
As student researchers look to the past to understand the present, you might want to share with them the Clio Visualizing History website. Featured online exhibits are “Click! The Ongoing Feminist Revolution,” “Lawrence of Arabia,” “Photography by Early American Women,” and “Illustrated History.”

“Click!” provides the backstory for women’s rights by highlighting the achievements of women since the 1940s, while exploring and documenting female activism. Targeted topics include the workplace, politics, social movements, and health. Each topic offers pertinent chapters presented in an interactive interface using text, video, images, and external links. Topic and chapter pages each offer an extensive timeline highlighting important people and events.

The “Lawrence of Arabia” exhibit explores the connection between Lowell Thomas, the journalist who told Lawrence’s story to the world, and T. E. Lawrence. Site visitors are swept up into the lives and legacy of Thomas and Lawrence, Thomas’ multimedia show about Lawrence and the Middle East, the attack on the port of Akaba, the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, the Cairo Conference of 1921, and the film Lawrence of Arabia. Each section highlights narrative accounts, captioned images, and commentary by historians, scholars, and others.

Whether one is interested in photography as art or historical record, the “Photography by early American women” exhibits are well worth a visit. The gallery displays images of life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries taken by early American female photogra-

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The Digital Maryland website is a collaborative, statewide digitization program that was created to help provide free access to the historical and cultural documents, images, audio, and video held by various Maryland institutions. This collaborative program is headquartered at the Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Here, interested institutions and individuals can have their primary source materials digitalized. Once digitized, the material is made available for online display.

The Digital Maryland site is easy to navigate. A researcher will find the navigation bar at the top of each page. The menu includes links to “Collections,” “About,” “Partnership,”

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and “Links.” The menu provides access to a wide variety of digital collections within the site. These collections contain digitized photographs, etchings, service programs, correspondence, documents, oral history transcripts, and maps, all documenting the rich history of the state of Maryland. The site’s homepage contains a search box entitled “Search the Collections” on the right side of the page, which allows users to begin their research in an expedient manner. The homepage search box also features a dropdown list of all the collections within the site. This allows users to select one particular collection at a time.

If users wish to view a master list of the collections, they can access the “Collections” page via the navigation bar. This is a great way to start if one isn’t sure where to begin to research. Each collection listed here contains a title and brief description. Once the title is clicked, the user is taken to a homepage for the collection. For instance, if the user selects the “Adalbert Volck and the Humanities–Enoch Pratt Free Library” link, a page will open for browsing the digital collection as well as learning some basic contextual information. This includes an overview of what is found within the collection along with a list of related material. Another useful feature is the “Recent Additions” section of a collection’s homepage. This is a helpful way for researchers to access the latest digital scans and related metadata within the collection.

The Digital Maryland site is an excellent resource for researchers who want to understand the rich history of the state of Maryland.—Tom Sommer, University of Maryland, tsommer@umd.edu


According to the website, “The National Council for Behavioral Health is the unifying voice of America’s health care organizations that deliver mental health and addictions treatment and services. Together with our 2,900 member organizations serving over 10 million adults, children, and families living with mental illnesses and addictions, the National Council is committed to all Americans having access to comprehensive, high-quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery.”

The National Council website is a venue for health care, mental health, and addiction treatment information. The six dropdown categories on the top of the homepage provide access to the “Policy Action Center” (mental health and addiction policy information), “Consulting & Best Practices” (consulting and training information), “Topics A-Z” (short pathfinders on a range of topics), “About the National Council,” “Events and Training” (conferences, webinars, online training and courses, etc.), and “Shop” (books, DVDs, and other publications for sale).

“Topics A-Z” presents quick details on how to find more information about 30 health topics, such as children’s mental health and Medicaid. The pathfinders may contain brief statistics, links to additional resources/websites, webinars and recorded training sessions on the topic, infographics, and links to reports. Features in the “About the National Council” section contain the typical sections for an organization: mission, membership information, annual report, job listings, and “contact us.” There are a number of social media platforms shown on the website for users or members to connect with the organization and learn more about their activities and events.

The site is jam packed with authoritative information while maintaining intuitive and straightforward navigation. Highlighting the sitemap link would be helpful. Currently, it’s on the very bottom of the page and may be difficult to locate. Another suggestion would be to include an Advanced Search option that provides more filters for searching.

Overall, this site’s strength is the easy access to professional and policy information available to National Council members and health care providers. While the site is primarily geared towards health care professionals, it would also be of interest to students, government officials, and lawmakers.—Colleen Lougen, SUNY New Paltz, lougenc@newpaltz.edu