

## EH.Net 2002 Annual Summary Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the major accomplishments of EH.Net from January 1 to December 31, 2002.

### Staff

Connie Malone	Administrator. 15 hours per week.
John Davison	Systems Operator/Webmaster. John continues to serve both roles for us, working approximately 10 - 15 hours per week during the academic year following his full-time employment with us during the summer months.
Lee-za Ballman	Graduate Assistant (stipend supported by EHA). Lee-za continued working for EH.Net during the second semester of the 2001-02 academic year. As EH.Net's graduate assistant, she devoted 8 hours per week assisting with multiple content areas throughout the web site, including the "How Much Is That?" feature, Ask the Professor, and responding to questions posed to Question@EH.Net.
Michelle Bullock	Graduate Assistant. Michelle has assumed the duties of the Graduate Assistant for the 2002-03 academic year.
Melissa Schanding	List Manager. Melissa continues to manage subscription requests, monitor "bad" mail, etc on a part-time (1-2 hours per week) basis.
Rachel Hillman	Ask the Professor Screener. Rachel is continuing in this role from her home in Minnesota, and has offered to continue in this roll indefinitely without charge to EH.Net.

### EH.Net Components and Projects

Abstracts (<http://www.eh.net/abstracts/>) The Abstracts service has been working well. Activity this year was comparable with 2001, with a total of 80 (compared to 83) new abstracts being posted to the list and archived, bringing our total to 494. Of these 80, over 40 were generated from proposals submissions for the annual meetings of the Economic History Association and The Cliometrics Society. The editorial staff of the *Journal of Economic History* also used the online submission form to post abstracts of papers published in the journal to the list. We were also in touch with the publishers of *Explorations in Economic History* exploring the possibility of posting their abstracts as well, but due to company policies and copyright concerns, they opted not to do this.

Ask the Professor (<http://www.eh.net/atp/>) The question of how best to continue to Ask the Professor Service, indeed whether or not to continue it, is still under discussion. Changes implemented last year to make the submission "requirements" more strenuous and thereby reduce the number of extraneous questions posed to the service has been effective, but nonetheless the task of providing a thoughtful response to the questions forwarded to the Professor remains.

Rachel Hillman reports that The ATPQ service continues to receive approximately 7 questions a week of which 2 are forwarded on to the "Professor" for an answer. For example, from September to December 102 questions were logged and 36 forwarded to the Professors on duty for a response.

Many of the questions we receive may easily be answered by browsing a textbook or searching the Internet and even more contain strict deadline dates that we cannot meet. Rachel notes that it is not uncommon receive a question which needs an answer in the next two hours!

The number of questions asking for exchange rates (and historical time series of exchanges rates) has dropped considerable. When questions such as these are received, Rachel makes the individual aware of the "How Much Is That?" service. She still continues to get questions regarding the value of old stocks and bond certificates or old coins and paper money.

Since the "Frequently Asked Questions and References" portion of the ATPQ site was added, there has been a decline in the number of questions received on the subjects contained in that document. Michelle Bullock now fields the economic history questions forwarded to the Professor, spending about one hour per week responding. Ross Emmett continues to serve as the Professor for questions on the history of economics

Book Reviews (<http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/>) EH.Net Review continues to be one of EH.Net's most active and popular services (receiving over 401,000 requests for files in 2002) thanks to the work of our Book Review Editors: Robert Whaples for economic history, Michael Namorato for business history, and Ross Emmett for the history of economics. Our Associate Book Review Editors include Andrew Godley and Peter Wardley (Europe), Richard Salvucci (Latin America), and Sumner LaCroix (Asia-Pacific). 143 new book reviews were posted and archived in the Book Review Library, bringing our total collection to 571 reviews and exceeding the number of reviews published in 2001 by 35.

The ninth and tenth Project 2001 reviews were posted in April and November and are respectively Winifred B. Rothenberg on Morton J. Horwitz, *The Transformation of American Law, 1780-1860*, and Anne E.C. McCants on Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *The Peasants of Languedoc*. Two more Project 2001 reviews are forthcoming.

