

## **EH.Net 2000 Year End Summary and Quarterly Report**

The purpose of this report is to summarize the major accomplishments of EH.Net from January 1 to December 31, 2000, including specific notations for activities during the last quarter of 2000.

### **EH.Net Staff**

EH.Net currently has a six-member staff working in the following positions:

Connie Malone - Administrator

Mike DeCoster - Systems Administrator

John Davison - Assistant Systems Administrator/Webmaster

Jennie Gigliotti - List Manager

Rachel Hillman - Ask the Professor Screener

Philippe Deunet - French Translator

### **Systems Operation**

At the EH.Net Board of Trustees meeting on January 8, 2000, the Trustees approved a motion to purchase a new server to provide enhanced support and operation of the EH.Net web site and lists. In January the new server, a Sun Ultra 10 Workstation, was purchased from CommNet Plus, Inc. and was taken to Miami University's Computing and Information Services (MCIS) center where it is housed, and where MCIS staff provides consistent and around the clock support for its operation including rebooting the system should it go down and updating of the operating systems. The new machine has allowed for the implementation of web-based editing and provides faster connection to the Internet, resulting in faster loading for our users. Listproc and all Web-related services of EH.Net have been moved to the new machine. An external hard drive was also purchased to expand the memory capacity of the new sever. The DEC Alpha machine has been retained and currently serves as an additional work station in the Administrator's office.

### **EH.Net Web Server Statistics, October 1 – December 31, 2000**

Excluding hits by major search engines and those from Miami University, during the last quarter of 2000 there were 2,746,071 successful requests for pages received from 63,202 distinct hosts, or IP addresses. In addition to hits from commercial, network, educational, non-profit, and US governmental institutions, during this three month period EH.Net was hit by 126 countries worldwide. Excluding the U.S., the ten countries with the most hits were: Spain, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden.

### **General Summary**

Approximate number of pages maintained on the server: 22,000

Successful requests: 2,746,071

Average successful requests per day: 29,848

Successful requests for pages: 411,702

Average successful requests for pages per day: 4,475  
Distinct files requested: 27,415  
Distinct hosts served: 63,202

### **Monthly Report**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Requests</u>	<u>Pages</u>
October	842,703	131,684
November	911,218	150,887
December	992,150	129,131

### **Daily Summary**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Requests</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Sunday	294,536	50,643
Monday	422,067	63,410
Tuesday	487,999	62,168
Wednesday	435,170	63,566
Thursday	355,286	58,640
Friday	388,366	62,347
Saturday	362,647	50,928

### **Web Page Redesign**

During the summer of 2000, the redesign of the Economic History Services, including both a conceptual re-organization and enhancement of the visual presentation of the pages, was completed. Major changes included:

- An updated main page, including the removal of the frames
- New title bars for all levels of pages
- A new EH.Net page which includes information about EH.Net's Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Sponsoring Organizations, the EH.Net Charter, the EH.Net staff, and has toggles to both the Economic History Services and History of Economics pages
- A site map
- Additional changes have been made to many of the EH.Net services and will be noted in the appropriate section of this summary report.

A new design for the History of Economics page was also finished at the end of May and was sent to EH.Net Executive Committee member Ross Emmett, who continues to develop the site.

### **EH.Net Services and Projects**

New Features Three major new features were added to the Economic History Services site in 2000. These include:

- How Much is That? Part of the EH Resources page, "How Much is That?" is a developing resource wherein students, professors and other scholars can find the answers to questions of comparative value covering purchasing power, interest rates, and other variables between the

past and today. More than just a series of numbers and calculations, these series are accompanied by essays written by experts in the field which express the limitations and shortcomings of interpreting these numbers as stand alone data, and which offer insight on how to interpret the data within a broader economic context. The following series are currently operational: Purchasing Power of the Dollar, 1720 - Present; Purchasing Power of the British Pound, 1660 - Present; Inflation Rates for the U.S. and Great Britain, 1721 - Present; 3 to 6 Month U.S. Commercial Paper Rates, 1831 – 1997; and Exchange rate between the United States dollar and the British pound, 1791 – 1999.

- Graduate Programs In Economic History. This feature contains information on North American and international colleges and universities which offer graduate degrees in Economic History. During the preceding academic year the Economic History Association provided funds to EH.Net for a graduate student, Radek Szulga, to conduct a survey of graduate programs in Economic History. The purpose of the survey was to create summaries of each of the available programs for publication on the web which could then be accessed by prospective students, interested professionals, and others. A brief, initial survey was done to identify those schools with graduate programs in Economic History, and based on the responses received, detailed surveys were then sent to twenty North American schools as well as to several English-speaking international schools. Twelve responses were initially received from the following: University of Arizona; University of British Columbia; University of California - Davis; Harvard University; university of Kansas; McGill University; University of Munich; Northwestern University; Queen's University; Stanford University; Vanderbilt University; and Yale University. Program summaries have been written up in a consistent format and placed on the site. Links to each school or department's home page are also provided.

