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Nationalgalerie Berlin: Catalogue of Painting and Sculptures (Review)

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DATABASE&DISC REVIEWS

AMERICAN SLAVERY: A COMPOSITE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Greenwood Electronic Media
(203-226-3571; gem@greenwood.com).
www.slavenarratives.com
Date reviewed: 7/2/00
Price: Starts at $9.95 for individuals
(seven-day access; not available to
libraries); institutional, $400–$900.
Some historical publication background is necessary to describe fully this file's scope. From 1936 to 1938, the Federal Writers' Project, under the auspices of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), employed writers and journalists to interview ex-slaves in 17 states (originally a state-level Writers' Project, the effort was later organized into a larger project for the Library of Congress). In 1972, Professor George Rawick of Washington University, St. Louis, compiled this collection of over 2300 WPA slave interviews in 40 volumes of over 10,000 pages, which was published by Greenwood as *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*. The original volumes, however, were organized by the states in which the interviews were conducted. So for greater accessibility, in 1997 Greenwood published Howard Potts's *A Comprehensive Name Index for the American Slave*, a reorganized, indexed version of Rawick's compilation.

Greenwood Electronic Media has now combined *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography* with *The Comprehensive Name Index to the American Slave* into the definitive web resource for the study of American slavery. Narratives may be located by subject's first name, last name, or combination of both; year of birth; county and state of residence while enslaved; master's name; year in which the WPA interview was conducted; WPA interviewer's name; and volume and page corresponding to the print texts.

Searches may be combined for precision, e.g., to find narratives of "all narrators born before the Civil War who lived in Missouri." Jargon-free help and sample searches for using Boolean operators are clearly presented in a table format on a Documentation page. In fact, this Documentation page is one of the best-written user assistance pages we've ever seen. In addition to instructions, there are excellent "Tips" and suggestions on how a user may navigate, search, view, retrieve, and browse results, as well as information on the configuration and use of web browsers (Netscape, Internet Explorer) and different versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We found Acrobat Reader's viewing features, such as enlarging the typescript page to 150 percent, helped to make reading these fascinating first-person accounts (and occasional handwritten notes in the margins) easier. One addition to the product we would like to see in the full subscriber infobase: a clickable option to view

American Slavery: A Composite Autobiography
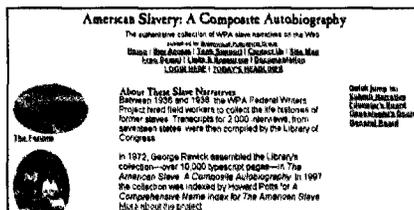
the narratives in text or PDF format. There are times (even when one fulfills the "best viewed" requirements of a 56K modem) when we could go out for a cup of coffee while the PDF file was loading.

Greenwood has added value by including a link to related topics in "Today's Headlines" and "Links & Related Resources" (ranging from the Library of Congress, Historical Sources, Genealogy Links, Narrative Sites and Links to Curriculum Guides, Syllabi and Teaching Resources). Another link to "Submit Narrative" allows users to add their family's story online as it relates to "enslaved ancestors, the Civil War, the Reconstruction Era, the Depression, family folklore or song, or other." Guidelines for submission are presented, and Greenwood Electronic Media retains the right to edit submitted narratives.

"Forums for Educators, Genealogists and General Interest Users" requires separate registration and uses WebBoard conferencing software to post, organize, and search for discussion topics. We checked the Educators Forum and found a question about sources for lyrics of slave songs and hymns. The response from the WebBoard Administrator named two Greenwood publications; we wondered if these were the only resources available.

