

EH.Net Annual Report, 2006-07

In order to be consistent with the reporting practices of the Economic History Association, the time period covered in this activity report coincides with the EHA's fiscal year, running August 1 through July 31. Quarters are considered as follows:

First quarter: August 1 – October 31

Second quarter: November 1 – January 31

Third quarter: February 1 – April 30

Fourth quarter: May 1 – July 31

This report summarizes the major activities of EH.Net from August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007.

Staff

- Robert Whaples, Director
- Connie Malone, Administrator. 12 hours per week.
- Thomas Whaples, Systems Administrator. 7 hours per week.
- Rachel Hillman, Ask the Professor Assistant

Executive Committee

- Michael Haines (Colgate)
- Alan Dye (Barnard)
- Lee Alston (Colorado)

Affiliated Organizations

Affiliated organizations of EH.Net provide financial support toward the operation of our website and electronic discussion lists. They receive web services and inclusion in the EH.Net on-line Directory. The following organizations are currently affiliated with EH.Net:

- The Business History Conference
- The Cliometric Society
- The Economic History Society
- The History of Economics Society

General

During the past fiscal year, Thomas Whaples, System Administrator, has continued working on the redesign of portions of the EH.Net web site to be consistent with our new page style. With the exception of Course Syllabi and the Calendar (which operates utilizing a separate software system), this task has been completed for each of the primary features listed under the navigation menu as well as the stand-alone features listed on the EH.Net homepage. Many feature sub-pages have also been converted (or were initially created) in our new style, and over time the balance of pages for which conversion is possible will also be redesigned.

In addition to this work and to performing basic site maintenance throughout the year, Tom has continued to improve and rewrite site software, in particular Book Reviews, and he also upgraded the system from Fedora 2 to Fedora 6 as the former had reached "end-of-life" status where security updates would no longer be provided. During the latter part of the fiscal year

Tom worked to train Christa Barrett, a Wake Forest University, who had planned to assume the duties of Systems Operator from Tom as he completed his studies and moved into full-time employment in California. Regrettably, Christa has decided that she will not be able to work with EH.Net after all, and we are fortunate that Tom has agreed to stay on, working on an as-needed basis for EH.Net in the coming year.

EH.Net Components and Projects

Abstracts (<http://www.eh.net/abstracts/>) During the past four quarters, 116,738 requests for pages from our Abstracts feature were received. 58 new paper abstracts were posted to AEH, the Abstracts in Economic History electronic list, and archived on the web site. This represents an increase of ten abstracts over the previous reporting year. These abstracts originated from three sources: proposals submitted to the Cliometric Society for its annual meeting; online submissions from our electronic form located at <http://eh.net/abstracts/submissionform.php>; and abstracts provided to us by the Centre for Economic Policy Research. We are currently in discussion with Cambridge University Press about publishing abstracts from four of their economic history journals, *European Review of Economic History*, *Financial History Review*, *Journal of Economic History*, and *Journal of Global History*, on AEH.

EH.Net has also welcomed a new editor for AEH, Franklin Noll, Historical Consultant to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Frank assumed this role in the spring of 2007, taking over from retiring Bill Hutchinson, who served EH.Net as editor of AEH for many years.

Ask the Professor (<http://www.eh.net/atp/>) The Ask the Professor service sees very little activity, and its primary utility is through the archive of previously answered questions.

Book Reviews (<http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/>) EH.Net's Book Reviews continue as one of our site's most popular services and features. Currently there are 1,497 people subscribed to EH.Net-Review, the mailing list to which our reviews are first published, and pages from within the Book Reviews directory received 1,094,219 requests pages during this reporting period. Our Book Reviews Library now includes 1246 reviews, of which 148 were added during the last four quarters. This includes reviews published as part of EH.Net's "Economic History Classics," a series which was launched in January, 2005. Modeled along the lines of our earlier Project 2000 and Project 2001 series, reviewers of "Economic History Classics" have been asked to "reintroduce" each of the books to the profession, "explaining its significance at the time of publication and why it has endured as a classic." Each review summarizes the book's key findings, methods and arguments, as it puts it into the larger context and discusses any weaknesses. Three Classic Reviews were published during the previous reporting period, and this year four more were added. Published to date are:

