

**British History Online.** Access: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>.

British History Online is the “digital library containing some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles.” As a cooperative venture of the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust, the site’s purpose is to offer an alternative to paid online services and nonreviewed



## BRITISH HISTORY ONLINE

Internet sites by bringing relevant materials together into a single, freely accessible online collection. The site is intended for academic and casual users, according to the site information. However it will be most useful for students of late medieval and early modern England, since most of the materials are from the period 1500 to 1850.

The scope of the collection is extremely broad and includes ecclesiastical and religious history, Parliamentary history, and administrative and legal history. Included are such important resources as the official records of the House of Lords (1509–1717, 1832–4) and the House of Commons (1547–1699, 1830), population and taxation records for London and other towns and counties, and ordnance survey maps from the 19th century. One particularly noteworthy source is *Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire*, which includes detailed property records for five central London parishes.

A strength of the site is the quality and quantity of the materials. At the same time there are tremendous gaps in coverage, as illustrated by the available Parliamentary records. In fairness to the site’s creators, digitizing all of the relevant materials would take decades and require vast

sums of money. When compared with the Bodleian Library or the National Archives, Kew, the site measures up well. Unlike the latter institutions, there are no restrictions placed on access or charges levied for viewing the materials. This alone will be an advantage to many researchers.

The material is organized chronologically as well as topically by geographical location, subject, and material source and includes extensive cross-referencing. Site searching is provided by Google. While the search engine is extremely effective at finding relevant materials, the ads displayed on the right side of every page are an annoyance and distraction.

The site is frequently updated with new material, and an online journal of new and forthcoming projects is prominently featured on the homepage. The site was last updated two days before this review. Free registration on the site allows users to bookmark items and organize them according to individual research interests. Overall, the site is an important resource for scholars of British history.—*Mark A. Stoffan, Western North Carolina Library Network, mstoffan@wncln.lib.unca.edu*

**Center for Democracy & Technology.** Access: <http://www.cdt.org/>.

The Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) is concerned first and foremost with “promoting the democratic potential of today’s open, decentralized global Internet,” and its Web site is a model online information source. Rich with content, robust with tools and navigation, and suited to a range of users that includes scholars, students, and the general public, this site successfully marries its core issues—Internet privacy, freedom of expression, government transparency, copyright, and democratic participation—to a bundle

**CENTER FOR  
DEMOCRACY  
&  
TECHNOLOGY**

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of information tools capable of educating and empowering the user.

The site supports academic research up to a point. Included is a database of relevant legislation that is organized both chronologically (1997– ) and by topic, with links to THOMAS, legislative information from the Library of Congress. “Reports & Articles” includes links to full-text articles (many by CDT staff) published in a variety of sources, some scholarly. A number of single-issue reports are also available, which contain footnotes but not bibliographies. Testimony and speeches are provided, listed by topic. The site offers a concentrated selection of mostly non-peer-reviewed sources relevant to its mission and principles, as well as the legislative and primary sources described above.

Tightly organized around a clearly articulated public policy agenda, this site makes the most of its online format by combining its own substantive content with several features that offer access to well-selected resources. CDT features RSS feeds of policy news and announcements, Webcasts, and posts and comments from a staff-authored blog. A “policy posts” and announcements e-mail list is also available.

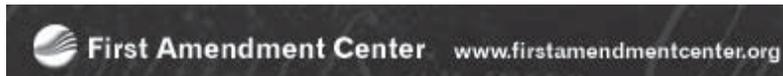
Each of these features serves a valuable function, enabling the user to access current information conveniently in alternate venues and formats.

CDT is staffed by a well-credentialed array of policy wonks, and oversight is provided by a board of directors that includes Judith Krug (ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom), two scholars, and several leaders of other policy organizations. Like all “policy position” organizations, CDT promotes a position and does not pretend to excel at providing a comprehensive selection of unbiased information.

