

**Division of Academic Affairs  
Technology Fee – Project Proposal  
2014**

*Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, January 21, 2014*

***Project Proposal Type***

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***Instructional Technology Enhancement Project (ITEP)***

*Focused projects proposed by an individual or small team with the intention of exploring new applications of instructional technology. ITEPs will typically be led by a faculty “principal investigator.” ITEPs are time-limited projects (up to two years in length) and allocations of Technology Fee funds to these projects are non-recurring.*

***Project Title***

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*American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals Collection (Series 1-2)  
Digital Archive*

***Total Amount of Funding Requested***

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*\$26,438.40*

***Primary Project Coordinator***

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*Dr. Amy Mitchell-Cook*

**Division of Academic Affairs**  
**Instructional Technology Enhancement Project (ITEP) Proposal**  
**2014**

**1. Project description**

This ITEP proposal is for the purchase of Ebsco's American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection (Series 1-2) digital archive. The total one-time cost of this proposal is \$26,438.40.

Ebsco is a leading publisher of academic content, and the Libraries currently maintain numerous subscriptions and licensing agreements with the vendor. Ebsco has partnered with the American Antiquarian Society (AAS), the premier library documenting the life of America's people from the Colonial Era through the Civil War and Reconstruction, to provide digital access to the most comprehensive collection of American periodicals published between 1691 and 1877.<sup>1</sup> We propose to purchase Series 1 (1691-1820) and Series 2 (1821-1837) of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection in support of the History department's graduate program in Early American Studies. Series 1 and 2 of the Historical Periodicals Collection include over 1500 magazine and journal titles covering a vast range of subjects, including history, literary criticism, politics, fine arts, religion, philosophy, family and society, ethnic groups, women's history, agriculture, business and industry, and science and medicine. These primary source texts are suitable for research, study, and course projects, and the Ebsco contract will allow for any fair use of the content for educational purposes. Access would be available 24/7 to all UWF students, faculty, and staff, with off campus access enabled by EZproxy.

UWF's distinctive graduate program in Early American Studies is a major draw for students from throughout Florida and the southeast, as the closest graduate program like it is located at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Purchasing the AAS Historical Periodicals collection would also mark UWF as a leader in Early American Studies resources in the state, as no other Florida state universities own this content. Additionally, none of UWF's peer institutions owns this resource, and Western Carolina University is the only peer-aspirant institution with access to part of this collection.<sup>2</sup> Access to these kinds of unique resources is an incredible recruitment tool for potential students, thereby increasing UWF's standing as a first-choice school.

**2. Project alignment with UWF Strategic Plan**

UWF's mission establishes a commitment to “engage students in rigorous, high-impact, student-oriented learning experiences that enhance personal and professional development and empower alumni to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex 21st Century global society.” This project would directly empower our students to seek out knowledge and to contribute both

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<sup>1</sup> Ebsco, “American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection,” accessed January 15, 2014, <http://www.ebscohost.com/archives/featured-archives/american-antiquarian-society>.

<sup>2</sup> UWF Institutional Research and Effectiveness Support, “Peer and Peer Aspirant Universities,” accessed January 15, 2014, <http://upic.uwf.edu/OIR/Characteristics/main.cfm?TopicID=101>.

responsibly and creatively by providing them with the technological tools that they need to support their education and production of scholarly works while here at UWF. In regards to UWF's enduring values, this product will increase the quality of resources and services available to our students and help to shape a caring learning environment that provides the tools necessary for the student's individual development. In addition, the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection proposal is in direct alignment with several strategic directions and priorities of the University of West Florida Strategic Plan: 2012-2017, including:

- **Strategic Direction 1:** Enhanced Student Access, Progression, and Learning and Development  
**Priority 1.1:** Foster student learning and development to include the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that optimize students' prospects for personal and professional success.
- **Strategic Direction 2:** Distinctive Teaching, Scholarship, Research, and Professional Contributions  
**Priority 2.1:** Respond to the changing needs of the region, state and nation by investing strategically to support innovative instruction and high-quality, relevant and distinctive academic and research programs.