- Lawrence Officer on Paul Einzig's *The History of Foreign Exchange* (1962, 1970)
- John Majewski on Albert Fishlow's *American Railroads and the Transformation of the Antebellum Economy* (1965)
- John Munro on Earl Hamilton's *American Treasure and the Price Revolution in Spain* (1934)
- Robert Margo on Stanley Lebergott's *Manpower in Economic Growth* (1964)

- Osamu Saito on Thomas C. Smith's *Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan* (1959)
- James Foreman-Peck on Brinley Thomas's *Migration and Economic Growth* (1954, 1973)
- George Grantham on Abbott Payson Usher's *A History of Mechanical Invention* (1929, 1954)

A final Classic Review on Charles Feinstein's *National Income, Expenditure and Output of the U.K.* (1972) is still forthcoming.

Lists of forthcoming reviews in economic history, business history and the history of economics are updated approximately monthly.

Currently, the list of editors for EH.Net Book Reviews includes the following:

- Senior Book Review Editor: Robert Whaples (Wake Forest)
- Website Review Editor: Ranjit Dighe (SUNY-Oswego)
- Book Review Editor (Business History): David Mason (Georgia Perimeter College)
- Associate Book Review Editors (Europe):
 - Andrew Godley (University of Reading)
 - Timothy Guinnane (Yale University)
 - Pierre-Cyrille Hautcoeur (l'Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne)
 - Jonathan Liebowitz (University of Lowell)
 - John Lyons (Miami University)
 - Peter Wardley (School of History, University of the West of England, Bristol)
- Associate Book Review Editor (Latin America): Richard Salvucci (Trinity College)
- Associate Book Review Editor (Asia-Pacific): Sumner La Croix (University of Hawaii)
- Associate Book Review Editor (Middle East): Metin Cosgel (University of Connecticut)
- Associate Book Review Editor (South Asia): Prasannan Parthasarathi (Boston College)

Calendar (<http://www.eh.net/calendar/>) Listings on the EH.Net calendar continue to include conferences, paper/proposal submission deadlines, seminar series, fellowship application deadlines, and book and dissertation prize deadlines. The Calendar continues to be an important and frequently accessed feature, generating 2372118 requests for pages during this reporting period.

Course Syllabi (<http://www.eh.net/coursesyllabi/>) EH.Net's Course Syllabi collection currently includes 117 syllabi from 76 contributors. We are overdue in soliciting our existing contributors to request updated syllabi to replace those that are ten years old or older, as well as requesting new syllabi for inclusion in the database. 234,464 requests were received for pages in the Course Syllabi collection.

Databases (<http://www.eh.net/databases/>) The purpose of the Databases feature on EH.Net is to provide an on-line location for researchers in economic history to make their data series available to other professionals and interested scholars. Several data series have been given to EH.Net and are available as downloadable files, four of which were added during this reporting period:

- Biweekly Data on the Confederate Grayback Note Price of a Gold Dollar in Richmond and Houston
- Developing Country Export Statistics: 1840, 1860, 1880 and 1900
- Early Forward Exchange Markets: Vienna, 1876-1914
- Early U.S. Securities Prices, 1790-1860 (new)
- Global Financial Data, 1880-1913
- Greenback Series
- Historical Labor Statistics Project Series
- U.S. Agricultural Workforce, 1800-1900
- U.S. Customs House Data, 1854-59
- U.S. National Bank Notes, 1864-1935 (new)
- U.S. Population Series
- U.S. Public Debt Issues, 1775-1976 (new)
- Unskilled wage index, U.S.
- Weekly Data on Confederate Cotton Bond Prices in London and Junk Bond Prices in Amsterdam
- Wheat Prices in France, 1825-1913 (new)

An additional 35 databases may be accessed through our Database Directory, representing an increase of two over last year. Databases as a whole received 173,994 requests for pages during this reporting period.

Directory (<http://www.eh.net/directory/>) The Directory currently contains 1507 listings for economic and business historians internationally 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 Affiliated Organizations). The membership database from the EHA and the BHC were cross-checked against the EH.Net Directory during this reporting period and changes/additions/deletions were made as appropriate. Over 900 people listed in the directory were personally contacted to see if their email addresses were obsolete and over 400 obsolete listings were dropped, with over 150 updated.