The information it does provide, however, is authoritative and useful to academic information seekers.—*Jeremy Donald, Trinity University, jdonald@trinity.edu*

**First Amendment Center.** *Access:* <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/>.

During a time of continuing concern over the loss of basic, constitutionally guaranteed rights, this site is a welcome addition to the information available online dealing with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Operated by the First Amendment Center,



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an affiliate of the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies at Vanderbilt University, this site seeks to provide a comprehensive resource for research into these important issues.

Offering a variety of options for research, the information contained on the site is organized by the five freedoms covered by the First Amendment: speech, press, religious liberty, assembly, and petition. “First Amendment Topics” links to a page featuring columns labeled for each freedom. In the columns under each of these headings are links to topics related to that freedom. For instance, under “Freedom of speech,” topics include K–12 public school student expression, free speech on public college campuses, adult entertainment, flag-burning, and libraries and first amendment. Each topic will have one or more related articles, with each article offering an overview on its topic, an FAQ, and related cases and resources.

Another useful feature for librarians is the “First Amendment Library,” a clearinghouse of information where historical, legislative, judicial, and editorial material has been collected and organized. Included in this area are resources such as “Freedom of Expression,” which includes speech, press, assembly and petition, and “Freedom of Religion.” Also included here are the First Amendment-related Supreme Court docket sheets for terms dating back to 2000, and a basic court case search function, as well as a current news listing, and listings of related books and book reviews.

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social sciences library; created an off-site storage facility; implemented integration of technology with collections and services; and created a human resources office. In addition to her accomplishments at UF, Canelas has served as a leader among her professional library colleagues in the state and nation. For ten years she chaired Florida's State University System Council of Library Directors and the Board of Directors for the Florida Center for Library Automation. She served on the Governing Board of the Research Libraries Group. For ten years she served on the Board of the Center for Research Libraries, which provides sophisticated area studies research support for member libraries. She was elected to the Board of the Association for Research Libraries, served as a member of numerous ARL committees, and chaired its Committee on Research Collections. She was an elected member of the ALA's Council and was president of the Library Administration and Management Association.

**Sandra (Sandy) K. Peterson**, director of Social Science Libraries and Information Services at Yale University Libraries, retired January 31, 2007, after 40 years of service to the profession as government information librarian at the West Virginia State Library, Oberlin College, University of Northern Iowa, College of William and Mary, and Yale University. Peterson is a champion of

free public access to government information; she served in various offices of ALA including the Government Documents Round Table; as Association of Research Libraries visiting program officer; and as member and chair of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. In 1994 she was awarded the James Bennett Childs Award for lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship.

**Bernie Sloan**, senior library information systems consultant, has retired from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) after nearly 30 years of service. Sloan has devoted his career to expanding library resource sharing in Illinois libraries, a commitment to be marked by a significant milestone this month as I-Share surpasses 10 million resource-sharing transactions since 1979. Sloan joined the CARLI staff well before it was known as CARLI, and even before CARLI's predecessor organization ILCISO (the Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization) became known by that name. Sloan is the author of *Linked Systems for Resource Sharing* (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1990) and many articles and is a well-known contributor to many library-related electronic forums. He is noted for his work in the areas of resource sharing, and, in recent years, virtual reference service. He was awarded the Illinois Library Association's Hugh Atkinson Award in 1996. *z*

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A gray sidebar menu listing other resources travels with users each step of their search. Information listed on this sidebar include links to information about the site and the First Amendment Center, a Supreme Court case tracker, Congressional Research Service reports, guest editorials, regular columnists, including respected Bill of Rights expert and jazz critic Nat Hentoff, as well as a list of experts on First Amendment concerns. There is also a search function.

The information here is current and appears to be updated daily. While not without some political bias to the left of center, First Amendment Center seems to aim for a balanced viewpoint on issues. It is recommended for general users, undergraduate students, and others interested in keeping informed about issues related to some of our most fundamental rights.—*Ford Schmidt, Willamette University, fschmidt@willamette.edu z*