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## The Accunet/AP Photo Archive (Review)

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# □ DATABASE & DISC REVIEWS □

EDITOR: CHERYL LaGUARDIA

**ELECTRONICALLY SPEAKING...** with this column's products you can feast your eyes on an invaluable new web-based photo archive, delve into the details of slave ship voyages, and learn the nuances of conducting business in English for nonnative speakers. Find a rich new resource for budding scientists and a reference tool for sports enthusiasts, as well.

## WEB THE ACCUNET/AP PHOTO ARCHIVE

Accuweather Inc. (888-438-9847; salesmail@accuwx.com).

www.ap.accuweather.com

Date reviewed: 4/25/00

Price: Negotiated by site.

Here's the first resource you'll turn to when a student looking for an early 1960s photo of Fidel Castro shows up at the reference desk. The **Accunet/AP Photo Archive** is a database of approximately 500,000 current and archived photos from the library of the Associated Press.

The **Archive** is updated daily, with an average 800 contemporary photos added each day. The best 200 or so photos from each day's additions are retained permanently in the database, while the rest are removed after 12 months. To give you an idea of just how current this archive is, on the morning of April 25, 2000, the database already contained photos from the previous afternoon's shooting at the Washington National Zoo. In addition to its remarkable currency, the **Photo Archive**'s historical collection also continues to grow. It features notable historical figures as well as images from significant events of the 20th century and, occasionally, the 19th (there's an 1844 photograph of Abraham Lincoln here). Each photo is accompanied by a caption identifying details of the photo and providing historical context.

The search interface has three free text search boxes labeled "What," "When," and "Where." Searching will be relatively intuitive for even first-timers, but there is also online Help available, as well as excellent search examples that will save every user time, especially when searching dates or a range of dates. There's a left-hand navigational bar for easy access to starting new searches, checking help, and limiting and sorting results. A real plus here is the "download image" feature. A couple of clicks of the mouse and each image can be saved on your hard drive or to a disk. Users can save the photo alone, or retain the caption as well.

Cheryl LaGuardia is the Head of Instructional Services for the Harvard College Library, author of *Becoming a Library Teacher* (Neal-Schuman, 2000), and winner of the 1996 Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award for Excellence in Reviewing



Standard Windows shortcuts also work for saving images: a single right-click on a spectacular photo of the Eiffel Tower taken at midnight on December 31, 1999, quickly saved the image as wallpaper to my PC. Vive le système!

**The Bottom Line: AP Photo** is a wonderfully rich, easy-to-use resource for finding sought-after images quickly; the deep archive of historical material is especially notable. For users of all ages seeking multimedia for reports, research, and presentations, this invaluable file is enthusiastically recommended for all libraries. —Elizabeth McKeigue, *Access Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*

## WEB COLUMBIA GRANGER'S WORLD OF POETRY ONLINE

Columbia Univ. (800-944.8648;

ms1004@columbia.edu).

www.columbia.edu/cu/cup or

www.grangers.org

Date reviewed: 4/2/00

Price: Negotiated by site.

Beginning with the publication of *Granger's Index to Poetry* in 1904, the Granger's name has been synonymous with the definitive resource for locating a poem in English. Available as the printed *Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry in Anthologies*, 11th edition, and on CD-ROM, now Granger's goes online as **Columbia Granger's World of Poetry**. It is indexed extensively by author, author category, subject, words in complete poem and excerpts, words in title, first line and last line, and anywhere.

**World of Poetry Online** is much more than just a web-delivered version of the latest print and CD-ROM editions of the *Index to Poetry in Anthologies*. Some of the publications also included in this

online resource are *Columbia Granger's Index to Poetry in Collected and Selected Works*, *Columbia Granger's Dictionary of Poetry Quotations*, and *The Classic Hundred Poems: All-Time Favorites*. Forty-six of the biographies and 100 of the commentaries from *The Classic Hundred Poems* have been adapted for **Granger's Online**. Some biographies are based on articles in the *Columbia Encyclopedia*; all other commentaries and biographies were written specially for **Granger's Online**. The online version contains 13,000 full-text poems with new search indexing: the Author Category (Asian American, Irish, Latin American, etc.) is a new enhancement, which first appeared in 1999 on CD-ROM. The content of the online version will be updated quarterly, with additional full-text poems, excerpts, commentaries, biographies, bibliographies, and essays written by William Harmon, author, scholar, poet, and editor of several of the *Columbia Granger's* poetry anthologies. The link, Meet the Editor, on the main screen, leads to a biography and a wonderful "Letter from the Editor" about his relationship and experience with poetry as a student, a writer, and a teacher. His thoughts on reading, learning about, and appreciating poetry are further developed in another link, Getting the Most Out of Granger's.

Using the system is obvious, enthralling, educational, and a lot of fun. First off, the initial screen is uncluttered by graphics or wallpaper, with a well-written, easy-to-read and -understand list of search options: Simple Search, Advanced Search, (by) Anthologies, Biographies, and Glossary. Simple Search invokes a search blank with index selection for Author, Author Category, Subject, Title, First Line, and Last Line, with added choices for Alphabetic or Keyword search, Complete Poems, Excerpts Only, or All Entries. I was initially puzzled by the command to press the Start button until I realized I needed to scroll a bit on the search frame. Having done that, I was able to search for poems/anthologies with works by a favorite author, or for poems on a favorite topic (finding that wonderful poem entitled "Chocolates"). A search for the phrase "that time of year" retrieved two records for Shakespeare's Sonnet 73, plus poems by Jean Toomer and Delmore Schwartz.

Icons on each record indicate links to further information about the author, the poem, and anthologies. Linking to Poem Information brings up a list of anthologies, some with a review: Recommended or

### LEGEND

WEB Web-based Database CD-ROM CD-ROM