

EH.Net 2004 Mid-Year Summary Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the major accomplishments of EH.Net from January 1 to June 30, 2004

Staff

Connie Malone	Administrator. 12 hours per week.
Thomas Whaples	Systems Operator/Webmaster. 7 hours per week.
Rachel Hillman	Ask the Professor Screener. Rachel is continuing in this role from her home in Minnesota without charge to EH.Net.

General

A primary concern over the first half of 2004 has been the increasingly undependable nature of the EH.Net server, a Sun Ultra 10 running on a 100 Mbps ethernet connection and hosted by Miami University. Purchased in October 2000, the server has been both approaching its storage capacity and too-frequently and inexplicably breaking down. This spring, with the approval of the Economic History Association to spend up to \$3,000 on the purchase of a new machine, EH.Net purchased an IBM eServer 325, with two 64-bit Opteron processors running at about 1.8Ghz each, and 2 gigabytes of RAM. The new machine will provide 250 gigabytes of disk space (.25 terabytes) compared to our current system, which runs with a SPARC processor roughly equivalent to a 400Mhz Intel-type processor and not more than 256 megabytes of RAM. Our new server will probably run Gentoo or Red Hat Fedora Linux; our current server runs Solaris 7. The new machine will be hosted by Wake Forest University.

Additional systems tasks during the past two quarters have been several software upgrades, and a temporary, ultimately aborted conversion from Sendmail to Postfix. Random error fixes, upgrades, and adjustments to many site pages have taken place, as well as assorted troubleshooting when the system behaved poorly.

EH.Net Components and Projects

Abstracts (<http://www.eh.net/abstracts/>) During the first two quarters of 2004, 46 abstracts were posted to the Abstracts list and archived on the web site. Of these, twenty-six originated from proposals submitted to the Economic History Association for its 2004 meeting, with the balance coming from submissions to the Fifth World Congress or submitted directly to the service from the web site.

Ask the Professor (<http://www.eh.net/atp/>) Rachel Hillman reports that during the first quarter of the year, 40 questions were submitted to the Ask the Professor service, ten of which were forwarded to the Professor (Robert Whaples). During the second quarter 38 questions were submitted and seven sent to the Professor. As typically happens, as the school year came to a close, some of the questions we received requested an immediate response and (for obvious

reasons) were not forwarded on to the Professor. Rachel also reported that one question we received was entirely in German!

Book Reviews (<http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/>) Receiving the third highest number of hits (345,009) during this reporting period, our Book Reviews Library now tops 800 reviews, with 81 new titles added in the first two quarters. Lists of forthcoming reviews in business history and the history of economics were also added and, along with the list of forthcoming reviews in economic history, are updated approximately monthly.

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 with responses being received from Northwestern, Universidad Carlos III, WAEH 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/>) Just three new course syllabi were added to our collection subsequent to a posting on EH.Teach requesting contributions. New or replacement syllabi are always welcome at anytime and are placed on the server as they are made available to us.

Databases (<http://www.eh.net/databases/>) Three new databases were added to our Database Directory during this period:

- U.S. Index of Industrial Production, 1790-1915 (extendable thru 2003). Joseph H. Davis (The Vanguard Group).
- U.S. Censuses of Manufacturing: Samples from 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. Jeremy Atack (Vanderbilt University).
- Foreign Investment into Latin America during the Twentieth Century. Michael Twomey (University of Michigan, Dearborn)

An additional databases was also added to the Data Series Online that are housed on the EH.Net server:

- Global financial data from Marc Flandreau and Frédéric Zumer's book *The Making of Global Finance, 1880-1913*, OECD 2004.

Directory (<http://www.eh.net/directory/>) The Directory currently contains 2521 listings for economic and business historians internationally, an increase of 66 over the 2003 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).

Encyclopedia Project (<http://www.eh.net/encyclopedia/>) During the first two quarters, the EH.Net Encyclopedia of Economic and Business History received 164,288 hits. General cleanup took place to provide consistency in title/author headings and HTML "sanitization" (syntax error

fixes). The encyclopedia also continues to steadily expand, with a current total of 92 published reference articles. Those recently added include:

- Common Agricultural Policy - David R. Stead (University of York)
- Agricultural Tenures and Tithes - David R. Stead (University of York)
- Japanese Industrialization and Economic Growth - Carl Mosk (University of Victoria)
- Credit in the Colonial American Economy - David T Flynn (University of North Dakota)
- Cotton Gin - William H. Phillips (University of South Carolina)
- Ireland's Great Famine - Cormac Ó Gráda (University College Dublin)
- Deflation - Pierre L. Siklos (Wilfrid Laurier University)
- The Roots of American Industrialization, 1790-1860 - David R. Meyer (Brown University)
- Advertising Bans in the United States - Jon P. Nelson (Pennsylvania State University)
- The Economic History of the Fur Trade: 1670 to 1870 - Ann M. Carlos (University of Colorado) and Frank D. Lewis (Queen's University)
- The United States Public Debt, 1861 to 1975 - Franklin Noll
- The History of the International Tea Market, 1850-1945 - Bishnupriya Gupta (University of Warwick)
- Federal Reserve System - Mark Toma (University of Kentucky)
- The Economic History of Korea - Myung Soo Cha (Yeungnam University)

Several people were added to the list of Consulting Editors for the Encyclopedia, including Jeremy Atack (Vanderbilt University), Ann Harper Fender (Gettysburg College), Craig Gallet (California State University – Sacramento), Paul Hohenberg (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Anne McCants (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), W. Gene Smiley (Marquette University), David Wheelock (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis), Eugene White (Rutgers University), and John Wood (Wake Forest University).

