Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

The Purpose of this Bibliography is to provide a compendium of useful resources to readers who are interested in pursuing historical knowledge and the professional opportunities and applications available to those within the field of history. With evaluative and descriptive insights into each source it is the intention that readers, who are at the beginning of their investigational research, can form a foundational knowledge base of the professional and scholarly expectations within the field as well as to discover professional opportunities for their post-academic lives. The knowledge gained through this research can provide a framework of organization and execution for their academic careers.

I. Scholarly Organizations


The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is a scholarly organization founded in 1780 with the purpose of promoting scholarly excellence throughout the educational disciplines. Many of the contributing members are Nobel Prize Laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners who have been nominated or elected. While the organization promotes research through fellowships it also provides scholarly research and written material in the form of publications. Through Daedalus, the official journal of the organization, along with the organization’s magazine print: The Bulletin, and various other project publications, they provide a compilation of current and relevant peer-reviewed articles. While full access to the journal and magazine publications are available for members only or through purchase, there are several project publications available for free to the public. Of these publications there are numerous articles relevant to the state of the humanities and the future of undergraduate education. This is an excellent source for accurate data regarding the current trends within professional and academic organizations within the humanities.

The American Alliance of Museums is a member elected, board run organization dedicated to the support of museums throughout the United States and the world. They provide a supportive platform for professionals within the field of museum sciences through partnerships, networking opportunities, and knowledge sharing. Museum, the online magazine published by the AAM, provides current and relevant information regarding the future of museums, educational trends within the field, and engaging new audiences among other subjects. It is available to members only who must be either current or retired professionals, or students within the field. While this source is a fantastic resource for networking and growing professionally it does not offer a vast amount of relevant information to a student at the beginning of their academic career. However, the organization does provide a representation of the current trends associated with the career field of museum science and so it is included here as a way to discover professional possibilities.


The American Historical Association is a not for profit scholarly organization dedicated to the support and promotion of the historical studies and its scholarly professionals. As one of the largest historical organizations in the world they publish The American Historical Review, said to be the most revered historical journal ever published. The organization provides a rich collection of articles and resources for the research into the historical discipline and its applications. Membership to the organization is open to all professionals within the field of history regardless of their specialized field. The rates are based on average annual income and students are eligible for membership at a significantly reduced rate. The governance of the organization is council and committee driven with elected officials who hold three-year terms. The organization is a reliable source with peer-reviewed scholarly articles and well documented and supported research. It is a great resource in discovering current trends within the professional and academic realms of historical study.


NEMA is an organization built to provide support to those within the museum field through a platform of a professional museum community. Much of their programing is directed towards promoting professional development within the field by providing advocacy, research opportunities, and an intensive networking system. NEMA offers professional workshops, multiple networking events, and publications
relating to the field directly. The National Museum Salary Survey conducted by NEMA in 2017 gives a full report of current demographics and salary trends throughout the United States. While this report is available for sale there are several other opportunities for information research compiled by the organization and available for free on their site. Lunch with NEMA is a networking and profession building workshop available through the organization’s website that covers a range of topics relevant to the museum sciences for the purpose of encouraging professional development. NEMA is associated with the AAM and its board members range from scholarly collegiate graduates to published professionals within the field. Memberships are available to professionals within the field as well as students planning on entering the field. While the organization does cater directly to professionals and students within the field of museum sciences it still provides ample information regarding current trends within the profession that would be beneficial to the research at hand. At the very least it can provide a background knowledge for a specific future career consideration.


The Organization of American Historians is a professional organization dedicated to the support of excellence within the field of history. There is a strong influence towards the teaching and study of American history. As active members of the National Humanities Alliance and National Coalition for History, they are at the forefront of advocacy for the safety of and individuality within historical research. The organization has a scholarly publication, the Journal of American History, that members can receive full access to. A selection of articles is available to the public for free. There is also an online career center, the OAH Coach, which is a great resource for discovering career opportunities for those with history degrees.

II. Social Media Resources

Blogs


Process: a blog for American History is a blog published by the Organization of American Historians for the purpose of exploring current issues through the context of history. Articles are written for both professionals and the general public alike. Contributing authors to the blog posts are generally professionals within the field of history and range in
specialties from curators, teachers of history, and historical researchers to graduate students within the field. Submissions are board reviewed and often revised before publication. The topics addressed in the blog are current and range from informational to controversial. The blog is easy to navigate and has separate blog suggestions based on those who are professionals and those of the general public. They are further broken down into direct subjects such as Social activism, LGBTQ issues, environmental issues, and education. The blog publishes articles regarding current trends within the professional and academic fields of historical research with one article being particularly relevant to the research conducted in this paper. *Changing the Discourse on Graduate History Education: Lessons from the Crossroads* is a blog post that discusses how the atmosphere has changed or remained the same in regard to professional diversity in history graduates from the recent past to the present. Based on the peer and board reviewed entries and the credibility of the publishing organization, I would recommend this as a valuable resource for anyone at the beginning stages of their history major through specialists already in the professional field.