Economic History in the Popular Press (<http://www.eh.net/press/>) Economic History in the Popular Press highlights the work of economic and business historians whose work is discussed or referenced in newspaper or magazine articles, or other venues such as National Public Radio. References and relevant links should be sent to either Robert Whaples (whaples@wfu.edu) or Connie Malone (admin@eh.net).

Encyclopedia Project (<http://www.eh.net/encyclopedia/>) Under the direction of Editor Robert Whaples, the EH.Net Encyclopedia of Economic and Business History continues to steadily expand with a current total of 148 published reference articles (the equivalent of about 1800 printed pages), an increase of 7 since our last report. During the last four quarters Encyclopedia pages received 1,283,089 requests for pages. The list of forthcoming Encyclopedia articles has been regularly updated, and a final list of the top twenty most requested articles for 2006 is available. They are:

1. Alcohol Prohibition by Jeffrey A Miron
2. The Dust Bowl by Geoff Cunfer
3. Child Labor during the British Industrial Revolution by Carolyn Tuttle
4. The 1929 Stock Market Crash by Harold Bierman
5. The American Economy during World War II by Christopher J Tassava
6. An Overview of the Great Depression by Randall Parker
7. Economic History of Hawai'i by Sumner La Croix
8. Slavery in the United States by Jenny B Wahl
9. The Economy of Ancient Greece by Darel Engen
10. US Economy in the 1920s by Gene Smiley
11. Immigration to the United States by Raymond L Cohn
12. Economics of the Civil War by Roger L Ransom
13. Japan, Industrialization and Economic Growth by Carl Mosk
14. Health Insurance in the United States by Melissa Thomasson
15. The Cotton Gin by William H Phillips
16. A History of the Bar Code by Stephen A Brown
17. Women Workers in the British Industrial Revolution by Joyce Burnette
18. American Industrialization by David R Meyer
19. The Economic History of Major League Baseball by Michael J Hauptert
20. The Economic History of Indonesia by Jeroen Touwen

Seventy-eight economic and business historians are now included on the list of Consulting Editors for the Encyclopedia.

Graduate Programs in Economic History (<http://www.eh.net/grad/>) Twenty-eight colleges and universities that offer graduate degrees in the field of economic history are currently included in this feature, which received 21,238 requests for pages during the past four quarters.

“How Much Is That?” (<http://www.eh.net/hmit>) “How Much Is That?” along with the Encyclopedia, Book Reviews, the Calendar and our Lists, continues to be one of our most frequently accessed features, receiving 1,164,596 pages during this period. Throughout this reporting period Sam Williamson continued to work with Louis Johnston and Lawrence Officer on these series, the majority of which are now moved over to Sam and Lawrence’s new site, MeasuringWorth.com. Available calculators include the following:

The Value of Money

- What Is the Relative Value? Five Ways to Compare the Worth of a United States Dollar, 1790 – 2006
- What Is the Relative Value? Five Ways to Compare the Worth of a United Kingdom Pound, 1830 – 2005
- Computing 'Real Value' Over Time With a Conversion Between U.K. Pounds and U.S. Dollars, 1830 – 2005
- Exchange Rate Between the United States Dollar and Forty Other Countries, 1913 – 2005
- Exchange Rate Between the United States Dollar and the British Pound, 1791 – 2004
- Purchasing Power of the United States Dollar, 1774 – 2006
- Purchasing Power of the British Pound, 1264 – 2006

- Inflation Rates for the U.S. (1774 to 2006) and United Kingdom (Britain) (1264 to 2006)
- The Annual Consumer Price Index for the United States, 1774-2006
- The Price of Gold, 1257 - 2005

Growth Rates, GDP and Earnings

- What is the Annualized Growth Rate of Various Historical Economic Series?
- Annualized Growth Rate of the DJIA, S&P500 and NASDAQ Between Any Two Dates
- The Annual Real and Nominal GDP for the United States, 1790 – 2006
- The Annual Real and Nominal GDP for the United Kingdom, 1300 – 2005
- How Much Would Your U.S. Savings Have Grown? 1798 – 2006
- What Were the UK Earnings and Prices Then? 1264 – 2005
- The Relative Cost of Unskilled Labor in the United States, 1774 - 2004

