

Project MUSE Update

Since the publication of the February 2000 review, Johns Hopkins University Press has made minor changes to the interface, added titles to the product, and changed its pricing structure. In 2005, full text coverage of titles from the Duke University Press, was discontinued, the academic publisher choosing to provide its own product, however all full text issues collected until 2004 remain.

Information Database

From 2004 to 2006 as Johns Hopkins University changed its pricing structure due to the challenges of increasing costs from participating publishers, they began offering different collections beyond the Complete Collection and the Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities packages. By 2006, through the joint consortia arrangement of CCL, SEIR, and SCELIC, offers now also include one for a "Basic Undergraduate Collection," "Basic Research Collection" and a new "Premium Collection" which contains additional academic titles beyond the "Standard Collection" (the separate "Premium Collection" was created to include all titles where price control of an annual subscription is not an issue, i.e. prices can increase quite a bit year to year, while there's a limit to price increases in the Standard Collection). The previous Johns Hopkins University package (JHU Press Titles Only) is no longer being offered.

The Basic Undergraduate collection includes only core titles (114) that are more suitable for four-year colleges and are typically indexed in H.W. Wilson indexes. It does not include any of the previous Duke University titles that do appear automatically in the Standard Collection. The Basic Research Collection, by contrast, is a smaller package that includes scholarly materials necessary for institutions beyond a four year scope. The Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities packages continue their scope of coverage. The new Premium Collection includes additional titles that are available only in this suite. The Standard Collection continues to grow, but not at its previously rapid pace.

The scope continues to be more suitable to four-year universities and above. The undergraduate collection has potential to be a better database for community colleges by comparison. The title counts for each collection are as follows (Note: with the exception of the Undergraduate collection, 31 of the titles are archive only, most of them Duke University Press titles, which were discontinued in 2004).

Premium: 331
Standard: 263
Research: 176
Undergraduate: 114
A&H: 213
Soc Sci: 168

For specific title lists for each collection, go to:

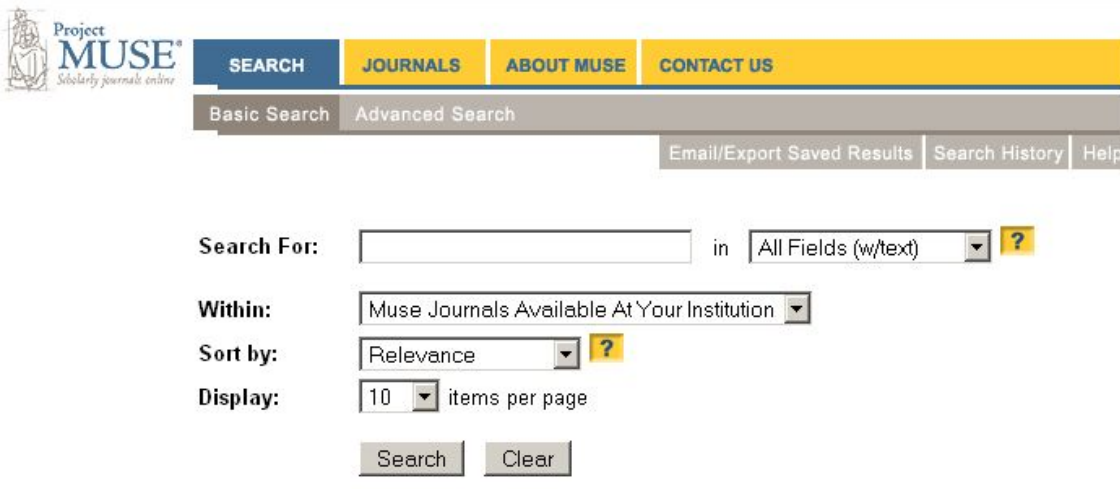
http://muse.jhu.edu/about/subscriptions/collection_comparison.html

The titles of the Standard Collection were compared with EbscoHost Academic Search Premier, ProQuest 5000, and Thomson Gale Infotrac OneFile. Of its current composition of 263 titles, The Standard Collection has 172 titles unique compared to Academic Search Premier, 110 titles unique compared to ProQuest 5000, and 158 titles unique compared to Infotrac Onefile. Some of the titles in Project MUSE also contain current issues, where the other vendors may have embargoes (often one year).

Search Interface

Search interface has had mainly cosmetic changes. Default searching is to all fields (including full text) and articles contain LC Subject headings for indexing terms. There is a new drop down menu where the user can select to either search “Muse Journals Available at Your Institution” or to search all titles in the MUSE database. MUSE still does not provide abstracts except the few the author has supplied with the article in the original publication. The new “Email/Export Saved Results” option allows users to Email or save citations. It is unfortunate that there is no option to Email full text articles, whether they are in HTML or PDF format.