Up until late September, at which time the Business History Conference officially moved its web page and the H-Business list to H-Net, we continued to send the reviews from the H-Business Book Review Editor to H-Net for inclusion in their book review archive. Following the move, this process was discontinued. At this time, the book reviews distribution list, EH.Net-Review, was also set up as a distinct list with an initial subscriber file containing the former merged subscriber file from EH.News and H-Business EH.News and H-Business

As we reported previously, while there seemed to be an agreement with H-Net, they have never worked out the technical details of including our book reviews in their library with the original EH.Net citation.

Calendar (<http://www.eh.net/calendar/>) The Calendar continues to be a popular feature of the EH.Net website. The organizers of workshops in economic history were solicited for their schedules for spring and fall 2002 with responses being received from Oxford, Triangle U, Indiana, Northwestern, Columbia, Harvard, and Hagley. Other listings, including conferences, paper/proposal submission deadlines, seminar series, fellowship application deadlines, and book and dissertation prize deadlines have been made as they become available.

Course Syllabi (<http://www.eh.net/coursesyllabi/>) In October a direct solicitation was sent to subscribers to EH.News for new or replacement syllabi, and six contributors sent us updated versions of syllabi already in the database and three new syllabi were added. New or replacement syllabi are always welcome at anytime and are placed on the server as they are made available to us.

Directory (<http://www.eh.net/directory/>) The Directory currently contains 2381 listings for economic and business historians internationally, an increase of 187 over the 2001 year end total, and represents members of the Economic History Association, The Cliometric Society, the Business History Conference, and some members of the Economic History Society (those who are joint members with others of our Sponsoring Organizations). Updates with changes to existing information as well as new member information are received periodically from the BHC and Clio, and we worked with the EHA to upload their entire membership database into our Directory in order to add some of their members who did not have entries. Additionally, because UK law prohibits the EHS from sending us their member information directly, we are discussing with them ways in which their members who choose to can provide us with their information directly.

The presentation of the Directory was enhanced in early January, and a mass mailing to members of the Directory requesting that they review their entries and make updates as necessary will be sent out at the end of January.

EH Resources (<http://www.eh.net/ehresources/>) EH Resources has been broken out into its distinct parts, with Bibliographies, Databases and “How Much Is That?” each having its own page accessible from the navigation bar on the EH.Net home page.

Encyclopedia Project (<http://www.eh.net/encyclopedia/>) The EH.Net Encyclopedia of Economic and Business History received nearly 158,000 requests for files in 2002. The Encyclopedia continues to grow with entries on the following subjects added in 2002:

- African American in the Twentieth Century
- Monopsony in American Labor Markets
- English Poor Laws
- Labor Unions in the United States
- Reconstruction Finance Corporation
- A History of the Standard of Living in the United States
- Life Insurance in the United States through World War I
- History of Property Taxes in the U.S.
- History of Retirement in the U.S.

- Rubber Market, International

There are now a total of 52 entries in the Encyclopedia.

Graduate Programs in Economic History (<http://www.eh.net/grad/>) Twenty-four colleges and universities that offer graduate degrees in the field of economic history are currently included in this feature. Added new this year were listings for Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Tuebingen, the Stockholm School of Economics, and the Graduate Program Summary for Caltech. Offers of inclusion were also sent to the universities of Lund, Umeå, Uppsala and Göteborg.

“How Much Is That?” (<http://www.eh.net/hmit>) Three new series have been added this year to EH.Net’s “How Much Is That” feature. “What Was the Price of Gold Then?” was developed for EH.Net by Lawrence Officer. This feature includes five series for determining the value of gold historically: the British Official Price for the years 1257 to 1945; the U.S. Official Price for the years 1786 to 2001; the New York Market Price for the years 1791 to 1998; the Gold/Silver Ratio for the years 1687 to 1998; and the London Market Price for the years 1718 to 2001. These series are accompanied by two excellent essays that assist the user in interpreting the data.

Sam Williamson developed “What is the Relative Value? Five Ways to Compare the Worth of a United States Dollar, 1789 – Present,” which allows the user to determine the relative value of an amount of money in one year compared to another using one or more of five different series: the CPI; the GDP Deflator; the Unskilled Wage; the GDP Per Capita; and the GDP. Discussion of each of these series is accompanied by useful examples utilizing each of them.

