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REFERENCE

General

The following review appeared in the April 2010 issue of CHOICE:

47-4152 [Internet Resource]
Travel Writing, Spectacle and World History. 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 Jan'10] This database is an excellent resource for scholars and students of world history, tourism and travel history, and ethnic and cultural studies. Moreover, it would be a useful source for interdisciplinary studies and women's studies. Drawing on materials from the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, the database comprises mainly travel accounts, diaries, and letters of women travelers from the 1830s to 1970s. Types of materials include correspondence, photographs, letters, diaries, postcards, guidebooks, and drawings. The database explores a wide variety of topics, including family life, culture and customs, race, politics, religion, exploration, art, and architecture. The interface is very user-friendly and easily navigable. Users are provided with an Introduction that explains the nature and scope of the collection, Documents, Maps, contextual essays, a chronology, and more. Those browsing the collection via the Documents tab will find all the travelers' names in alphabetical order along with their writings. The details on archival references, dates, and regions traveled all are helpful in the selection of materials. Interactive maps give users an opportunity to explore major travel routes and destinations. Both simple and advanced search options are provided for ease of use. Users may search for documents via keywords, a title, a summary, or a traveler's name. They may also export documents to RefWorks or EndNote (CH, Feb'08, 45-2929). The Popular Searches feature permits a look at various travelers' names, regions, countries, places, and topics. For teaching or presentation purposes, users can easily create slide shows using the database's visual materials. Help is available, and a Web 2.0 toolbar facilitates sharing of information via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Google, Delicious, and other avenues. The wealth of primary source material--both documents and visual sources--should make this a fascinating resource for undergraduate classroom use. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers. -- C. Vaidyanathan, University of Miami