

CHOICE

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REFERENCE

Social & Behavioral Sciences

The following review appeared in the October 2008 issue of CHOICE:

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[Internet Resource]

Everyday Life and Women in America. 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 Jul'08] A collaboration between Duke University's Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture and the New York Public Library, this database offers a wealth of primary source material related to women's lives in the US between 1800 and 1920. Searchable images, rare books, pamphlets, periodicals, and broadsides have been individually selected according to a five-step process, which is thoroughly described in the database's Introduction. The thoughtful selection of the materials, which span a wide array of women's issues, makes this resource unique among history databases. Topics covered include politics, society, race, religion, health, cookery, family life, fashion and beauty, education, work, and farming. Fiction and children's prescriptive literature round out the selections. Materials included are listed alphabetically by format but may also be searched using keywords. An advanced search feature allows users to employ Boolean logic, phrase searching, and truncation. Once results are generated, users have the option of looking at the entire text of a work or going straight to the pages that contain the relevant search terms. Scanned images are clear and readable. Users may view one page of each work at a time or download the entire document as a PDF (a feature that undoubtedly allows for more efficient printing but was not available for this free trial). A useful section for teachers details copyright and fair use restrictions. In addition to the primary content, the site also highlights four essays by English and women's/gender studies scholars, including one offering research advice for using the site's periodicals. An extensive bibliography leads to additional secondary source material related to the database's coverage. Finally, a chronology allows users to select one or two of any seven subject categories to create customized time lines. The specialized nature of this database may make it seem most appropriate for institutions that offer programs in women's studies or women's history, and to a large extent this perception is true. Nevertheless, others will also find the content pertinent, including students and scholars of English/literature, family and consumer science, religious studies, education, and all areas of history. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper division undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. -- *R. I. Attebury, University of Idaho*