The main Encyclopedia page was also updated to include a list of the top ten articles (those receiving the most hits) during 2003 (http://www.eh.net/encyclopedia/Top_Ten.php) and coming Soon, a list of articles that are forthcoming (http://www.eh.net/encyclopedia/Coming_Soon.php).

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. Plans are underway to contact each university for which we have a Graduate Program Summary with a request for updated information.

“How Much Is That?” (<http://www.eh.net/hmit>) “How Much Is That?” continues to be our most frequently accessed feature, receiving 617,163 hits during this period. While no new series were added, Lawrence Officer has completed work on “What Was its Relative Value in U.K. Pounds?” and it is anticipated that it will be made live by the end of August, 2004.

Lists (<http://www.eh.net/lists/>) Due to ongoing technical difficulties with the Listproc mailing list software, in mid-May EH.Net switched to the MailMan list management system. All public EH.Net mailing lists are now running under this new software; all EH.Net mailing lists subscriptions were transferred intact and the mailing lists are fully functional except for web

searching of recent archives. While the archives for each of the public lists have been merged and are available through the MailMan overview page for each list (<http://www.eh.net/mailman/listinfo.cgi/listname>), only the archive up until the time of the switch is available through our primary web interface. As a part of this process, a web interface for message editing with Mailman was also developed.

Subscriber counts for these lists as of 6/30/04 are as follows:

LIST NAME	NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS 1/31/04	NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS 6/30/04	CHANGE
EH.Eastbloc (Economic History of the Eastern Bloc Countries)	242	232	-10
EH.Net-Review	2029	1616	-413
EH.News (Economic History News)	1800	1674	-355
EH.Res (Economic History Research)	1093	968	-125
EH.Teach (Issues in Teaching Economic History)	368	364	-4
EHB (Economics and Human Biology)	174	193	+19
HES (History of Economics and Economic Thought)	893	781	-112
OZNZ.Society (Economic History of Australia and New Zealand)	131	161	+30
QUANHIST.Recurrent (Comparative Analysis of Recurrent Phenomena)	222	223	+1

It is important to note that the decrease in apparent subscribers is the result of the difference in how ListProc and MailMan process “bad” addresses (messages that are returned to the system as undeliverable). ListProc had no automated method of dealing with these, and bad addresses would stay in the subscription files until manually deleted. MailMan processes bad addresses differently: When a bounce (returned mail due to a bad addresses) is received, Mailman tries to extract two pieces of information from the message: the address of the member the message was intended for, and the severity of the problem causing the bounce. The severity can be either hard or soft meaning either a fatal error occurred, or a transient error occurred. When in doubt, a hard severity is used.

If no member address can be extracted from the bounce, then the bounce is usually discarded. Otherwise, each member is assigned a bounce score and every time we encounter a bounce from this member we increment the score. Hard bounces increment by 1 while soft bounces increment by 0.5. We only increment the bounce score once per day, so even if we receive ten hard bounces from a member per day, their score will increase by only 1 for that day.

When a member's bounce score is greater than the bounce score threshold, the subscription is disabled. Once disabled, the member will not receive any postings from the list until their membership is explicitly re-enabled (either by the list administrator or the user). However, they

will receive occasional reminders that their membership has been disabled, and these reminders will include information about how to re-enable their membership.

EH.Net Web Server Statistics, January 1 – June 30, 2004

To view the Web Server Statistics Report in its entirety, please visit: <http://eh.net/hitcounts/>

General Summary

Successful requests:	3,240,341
Average successful requests per day:	17,811
Successful requests for pages:	2,649,779
Average successful requests for pages per day:	14,565
Distinct files requested:	234,779
Distinct hosts served:	491,298

Monthly Report

January	706,132 requests for 470,827 pages
February	455,470 requests for 391,541 pages
March	621,950 requests for 536,276 pages
April	560,267 requests for 477,124 pages
May	499,978 requests for 429,287 pages
June	396,544 requests for 344,724 pages

Directory Report January 1 – June 30, 2004

(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>
617,163	9.78%	/hmit/
488,879	5.83%	/lists/
345,009	10.06%	/bookreviews/
326,732	20.63%	/XIIICongress/
185,610	0.83%	/ehresources/
184,830	1.49%	/cgi-bin/
164,288	11.99%	/encyclopedia/
138,037	2.62%	[root directory]
125,593	9.06%	/coursesyllabi/
115,969	12.04%	/HE/
105,967	2.40%	/graphics/
79,116	2.12%	/Clio/
56,589	0.62%	/EHA/
47,977	1.80%	/abstracts/
45,689	0.38%	/bibliographies/
38,813	4.66%	/databases/
31,274	0.44%	/~HisEcSoc/
15,987	0.29%	/directory/
14,813	0.13%	/atp/

<u>Requests</u>	<u>Bytes</u>	<u>Directory</u>
10,909	0.13%	/grad/
7,836	0.24%	/EHES/
7,046	0.54%	/websites/
7,405	0.10%	/ieha/
6,875	0.15%	/eshsi/
4,064	0.10%	/eh.net