
For more than 70 years after the end of World War II, many European nations have joined together (through various supranational organizations) in order to work together to promote continental peace. One of these organizations is the Council of Europe, which deals with the preservation and maintenance of human rights, the maintenance of democratic principals and institutions, and the maintenance of the rule of law among its members. Based primarily in Strasbourg, France (with other offices in Brussels and Geneva), the Council of Europe’s 47 members enforce its agreed-upon rulings with treaties and charters.

Such an immense body of work needs to have an organized portal from which to search, and the Council of Europe has created a very organized and easy-to-navigate website to serve its member states. The best place to begin any search of the Council’s work is the Explore dropdown box on the homepage. This will take the searcher to various websites explaining the Council’s work, as well as links to the Council’s bookstore and other online resources. Each of the Council’s major areas of work—“Human Rights,” “Democracy,” and the “Rule of Law,” have separate sections dealing with their work and with their objectives. For example, under “Human Rights” users will find information about GREVIO (the convention to prevent violence against women and domestic violence), including background on the work the convention accomplishes, as well as other resources and contacts.

Another helpful research tool is the Council’s archives, located in the Useful Links section at the bottom of the webpage. Searchers can find documents in four formats (audio-visual, electronic, print, and web archives), search tools, and an information management guide (containing a list of FAQs designed to assist in archival document management).

Whether a researcher is a government official or an interested and informed citizen of one of the Council’s member countries, the Council of Europe’s website is a well-organized and information-filled portal that contains information and resources for many of the important social and political issues that face countries today. Highly recommended.—Larry Cooperman, University of Central Florida Libraries, lawrence.cooperman@ucf.edu


Established in 1983 within the J. Paul Getty Trust (the world’s largest cultural and philanthropic organization dedicated to the visual arts), The Getty Research Institute (GRI) furtherthes Getty’s mission by providing “resources, expertise, and a collaborative environment for art-historical research and publication.” Scholars, museum professionals, and students will find a wealth of digital collections and databases to support their research.

Like an iceberg, the bounty of digital resources lies beneath the homepage, which is divided into six major sections. The amount of accessible digital content varies from section to section. On the “Exhibitions & Events” pages, users will find an online exhibition, links to videos, and related content. In “Special Collections,” more than half of the “Major Collecting Areas” contain links to digital collections on such topics as “Alchemy,” “Artists’ Letters,” and “Orientalist Photography.” Under “Scholars & Projects,” links to digitized collections can be found within several of the “Research Projects,” and most of the digital books listed in the “Publications” section are freely accessible.

The real treasures are in “Search Tools & Databases.” Featured at the top is the “Primo
Search” of GRI Library Catalog, which can be limited to Digital Collections. “The Open Content Program” offers more than 100,000 free images for downloading from the J. Paul Getty Museum and GRI.

Two significant collaborative projects are the “Getty Research Portal,” which provides access to digitized art history publications, rare books, and related literature from more than 25 international libraries, and the “Getty Vocabularies,” such as “The Art & Architecture Thesaurus,” that contain structured terminology for fine art, architecture, and more.

Finally, the “Collecting and Provenance Research” section is expansive, but somewhat confusing. The “Getty Provenance Index Databases,” which began as an in-house index in 1974, offers one search interface for three databases, namely “Archival Inventories, Sales Catalogs,” and “Public Collections.” Other indexes are linked separately, such the “German Sales Catalogs 1930-1945,” which was built in collaboration with German libraries. Fortunately, in 2016 GRI started a three-year project to redesign the current infrastructure of the “Getty Provenance Index” databases and publish them as linked open data. This is a prime example of the Digital Art History projects that GRI supports, enabling researchers to access and use art-historical data in both traditional and new collaborative ways.

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Those seeking information about and support for issues related to childhood trauma would be well advised to start at this valuable clearinghouse. Established by Congress in 2000, NCTSN collaborates with providers, researchers, and families to raise awareness and improve access to services in order to “change the course of children’s lives by changing the course of their care.” NCTSN cooperates with established systems of care—health, mental health, education, law enforcement, child welfare, juvenile justice, and military family services—through a broad arrangement of partners and affiliates nationwide striving to forge a comprehensive and sustainable “trauma-informed” center of resources.

The homepage evokes community with its bulletin board layout: a carousel of compelling, clickable images, relevant news, and events tacked to the right, and simple but eye-catching hot topics links below. Along the bottom, cheerful “photo” buttons personalize silos of materials by audience: parents and caregivers, professionals, military families, educators, media, and en Español.

Across the top toolbar, tabs facilitate browsing in other ways. “Trauma Types” defines 13 categories, for example, “community violence,” “complex trauma,” “neglect,” and “traumatic grief.” Each section presents its own variety of connections to attractive-looking documents for health care providers, educators, and families, such as reports, articles, toolkits, reading lists, tip sheets, and informational placards.

“Resources” organizes the information by audience, topic, online resources, and more. “Treatments That Work” includes factsheets with descriptive summaries and links to the evidence-based research that produced them. “About Us” explains the who and what of this group, revealing an impressive array of professionals overseeing the NCTSN effort.

A search box facilitates keyword access to the site. Searching on the word “hurricane” retrieved, among other articles, a Kauai Recovery Index designed to measure PTSD symptoms in children exposed to hurricanes. A search on PTSD drew together articles, questionnaires, research highlights, and a study on cannabis and PTSD. The site contains very current, as well as older, material, but none sampled seemed dated.

This packed site could feel overwhelming, but instead is well-designed, with appealing materials, and rewarding exploration options, both by browsing and quick query, for many types of users. Researchers of childhood trauma and related issues will find plenty to work with via NCTSN.—Barbara Valentine, Linfield College, bvalen@linfield.edu