March 2013

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University Library System Expands Access to Resources on the EU Through Digitization

by Phil Wilkin, Bibliographer of West European Studies
University Library System

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Archive of European Integration (AEI), based at the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh. Launched as a repository for privately produced research materials – such as working and policy papers – the AEI began uploading European Community* documents digitized from paper in late 2004. In 2007, the University Library System (ULS) acquired the entire library and archive collection of Community documents from the Delegation of the Commission to the United States in Washington, D.C., and named it the European Union Delegation Collection (EUDC). The EUDC is the largest Community collection in the Western Hemisphere, and a virtually complete collection of all Community documents meant for distribution. Documents in this collection date from the early 1950s to 2004, by which time nearly all Community documents were being placed on Community websites. The ULS works closely with the EUCE/ESC to develop and maintain resources relevant to West European and European Union Studies, including the EUDC. The EUCE/ESC and ULS share a Teaching Fellow/Graduate Student Assistant who works with me on the EUDC and advises students interested in European studies about resources available to them. In addition, the EUCE/ESC awarded grants to five scholars last year who were interested in doing research in the Collection, as part of its Summer Research Scholars program. This year, two more such awards will be granted, funded by both the EUCE/ESC and the ULS. This article will highlight some of the contents of the AEI, describe how the contents of the EUDC are being used as a source of documents to upload onto the AEI, describe how the documents on the AEI relate to the entirety of Community documents available electronically, how to locate other EU electronic documents, and describe the current progress and ultimate goals for uploading materials onto the AEI.

*Editor's Note: Since the organization currently known as the European Union has changed names during its history, the author uses the general term Community for all references to the present day EU and its historical antecedents.

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THE LIECHTENSTEIN AMBASSADOR VISITS

On Feb. 7, Her Excellency Claudia Fritsche (right), Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the United States, and Matthew Keller (left), an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh and Chief Political Advisor and Director of Communications for the Embassy of Liechtenstein, visited the EUCE/ESC. Over lunch with students and faculty, Ambassador Fritsche discussed how Liechtenstein’s small size and location in the heart of Europe affects its relationship with the European Union, of which it is not a member. She also spoke about Liechtenstein’s history and the status of gender equality in the country.

COLLEGE MODEL EU

On Feb. 15-16, the EUCE/ESC hosted 57 students and teachers for the annual College Model EU simulation. Universities in attendance included Washington and Jefferson College, John Carroll University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Duquesne University, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, and the University of Pittsburgh. Students debated policy concerns related to the EU’s response to the Arab Spring, policies toward Roma, and the EU’s “Democratic Deficit.” University of Pittsburgh School of Law Visiting Professor Richard Wainwright was the keynote speaker.

POLAND’S SHALE GAS DREAM

On Feb. 6, journalist and Pulitzer Center Fellow Dimiter Kenarov gave a lecture entitled, “Poland’s Shale Gas Dream.” The lecture was co-sponsored by the EUCE/ESC, Global Studies Center, and REES. It focused on Poland’s aspiration for energy independence and how the discovery of shale gas in the country could have hopes riding high prematurely. Kenarov is a freelance journalist based in Istanbul, Turkey, and a contributing editor at the Virginia Quarterly Review. The publications in which his work has appeared include The Nation, Atlantic, and Esquire.

INTERNSHIPS AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

On Feb. 7, Patricia Guy, State Department Diplomat in Residence, spoke to students about career and internship possibilities with the Department of State. Sponsored by the EUCE/ESC, Guy’s speech focused on foreign and civil service exams, academic choices that can strengthen a job applicant’s background, and the internship selection process. Guy used her own career path as an example of what students might choose for themselves, and it was mentioned that Harry Clapsis, an undergraduate student in the EU Studies Certificate Program, has secured a State Department internship for this summer at the United States Embassy in Cyprus.
Making Sense of Newtown with Dante and Vergil

by Andy Korzeniewski
PhD Student, Department of Classics

In October, I presented my paper, “On the Positive Merit of the Body: Dante’s Divine Comedy and Vergil’s Aeneid 6,” at the Virgilio e il Rinascimento conference in Mantua, Italy. This experience was made possible in part by a generous Graduate Student Travel Grant from the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center.

