The Hiphop Archive and Research Institute.


Based in the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University, the Hiphop Archive and Research Institute (HARI) was established in 2002 and designed to serve undergraduate, graduate, and faculty researchers. Scholars, hiphop artists, and producers have jointly created an institute that will “support and establish the emerging research and scholarship devoted to the knowledge, art, culture, materials, organizations, movements, and institutions developed by those who support and follow hiphop.”

Like the musical form it represents, the HARI website is built on strong interrelationships with other websites and institutions. The most obvious example of this is the section called “Classic Crates.”

In February 2016, the Loeb Music Library at Harvard joined HARI in a project that will select 200 classic vinyl records to create a hiphop “standards” collection. Under the curation of DJ and Producer 9th Wonder, the first four albums were included in 2016, and HARI will add at least ten albums a year.

The “Classic Crates” section includes album sites, a timeline, and very useful videos, PDFs, and links about “Production,” “Djing,” and “Technology” under the “Diggin’” section. Each album site contains liner notes, lyrics, and a digital collection. Prominent scholars of African American Studies write the liner notes on the “Albums” section. The lyrics listed on the track list page can be annotated through the website Rap Genius. The “Digital Archive” of each album is powered by the History Project. Materials include academic journal and magazine articles, interviews, live performances, photos, etc., and can be sorted by category.

HARI also includes an extensive, searchable bibliography that is mostly annotated. “Artists” includes liner notes and lyrics, which are divided into topical categories and are also annotated via Rap Genius. Under the 2Pac Artist page is a link to yet another collaborative project, an online education portal on the musical Holler If Ya Hear Me, based on Tupac Shakur’s life.

Other hiphop collections, such as the NOLA Hip Hop Archive at Tulane University, Houston Hip Hop at the University of Houston, and the Cornell Hip Hop Collection, document local and regional hiphop culture. HARI is creating a national center that combines scholarly curation with interactive participation with artists, producers, and fans.—Doreen Simonsen, Willamette University, dsimonse@willamette.edu

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.


The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) is a component of the National Institutes of Health. As such, it serves to provide leadership and funding for research in an effort to improve the health of the nation. The NHLBI website is a useful resource and a functional portal to this work.

Information on the NHLBI’s website is organized by three audience categories: public health consumers, health professionals, and researchers. Reference librarians can use these facets to quickly filter the wealth of information available through NHLBI and find information appropriate to the user’s need. Resources are frequently cross-listed and available under multiple facets, but users who search multiple facets will have their efforts rewarded.

For public health consumers, NHLBI makes available useful public health educational campaigns. These campaigns gather what has been learned from systematic reviews of the literature and packages their conclusions.
into clear and easy-to-understand language for public education. Other public health consumer services include an A-to-Z index of heart, lung, and blood-related health conditions and a Health Information Service that provides the public with answers to NHLBI-related questions.

The “Health Professionals” facet includes systematic evidence reviews.

Panels of experts systematically review comparative effectiveness research in order to provide the best evidence to inform clinical decision-making. The NHLBI website provides access to both the systematic evidence reviews and the clinical guideline documents based on the reviews. Additionally, “Health Professionals” includes access to a number of information resources targeted to a professional audience. These resources are organized by the specialty (heart, lung, blood, and sleep diseases and disorders) and are also organized by selected ethnic and age demographics.

Researchers will find information on funding opportunities, training and career development, summaries of research meetings, and information on technology transfer. Data sets and collected samples may be accessed here using Biologic Specimen and Data Repository Information Coordinating Center.

Overall, the NHLBI website is a useful resource to those doing research in the areas of heart, lung, blood diseases, and health.

Librarians looking for connections between public-oriented publications and the underlying research or systematic reviews of the medical literature will be especially interesting in the NHLBI website.—Nicholas Schiller, Washington State University at Vancouver, schiller@wsu.edu


Romantic Circles is a peer-reviewed scholarly website dedicated to the study of Romantic-period literature and culture. Established and hosted by the University of Maryland, Romantic Circles has served as a resource for primary and secondary source material since 1997, and new content is continually added. The site is divided into categories of resources. These categories include secondary scholarly material, primary texts, course material for teachers, images, and audio, as well as a blog and reviews of recent publications in the field. Librarians may recommend this site to students and instructors from high school through graduate school, although high schoolers and undergraduates may benefit from a brief tutorial.

The “Praxis Editions” and “Scholarly Resources” sections of the site provide free access to peer-reviewed essays, bibliographies, chronologies, indexes, and conference proceedings. The “Praxis Editions” especially are unique to Romantic Circles. These volumes are collections of refereed essays on Romantic topics or themes. Archives stretch back to 1997, providing a large pool of sources for literature students working on research papers and close-textual analyses of Romantic works.

Users also benefit from the collections of primary sources offered under the “Editions” and “Gallery” sections of the site. The “Editions” section contains rich digital versions of texts. These online publications are enhanced beyond just the text and include introductions, scholarly annotations, previous versions, and authorial revisions, as well as relevant appendices. The “Gallery” features images of paintings and prints from the Romantic Era, with detailed metadata.

Overall, Romantic Circles is a very rich and reliable resource that suffers from two small drawbacks. The first is that navigation is not intuitive upon first visit. The menus across the top of the page lead to primary and secondary sources, but this is not clear from the way they are labeled. The second drawback is that there is no simple way to search for all content related to a specific author or work. The site-wide search does a good job, but requires a short learning curve.

However, the learning curve is worth the effort for the wealth of available information, and with the help of a librarian, students and instructors can use this site as a free and high-quality database of Romantic literature and scholarship on the web.—Katharine Van Arsdale, Pacific Union College, kvanarsdale@puc.edu