Financial Indicators

- Interest Rate Series for the United Kingdom and the United States, 1790 – 2006
- Daily Closing Values of the Dow Jones Average, May 2, 1885 to Present

Lists (<http://www.eh.net/lists/>) EH.Net continues to maintain and operate ten electronic mailing lists. Subscriber counts for these lists as of 7/31/07 are as follows:

LIST NAME	NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS 7/31/06	NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS 7/31/07	CHANGE
AEH (Abstracts in Economic History)	1376	1430	+54
EH.Net-Review	1488	1497	+9
EH.News (Economic History News)	1433	1481	+48
EH.Res (Economic History Research)	910	928	+18
EH.Teach (Issues in Teaching Economic History)	448	477	+29
EHB (Economics and Human Biology)	239	245	+6
HES (History of Economics and Economic Thought)	852	909	+57
OZNZ.Society (Economic History of Australia and New Zealand)	165	169	+4

An archive of past postings of all current and discontinued is available on the EH.Net server.

Following are the numbers of postings on each of the EH.NET-run lists (lists run by other organizations but hosted by EH.NET are excluded):

LIST NAME	NUMBER OF POSTINGS 8/1/05 to 7/31/06	NUMBER OF POSTINGS 8/1/06 to 7/31/07	CHANGE
AEH (Abstracts in Economic History)	48	58	+10
EH.Net-Review	137	148	+11
EH.News (Economic History News)	133	181	+48
EH.Res (Economic History Research)	43	61	+18
EH.Teach (Issues in Teaching Economic History)	13	9	-4

EH.Net Web Server Statistics, August 1, 2006 – July 31, 2007

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

PLEASE NOTE: Generation of EH.Net's Web Server Statistics was made more difficult this year because of the enormous number of automated robots browsing our site, a number which has increased to a whopping 50%. Efforts have been made to eliminate as much of this superfluous data as possible so as to provide an accurate count of actual users visiting the site. Please note also that data for the month of October, 2006 as well as a portion of the count for September, 2006 were not available. Finally, changes in the reporting system have made it difficult to directly and accurately compare numbers from previous years to this year, thus these figures have not been provided.

General Summary

Successful requests:	12,510,527
Average successful requests per day:	34,440
Successful requests for pages:	12,510,527
Distinct files requested:	521,372
Distinct hosts served:	1,156,785

Monthly Report

August	1,304,961
September (partial)	682,071
October	(no data)
November	1,035,212
December	1,006,891
January	915,522
February	993,404
March	1,364,389
April	1,162,341
May	1,162,359

Monthly Report (cont.)

June	1,448,167
July	1,435,210

Directory Report

(This report lists the directories with at least 5,000 requests for pages. The figures for each directory include all of its subdirectories. It is sorted by pages.)

<u>Requests for Pages</u>	<u>GBytes</u>	<u>Directory</u>
2,425,202	11.92	/pipemail/
2,372,118	80.67	/cal/
1,529,195	9.13	/lists/
1,283,089	57.01	/encyclopedia/
1,164,596	10.09	/hmit/
1,094,219	23.40	/bookreviews/
534,218	49.37	/XIIICongress/
382,683	4.33	[root directory]
234,464	13.29	/coursesyllabi/
179,184	3.21	/Clio/
173,994	14.38	/databases/
116,738	2.63	/abstracts/
105,543	0.39	/node/
96,887	8.29	/EHA/
73,935	0.59	/directory/
64,375	0.35	/bibliographies/
57,544	0.18	/ieha/
55,014	0.56	/shiny/
54,941	1.40	/HE/
53,248	1.00	/graphics/
48,450	0.33	/eha/
39,444	0.27	/atp/
39,143	0.03	/drupal/
33,265	0.17	/mailman/
22,917	0.47	/websites/
21,238	0.18	/grad/
19,862	0.78	/eshsi/
14,844	0.12	/~HisEcSoc/
13,107	0.41	/EHES/
11,760	0.10	/IEHA/
10,990	0.09	/forums/
9,919	0.01	/ehresources/
9,869	0.01	/Archives/
7,852	0.11	/aggregator/
5,737	0.04	/cgi-bin/
5,624	0.04	/project2000/