The Bottom Line: Highest praise goes to Greenwood Electronic Media for developing this important and affordable research milestone accessible to a wide spectrum of users. **American Slavery** is strongly recommended for public, academic, and special libraries.—*Christine Oka, Bibliographic Svcs., Northeastern Univ., Boston*

CD-ROM **DATABASES FOR THE STUDY OF AFRO-LOUISIANA HISTORY AND GENEALOGY 1699–1860**
Louisiana State Univ. Pr.
(800-861-3477; lsupress@lsu.edu).
DOS/Windows 3.1+. 1999.
ISBN 0-8071-2482-6
Price: $45.
To commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the colony of Louisiana in 1699, LSU Press has published this important statistical resource edited by Gwendolyn Midlo Hall. Over 100,000 records, from civil documents and manuscripts to published censuses, provide an unprece-

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dented look into the lives of Africans and people of African descent in Louisiana from earliest Colonial times through 1860. Also on the CD-ROM are Paul Lachance's extensive compilation of Louisiana censuses from 1699 through 1860, and Virginia and Jeffrey Gould's databases of various New Orleans, Pensacola, and Mobile censuses from 1784 to1850.

The CD contains the images of the original documents, which were discovered in archives in Louisiana, Texas, France, and Spain. Documents written in French or Spanish have been translated into English. Since manuscripts are usually extremely difficult to read, all of the documents have been summarized and then typed. The records can be accessed by a single field or any combination of fields. Searches can be done on the names of a particular slave and/or by the name of a master. Other search fields include parish, year, type of document, gender, birthplace (including about 10,000 records indicating African ethnicity), racial designation, age, family relationships, prices, skills, illnesses, slave trade ship on which the slave arrived, and deceased masters, as well as sellers and buyers. There are more than 600 records involving court testimony by slaves and over 1000 records involving runaway slaves, conspiracies, and rebellions. Exact document retrieval information is included in each record.

Included on the CD-ROM are two maps, one of Louisiana dating from 1825 and a four-part map of Africa on which the areas of origin of the 18 most frequent ethnicities of individuals sent to Louisiana are identified. Included as well are image files of six examples of original manuscript sources, consisting of three to ten pages each, with translated titles and brief descriptions.

Data can be opened in either a DOS or Windows environment. Calculations can be made in SPSS for Windows or other statistical software (which users must acquire and load separately). The CD-ROM license prohibits use of the disc on multiuser networks.

The Bottom Line: Afro-Louisiana History... is highly recommended for public, academic, research, and special libraries serving researchers in African American studies, African studies, genealogy, history, or sociology.—*Rosemary L. Meszaros, Government Information & Law, Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green*

CD-ROM **NATIONALGALERIE BERLIN: CATALOGUE OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURES**
K.G. Saur Verlag
(49-0-89-769 02-232;
CustomerService_Saur@csi.com).
www.saur.de
Windows 3.1+. 2000.
ISBN 3-598-40317-8.
Price: $50.
For scholars and students of modern German art, the **Nationalgalerie: Catalogue of**

DATABASE&DISC REVIEWS

Painting and Sculptures on CD-ROM is an excellent means of learning about this museum's collection without having to go all the way to Berlin.

This disc presents in electronic form the complete catalog of the collection of 19th- and 20th-century art in the National-galerie Berlin. While the Nationalgalerie's collection shows a predictable emphasis on German artists, it includes a wide variety of other European artists as well. The disc also catalogs for the first time works confiscated and lost by the museum during World War II. Entries for over 7500 works of art exist here (only 5600 entries include illustrations, and only half of that number are in color).

Searching is easy within four broad categories: type of object, subject, artist, time, and place. As you type in the search box you are automatically navigated through an ondisc index. You can highlight the official term from the index and click "add" to start building a search. Boolean operators include "and," "or," and "without." You can also limit these searches by object type, material, technique, keyword, depicted person, place, or region. Artist searches can be limited by names, sex, places of birth and death, workshop, and even patron. Time and place can be further limited by country of origin, collection, and earliest and latest date.

For example, when I searched "bild" (painting) as type of object and "Beethoven, Ludvig van" as depicted person I got one hit: the painting "Franz Liszt am Flugel phantasierend" by Josef Danhauser, 1840 (a painting of a young girl playing Lizst on the piano with a bust of Beethoven on top of it). When I redid the search by simply entering a search for "Beethoven" as depicted person, I found two items: the painting listed above as well as a sculpture of Beethoven by Anton Dietrich, done in 1822.

The full reference for each record gives the type of material, size, date, and provenance (in the case of the Dietrich sculpture, the record shows that it was bought by the museum from Ludwig and Henriette Dux of Vienna in 1915 for 5550 marks). Good use of hyperlinks is made throughout the system, as all full references include a link on the artist's name to biographical information (including nationality, artistic specialty, and dates and place of birth and death).