Since the inception of the page, information has been received from six additional institutions: University of California – Berkeley; University of Glasgow; London School of Economics; The Ohio State University; University of Oxford; and Rutgers University. As we become aware of additional programs, a contact person there is identified and sent a survey with an explanation of the resource. The feature has proven to be quite successful, with our web server statistics noting that there were 3,498 requests for our Graduate Program pages during the last quarter of 2000.

- Forum Summaries. During the summer, Rachel Hillman prepared written summaries of the nine forums that have appeared on EH.Res. These have included discussions on: Anthropometrics (Oct 1996); Path-dependence (November-December 1996); More on QWERTY (August 1997-March 1998); The Great Depression (February-March 1997); Capital Imports and the Jacksonian Economy (November 1997); Re-thinking 18th Century China (November-December 1997); The Asian Economic Crisis in Historical Perspective (April 1998); Frank vs. Landes (May-June 1998); and Economic History Since 1950 (May-June 1999).

Abstracts The technical problems which plagued the Abstracts service in the past were resolved, and the Abstracts service is up and functioning well. Subscribers to EH.Res received 51 abstracts in 2000. Abstract submissions are now received by the EH.Net Administrator who then

forwards them to the Abstracts Editor for editing, adding the prefix, and codification if necessary. The Administrator then posts them directly to the list. The presentation of the Abstracts Library has also been redeveloped into a more attractive, easier to use format with a faster load time. At the end of 2000 there were 331 abstracts in the Abstracts Library.

Ask the Professor The Ask the Professor service continues to be both a popular and an active service. Approximately 35-85 questions per week are submitted and screened, with previously unanswered or significant questions being forwarded to Sam Williamson or Ross Emmett, the Professors on Duty. At the end of 2000, there were a total of 762 questions and answers in the archive.

Book Reviews A total of 318 book reviews have been posted and archived in the Book Review Library. Reviews continue to be posted at an average rate of two per week with 115 being done in 2000. All of the book reviews have now been coded, and an expanded search engine has been installed which provides, in addition to searches by author and title, the capacity to sort and search reviews by subject, geographical area, time period, and reviewer. Citations have been added to the bottom of each review, and the format has been updated to a more attractive appearance. Additionally the three most recent reviews are now highlighted on the main Economic History Services page, a page which lists the names of the reviewers has been added.

Calendar The Economic History Services calendar lists dates of economic history related conferences, meetings, workshops, lectures, calls for papers, deadlines for prizes and awards, and more. Users may submit calendar entries on-line, and items for entry are also culled from other websites, list announcements and economic history publications. This year a new calendar program was purchased from WebEvent and was installed on the server. The new calendar not only provides a better graphic presentation, but the process of adding, modifying, and deleting events has been simplified.

Course Syllabi Course Syllabi is a collection of syllabi from courses in economic history and the history of economics which may be sorted by instructor name and by subject. When new course syllabi are submitted, these are posted on the website. While plans to review the existing list for out of date items and duplications have been made, and a coding system for syllabus content has been started, no action has yet been taken. During this process all syllabi will be dated, and professors for whom we have outdated syllabi will be contacted for updated material.

Directory The Directory currently contains 2124 listings for economic and business historians internationally, representing members of the Economic History Association, The Cliometric Society, the Business History Conference, the History of Economics Society and the European Historical Economics Society. Additions and corrections continue to be made on a weekly basis.

EH Resources EH Resources is the new name for the part of the Economic History Services site that contains the aforementioned "How Much is That?" series, as well as the existing Databases and Bibliographies services.

Lists EH.Net continues to maintain eight active discussion lists: EH.Eastbloc; EH.News; EH.Res; EH.Teach; HES; H-Business; OZNZ.Society; and QUANHIST.Recurrent. During the

last six months of 2000, postings to all of the lists resulted in an average of 2,098 messages sent per day.

Subscriber counts for these lists are as follows:

<b>LIST NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS</b>
EH.Eastbloc (Economic History of the Eastern Bloc Countries)	186
EH.News (Economic History News)	860
EH.Res (Economic History Research)	860
EH.Teach (Issues in Teaching Economic History)	270
H-Business (Teaching and Research in Business History)	882
HES (History of Economics and Economic Thought)	704
OZNZ.Society (Economic History of Australia and New Zealand)	81
QUANHIST.Recurrent (Comparative Analysis of Recurrent Phenomena)	138

Subscribers to several of the above lists also receive additional services as part of their subscriptions:

EH.Net-Review (Book Reviews): 1288 recipients (subscribers to EH.Res and H-Business)

EH.News Digest: 1707 recipients (subscribers to EH.Res, EH.News and H-Business)

Abstracts: 860 recipients (subscribers to EH.Res)

Abstracts in the History of Economic Thought: 704 recipients (subscribers to HES)

Additionally, internal lists are maintained for the Economic History Association; The Cliometric Society Board of Trustees; and EH.Net's Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.

