

BOOK REVIEWS

Dennis A. Trinkle and Scott Merrimann. *The History Highway: A 21st Century Guide to Internet Resources*. 4th edition. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006. Pp. 696. Paper, \$39.95; ISBN 0-7656-1631-9.

The Internet represents an astounding historical transformation in the acquisition of knowledge and exchange of information. According to the Central Intelligence Agency, there were over one million Internet users in the world in 2005, over twenty percent of them in the United States alone. The number of Web pages is growing so fast that it is impossible to give any reliable figures; the best estimates suggest more than eight million. It is impossible for educators to ignore these developments; instead, we are better off to embrace the resources available. To help us make sense of the dizzying maze of the Internet comes *The History Highway*.

This invaluable reference work aims to offer detailed information about quality resources for the historian and how to find them on the Web. Part I of the book serves as a short introduction for those who might have only limited experience using the Internet. At the end of the work one can also find a useful glossary of the most commonly used web terminology. In addition, the authors have included a helpful section on how to evaluate Internet resources—a critical skill in information literacy.

Part II is the core of the volume. It lists over 3,000 websites that have been evaluated for their reliability and usefulness to the serious study of history by specialists in the relevant fields. This section of the book is organized topically, covering American and world history and their sub-fields. Each entry includes a brief annotation, helping the reader determine the value of the site for his or her specific needs. In addition, an effort is made to identify the best sites in each field. Ten new chapters since the 2002 edition cover topics such as futurism, environmental history, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern history. As part of the purchase one also receives a CD-ROM version of the text, with live links to the resources evaluated. Although a bit cumbersome to navigate in its PDF format, the CD-ROM is still helpful in providing easy access to the sites without having to type in each individual URL.

The History Highway offers a broad and up-to-date reference to the astonishing amount of historical information available on the Internet, while acknowledging that the Internet is in constant flux. This volume is most useful to educators, especially those who teach online, in preparing course materials. In addition, the historical researcher will find the *Highway* an extremely useful map in identifying materials, both primary and secondary, available online. And for the history buff—as well as the professional historian—the CD-ROM will offer countless hours of access to the exciting world of online history.

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