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Promoting libraries as "publishers": EHPS - European History Primary Sources

CULTURAL HERITAGE on line
Empowering users: an active role for user communities
15-16 December 2009, Florence, Italy

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The needs of a defined user community: historians performing research activities

✓ Historians need to find primary sources and secondary literature in the analogical world but also in the digital world.

✓ For postgraduate and post-doctoral programs, the need is more precise: historians want to discover original and unexploited primary sources ("serendipity") and/or to access specific sources in archives and also in online repositories.

✓ But important digitization projects are often made of a selection of archival documents , of "treasures" or rare documents which are illustrating the "glorious past" of our nations. These are online exhibitions of artifacts, materials for teaching history but not primary sources for supporting an original research. (Ex.: The *World Digital Library* wants to offer "significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world". Significant to which communities of users and in which context ?)

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Small scale e-projects connected to a specialized public

✓ Edward L. Ayers realized a pharaonic digital history project: «The Valley of the Shadow, two communities in the American Civil War». Ayers is now suggesting to modify our agenda: «*we've tended to build big things in the hopes of capturing as many uses as possible. But maybe now we need to build lighter, smaller things. We might build simpler ways to use our vast collections.*»

✓ In fact, digital contents are often accessible in OA digital libraries: small scale web primary sources and digital libraries projects, very useful to scholars, are disseminated in a fragmented web worldwide.

✓ They have to be discovered and accessed by their qualified public in a socially networked web.

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Digital History: new tools and new methods

- ✓ Digital history (and history performed through digital means), need new tools for discovering, accessing and organizing critically digital contents in the process of making history.

- ✓ Digital libraries are often externally connected with other web resources (ex. the ODNB) and also primary sources are aggregated in only one web-site through a semantic harvesting of contents (ex.: *London Lives)*

- ✓ The web in itself is a primary source but how could historians search and retrieve selected original materials and meta-sources online ?

- ✓ Nowadays, like at the beginning of the web when "indexing" all the e-resources was possible, there's a need for scholarly portals, qualified disciplinary reference tools to support digital humanities and history.

- ✓ We need finding aids, indexes and portals to select contents but using new ways to communicate and interact with the user's communities.

The goals of the EHPS portal

✓ EHPS wants to monitor the web, indexing scholarly meta-sources, born digital invented archives or *meta-sources* belonging to new digital contexts separated from their "analogical" existence and finding new forms of authenticity.

✓ EHPS would like to collect and connect with its user community, an atomized reality of digital primary sources for the History of Europe, either as a whole or for individual countries.

✓ EHPS is entering the second stage of a historian's digital craft: 1. production of e-sources; 2. information about e-sources; 3. selection of e-sources; 4. use of e-sources in the process of writing history. Its main goal is about informing of the existence of digitized primary sources and offering a way to access them inside the browser.

✓ EHPS responds to the question of how we could link better communities of historians around the process of searching for primary sources using web 2.0. services .

✓ Capacity to indirectly "publish" contents (accessibility) not belonging directly to a library like the EUI library.

✓ Few staff, low financial costs and simple technological solutions.

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EHPS – European History Primary Sources

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Example of an indexed web-site

WWW Virtual Library History

European History Primary Sources

European University Institute

Find primary sources

- Country
- Language
- Period
- Subject
- Type of source
- Combined category search
- Free text search

Information

- About EHPS
- Help on searching
- How do RSS feeds work?
- Suggest a new website
- Other portals

Рукописи- Manuscripts of The Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra Church, Russia

View   Comments

This website is part of a project of the Russian State Library and The Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra church, one of the most important centers of Russian orthodoxy. The aim of the project is to gather a "universal collection of written and graphic manuscripts in Latin, ancient Church Slavonic and Greek languages as well as modern Slavonic, West European and Eastern languages." The collection includes rare documents and manuscripts from the 12th to the 20th century (liturgical books, annual chronicles, documents related to economic and social history, etc.).

The website currently offers access to 2954 digitised manuscripts, unique books and treatises from the holdings of the church library and can be browsed by the following sub-collections:

- Main Library
- Additional Library
- Unique Library
- Collection of manuscripts of the Moscow Theological Academy
- Awards, orders, bills of sale, documents, etc.

Visit the website: Рукописи- Collection of manuscripts of The Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, Russia

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
Your rating: None

Login or register to post comments

in Russia Russian all periods cultural economic foreign relations political images letters manuscripts

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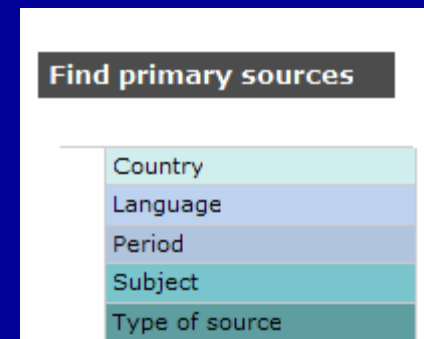
Searching Primary Sources in EHPS
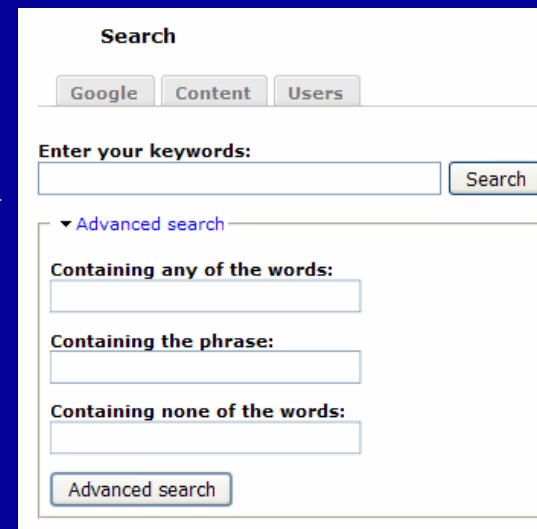
Four different ways to search EHPS:

