

**Title:** A Pilot Project for *Exe Libris: The UK History of Education Society On-line Bibliography*

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**Notes on contributors**

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## **A Pilot Project for *Exe Libris: The UK History of Education Society On-line Bibliography***

### **Background**

Between 1971 and 1986, the History of Education Society (UK) published a series of *Guides to Sources in the History of Education*,<sup>1</sup> along with lists of theses completed in the field (annually, 1969-1990).<sup>2</sup> With the opportunities afforded by information and communication technology, it is now possible to revive and bring up to date such resources and to make them much more flexible and adaptable in use. Moreover, it is highly desirable in an increasingly competitive funding environment for Learned Societies to seek new ways to keep their fields of study at the forefront of scholarly attention and to offer services so as confirm their place at the heart of academic endeavour. On this basis, we decided to approach the History of Education Society (UK) with a proposal entitled *Exe Libris: The UK History of Education Society On-line Bibliography (in association with the University of Exeter)*. This sought (i) to revive the provision by the Society of an updatable bibliographical service, so as to help members keep track of significant but scattered secondary sources as they appear, and (ii) to make accessible to scholars a substantial bibliographical database which we have accumulated over the last ten years. In regard to the second aim, as part of an earlier set of projects, we had already compiled a card index of just under 3,000 articles on the history of education published in the leading historical journals of a general kind founded or edited in the British Isles between 1939 and 2005. Included also was a range of specialist titles including all those concentrating on the history of education. In total 56 journals were covered by the card index (see Appendix I). The entries include all articles, editorials and obituaries, but exclude book reviews and 'notes and news' items. Furthermore, each entry was analysed and coded according to categories relating to: periodisation (seven eras from antiquity to the present); geographical parameters (comparative, British, imperial and other countries); and specific subject areas (94 categories organised around 19 broad themes) (see Appendices II and III). Similar categorization facilitated an analysis of the scale and patterning of UK journal articles covering the history of education.<sup>3</sup>

### **The pilot project**

From November 2007 until April 2008, the History of Education Society (UK) generously sponsored a pilot project through which the card-index entries pertaining to *History of Education* (founded 1972) and *History of Education Society Bulletin* (founded 1968, continued as *History of Education Researcher* from 2003) were transposed into an electronic format, and a web-designer was employed to create a searchable, on-line bibliographical resource. This new search engine is now accessible through the Society's website (<http://www.historyofeducation.org.uk>). It allows users to locate articles on the basis of the following criteria: author; title; keyword(s); historical period; geography; specialist area; cross-referenced specialist area; articles comprising bibliographies; articles on historiography of education; journal; and date or date range of publication. Furthermore, because we are keen that the bibliographical resource should do more than traditional search engines, we have provided a number of additional features. First, we have developed a Tag Cloud derived from an index of keywords extracted from the titles of the entries. This visual representation of the data, which illustrates the popularity of keywords through varied font sizes, provides an innovative exploratory route by which users can access the content of the database. Second, each search result provides the opportunity to export

the bibliographical information to a citation manager (e.g. *EndNote Export*) and is accompanied by links to further information sources that might provide the full-text of an article (e.g. <http://scholar.google.com>). Third, the search engine is compatible with 'pocket PCs' and 'Smart telephones' to ensure easy access to 'ICT-literate' scholars wherever they are. Fourth, we have provided a number of interactive features which mean that users are able to provide personal evaluations of the entries via comment boxes and a rating system; to provide suggestions for further reading and research links; to propose corrections to entries; to re-code entries using the original categories; and to code entries using new categories. We are aware that our categorization of articles is subjective and potentially controversial, and for this reason, it is exciting to be able to provide users with the opportunity to provide their own additional categorizations.