Before diving into my experiences in Mantua, which happens to be Vergil’s hometown, I would like to briefly give you some background. I’m a graduate student in Classics, and I was born and raised in Newtown, Connecticut, the rural hamlet recently thrust into public awareness for all the wrong reasons. Well, I was actually born an hour south in New York City. As the news reports have repeatedly pointed out, there are no hospitals in Newtown.

I spent the first 18 years of my life in Newtown and am a product of its public school system. I did not attend Sandy Hook Elementary. I went to one of the other three grammar schools that funneled into the same middle and high school. I’m nearing the peak of my academic career. But, my thoughts keep returning to the place where I learned how to read and write, multiply and divide, and drive a car.

Despite the fact that my parents moved from Connecticut in the late 1990s and I have not been to Newtown since 2001, I still consider it my home. And to say that it has been a difficult couple of months would be putting it mildly. In trying to cope with how someone could possibly take 26 lives, I have found solace in some of the most unexpected of places: Dante’s Hell and the battlefields of Vergil’s Aeneid.

Over the past few years I have been trying to understand the end of the Aeneid where, after a prolonged series of battles, Aeneas and his archenemy Turnus agree to a duel to decide who will eventually rule Italy. In the contest Aeneas gains the upper-hand and stands in a position to halt his sword and spare his foe from death. He instead stabs Turnus, sending his soul to the underworld.

This death has helped recent scholars, many of whom endured the horrors of WWII and Vietnam, read the poem in a pessimistic, tragic light. As the paper I delivered argued, it should not be. Turnus started war for his own personal reasons, as the text makes clear. Lately, Aeneas has reminded me of Newtown’s police and paramedics who responded to events they did not start, countering wrong with right.

My talk then examined how the Christian poet...
Dante, whose *Divine Comedy* is clearly interacting with the *Aeneid*, sees another way to understand Aeneas's deed: For the heathen Vergil who does not have God in his life, the end of earthly existence is to act in accordance with the body.

Before reading Vergil, Dante was once lost, wandering aimlessly through life. But, by engaging with Vergil, he reaffirmed his faith and emerged into a clearer understanding of his world and life mission. When I learned about the chaos in Connecticut, I turned to Dante and Vergil for escape, and the themes they tackle helped me make sense out of the senselessness. Such exploration is the one thing that I can take out of the madness. Academia, it turns out, is not only my profession but also my salvation.

Before December 14, 2012, I would have written an article that highlighted the conference and my journey through Italy, which was a veritable comedy of errors. “Sciopero dei treni,” is how you say “train strike” in Italian, and that complicated my travels quite a bit. The conference was held in English and Italian. But, since I do not know Italian, I could not follow every address, and not all of my fellow panelists could speak English. This made for a few awkward moments of miscommunication. But now, I’m just grateful I got to go.

Like Newtown, Mantua is a small community. It is a medieval town most people have not heard of in north central Italy. I do not know how many elementary schools Mantua has, nor if it has a hospital. And I hope I never have to learn these facts, just as I wish that the world did not have to learn them about Newtown. €
This month, EUCE/ESC newsletter editor Gavin Jenkins interviewed alumnus Kristina Eady, who is a graduate student at Lehigh University. She is pursuing a M.Ed in the Teaching, Learning and Technology Program within Lehigh’s College of Education. Additionally, she is seeking certificates in International Counseling and English as a Second Language. Last June, she was awarded the Global Union Graduate Assistantship in Lehigh’s Office of International Affairs. Eady graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2009 with a degree in Political Science, with certificates in West European Studies and Global Studies, with a Global Governance and Economics concentration. As part of her program, Kristina studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain at La Universitat Pompeu Fabra, through that university’s Language, Culture, and Economics program.

Q: As part of your assistantship, you have organized an online videoconference on sex and labor trafficking that will take place at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6. How did this come about, and who is involved?