During the summer EH.Net's systems staff set up and implemented a web-based system of moderating incoming messages for list editors to use. The opportunity to use the new system was extended to all of our editors, and the editors for EH.News, EH.News Digest, EH.Teach, HES, H-Business and Abstracts have all been trained and are currently using the new system. The format for the list archives has been redesigned, and they are now presented in a more attractive and easier to view format. Finally, as noted previously, summaries of all nine forums that have appeared on EH.Res have been written and are linked to the forum postings.

Related Websites Formerly titled "Other Websites," this feature contains links to other sites which may be of interest to economic historians in the following categories: Professional Organizations; Academic Journals; WWW Pages for Colleges and Academic Departments; Individual Pages; Museums, Institutes, and Archives; Companies with Historical Information; Handy Sites; Stock Exchanges; Ongoing Seminars in Economic History; U.S. Government Sites; Library Catalogues; Major Listings of Historical Information; Data Sets; and Lists.

Services to Other Organizations In addition to making corrections and additions to the organizational websites that are maintained by EH.Net, some of the major services which have been extended to our sponsoring organizations include:

- VeriSign's 40-bit SSL Encryption package was purchased and installed, enabling visitors to verify EH.Net's authenticity and communicate with us and our sponsoring organizations securely via state-of-the-art SSL encryption. This protects confidential information from interception and hacking. A secure form for the Economic History Association's September meetings was created using this SSL encryption.
- EH.Net continues to maintain the XIII World Congress site for the International Economic History Association. Updates to the existing pages are made regularly, and new pages have been added including pages about the Congress site showing floor plans and photographs of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina. We have developed individual pages for each of the 41 sessions for the XIII World Congress, and each session organizer has also been offered the opportunity to have a listserv for his/her session for use by organizers and participants. We are also working with each session organizer to add to the information on his/her page, and we have created pages for Calls for Papers and Preconferences for the accepted sessions.
- The Cliometric Society has introduced a new feature, "Current Research in Cliometrics," which profiles the work and accomplishments of young Cliometricians. The feature is accessible from both the main page and from the Cliometric Society's home page. Two researchers were featured in 2000: William Collins (Vanderbilt University) and Maristella Botticini (Boston University).

Project 2000 Each month during 2000, EH.NET published review essays on significant works in twentieth-century economic history. The purpose of these essays was to survey the works that have had the most influence on the field of economic history and to highlight the intellectual accomplishments of twentieth-century economic historians. Each review essay outlined the work's argument and findings, discussed the author's methods and sources, and examined the impact that the work has had since its publication. Eleven titles were published in 2000 with the twelfth published early in 2001. The titles published during 2000 include:

1. Hugh Rockoff (Rutgers University) on Milton Friedman and Anna Jacobson Schwartz, *A Monetary History of the United States, 1867-1960*
2. Joyce Burnette (Wabash College) on Ivy Pinchbeck, *Women Workers and the Industrial Revolution, 1750-1850*
3. Stanley Engerman (University of Rochester) on Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
4. Paul M. Hohenberg (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) on David S. Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present*
5. Lance Davis (California Institute of Technology) on Robert W. Fogel, *Railroads and American Economic Growth: Essays in Econometric History*
6. Anne Mayhew (University of Tennessee) on Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*
7. Alan Heston (University of Pennsylvania) on Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century Time*
8. Thomas K. McCraw (Harvard Business School) on Joseph A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*

9. Cynthia Taft Morris (Department of Economics, Smith College and American University) on Lance E. Davis and Douglass C. North (with the assistance of Calla Smorodin), *Institutional Change and American Economic Growth*
10. John J. McCusker (Departments of History and Economics, Trinity University) on Eli F. Heckscher, *Mercantilism*
11. Santhi Hejeebu (Department of Economics, University of Iowa) on K. N. Chaudhuri, *The Trading World of Asia and the English East India Company, 1660-1760*

### **Upcoming Projects**

- Online Encyclopedia of Economic History EH.Net is currently developing an online encyclopedia, designed to provide students and laymen with high quality reference articles in the field of economic history. Articles for the Encyclopedia will be written by experts in the field, screened by a group of authorities, and carefully edited. A distinguished Advisory Board has already been selected and will work initially to select authors for each entry and to suggest additional topics for publication.
- Project 2001 Project 2001 will be published as a continuation of Project 2000 and will consist of a series of monthly review essays that will be written on significant works of economic history that were not included on the Project 2000 list. An international Selection Committee has been established, and nominations for titles are currently being received.