### **Future possibilities**

Over the forthcoming months, we will evaluate the usability, visualization, functionality and accessibility of the web interface; monitor the volume and patterns of use made of the search engine; and consider the potential for further updates and extensions to the bibliographical database, so that it becomes the most comprehensive site for secondary sources in the field in Britain. Periodic updates of the existing data can keep up to date the information covering the journals included in the initial resource, but we can also contemplate expanding the database to cover:

- i) the remainder of our card index of c3,000 articles on the history of education published in the 56 UK historical journals between 1939 and 2005;
- ii) articles on the history of education in the British Isles, British colonies and the countries of the British Commonwealth in non-historical journals published in the British Isles (e.g. *Sociology*; *British Journal of Education Studies* since 1972; *Journal of Education Policy*, etc.);
- iii) articles on the history of education in the British Isles, British colonies and the countries of the British Commonwealth in non-British journals of the history of education (e.g. *History of Education Quarterly*; *Paedagogica Historica*; *Historical Studies in Education*; *History of Education Review*); and
- iv) theses and dissertations on the history of education presented at British and Irish universities since 1900.

The capacity of the database to incorporate almost any new bibliographical data means that it can expand and develop to meet the future needs of the History of Education Society (UK).

### **Potential benefits**

*Exe Libris: The UK History of Education Society On-line Bibliography* is not the only on-line bibliographical resource available to historians of education. Existing on-line resources include the following:

- *Annual Bulletin of Historical Literature On-line* (<http://www.abhlo.com/>)
- *British Humanities Index* (<http://www.csa.com/factsheets/bhi-set-c.php>)
- *British Education Index* (<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bei/>)
- *Historical Abstracts* (<http://serials.abc-clio.com/active/start>)

- *Humanities index*  
([http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/hww/advancedsearch/advanced\\_search.jhtml;hwwils  
onid=0ET44KIUR2KG1QA3DIMSFF4ADUNGIIV0?prod=](http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/hww/advancedsearch/advanced_search.jhtml;hwwils<br/>onid=0ET44KIUR2KG1QA3DIMSFF4ADUNGIIV0?prod=))
- *Index to Theses* (<http://www.theses.com/>)
- *Royal Historical Society Bibliography* (<http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/>)

The specific merits of this new resource are that it is focussed solely on articles on the history of education rather than other historical fields; it allows historians of education to search the literature of their field (i) by subject, period and geography and (ii) for articles on the historiography of education and bibliographical tools/lists; it provides added value through innovative features that are not provided by more traditional search engines, such as the Tag Cloud and interactive functions; it is flexible and adaptable to ensure that it can be updated to match the requirements of the Society; and, through future expansion, it has the potential to become the most comprehensive bibliographical resource in terms of dates of publication and coverage of the key journals.

Furthermore, we believe that *Exe Libris: The UK History of Education Society On-line Bibliography* will be particularly valuable for post-graduate students and other researchers who are new to the field of the history of education because it highlights the breadth and depth of the field; has a clarity of focus; quickly engages students and new researchers with the most relevant literature in their chosen area; and serves as a highly effective springboard to other databases. In this regard, it helps the History of Education Society (UK) to encourage and support new researchers in the history of education and secures the Society's website as the 'natural' first destination for researchers entering the field.

We very much hope that all researchers - new and experienced - will support the development of this new resource by trying it out and interacting with its features.

## Appendix I: The 56 journals comprising the original card index

*Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* (founded 1872; coverage from 1939)  
*Church Quarterly Review* (founded 1876; coverage from 1939; ceased publication after 1968)  
*Journal of Hellenic Studies* (founded 1880; coverage from 1939)  
*English Historical Review* (founded 1886; coverage from 1939)  
*Classical Review* (founded 1887; coverage from 1939)  
*Scottish Historical Review* (founded 1904; coverage from 1939)  
*Classical Quarterly* (founded 1907; coverage from 1939)  
*Journal of Roman Studies* (founded 1911; coverage from 1939)  
*History* (founded 1916; coverage from 1939)  
*Cambridge Historical Journal* (founded 1923; coverage from 1939; continued as *Historical Journal* from 1958)  
*Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research* (founded 1923; coverage from 1939; continued as *Historical Research* from 1987)  
*Economic History Review* (founded 1927; coverage from 1939)  
*Greece and Rome* (founded 1931; coverage from 1939)  
*University of Birmingham Historical Journal* (founded 1947; ceased publication 1969; continued as *Midland History* from 1971)  
*Journal of Ecclesiastical History* (founded 1950)  
*History Today* (founded 1951)  
*Irish Historical Studies* (founded 1952)  
*Amateur Historian* (founded 1952; continued as *Local Historian* from 1968)  
*Past and Present* (founded 1952)  
*Medical History* (founded 1957)  
*Business History* (founded 1958)  
*Bulletin of the Society for the Study of Labour History* (founded 1960; continued as *Labour History* from 1990)  
*Welsh History Review* (founded 1960)  
*History of Science* (founded 1962)  
*Studies in Church History* (founded 1964)  
*Journal of Contemporary History* (founded 1966)  
*Northern History* (founded 1966)  
*History of Education Society Bulletin* (founded 1968; continued as *History of Education Researcher* from 2003)