1) <u>Browsing</u> one of the five EHPS categories

2) <u>Most selective</u>: search EHPS combination of tags

3) <u>Free Text Search</u> in all entries and also in advanced mode with precise queries

4) Using <u>Google Custom Search</u> inside the listed web-sites.

Find primary sources

| Country |
| Language |
| Period |
| Subject |
| Type of source |

Combined category search

Search listed websites

Google™ Custom Search

[Search]

Search

| Google | Content | Users |

Enter your keywords:

[   ] [Search]
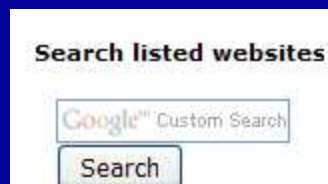
▼ Advanced search

Containing any of the words:

[   ]

Containing the phrase:

[   ]

Containing none of the words:

[   ]

[Advanced search]

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Being Informed from EHPS

- **RSS Feeds connected to** *Google Reader*

- **Following EHPS directly from** *Twitter*

- **Becoming Fan of EHPS in** *Facebook*

- **Knowing about ongoing statistics for EHPS through Alexa**

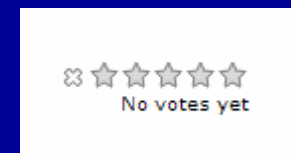S.Noiret: European History
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Participation of EHPS specialized public

Registered users -<u>after creating an account</u>- may annotate a single web-site entry: EHPS needs critical judgments from its users for the benefit of other users.

Quoting entries <u>within many social networks</u>.

They may create a personal bookmark area.

They may suggest via a <u>web-form</u> new web-sites to be included in the portal.
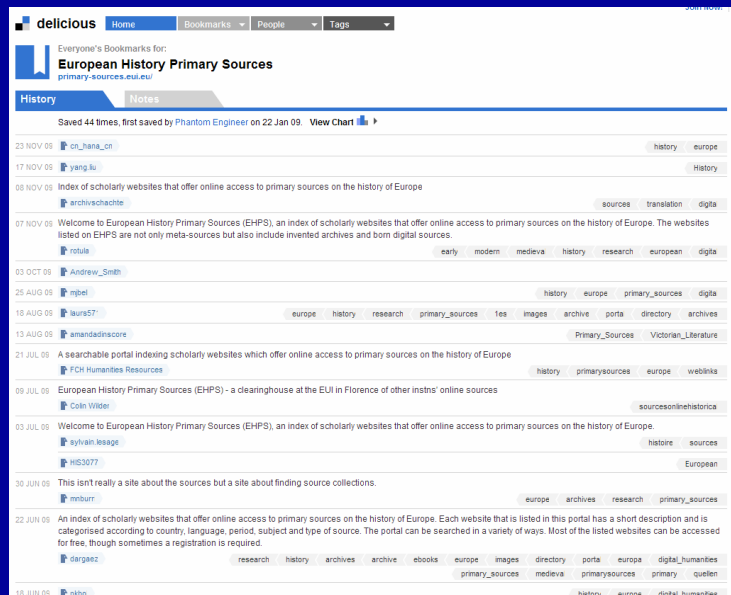
Save to My bookmarks   Add new comment

☒ ☆☆☆☆☆
No votes yet

1 to 5 stars for each web-site

Suggest a website

View | Edit | Results | Track

We very much welcome suggestions for websites that could be inclu

If you want to suggest a new website please bear in mind that E exhibitions, however useful these might be.

Name: *

Email: *

Title of website: *

Description: *

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EHPS in other indexes

- **Intute** is quoting EHPS

- **Delicious** pages are bookmarking EHPS

European history primary sources

Title:	European history primary sources	Save
Description:	The European history primary sources website is a portal maintained by the Library and the Department of History and Civilisation of the European University Institute. It is also part of the World Wide Web Virtual Library History that is hosted at the EUI. It comprises a directory of links to primary resources relating to European history from medieval times to the present day. These include ebooks, archives, documents, newspapers, diaries, images, video films and other texts. It is possible to search the site or browse by country, time period, theme or type of resource. All aspects of history are covered including economic history, social history, political history and religious history. Each resource has an added description of content.	
Keywords - controlled:	social history; colonial history; cultural history; economic history; urban history; european studies; modern history; religious history; political history;	
Type:	Resource guides and directories	
URL:	http://primary-sources.eui.eu/	
Classification:	Modern languages and area studies > Europe Social sciences > Politics Social sciences > Government policy	
Country of origin:	Italy	
User rating	☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆	

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