A: Last June, I began my assistantship at the Global Union in Lehigh’s Office of International Affairs. One of my first challenges was to create several internationally-focused educational programs that would garner interest among the student body and the community. Because human trafficking was already a huge research interest of mine, I immediately jumped at the opportunity to create an awareness program centered on this topic. I want the program to serve as an overview of labor and sex trafficking for the purpose of providing attendees with a big picture of the problem. It’s crucial that students and members of the community learn that trafficking is relevant to their daily lives, and that they are not far removed from it. Trafficking is not just a global issue; it’s a national, regional, and even a local one. It impacts the daily food we eat, clothing we wear, and even sometimes the beauty salon, household maid, and construction site down the street. It is gang violence, the pimp and his prostitutes, and our at-risk youth in middle and high school. And it is just as much these areas, as it is the more commonly known version of trafficking: the sale and transport of human beings across international borders for the purpose of exploiting them. With this in mind, I began to research presenters that would fulfill the criteria of the global, national, regional, and local perspectives. By October, the program materialized, and I got speakers from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Free the Slaves in Washington D.C., and the Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST), which is based here in the Lehigh Valley. The Director of the Lehigh University Women’s Center agreed to moderate the event, and the program was originally scheduled for October 29th, the day Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast. Thankfully, all of the speakers agreed to postpone until the spring. Postponing the event turned out to be...
a blessing. We were able to get the Center for Public Health of Nigeria to participate from Africa and provide insight into how sex and labor trafficking occurs globally. Also, through the Lehigh University United Nations Partnership, I was able to propose the program to the United Nations as a parallel event within the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), whose theme this year is the elimination of violence against women and girls. The CSW is the world's principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. The UN accepted the proposal, so it will be broadcast live from the Lehigh University campus to the CSW conference at the UN Headquarters in New York, and made available worldwide. It's free and open to the public. To attend remotely, simply go to: https://sas.elluminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=609&password=M.F22B2FD36B4FFA48490501A5DF0ADE

Q: How did you become interested in this subject?

A: I first learned about human trafficking during my time as an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh. I remember sitting in classes learning about it for the first time, and being completely horrified that something like this could actually exist in the civilized world. Between the impact that my professors at Pitt made on me and course-related research, it just really affected me. People often ask me why I am passionate about this topic. They ask me if I have known someone who has been trafficked, directly or indirectly, or have experienced it myself. My answer is no. I have no personal reasons for my six-year long interest. I credit my education, and the personal value of growth, for the passion. The more I learned in school, the more global experiences I had, the more exposure to diversity I had, the more I became curious about understanding the world around me. I came to realize that eventually, at a certain level, everything is related and dependent upon one another. There are an estimated 27-30 million slaves in the world today – more than at any other point in history. Although slavery is not legal anywhere, it is thriving everywhere.

Q: How were you able to attend a restricted briefing by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon?

A: Lehigh University is recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations, and it was through this partnership that I was given this opportunity. In early February, Lehigh received a request from the office of the UN Secretary General himself, asking the University to send students on February 20th to the UN so he could speak to us about global issues. Lehigh was granted 30 seats of 90, and in total, there were five universities invited. The briefing, titled “Department of Public Information: Secretary-General’s Conversation with Students,” focused on global warming, arms, and poverty, a few of his policy focal points. The reason students were asked to attend was because, as he said, “the world is younger than ever” – so he wanted to speak to youth, our world’s dominant group and future leaders.

He discussed these key points, and afterward, the entire audience was allotted six questions total to ask the UN Secretary General. He also provided limited numbers of autographed copies of his book to each university, “Building a Better Future for All.” I was fortunate enough to obtain one of these copies. Overall, it was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience to have had. The insight provided on these major world issues by the Secretary General was absolutely incredible. It was an honor to have been able to hear his wisdom and to share it with others.

Q: What do you want to do after you graduate?