Finally EH.Net staff members worked with Lawrence Officer to develop the presentation of our new series, “Exchange Rate Between the United States Dollar and Forty Other Countries, 1913 – 1999,” which includes information on European exchange rates as well as those of the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australasia.

Lawrence Officer has developed a new series titled “What Was the Interest Rate Then?” that was launched mid-January.

Lists (<http://www.eh.net/lists/>) In July EH.Net was pleased to welcome EHB, “Economics and Human Biology,” to our family of electronic discussion lists. Developed and edited by John Komlos (Department of Economics, University of Munich), EHB is an interdisciplinary list for discussion, announcements, notices, and any material of general interest related to research on the subject. To date, 113 people have subscribed to this new list.

As noted previously, in September the Business History Conference made official their move to the H-Net server, relocating the H-Business list to that site. Links to their new site have been maintained from the EH.Net main page as well as from the H-Business list page, where the archive of postings during the list’s tenure with EH.Net remains.

In addition to EHB, EH.Net continues to maintain the following discussion lists: EH.Eastbloc; EH.News; EH.Res; EH.Teach; HES; OZNZ.Society; and QUANHIST.Recurrent. 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.

Subscriber counts for these lists as of 12/31/02 are as follows:

<b>LIST NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS</b>	<b>CHANGE SINCE 12/31/01</b>
EH.Eastbloc (Economic History of the Eastern Bloc Countries)	228	+31
EH.Net-Review	2158	N/A
EH.News (Economic History News)	1851	+180
EH.Res (Economic History Research)	1086	+149
EH.Teach (Issues in Teaching Economic History)	346	+56
EHB	113	N/A
HES (History of Economics and Economic Thought)	869	+61
OZNZ.Society (Economic History of Australia and New Zealand)	107	+18
QUANHIST.Recurrent (Comparative Analysis of Recurrent Phenomena)	176	+33

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

- Subscribers to EH.Res also receive EH.News
- Abstracts (AEH): 1851 recipients (subscribers to EH.News)
- Abstracts in the History of Economic Thought (AHET): 869 recipients (subscribers to HES)

Early in the year the web-based moderating system was implemented, providing editors with the opportunity to use filters, multiple mailboxes, automatic formatting, spell checking, a search engine and an advanced text editor. John is currently developing a system that will allow attachments to list postings.

In October subscription reports were sent to all EH.Net list subscribers, and in these reports we introduced our new mailing List Management page (<http://www.eh.net/lists/users/>) wherein subscribers may subscribe, unsubscribe, change their subscription mode, or change their e-mail address.

**Services to Other Organizations** In addition to making corrections and additions to the organizational websites (such as the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland and the European Historical Economics Society) that are maintained by EH.Net, some of the major services that have been extended to our sponsoring organizations include:

- Assisting with the spring broadcast of the All-Ohio Economic History Seminar.

- A secure online registration form was created for the Economic History Association for their 2002 Meeting after renewing our SSL license through VeriSign. This service (the creation of secure online forms) is available to all EH.Net Sponsoring Organizations.
- Continued postings of Clio's Featured Economic Historian.
- Online proposal submission forms for the 2003 meetings of the Economic History Association and The Cliometrics Society. Pages for both the Clio and EHA sessions at the ASSA meeting were created.
- Updates were made to the EHA page, including updating the Trustees list, archiving the 2002 meeting pages, adding a page for the by-laws and committee assignments.
- The four-year contract with the XIII Congress of the IEHA was concluded this summer and fall. During the months leading up to the Congress in late July, Congress-related activities consumed the great majority of Connie's time and much of John's time as well. These activities included: the addition of new features and pages, such as an online registration form, photographs and floor plans of the Congress venue, and a Timetable of Sessions; frequent updates to individual session pages, including ever-changing lists of participants; converting over 70 papers to pdf files and placing them online; and finally, processing all credit card registrations. In response to the expressed concern by the Local Organizing Committee that they would be unable to accept credit card payments for registrations at all due to the economic situation in Argentina, EH.Net contracted with Paymentech and Authorize.Net to install a secure credit card processing system and Connie processed all credit card registrations. Following the conclusion of the Congress, the organizers requested we post Roberto Cortés Conde's welcoming speech, Professor Herman Van der Wee's opening lecture, the Geographic Distribution and Registration Statistics for Congress Participants, Congress venue photos, and letters of commendation.