Access to such a vast collection of significant primary sources relates directly to providing high quality academic programs, and supports instructional technology and information resources across disciplines. These electronic texts will enrich courses and help students develop intellectually and engage in active learning through the examination and interpretation of primary sources. This kind of research teaches skills that cannot be obtained through research of secondary sources. Furthermore, high quality academic programs, particularly those with distinctive graduate programs, demand access to unique resources such as the texts in the AAS Historical Periodicals collection.

### **3. Benefits provided:**

#### **a. Enhancement of student access to technology**

Digital access to the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection will enable faculty to actively use the materials in instruction and research, and the content would be accessible anytime to all UWF users, including online students and distance learners. Users will be able to discover these texts through the library's discovery service (OneSearch) and online catalog, and by searching the AAS database on the library web site.

#### **b. Enhancement of the student experience**

The content of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection will directly support student learning by providing material for course papers, projects, and study. Furthermore, the texts can be incorporated into online courses and there is no limit to the number of users who can access the content at one time. Series 1 and 2 of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection grants access to over 1500 magazine and journal titles published in America between 1691 and 1837, providing cultural and historical context for research projects on all aspects of life in early America.

Access to and evaluation of primary sources helps teach students to interpret documents and draw conclusions themselves, rather than relying on someone else's interpretation. These types of critical thinking skills can only be learned through research of primary sources rather than the more passive learning gained by reading secondary commentary on a topic.

### **c. Assessment**

The Libraries will assess the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection through usage statistics, catalog link analysis, and student and faculty feedback.

### **d. Student impact**

In addition to the History' department's graduate program in Early American Studies, the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection will benefit multiple programs and departments across campus, including English, Political Science, Communication Arts, Anthropology and Archaeology, Philosophy/Religion, Art, Theater, Music, Education, Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, and students in the Honors program. The History department alone includes 200 undergraduate majors and 39 graduate students making it one of the largest and most active departments on campus.<sup>3</sup>

### **e. Students with special needs or disabilities**

The digital archive of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection would be accessible anytime to all UWF users, including students with special needs or disabilities. Pages can be emailed or downloaded and used on special needs equipment or in a student's own comfortable, physical space. Pages can also be magnified up to three hundred percent.

### **f. Enhancement of training of students and faculty in the use of technology**

The AAS Historical Periodicals Collection is completely digital and the content will be available to all UWF students, faculty and staff anywhere, anytime. Users will be able to discover these texts through the library's discovery service and online catalog, and by searching the AAS database on the library web site. Students may print, e-mail, and download pages to read off-line on most mobile devices, laptops, or any computer. The collection will benefit faculty by providing both resources for faculty research and relevant material for course assignments.

## **4. How will success be measured?**

The Libraries will measure the success of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection through usage data, link analysis, and feedback. Ebsco provides monthly usage statistics, and the library can also track link usage from both the online catalog and through OneSearch.

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<sup>3</sup> UWF Institutional Research and Effectiveness Support, "Enrollment by College, Department, Program, Level, and Major (Fall 2011)," accessed January 15, 2014, <http://upic.uwf.edu/OIR/Enrollment/main.cfm?TopicID=44&SubTopicID=17>.

Both the History department and the UWF Libraries are committed to publicizing this collection. The Libraries will feature information about the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection on the library webpage, the Early American Studies online research guide, and through social media. Librarians will also instruct students about the collection during Information Literacy sessions.

## **5. Resources and projected ongoing resource needs:**

The proposal covers the one-time purchase cost (\$25,920) of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection, Series 1-2, as well as the annual access fee for the second year (\$518.40). The library will assume payment of the annual access fee after the first two years. There are no additional hardware, software, or personnel costs associated with this proposal.

## **6. Timeline**

Purchase of the AAS Historical Periodicals Collection will be initiated immediately upon successful funding. Once the order is placed, access to the collection is usually available within two weeks.

## **7. Sustainability**

The requested funds will cover the one-time purchase cost of the product as well as the annual access fee for the second year. After the first two years, the library will assume payment of the annual access fee of \$518.40 through the History department allocation of the library materials budget.

## **8. Resource matching**

Not applicable

## **9. Individual or group responsible for implementation**

Once funds are received, UWF Librarians Melissa Gonzalez and Shari Johnson will initiate the order with our Ebsco representative and ensure that catalog records are uploaded and links to the database are added to the Libraries' website and online research guides.

## **10. Principal Investigator**

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