**Facebook**


The Facebook page of the American Historical Association is exceptionally laid out with appealing graphics and rich and diverse subject matter. The communication platform is designed for professionals and students within the historical field regardless of their specialty or genre. The page is full of posts linking the audience to scholarly and professionally written and published works discussing current trends within the professional disciplines and academics. One of the first posts addresses the idea of institutional support of students in graduate programs for the purpose of encouraging and educating students in entering the professional world upon completion of their degree. The purpose of the communication in this platform is to educate and share information about current social issues through the context of history. Based on the scholarly subject matter and presentation from esteemed professionals this source is a fantastic platform for discovering the current ideas, beliefs and trends within the world of historical experts. All of the posts are linked to scholarly articles published by credible organizations and provide supportive data and references directly related to the subject matter. There is a dominant focus throughout the posts regarding the current issues associated with history majors and their roles in the professional field. In conjunction with this, there is an emphasis on the responsibility of educational institution’s responsibility to provide
curriculums geared towards the preparation of students entering into the professional world. With these trends in mind, this Facebook page is very relevant to any student with a major in history.


The NEMA Facebook page is much like the organizations webpage in that it is strongly geared towards networking. The communication within this platform is directly related to professionals within the field of museum sciences. With posts advertising networking events and workshops related to the profession, the site clearly caters to professionals and students within the field. The page does contain a few groups; the first, NEMA Library and Archives PAG, addresses librarian and archivist issues in museums and historical organizations and is there to provide support and information sharing among colleagues. The second, NEMA Registrars and Collection Care Specialists, focuses on topics relevant to museum issues and topics of interest within the field in both technical and cultural facets. The third, NEMA Development Marketing PR Membership PAG, is specifically geared towards professionals within the marketing development field and provides a platform for connecting and expression. While the validity is not in question as NEMA is a professional organization and contributors are professionals within the field, the relevance for students at the beginning of their undergraduate career is limited.

LinkedIn


The LinkedIn page of the Metropolitan Museum of Art is an excellent example of the networking opportunities available through social platforms. It is a place for professionals to reach out, meet, and build working relationships with others within the field. The communication is primarily between professionals within the field or between professionals and students who are enrolled in degree programs related to the subjects associated with museum sciences, art, or art history. With links to various blog posts and articles ranging in topics from how to land a job at the MET to the Racial Politics of Boxing, the MET provides a platform of representation and networking opportunity for those within the field. One
post in particular is related to the effect that a social media platform has had on the traffic associated with their online collection. It is through this article that I would like to investigate the role of social media in the professional historical realms of today. While this article is relevant in a small way to my research, the material provided on this platform is best utilized by those who are already within the professional world. As an institution housing one of the most vast and varied collections of art throughout history, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is an organization of credibility. The topics they present on their LinkedIn page are written and published by scholars either within the organization or affiliated either through professional connections or academic research.

**Twitter**


This resource has been included in this Bibliography for the purpose of introducing a more generalized view of the humanities as a whole and the role they play in today’s current academic and professional sectors. As an organization of the highest academic and scholarly level it is relevant to look at the issues being presented through various social platforms. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences has numerous Tweets relating to the current trends in academia and the professional world. The focus of my research within this organization will relate to the current atmosphere associated with continuing education and terminal degrees’ and how they affect an individual’s professional outlook. Much like other scholarly organizations participating in the Twitter platform, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, utilizes it as a way to offer open communication among its contemporaries. It is a place to present current issues and trends and allow for the discussion between experts within the subject. This source will be used to confirm current trends within education and the professional world within the humanities and to offer additional inspiration for further research into the subjects.


Through their Twitter platform, The American Historical Association provides a place for those within the field of historical study, a place to communicate their personal feelings, ideas, and beliefs associated with the material presented by the AHA. Tweets relating to the issue of white nationalism, midterm elections, and anti-Semitism from a historical perspective provide an example of the AHA’s dedication to promoting discussions on current issues and their relation to historical contexts.
While the material presented by the AHA and those members of the twitter community who are indeed scholarly practitioners of historical research would be credible, the truth remains that Twitter is an open forum where anyone may respond to tweets. This makes the validity of the information presented questionable without research to confirm its credibility. This platform serves as a good resource for keeping up with current trends within the field and perhaps for links to further research relevant to the topic, but I would not recommend it as a resource for siting specific information. While this platform may not hold a strong relevance for someone in the beginning stages of their history major, it would be a great place for post-baccalaureate students and professionals within the field to communicate and share their thoughts and insights on the information presented.