## **General**

Following is a general list of systems tasks that have been undertaken since January 1<sup>st</sup> on our UNIX server:

### General system maintenance

- Security and software updates
- System changes (adding users, deleting old accounts, modifying the file systems to make more room)
- Careful daily inspection of states

### General website maintenance

- Changes to static web pages
- Creation of new static web pages
- Updates to the data of dynamic web pages
- Creation of new dynamic web pages
- Generating hit counts
- Automatic spidering software that searches and reports bad links on the site
- Credit card processing system
- SSL secure site for the EHA
- Installation and maintenance of Apache-modSSL

Creation, installation and maintenance of carefully written scripts that manage the processed data

General e-mail maintenance

- Maintaining and watching the e-mail lists
- Spam protection
- Keeping e-mail software up to date

General database maintenance, particularly expanding the system to accommodate the growing size of the database

**EH.Net Web Server Statistics, January 1 – December 31, 2002**

To view the Web Server Statistics Report in its entirety, please visit:  
<http://eh.net/~john/reports/2002.html>

**General Summary**

Successful requests:	4,613,336
Average successful requests per day:	12,639
Successful requests for pages:	1,439,956
Average successful requests for pages per day:	3,945
Distinct files requested:	166,100
Distinct hosts served:	578,600

**Monthly Report**

January	354,240 requests for 110,065 pages
February	357,680 requests for 117,108 pages
March	402,917 requests for 129,825 pages
April	381,994 requests for 122,544 pages
May	372,133 requests for 121,049 pages
June	372,021 requests for 110,015 pages
July	325,653 requests for 117,707 pages
August	374,050 requests for 119,580 pages
September	396,781 requests for 126,179 pages
October	438,791 requests for 129,011 pages
November	436,790 requests for 124,702 pages
December	400,286 requests for 112,171 pages

## Directory Report January 1 – December 31, 2002

(This report lists the directories from which files were requested. The figures for each directory include all of its subdirectories.)

<u>Requests</u>	<u>Bytes</u>	<u>Directory</u>
456,875:	16.18%:	/XIIICongress/
990,175:	10.10%:	/lists/
401,066:	9.81%:	/bookreviews/
163,819:	9.69%:	/HE/
157,964:	9.61%:	/encyclopedia/
199,983:	9.23%:	/coursesyllabi/
397,743:	8.00%:	/ehresources/
608,590:	4.83%:	/hmit/
156,945:	3.32%:	/abstracts/
134,395:	3.18%:	/Clio/
179,766:	3.06%:	[root directory]
81,103:	2.33%:	/bhc/
86,376:	2.30%:	/cgi-bin/
15,167:	1.09%:	/websites/
92,100:	0.98%:	/EHA/
44,990:	0.92%:	/~bhc/
58,183:	0.64%:	/~HisEcSoc/
11,792:	0.34%:	/EHES/
28,449:	0.26%:	/IEHA/
34,242:	0.25%:	/directory/
19,134:	0.25%:	/HisEcSoc/
21,211:	0.23%:	/grad/
32,226:	0.23%:	/atp/
116,994:	0.22%:	/graphics/
10,220:	0.17%:	/~listman/
7,940:	0.16%:	/eshsi/
12,614:	0.13%:	/ieha/
9,287:	0.10%:	/FORUMS/
6,568:	0.08%:	/calendar/
8,627:	0.07%:	/project2000/
9,344:	0.07%:	/eh.net/
1,573:	0.07%:	/~john/
7,682:	0.07%:	/webmail/
588:	0.05%:	/EA/
427:	0.04%:	/Publications/
462:	0.03%:	http://
2,985:	0.03%:	/socs/
364:	0.02%:	/ssh/
2,892:	0.01%:	/Help/
756:	0.01%:	/SSHA/
650:	0.01%:	/webevent/