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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





Empowering users: an active role for user communities

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Florence, 15th - 16th December 2009



The needs of a user community of historians
 Small scale e-projects for a specialized public
 Digital History: new tools and new methods
 Goals of EHPS
 Description of EHPS

# 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 ?)

# 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.

#### 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 website 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 eresources 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 esources; 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.

16/12/09

### **EHPS – European History Primary Sources**

	WWW Virtual Library History Aropean History Primary Sou	Irces	
d primary sources	Introduction	News	
Country Language Period	Welcome to European History Primary Sources (EHPS), an index of scholarly websites that offer online access to primary sources on the history of Europe. The websites listed on EHPS	EHPS at "Cultural Heritage Online", Florence, 16 December 2009	
Subject Type of source	are not only meta-sources but also include invented archives and born digital sources.	Follow EHPS on Twitter ANCBS statement on	
Combined category search Free text search	Each website that is listed in EHPS has a short description and is categorised according to country, language, period, subject and type of source. The portal can be searched in a variety	earthquake Abruzzo Call for HELP - Das digitale historische Arch Köln	
About EHPS	of ways. The listed websites can be accessed for free, though sometimes a registration is required. EHPS is a work in progress and new content is regularly added. In order to stay updated on new entries or specific categories in which you are interested it is possible to subscribe to RSS feeds or to follow EHPS on Twitter.	mo Latest entries	
Help on searching How do RSS feeds work?		Europa: Publications Office Digital Library	
Suggest a new website	Registered users have the following extra options:	Gli Anni della Cupola 1417-1436	
Other portals	<ul> <li>create a personal list of bookmarks.</li> <li>comment and add their own experiences with the various websites that are listed in the portal.</li> <li>suggest new websites to be included via our webform.</li> </ul>	L'Unità, archivio digitale 1924-	
rch listed websites		Biblioteka Cyfrowa Biblioteki Gdanskiej Pan	
oogle" Custom Search		Digital Archives - Trebo	
		Digital Photographs - National Library of Ireland	
		Le Temps, archives	

# Example of an indexed web-site

	WWW Virtual Library History European History Primary Sources		
Find primary sources	Рукописи- Manuscripts of The Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra Church, Russia		
Country			
Language			
Period	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		
Subject	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		
Type of source			
Combined category search	social history, etc.).		
Free text search	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:		
Information	<ul> <li>Main Library</li> <li>Additional Library</li> <li>Unique Library</li> <li>Collection of manuscripts of the Moscow Theological Academy</li> <li>Awards, orders, bills of sale, documents, etc.</li> </ul>		
About EHPS	Visit the website: Рукописи- Collection of manuscripts of The Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, Russia 🗗		
Help on searching	***		
How do RSS feeds work?	Your rating: None		
Suggest a new website	Login or register to post comments		
Other portals	Login de régister to post comments		
other portais	in Russia Russian all periods cultural economic foreign relations political images letters manuscripts		

S.Noiret: European History Primary Sources

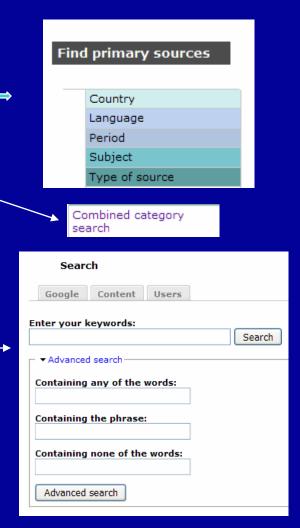
16/12/09

# 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
- Free Text Search in all entries and also in advanced mode with precise queries
- 4) Using <u>Google Custom Search</u> inside the listed web-sites.

S	earch listed website
	Google" Custom Search
	Search



# 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



### Participation of EHPS specialized public

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

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

	Nov
Suggest a website	
View Edit Results Track	
We very much welcome suggestions for website If you want to suggest a new website please	
exhibitions, however useful these might be. Name: *	
Email: *	
Title of website: *	
Description: *	

Save to My bookmarks

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Add new comment

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# **EHPS in other indexes**

## Intute is quoting EHPS

## Delicious pages are bookmarking EHPS

e del	icious Home Bookmarks - People - Tags -		
	Everyone's Bookmarks for:		
	European History Primary Sources		
History	Notes		
	Saved 44 times, first saved by Phantom Engineer on 22 Jan 09. View Chart 📠 🕨		
NOV 09	rc_hans_cn history europe		
NOV 09	🖹 yang ilu History		
NOV 09	Index of scholarly websites that offer online access to primary sources on the history of Europe		
	Parchivschachte sources translation digita		
NOV 09	Welcome to European History Primary Sources (EHPS), an index of scholarly websites that offer online access to primary sources on the history of Europe. The websites listed on EHPS are not only meta-sources but also include invented archives and born digital sources.		
	Protuis early modern medieva history research european digita		
OCT 09	Andrew_Smith		
AUG 09	s Prmbel history europe primary_sources digita		
AUG 09	Plaurs57' europe history research primary_sources tes images archive porta directory archives		
AUG 09	Primary_Sources Victorian_Literature		
JUL 09	A searchable portal indexing scholarly websites which offer online access to primary sources on the history of Europe		
	FCH Humanities Resources europe weblinks		
JUL 09	European History Primary Sources (EHPS) - a dearinghouse at the EUI in Florence of other instns' online sources		
JUL 09	Welcome to European History Primary Sources (EHPS), an index of scholarly websites that offer online access to primary sources on the history of Europe.		
	P sylvan lesage histoire sources		
	P HIS3077 Europea		
JUN 09	This isn't really a site about the sources but a site about finding source collections.		
	P mnburn europe archives research primary_sources		
JUN 09	An index of scholarly websites that offer online access to primary sources on the history of Europe. Each website that is listed in this portal has a short description and is categorised according to country. Inangage, period, subject and type of source. The portal can be searched in a variety of ways. Nost of the listed websites can be accesses for free, though sometimes a registration is required.		
	dargaez research history archives archive ebooks europe images directory portal europa digital_humanties		
	primary_sources medieva primary sources primary quefer		
UUN 09	P pkbo bistory europe diatal humanities		

#### Home > Web resources > Record list > European history primary sources European history primary sources

Title:	European history primary sources O 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;
Туре:	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	**

