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10-15-1999

Bibliography of American Literature (Review)

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☐DATABASE&DISC REVIEWS☐

EDITOR: CHERYL LaGUARDIA

ELECTRONICALLY SPEAKING... OneLibrary.com has taken genealogical research ondisc to new heights: run, do not walk, to get these discs at a remarkably accessible price. **Reference Manager 9** promises to make your life easier; plan to get a public use copy *and* an office copy right away. And some classic printed indexes have finally made it to the web and onto disc—take a look at **The Bibliography of American Literature** and **Index Islamicus**.

▩ THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Chadwyck-Healey (800-752-0515;
mktg@chadwyck.com).
www.chadwyck.com
Date reviewed: 9/6/99
Price: Negotiated by site.

A staple of humanities reference collections, the five printed volumes of *The Bibliography of American Literature* are now available on the web as part of the LION (LIterature ONline) gateway package. Included in the **BAL** file are nearly 40,000 bibliographic records for literary works of over 300 American authors writing from the American Revolution through 1930 (authors who published during this period but died after 1930 are excluded). While the emphasis is on "imaginative" works, the principal works of major essayists and journalists who also published poetry or fiction appear here as well. Citations to secondary works, reprints, and reference works of relevance are also included for many authors.

Search by author, keyword, and publication date. Keyword searching is powerful and includes title-specific and "keyword in imprint" features; it's possible to limit results to principal works or reprints only. An interesting search feature is "location of copy," but it was unclear how this feature narrows search results. A search of "Alcott" in the author field and "Boston Public Library" in the location of copy field yields the same bibliographic records as leaving the latter blank. There is a useful browse feature for each search category, but to browse any category it is necessary to scroll through a list of about 40 names, then click a "down" button, then scroll through the next 40 names. With only 300 authors in this database, it should have been possible, and better, to make these names appear in one continuous list and to include an alphabetic index at the

top of the screen for jumping to a specific letter of the alphabet.

The initial information that displays at the top of the screen is the citation of the print volume in which results are found. In a minimized window on the average 15" monitor, this may be the only information the user sees before scrolling down to entries. It's not intuitively obvious that you should scroll down, as there is a hard return line right after the volume information, making it appear at first glance as if this is the full extent of the information. This should be changed in future releases.

The Bottom Line: The Bibliography of American Literature needs some tweaking, but having integrated keyword searching of all five volumes is worthwhile. Recommended for public and academic libraries supporting researchers of 19th-century American literature.—*Elizabeth McKeigue, Access Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*

▩ GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY MASTER CATALOG

OneLibrary.com (218-498-2183;
info@onelibrary.com).
www.onelibrary.com
Windows 95+/PowerMac/iMac. 1999.
Price: $29.80 ea.; $69.80/3-disc set.

OneLibrary.com has produced the largest union catalog of genealogical books, manuscripts, and microfilms ever published. Three discs contain over 300,000 works held by 18 U.S. libraries known for their extensive genealogical collections. Some of the libraries contain important national collections, such as the New England Historic Genealogical Society Library and the New York Public Library, while others hold unique regional and state collections, such as the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and the Ohio Historical Society Library. Geo-

graphic coverage is not limited to the United States, however. All the Canadian provinces are here, as are Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Australia. It should be noted that OCLC does not cover some of the 18 libraries' holdings, thereby increasing the importance of this work.

The three discs—Family Histories, Local Histories, and Genealogical Sources—allow one to find books and manuscripts on a specific family, regimental histories, town and city histories, genealogical tables, and much more. The search interface is simple: GLMC is run in conjunction with Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. Consequently, users can hot link to the libraries' web pages and catalogs to search the most recent acquisitions or find out about interlibrary loan policies or archives access.

The Bottom Line: Genealogical Library Master Catalog offers access to top genealogical collections, with easy searching for the novice user. An invaluable and affordable resource for public and academic libraries, genealogical societies, and individuals.—*John Carper, Cabot Science Lib., Harvard Univ.*

▩ THE HORN BOOK GUIDE INTERACTIVE

Heinemann (800-793-2154;
custserv@heinemann.com).
www.heinemann.com
Windows 3.1+/Mac. 1999.
Price: $35.

Derived from the printed *Horn Book Guide*, this disc contains nearly 30,000 reviews of hardcover trade children's and YA books published mostly during the period 1989–1998 (there is, unaccountably, one review each from the years 1954 and 1963). Annual updates (of approximately 4000 reviews and corresponding to the content of the printed *Guide*) are planned. Reviews are searchable by grade level (preschool, grades K-8, and young adult), author (last name), genre (fiction or nonfiction), rating (1–6, with 1 highest), review (searching the body of the reviews), subject (searching assigned headings), title, year, and full text.

The opening system screen is bright, peppy, and dynamic-looking. It offers just a few options: search (to search the database, and the only really active button on the screen), about (information about the Interactive Guide), and help. But once you click on the Search button, you're taken to a Folio software screen to do a "Field Query."

Cheryl LaGuardia is the Coordinator of the Electronic Learning Facility at the Harvard College Library, author of *Recreating the Academic Library* (Neal-Schuman, 1998), and winner of the 1996 Louis Shores–Oryx Press Award for Excellence in Reviewing

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