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Online Access: Online Finds

“Turning the Pages” at the National Library of Medicine (NIH): In 2001, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) teamed up with the British Library (BL) to become the first U.S. site of the BL’s award-winning “Turning the Pages” project. The program uses exceptionally detailed scans of antique books paired with a technology which allows users to smoothly “turn” the pages with the click of a mouse. NLM has included five Renaissance-period books from their own biomedical sciences collection, each of which is a compilation of selected pages rather than a full-text surrogate and may contain images from multiple volumes of the author’s work. Curators’ notes and explanations (available either by clicking the text icon in the navigation bar or using the cursor to hover over certain areas of the page) help establish each selection’s origin, summarize the topics of discussion and explain illustrations. These labels can also be read aloud via an audio icon. The NIH “Turning the Pages” project, along with its [sister project at the British Library](#), is a great example of how technological tools can be used to promote archives and special collections. Be sure to check back in the late fall as users will be able to virtually unroll a digitized scroll of Egyptian hieroglyphics before the end of the year! <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/http/books.htm>



Online Access: New Resources and Technology



New ARC Web: The eagerly anticipated new ARC Web made its debut on Tuesday, July 8, 2008. The updated features provide improvements to the user interface and service offerings. Researchers are greeted with a streamlined, Google-like basic search. The Advanced Search allows researchers to use specific fields to search for descriptions with all, at least one, or none of the keywords, as well as for those containing exact phrases.

The ability to highlight search terms within the resulting hit list allows for easier review of applicable records and a new tabular display helps identify their details, scope and content, and hierarchical context. Researchers who wish to limit their search to a specific record group, series, or file unit, can now use the “Search Within” function to filter their results. Once the desired descriptions have been located, users can add them to “My List,” which keeps track of the results until the browser session is closed or allowed to idle for more than 30 minutes. These lists, along with individual description pages, can also be printed or emailed to up to five addresses, so the results of all that research aren’t stuck on a single computer! <http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>

Interactive Vietnam Veterans Memorial (the Wall) on Footnote: This free site from Footnote.com and the National Archives invites users to search the Wall and “leave a tribute, a story or photograph about any of the 58,256 veterans killed or missing in the Vietnam War.” According to the site, the scrollable five gigapixel image of The Wall was created by digitally stitching 1,494 photographs into one enormous picture about 460 feet wide (400,000 pixels wide by 12,500 pixels tall.) This impressive achievement is complemented by a database which provides a wide range of statistical information from NARA, when available, for each soldier. Categories include full name, rank, specialty, hometown, race, religion, marital status, gender, date of birth, tour start date, death date, age, cause of death, body recovery status, casualty location, service branch, enlistment type, years served, company, battalion, regiment, and other personal data, as well as the panel and line where the name can be found on the Wall. Links to NARA’s Access to Archival Databases application (AAD) are provided to encourage users to investigate related archival records. <http://go.footnote.com/thewall/>





Online Description at NARA

Spotlight on Holdings in Our Catalog: Thanks to everyone who sent in suggestions for our featured record groups. If you have a favorite record group or series to share, send it in and we'll highlight it here.

→ Records of the Women's Bureau (RG 86, [ARC ID 415](#)): The fall 2007 description of this record group seems especially timely in our current political climate. Though always an important topic, the progress of women in the workplace has lately become a focus of national attention thanks to the Democratic presidential candidacy of Hillary Rodham

Clinton and Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin. The RG is made up of 56 series, and contains posters, speeches, studies, pamphlets, and more created during the 19th and 20th century campaigns for equal rights in government and the workplace. -Suggested by Alfie Paul, Archives at College Park, Reference Section.

→ Also check out Correspondence Relating to the Titanic Disaster, 1912, (RG 40, [ARC ID 565958](#)) and Invitations Sent to Attorney General John Mitchell, 1968-1969 (RG 60, [ARC ID 1609080](#)). -Both suggested by Alan Walker, Archives at College Park, Reference Section.

(For tips on searching within specific record groups and collections, check out the RG and Collection Index at [http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/rg-collections/.](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/rg-collections/))

Online Description in the U.S. Archival Community

Web 2.0 and Digital Assets are Popular Discussions at SAA in San Francisco:

The Society of American Archivists held its annual convention August 24 through Aug. 31 at the Hilton San Francisco with a packed schedule of workshops and themed sessions ranging from archives management to digital collections administration and Web 2.0 projects. The workshop *Essentials of Digital Repositories*, lead by Jessica Branco Colati and Greg Colati, both of the University of Denver, focused on managing and preserving born-digital and original-gone-digital holdings as well as methods of providing online access to thesis, dissertations, academic journals, personal papers and photographs collections. A session of note was a Web 2.0-themed presentation by Helena Zinkham, Library of Congress (LC) Prints and Photographs. Zinkham spotlighted [LC's partnership project with Flickr.com](#), the photo identification project featured in the June issue of *The Buzz*. - C. Jerry Simmons, NPOL

Archival Leadership Conference: The University of Wisconsin- Madison held the first Archives Leadership Institute in June for 25 archivists selected from across the profession. The week-long event featured presentations by dynamic people within the field and relevant leaders outside the profession. The goal of the project is to examine the leadership needs of the field and to prepare participants to influence policy and effect change on behalf of the profession (and ultimately, the public served now and in the future.) The program is directed primarily at mid-level to senior staff and archivists who aspire to leadership roles in their organizations and/or professional associations. NARA attendees included: Sara Holmes, Supervisory Preservation Specialist, National Personnel Records Center; William Carpenter, Program Analyst, Information and Security Oversight Office; and Pamela Wright, ARC Program Manager, Policy and Planning Staff. Lucy Barber, of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), spoke on strategies and sources for funding. NHPRC co-sponsored the Institute. <http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continueed/archivesinst.html>

Online Description in the International Archival Community

Spotted on the University of Miami Libraries: Digital Initiatives "Cuban Heritage Collection" Web Site:



This online segment of the UM-L Cuban Heritage Collection includes manuscripts, letters, photos, maps, and other digitized resources. More than 15 collections covering a wide range of time periods, notable individuals, and special topics are included. While most of the records are presented in their native Spanish, finding aids are available in English, and the staff has provided metadata for thousands of historic photographs and postcards, as well as scope and content notes for the textual collections. Spanish speakers may also be interested in the Cordovés and Bolaños family correspondence during Cuba's Wars of Independence and the Bay of Pigs Invasion. For a powerful example of how multimedia records can draw viewers deeper into

the archival story, visit the [Cuban Raft Phenomenon](#) site, which explores the raft crisis of 1994 through the use of video, photographs, and first-hand narratives. <http://merrick.library.miami.edu/digitalprojects/chc.html>