see the new design. We welcome your comments about the new site design and look forward to answering all your inquiries.



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## Using MUSE to Your Advantage: LC Subject Headings

MUSE uses the Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings to identify the content of articles. LC subject headings are a controlled vocabulary of words and phrases that MUSE assigns to all articles to describe the main themes discussed in the articles. The subject headings serve as visual clues to help users identify articles pertinent to their search. And now, all the subject headings are linked.

### LC subject headings help you:

- Decide whether the content of an article is appropriate to your research.
- Gain a broad outline of the themes contained in an article.
- Discover alternative avenues for exploring a topic.
- Present clues for a broader search.
- Refine or narrow the focus of a search.
- Search topics that stimulate your interest.

### How linked subject headings help:

LC subject headings in articles, Table of Contents (TOC), and search results are now active links. This means you may click on a subject heading to find additional articles in MUSE about that subject or related subjects. Click on a subject heading and you will have access to the complete list of MUSE subject headings. Then, you may:

- Broaden your search by finding a general subject heading for your search topic.

- Refine your search by clicking on a subject heading for a more specific aspect.
- Discover articles about related topics.
- Follow your curiosity to articles about other subjects.

### Where are LC subject headings in MUSE?

1. Table of Contents
  - Scan LC subject headings displayed in the TOC of a journal to find articles relevant to your research.
  - Scan subject headings for articles that simply stimulate your interest.
2. Search Results
  - Each article lists the LC subject headings assigned to it.
  - Use the subject headings to decide whether the content of an article is valuable to your research.
  - Look for articles that provide a different perspective on your topic.
3. Articles
  - When you open an article, subject headings associated with that article appear in the navigation bar to the right of the article text.\*

\* Note: Subject headings in the navigation bar to the right of article text are a new feature in MUSE coinciding with a new production process. When an article is added online via the new process, subject headings will appear in the right navigation bar.

**MUSE**  
**NEWS**

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