10-15-1999

Bibliography of American Literature (Review)

Elizabeth McKeigue
Santa Clara University, emckeigue@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarcommons.scu.edu/library

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
ELECTRONICALLY SPEAKING...OneLibrary.com has taken genealogical research on disc to new heights: run, do not walk, to get these 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 Islandicus.  

**THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE**  
Chadwyck-Healey (800-752-0515; mktg@chadwyck.com). www.chadwyck.com  
Date reviewed: 9/99  
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 ELDON (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 little-specific and "topic word 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" in the location 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 on a "down" button, then scroll down the entire list. With only 300 authors in this database, it should have been possible, and better, to make these names accessible from 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 hard return line 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* records 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 McKenney, Access Soc., 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 genealogicals books, manuscripts, and microfilms ever published. Three discs contain over 300,000 works held by 18 U.S. libraries known for genealogical collections. The three discs-Family Histories, Local History, and Genealogical Collections-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 value 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 sites 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 Carotenuto, Cabrini Science Lib., Montana Univ.

**THE HORN BOOK GUIDE INTERACTIVE**  
Heinemann (800-793-2154; custserv@heinemann.com). www.heinemann.com  
Price: $53.  

Derived from the printed *Horn Book Book* children's book reviews and *The Year in Books* annual lists of approximately 4000 reviews and cataloging, this database is the only really active button at the bottom of the screen, while others hold unique regional and state collections, such as the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and the Ohio Historical Society Library. Geographic 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 value of this work.  

The opening system screen is bright, peppery, and dynamic-looking. It offers just a few option boxes: search (to search the database, and the only really active button on the screen is the "Find" button); 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: *The Horn Book Guide Interactive* 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 Carotenuto, Cabrini Science Lib., Montana Univ.

**INTERACTIVE DATABASE REVIEWS**  
EDITOR: CHERYL LAGUARDIA  
Copyright © 1999. All rights reserved.