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## REFERENCE

Social & Behavioral Sciences

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[Internet Resource]

**The American West.** Adam Matthew Digital. ISBN Contact publisher for pricing (based on Carnegie Classification and JISC); includes nominal hosting fee, payable every 5 years.

URL: <http://www.amdigital.co.uk/>

[Visited Feb'09] Users will strike gold with this selective collection of materials from the Newberry Library's Graff Collection. *The American West* compiles more than 1,200 items (often one-of-a-kind) including broadsides, correspondence, currency, diaries, directories, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs, and rare books, among others. Editor Richard Slatta (North Carolina State Univ.) and three other academic historians screened all the rare printed materials against the *Sabin Collection* (CH, Jul'06, 43-6263) to avoid duplication. The materials selected are organized into themes: Native Americans; Pioneers, Hunters, and Explorers; Mining and the Gold Rush; The Mormon Exodus; Homesteaders, Overland Travel, and Early Settlements; Cattle Ranchers; Railroads, Transportation, and Urban History; Outlaws, Vigilantes, and the Law; Agricultural Development and the Environment; The Imagined West: Wild West Shows and Fiction; and Borderlands (of both the Southwest and the Pacific Northwest).<p>Users may do a basic search by keyword. Advanced Search's key features include Boolean and proximity searching, and the capability to use wildcards and word-stemming. One may search by Author/Subject, Notes, Places, Names, or Topics; restrict results by date; and use drop-down menus for Theme, Region, and Document Type to further limit results. Printed material appears first in the results listing. Users may sort by date, title, relevance, or reference, and e-mail results or export them as a plain-text file. Full-text search results display either as a highlighted, searchable transcript or in original image view. Users may export citations to either Refworks or Endnote (CH, Feb'08, 45-2929).<p>One may view original images by clicking on the thumbnail, and also click and drag, increase or decrease magnification, rotate, download, print, or save images. Additionally one may create a "bespoke slideshow of visual material" by selecting images from the thumbnail list. The two categories of maps available are Original Maps and Data Maps (which present Physical/Environmental, Political, Urban/Travel, and Native American themes, each accompanied by a fact box). The license agreement provides for freedom to network, fair use, and a five-year access guarantee (governed by UK laws). Also available is a brief collection of essays on the West in general and this collection in particular. The help screen should answer most queries. A couple of criticisms are that the Topics subject heading section lacks a controlled vocabulary thesaurus; and that, for searching by Region, the pull-down menu lumps together North and South Dakota, and Dakota Territory, under "T" for "The Dakotas." Nevertheless, this is an excellent resource for libraries wanting access to primary sources and rare materials for this region. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty/researchers. -- D. Liestman, Viterbo University