Search results are listed with citation followed by a list of subject headings, and then a link which you click on to see occurrences of your search term in the text. All articles come in both HTML and PDF full text formats. The results page now has a search option where the user can enter more search terms and then click on a “Refine” button.



The screenshot shows the Project MUSE search interface. At the top left is the Project MUSE logo with the tagline "Scholarly journals online". To the right are four navigation tabs: "SEARCH" (highlighted in blue), "JOURNALS", "ABOUT MUSE", and "CONTACT US". Below these is a search bar with two options: "Basic Search" (selected) and "Advanced Search". To the right of the search bar are three links: "Email/Export Saved Results", "Search History", and "Help". Below the search bar are four search parameters: "Search For:" with an empty text input field, "in" with a dropdown menu set to "All Fields (w/text)" and a yellow question mark icon; "Within:" with a dropdown menu set to "Muse Journals Available At Your Institution"; "Sort by:" with a dropdown menu set to "Relevance" and a yellow question mark icon; and "Display:" with a dropdown menu set to "10" and the text "items per page". At the bottom of the search parameters are two buttons: "Search" and "Clear".

Access to [full-text](#) journals provided by Chabot College.

- 22. **Danto, Arthur Coleman 1924-**
The Future of the Madonna
The Henry James Review - Volume 19, Number 2, Spring 1998, pp. 113-125 - Article

Subjects:

James, Henry, 1843-1916. Madonna of the future.
Art and history

(Search score: 415)

[\[Show Occurrences in Context\]](#)

User Support Services

From the MUSE site, Johns Hopkins University has continued to provide different handouts and point of use guides. The vendor also gives its customers a quarterly newsletter on new developments in the product. Response to technical support has been good. MUSE also provides a mirror site users can connect to if the regular one is down: <http://muse.uq.edu.au/search/search.pl>

Cost

Starting in 2005, Project MUSE changed its pricing structure to deal with the rising costs passed along to them by academic publishers. The new pricing structure is based on a Carnegie Classification model. While prices increased considerably for ARL institutions and other high FTE research libraries, the pricing actually dropped for most community colleges. (http://muse.jhu.edu/about/subscriptions/pricing_academic_2006.html) Institutions that choose to subscribe for the first time need to be aware that attractive as the introductory price now is for these different packages, existing subscribers are charged a subscription rate based on the previous year's usage—however, the price difference is usually not greatly significant.

Accessibility of Service

Project MUSE has reassured its customers that they are striving to be ADA Compliant to Section 508 Standards. Their promise is available at <http://muse.jhu.edu/about/muse/section508.html> According to their site, however, this claim is made as of March, 2003. The review team had an expert on ADA Accessibility look at the MUSE database with the following methods:

AccVerify DS2005 Professional utility
manual check using the keyboard only
manual check using a screen reader (JAWS)
manual check using a screen magnifier (ZoomText)

AccVerify DS2005 Professional

The program did find some pages that “failed automated verification” because they lacked alternative text for some images. Since Project MUSE is a collection of resources and a collaboration with other entities, the accessibility problems may be due to pages supplied by individual academic publishers.

Manual Check (Keyboard only and Screen Reader)

”When using the keyboard only to navigate as well as when navigating with the screen reader turned on, a major issued that I faced was trying to select options in a drop down menu in the Journal section. Once I have selected a particular journal, I can then choose a particular volume and from there I should be able to select a desired issue from the options available. Using a mouse, I can expand that drop down menu, see all of my options and then choose the one I want. However, with keyboard only access, I need to arrow down to get to my options, but as soon as I get to the first option, it automatically links me to the page that corresponds to that first option. So in essence, if there is a list of 5 potentially available items, I would only be able to access one (the first one that I arrow down to).

Although it is not essential for web accessibility, this site has assigned a few access keys to aid navigation. A PC user can press the Alt key with another key, such as “s” in order to go to the Search page. MAC users would press the Ctrl key plus the assigned access key. A screen reader user would hear the options for the access keys; however, keyboard only users would not know which access keys to press unless they had read the Accessibility and “Section 508” page. In terms of navigation aids, I did notice the use of headings on many of the main pages as well as in some of the journal articles that I searched. If a web page is constructed with appropriate headings, screen reader users can jump from one heading to the next, which allows them to skim the document based on the headings and then focus on the particular section of interest.”

Manual Check (Screen Magnifier)

”Using a screen magnifier, I did notice that some of the navigation buttons (such as Search, Journals, About MUSE, Contact Us, Basic Search, Advanced Search, etc. which are usually at the top of the page), are not real text; instead, they are text within graphics. What this means for screen magnifier users is that as they increase the magnification, the text becomes more pixelated and therefore more difficult to read.”