To display results you can view a short list of results (in bibliographic form), or go directly to the gallery (image) display. However, viewing the gallery has its limitations. There are frequently no images for an entry.

Choosing "short list" is better. It would be nice to have something in the gallery window here that says no image is available. In addition, if you click "full image" after highlighting an entry and nothing happens, it presumably means there is no image for that entry. Why not say so in-

stead of simply having nothing happen? Sometimes a message does come up (in both English and German) instructing the user to see the "full reference." Why couldn't this same message come up when there is no image to see? Another disappointment is that it's not possible to highlight and copy either the text or the images. The frequent use of hyperlinks certainly will make researchers' lives easier, but the ability to copy and paste text and images would make it even more so.

The Bottom Line: If you really want to see the Nationalgalerie's full collection, a trip to Berlin should be in your future. But the important facts about the collection's artworks are on this CD-ROM, and scholars of German art will surely find this rich content useful. **Nationalgalerie Berlin** is recommended for art libraries and academic libraries supporting art and art history programs.—*Elizabeth McKeigue, Access Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*

OASIS: OZONACTION STRATEGIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

U.N. Environment Programme
(33- 44-37-14-50; ozonaction@unep.fr).
www.unepie.org/ozonaction.html
Windows 95+/Mac 7.0+. 1999.
Price: $100.

Signed in 1987, the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer stipulated that the signatories would phase out the production and consumption of compounds that deplete ozone in the stratosphere: chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbonetetrachloride, and methyl chloroform. To facilitate these objectives, the U.N. Environment Programme released a floppy disk in 1994 under the name "OzonAction Information Clearinghouse (OAIC-DV)." This CD-ROM updates the floppy disk and presents a powerhouse of information in a more obliging format.

The disc has three primary sections: "Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines," "Sources of Assistance," and "Alternative Technologies." The disc features a site map, glossary, and web links, and searchers may choose to use

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English-, French-, or Spanish-language versions of the system.

In the Sources of Assistance category there is a library containing citations and contact information (sometimes the URL to a web site is included) to order reports, journal articles, flyers, posters, stickers, country programs, fact sheets, case studies, training materials, etc., on ozone-related matters in 19 languages—from Arabic to Vietnamese. It is somewhat disappointing merely to retrieve order information from this library rather than the text of documents themselves: the web has heightened researcher's expectations of linking directly to information.

However, the disc does include many full-text files: reports of various committees and panels, including the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, Technical Options Committees, Ozone Secretariat and Multilateral Fund; guidelines; handbooks; studies; technical brochures; and other information developed by UNEP. The CD-ROM also updates the Montreal Protocol Handbook.

Country Programme Coversheets give information on when a particular country became a signatory to the agreement and the extent of its production and consumption of controlled substances (i.e., ozone-depleting substances). Under Alternative Technologies, there are files to aid countries and companies in discovering the experiences of others in successfully phasing out ozone-depleting substances, including where to obtain such alternative technologies and which ozone-friendly technologies can be deployed. Several case studies showcase the efforts of governments, including "Surpassing the Montreal Protocol's Objectives: Ghana's Success Story" and "Successful Conversion to Non-ODS Refrigeration: The New Zealand Experience."

The system includes a mechanism for searching the Montreal Protocol, Inventory of Approved Projects, Country Programme Sheets, and the OzonAction Library Database. The search interface resembles an à la carte menu: one from column A, one from column B. Help screens are very good and to the point, with succinct instructions on how to navigate the files. Graphics, too, are well done: they enhance the presentation without overwhelming it. A pleasant, unexpected surprise is the Ozone Story in cartoons, charmingly done by Joseph Kariuki of Nairobi.

The Bottom Line: Although specifically designed to assist National Ozone Units and industries in developing countries, **OASIS** will be useful to researchers interested in the Montreal Protocol and the phase out of ozone-depleting substances. Recommended for academic, special, and large public libraries with an interest in environmental or international studies.—*Rosemary L. Meszaros, Government Information & Law, Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green*