Internet Reviews


Created in 2009 by the Library and Department of History and Civilization of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, the European History Primary Sources (EHPS) website is a portal that provides access to scholarly digital repositories and other portals dealing with all facets of European history, from ancient to modern times. The site’s coordinators acknowledge the difficulty of including all digital collections of primary source materials, but they strive to provide access to the major national digital libraries, and the site is updated continuously.

Users can quickly and easily search the website by browsing by country, language, subject, time period, and type of resource. Subjects range from art and education to military and sport, and the types of resources include dictionaries, drawings, interviews, letters, maps, pamphlets, photos, posters, sheet music, and more. Researchers can also take advantage of free text and tag searching as well as a saved repository search. For example, tag searching makes it possible for the researcher to search across multiple categories such as 19th-century French newspapers simply by clicking on the appropriate tags.

The EHPS homepage showcases the latest primary source additions to the site, such as access to the manuscripts of the French writer Stendahl, as well as narrowly focused, hard-to-find material, such as “Witches in Early Modern England.” The site features a help link, which provides searching tips on the site as well as guidance for searching within other digital repositories directly, including implementing deep search web engines and portals. The homepage also offers a suggestion link for users to recommend web sources to include on the EHPS site. Finally, users can stay updated by subscribing to the EHPS email list, RSS feeds, and Facebook and Twitter links.

The EHPS website is a comprehensive and diverse web portal for professional and amateur users who are interested in finding all types and areas of scholarly information dealing with all facets and time periods of European history. Highly recommended.—Larry Cooperman, University of Central Florida Libraries, lawrence.cooperman@ucf.edu


Modern slavery shamefully continues to persist around the world, even in the United States. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is an anti-trafficking hotline and information resource that has been operated since 2007 by Polaris, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization started by two Brown University students in 2002. They are funded by the Department of Health and Human Services along with private donors. In 2014 they created this website as a tool to connect victims and survivors with support and services, to facilitate reporting of suspected trafficking, and to provide information and training for the anti-trafficking community.

In addition to offering multiple ways of connecting with NHTRC to get help or report trafficking, the site offers useful information about human trafficking (including sex, labor, and child trafficking), dispelling common myths, and explaining federal anti-trafficking laws. There is a page detailing ways to get involved, such as the NHTRC newsletter, volunteering opportunities, and upcoming events. Another page features an extensive set of hotline statistics that have been collected since 2007 (with an emphasis on 2012 to the present), and are viewable by state. A Referral Directory provides access to various social,
legal, emergency, and mental health services, along with opportunities for training, volunteering, and outreach. The directory features a map and can be searched in a number of ways, such as by location, type of service, or gender (including transgender).

Finally, there is an excellent collection of materials in the site’s Resource Library. This section contains assessment tools, fact sheets, reports, statistics, toolkits, and more. The list of documents can be sorted by most popular or most recent, and is searchable by keyword, type of trafficking, demographic category, language, material type, and audience. The audience field is especially useful for those seeking information for businesses, educators, or policy makers, for instance. One extremely handy search feature is that the multiple fields can be selected simultaneously, and more than one option chosen within each field. So, for example, it is possible to search for sex trafficking fact sheets and statistics for students and survivors. This makes highly customized searches simple and intuitive for users.

Overall, the NHTRC website is an important, informative, and easy-to-navigate tool that is highly recommended for faculty and students across many academic disciplines. It is also valuable for student affairs departments and campus groups interested in social justice.—Brian T. Sullivan, Alfred University, sullivan@alfred.edu


The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an international think tank billing itself as the “independent resource on global security.” SIPRI receives the majority of its funding from a grant from the Swedish government, and 2014’s donors included the European Commission, the MacArthur Foundation, the Korea Foundation, and the U.S. State Department. With 50 years of research history and data collection, its website serves as a robust resource for researchers looking for background materials, analyses, and detailed facts and figures on significant developments in the fields of conflict, arms procurement, arms control, and disarmament.

SIPRI’s main audience of policy wonks, reporters, and other serious researchers will likely forgive the cramped website due to its wealth of information. Navigation from the homepage is logically organized, but it presumes that visitors have some prior knowledge about current issues in global security. The front page highlights security news and upcoming publications, and promotes appearances featuring SIPRI researchers, but it mainly serves as a vehicle to funnel visitors to its publications and data.

The navigation bar at the top includes general links for “Research,” “Databases,” “Publication,” “SIPRI Yearbook,” and “Library.” A lefthand navigation column divides research content into four main categories to reflect its research programs: Regional and Global Security; Armed Conflict and Conflict Management; Military Spending and Armaments; and Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation.

Each project includes brief background information on the region, a description of current or ongoing research projects, and links to related publications, mainly from SIPRI researchers. Unfortunately, ongoing projects are listed with completed projects. For example, visitors interested in SIPRI’s LivingSidebySide peacebuilding project may be disappointed to realize that this is an ongoing project without available reports or data.

Where SIPRI shines is its collection of reports, background papers, and databases, and much of this information is freely available to view or download. In some cases, the term database is used lightly—The Arms Embargoes Database is a chart on a web page, and the Military Expenditure Database is a downloadable Excel spreadsheet. However, the Multilateral Peace Operations Database is fully searchable, and the only resource of its kind.

While SIPRI requires a bit of prior knowledge in order to make the most of its resources, its diverse content makes it valuable for a wide variety of users.—Camille Chesley, University of Montevallo, cchesley@montevallo.edu