*Journal of Educational Administration and History* (founded 1968)  
*Local Population Studies* (founded 1968)  
*Society for the Social History of Medicine Bulletin* (founded 1970; continued as *Social History of Medicine* from 1988)  
*Oral History* (founded 1970)  
*European Studies Review* (founded 1971; continued as *European History Quarterly* from 1984)  
*History of Education* (founded 1972)  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (founded 1972)  
*Urban History Yearbook* (founded 1974; continued as *Urban History* from 1992)  
*History Workshop Journal* (founded 1976)  
*Social History* (founded 1976)  
*Southern History* (founded 1979)  
*Journal of Legal History* (founded 1980)  
*History of Universities* (founded 1981)  
*Parliamentary History* (founded 1982)  
*British Journal of Sports History* (founded 1984; continued as *International Journal of the History of Sport* from 1987)  
*Rural History* (founded 1986)  
*Contemporary Record* (founded 1987)  
*Contemporary Record* (founded 1987; continued as *Contemporary British History* from 1996)  
*Social History of Medicine* (founded 1988)  
*History of Human Sciences* (founded 1988)  
*Gender and History* (founded 1989)  
*20th Century British History* (founded 1991)  
*Contemporary European History* (founded 1992)  
*Early Medieval Europe* (founded 1992)  
*International Yearbook of Oral History* (founded 1992; ceased publication after 1996)  
*Women's History Review* (founded 1992)  
*Historical Studies in Industrial Relations* (founded 1996)  
Non-historical title: *British Journal of Educational Studies* (founded 1952; coverage to the end of 1971 after which *History of Education* appears)

## Appendix II: Periodisation within the bibliographic database

<b>A</b>		<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>G</b>		<b>1750-1868</b>	<b>I</b>		<b>1911-1963</b>
<b>B</b>		<b>Historiography</b>		a	Long period from 1750		a	Long period from 1911
	a	England and Great Britain		b	International & comparative		b	International & comparative
	b	Comparative, other countries		c	England: general		c	England: general
<b>C</b>		<b>General Histories</b>		d	England: specialist studies		d	England: specialist studies
<b>D</b>		<b>Ancient World</b> (pre-500CE)		e	Wales, Scotland, Ireland		e	Wales, Scotland, Ireland
<b>E</b>		<b>Medieval World</b>		f	Empire		f	Empire, Commonwealth
	a	General		g	Other countries		g	Other countries
	b	England						
	c	Other countries	<b>H</b>		<b>1869-1910</b>	<b>J</b>		<b>1964 to present</b>
<b>F</b>		<b>1500-1750</b>		a	Long periods from 1869		a	Long period from 1964
	a	General		b	International & comparative		b	England: general
	b	England		c	England: general		c	England: specialist studies
	c	Wales, Scotland, Ireland		d	England: specialist studies		d	Wales, Scotland, Ireland
	d	Colonies		e	Wales, Scotland, Ireland		e	Other countries
	e	Other Countries		f	Empire		f	Other fields of history
				g	Other countries		g	International & comparative