**YouTube**


The American Historical Association utilizes YouTube as an information sharing platform in which the association itself communicates current trends and completed research to its followers and members. Although the content seems intentionally directed towards professionals and students within the discipline, anyone is able to view the content. The communication through video content from the AHA to the viewers and members promotes continual education and shared knowledge within the field. The AHA YouTube channel is a fantastic resource for listening to professionals within the field of historical research discuss current issues and the historical context relevant to the focus of the discussion. The content accessible on the channel is presented by scholarly members of the organization who hold, often times, numerous highly specialized credentials. Based on the credentials of the professionals and the academically superior presentation of said material I would recommend this as a resource to individuals within the professional and educational sectors of historical research. Videos containing interviews with current professionals and the positions they hold is directly related to the research included in this paper and would be helpful to any individual seeking first hand opinions from professionals within multiple fields of historical research.

**III. Information Resources**

**General**

The American Historical Review is a peer-reviewed journal filled with scholarly content written by experts within the field of study. The journal contains articles based on research within the multiple genres of historical research and is intended for professional peers and students within the discipline. The purpose of the content is to expand the knowledge base of professionals and students while providing a resource for remaining current in research trends within the field. While the content of this particular article is not relevant to my current inquiry, the impression of scholarly excellence represented by the journal is relevant to the trends and philosophies of the discipline. The source is the most credible form of information resource available to the field of history as it is peer-reviewed and provides detailed resource information. This journal would be excellent for both graduate students and professionals within the field, especially when being utilized for research purposes. I would highly recommend this as a resource as it represents the pinnacle of scholarly research.


The Journal of American History is a journal filled with scholarly articles written by experts within the field of study. The journal contains articles directly related to American history and is intended for professional peers and students within the discipline. It is the intention of the journal to provide content that will expand the knowledge base of the professionals and students who read it. The journal is a great resource for remaining current on research trends within the field. Although there wasn’t much information to be found regarding my critical inquiry, the obvious representation of scholarly excellence made by the publication of this journal, provides an example of the current philosophies and professional trends within the field. As a peer-reviewed journal that provides detailed resource information, The Journal of American History is a credible resource. I would highly recommend this as a resource, especially when being utilized for research by professionals or students within the field.

Specific
The Humanities Indicators is a project publication presented by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It is a website compiling studies and data relating to the current trends within the humanities. The information is presented in several different formats through subcategories such as k-12, higher education, workforce, funding and research, and public life. The data is collected and compiled by the Academy along with other learned societies with the “intention of providing consistently updated data” in order to “chart trends and draw conclusions about the state of the humanities.” The results are meant to be utilized by a multitude of readers from professional organizations, policy writers, and governmental agencies to researchers, educators, and the general public. As a prestigious scholarly organization, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is a credible source and should be utilized by anyone within the professional fields of the humanities as well as STEM disciplines. This source in particular will be utilized as a way to gain insight into current trends within the field of history and is relevant for anyone at this stage of academic development.


The Many Careers of History PhDs… is a report detailing the career opportunities and outlooks for those within the history field. The report contains information regarding employment trends, types of careers, job market outlooks, and other factors such as gender and the effect of mobility on career opportunities. The data for the report was collected by Lilli Research group and in partnership with the Liz Townsend, the AHA’s Directory Editor, and AHA staff was then organized and presented in this report for the benefit of professionals and PhD candidates within the field. This resource is a great way to find trends in the professional atmosphere and to build a working knowledge of the relatively current state of the professional field of historical research. It would be useful for anyone at this stage of development.

The O*Net website is a site where information relating to any career field is compiled and presented to the public. The site includes statistical information ranging in several categories from average annual incomes and demographic information to employment outlooks and job growth. It also provides information relating to the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for any particular type of position. As this site is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor the information within the reports should be viewed as open and credible. This site will be utilized to explore current market trends within the professional fields available to history majors. We will look at a sampling of possible future professions in terms of the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed as well as the implications of current employment trends for those professions.


*The Career Diversity Five Skills* is a project presented by the American Historical Association for the purpose of providing a resource for graduate students looking to prepare for professional positions after graduate school. The page contains links to several additional resources from journal articles to blog posts, written by professionals within the field, outlining the five key skills they feel are necessary for success within the professional field. As the authors are professionals within the field of historical research this source can be viewed as credible and utilized in researching the critical inquiry. While this information is clearly compiled for graduate students, it is relevant and can still be utilized for any individual entering into a major in history as it clearly outlines the current trends and expectations of the field.


As a resource, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences provides several publications from research papers and project publications to monographs. The article listed here is a complete look at the state of the humanities and how a degree in the humanities translates to a professional career. There are several types of statistical data presented ranging from average annual wage earned by graduates, to wages in
relation to the gender gap, to the effects of work experience on wages. This information is compiled with the intention of providing professionals within the field, students within the humanities, and the general public with information relating to the humanities indicators as it pertains to graduates specifically. The source is credible, and the information is laid out in a concise and readable way. It would be highly recommended for someone at the beginning stages of their exploration into the possibilities and trends within the history major.