A: My goal is to keep doing what I am doing now – to work in international education, with students, mentoring, programming, and promoting global citizenship and developing well-rounded citizenry. This includes fostering a global mindset in higher education, as well as in the public school system.
Contents of AEI

One can peruse Browse by EU Subject (http://aei.pitt.edu/view/eusubjects/) and get an idea of the quantity of documents pertaining to subject and policy areas, but that does not make evident some of the more important documents in the AEI. The first consideration is that we rarely scan a document which is available electronically elsewhere. With that in mind, we have had the following priorities in uploading documents: First are older, harder to find documents which are less likely to be found in either Community depository libraries or university electronic catalogs. There are currently over 17,700 Community documents on the AEI, with 293 published in the 1950s, 2239 in the 1960s, and 4838 in the 1970s. Of the Community institutional authors, 450 were published by the European Coal and Steel Community, and 1399 by the European Economic Community.

Second are documents on the general administrative and institutional development of the Community and its institutions beginning in the 1950s. Examples: Summits and the European Council (http://aei.pitt.edu/summit_guide.html) are minutes of the meetings of Heads of State or Government and the European Council (1961-1995); Press Releases of the Council of the European Communities (1975-October, 1993 and November, 1993-1994). General Reports on the Activities of the various institutions, all listed under General Report on Browse by EU Annual Reports (http://aei.pitt.edu/view/euanualreports/), provide brief descriptions of all phases of activity, including institutional development.

The third priority is annual reports, which are valuable because they provide consistent data over time and the opportunity for longitudinal analysis. There is no Community website which contains all annual reports, rather they are scattered throughout several websites and are not easy to locate. The AEI currently contains over 310 annual reports, some as old as the 1950s. We are in the process of uploading onto the AEI all annual reports we can find on Community websites, which should provide a total of 450. The fourth priority is key documents on each policy area, such as budget and energy, and including both individual documents and annual reports.

EUDC as document source for AEI

Historically, the EU has published two main types of documents. The first is monograph-like publications, ranging from a few pages to hundreds in length, usually classed and put on shelves in libraries. The second type is smaller documents, often relating to the legislative process or inter-institutional relations. These documents are usually stapled, would not be individually classed by libraries, and most of them are stored in the “research files” part of the EUDC. This is a unique collection, built over a period of 50 years. It includes, among others, short documents describing the legislative process and inter-institutional communications. This collection totals about 650 shelf feet and is kept in cabinets in folders by subject and chronology. We are currently focusing on scanning from the former collection. When that is completed, we will begin scanning from the “research files.”

AEI as part of the entirety of EU documents and locating other EU documents

There are literally tens of thousands of documents on various Community websites and finding documents you want in a given policy area is not simple. Each institution has its own website and decides what documents it wants to place and retain on those websites. The majority of documents on Community websites were published after 1995, so the AEI has focused on older documents. The Community collection on the AEI was designed to complement the existing document collections on EU websites. One can find a description of procedures and

David Sinks, a student assistant for the Archive of European Integration Project in the Department of Collections Services at Hillman Library, scans “Agriculture in the Common Market, which was published by the European Parliament Assembly in 1959.
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Current progress and goals

During the last several months, we have scanned over 4,500 documents (about 550,000 pages), and we intend to scan at least an equal amount during the next several months. Recently, we have made the scanning of documents on development policy (foreign aid) a priority. The Community has a very active development policy in many of its former colonies, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. People in those countries have very limited access to Community documents, and we hope this will help fill that gap. We have already scanned all documents on development policy from the shelf collection, and we will soon begin scanning from the “research files.” Also, we are uploading documents on development policy from Community websites in order to make them easier to find. One can find key documents and websites on development policy at the European Union Online Resources: Development Policy (http://pitt.libguides.com/eu_development_policy).

LibGuides

The University Library System (ULS) at the University of Pittsburgh recently introduced a new type of reference document called LibGuides (http://pitt.libguides.com/index.php). These take various forms, such as instructional lists of documents or sources. To access LibGuides, go to the Subjects & Librarians column on the left side of the site, click on Librarians and Phil Wilkin (near the bottom). You will see three guides: “European Union Online Resources: General,” which provides assistance in locating electronic European Union documents. The other two are “European Union Online Resources: Development Policy” and “European Union Online Resources: Public Health & Medicine, including International Arena.” For further information, please contact Phil Wilkin at pwilkin@pitt.edu.

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