### Appendix III: Subject Areas within the bibliographic database

<b>1</b>	1	Educational ideas and influences	<b>11</b>	1	Industrial companies
<b>2</b>	1	Organisations and movements		2	Work-based learning (inc. apprenticeships)
<b>3</b>	1	The churches	<b>12</b>	1	Women and girls' education
<b>4</b>	1	Policy and administration: general		2	Genders compared
	2	The state, policies, planning, administration		3	Genders in education
	3	Political parties and movements	<b>13</b>	1	Libraries, museums and education
	4	Legislation, official reports, parliament	<b>14</b>	1	Literacy and books
	5	Finance and economics		2	Textbooks
	6	Whitehall, central departments, control	<b>15</b>	1	Disabled and disadvantaged
	7	Inspectorate and educational officers		2	Education and welfare
	8	Local administration, school boards, LEAs		3	Reformatory education / delinquents
	9	Government agencies (AISC, TECs)	<b>16</b>	1	Youth movements and service
	10	School architecture	<b>17</b>	1	Curriculum: general
	11	Colonial education policy		2	Arts and craft
	12	Grand tour: Education overseas		3	Classics
<b>5</b>	1	Education, home and family		4	Commerce
	2	Childhood and youth		5	Drama
<b>6</b>	1	Pre-school, nursery and infants		6	English
<b>7</b>	1	Schools: general		7	Foreign language
	2	Elementary schools		8	Geography
	3	Primary schools		9	Grammar
	4	Grammar schools		10	History
	5	Bilateral schools		11	Irish
	6	Comprehensive schools		12	Music
	7	Secondary modern schools		13	Physical Education
	8	Secondary technical schools		14	Poetry
	9	Chantry and endowed schools		15	Religious education
	10	Education for the poor		16	Rhetoric
	11	Private and 'public' schools		17	Science: general
	12	Other schools		18	Biology
<b>8</b>	1	Higher education, universities		19	Geology
	2	Colleges of education		20	Mathematics
	3	Higher Education and Dissenters		21	Physical sciences
	4	Medical colleges		22	Technical education
<b>9</b>	1	Adult and workers education: general		23	Industrial education
	2	Further education and continuation day schools		24	Professional education
	3	Evening education		25	Vocational education
	4	Community colleges		26	Moral education
	5	University extension classes, extra-mural		27	Education for citizenship/national identity
	6	Adult residential		28	Sex education
	7	Armed forces		29	Home Economics
	8	Working class parents		30	Economics
	9	Mechanics Institutes	<b>18</b>	1	Qualifications and testing
	10	Other adult and workers' education		2	Training schemes
	11	Child employment / apprenticeship	<b>19</b>	1	Race and ethnicity
<b>10</b>	1	Teacher training			
	2	Role and status of teachers			
	3	Teachers' organisations			
	4	Salaries and conditions			

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<sup>1</sup> M. Argles, *British government publications in education during the 19th century* (History of Education Society, 1971); J. E. Vaughan, *Board of Education circulars: a finding list and index* (History of Education Society, 1972); J. M. McCarthy, *An international list of articles on the history of education, published in non-educational journals, 1965-1969* (History of Education Society, 1973); D. W. Thoms, *The history of technical education in London, 1904-1940* (History of Education Society, 1976); S. M. Parkes, *Irish education in the British parliamentary papers in the nineteenth century and after, 1801-1920* (Cork University Press, 1978); V. F. Gilbert, *Theses and dissertations on the history of education, presented at British and Irish universities between 1900 and 1976* (History of Education Society, 1979); M. Argles, *British government publications concerning education during the twentieth century* (History of Education Society, 1982). J. S. Hurt, *Education and the working classes from the eighteenth to the twentieth century* (History of Education Society, 1985); and R. Szreter, *The history of education in non-education learned journals 1939-84: an annotated bibliography of references* (History of Education Society, 1986).

<sup>2</sup> See also Richard Szreter, 'History of Education in Non-Education Learned Periodicals: Bibliographic Supplement 1985-1986', *History of Education Society Bulletin*, 40 (1987) 9-12.

<sup>3</sup> See the appendices in: W. Richardson, 'Historians and educationists: the history of education as a field of study in post-war England Part I: 1945-72', *History of Education*, 28(1) (1999) 1-30; W. Richardson, 'Historians and educationists: the history of education as a field of study in post-war England Part II: 1972-96', *History of Education*, 28(2) (1999) 109-141; W. Richardson, 'British Historiography of Education in International Context at the Turn of the Century, 1996-2006', *History of Education*, 36(4&5) (2007) 569-593.