

**The Asian Development Bank.** *Access:* <http://www.adb.org/>.

The Web site of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a superb resource for the study of current economic, environmental, and social issues in Asia and the Pacific. Users will find background on ADB and its lending activities, profiles of member nations, relevant statistics and the full text of Bank publications, including the annual publications *Asian Development Outlook* and *Key Indicators*. With daily updates, the site provides a wealth of information in the form of news releases, project reports, statistics, and documents.

Designed for easy use, there are multiple ways to search the Web site. The Help link provides a guide to navigating the site as well as tips on building a search query using the Web site's search engine. The First Time Visitors page provides an overview of the site's content and suggests search strategies to users. The homepage features current news and events, with dropdown menus for selection of individual countries or topics of interest. Users may also direct their search using the top navigation bar. Quicklinks point users to more information about ADB and its operations.

This Web site is an essential tool for students who are researching ADB structure, operations and activities. The basic profile and ADB at a Glance include key financial and lending figures. For deeper research, the full text of the current annual report, budget, and operations manual are available in PDF.

Users may also search a database of ADB projects and link to the Web sites of some of these projects.

Students interested in economic, social, and environmental trends in the Asia-Pacific region will be enthusiastic about the ADB site's country and topic pages. Each of the 66 member nations of ADB (spanning Central, South, Southeast, and East Asia and the Pacific) has a profile page with links to development indicators, ADB projects, news releases, and ADB documents relating to the country. Topic pages range from money laundering prevention, to avian flu, to renewable energy with links to Asian Development Bank documents and project descriptions. Users may also register for regular e-mail updates on the countries and topics of their choice.

Undergraduate- and graduate-level students and faculty interested in Asia and the Pacific region will be pleased to discover ADB's Web site. I highly recommend the site as a research tool or as a mechanism for staying abreast of current trends in the region. *Ann Flower, Monterey Institute of International Studies, aflower@miis.edu*

**Demographic and Health Surveys.** *Access:* <http://www.measuredhs.com/>.

The Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) site is part of the Measure DHS project, which has been in existence since 1984. Measure DHS has worked to provide technical assistance in the collection of survey data in more than 75 developing countries. In addition, one of the main goals of the Measure DHS project is to disseminate accurate, nationally representative data on fertility, family planning, maternal and child health, as well as child survival, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and nutrition.

The DHS Web site provides detailed information about these data collection initiatives and outlines many of its partner projects with both profit and not-for-profit agencies alike. The site also facilitates the dissemination of collected data. Complete data sets, country summaries, and comparative and analytical reports are available for download. In

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Joni R. Roberts is associate university librarian for public services and collection development at Willamette University, e-mail: [jroberts@willamette.edu](mailto:jroberts@willamette.edu), and Carol A. Drost is associate university librarian for technical services at Willamette University, e-mail: [cdrost@willamette.edu](mailto:cdrost@willamette.edu)

some cases, paper copies of reports can be ordered.

The data available through the Measure DHS project is of value in a wide range of circumstances. Both students and researchers of population health, economic development, and international relations will find the data useful for understanding current health conditions and trends in a number of developing countries. In some cases, time series data are also available.

The Measure DHS site packages its data in a variety of formats. Country QuickStats provide detailed summaries of basic demographic health data for a large number of developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, and Asia. When possible, data from multiple years is provided. STATcompiler provides quick facts and country comparisons.

Detailed instructions on how to use STATcompiler are provided, but they are largely unnecessary because the tool is so simple to use. The HIV/AIDS Survey Indicator Database is another resource available through the site. Again, the data is both comprehensive and can be manipulated easily, customized, and freely downloaded. In this case, the online instructions are of value in helping users navigate their way through the vast number of choices that need to be made before the data sets are generated and displayed. STATmapper allows the user to view data from a geographical perspective. Although the tool is easy to use, the maps can be difficult to read, depending on the data variables displayed.

Depending on individual research needs, users are also invited to register to access more detailed data sets. Access to this additional information is free, but only granted for legitimate research purposes.

In general, this site seems to provide more complete information about developing countries than other freely available sources, such as *CIA World Factbook*. Furthermore, the Measure DHS data complements information found in resources focusing on more developed nations, like Source OECD.

*Jennifer McKinnell, McMaster University,  
mckinn@mcmaster.ca*

**Performing Arts Encyclopedia.** Access: <http://www.loc.gov/performingarts/encyclopedia/>.

The Library of Congress Performing Arts Encyclopedia is an ever-expanding guide to musical, theatrical, and dance collections available at the Library of Congress. Visitors to the encyclopedia will find information on the library's various performing arts collections, relevant databases, online presentations, and exhibits, as well as funding aids. Users are given key information about each col-



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lection, including a brief summary, the dates of coverage, the major languages associated with the collection, the repository and size of the collection, copyright information, microfilm access, and the preferred citation. The encyclopedia also highlights particular collections on the homepage through Featured Webcast and Featured Event. Visitors can view documentaries, such as *The Bluegrass Odyssey* and learn about events such as the Song of America Tour. Some notable collections in the encyclopedia include Vaudeville, Women in the Performing Arts, and Jewish/Yiddish Music.

The encyclopedia itself is easy to navigate and clearly written. It provides information about its contents, and directs users to related resources. Users can easily browse by subject or people using an alphabetical listing. Additionally, the encyclopedia is particularly useful for those looking for collections associated with specific individuals or types of performing arts. Each collection has relevant subjects assigned to it, which are hyperlinked for ease of research. The encyclopedia also provides links to a variety of other related Library of Congress resources.

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**Maria Porta**, assistant acquisitions librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has retired.

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## Deaths

**Paula Pearce Hinton**, 62, social sciences reference librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), died on September 17, following a sudden illness. Hinton joined the reference staff at UNC's Davis Library in 1991 and was known to library staff and patrons for her knowledge combined with a deep commitment to service. Hinton was an active and widely respected leader in state and national library organizations. In 2005, she began a two-year term as secretary of the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA), serving simultaneously as chair of NCLA's Reference and Adult Services Section. From 2001 to 2002, she chaired the Documents Section of NCLA. At the time of her death, she was an associate editor of *North Carolina Libraries*, the official publication of NCLA. Hinton also made contributions as a member of ALA's Reference and User Services Association and as a member of the Librarians Association at UNC-Chapel Hill (LAUNC-CH). From 1999 to 2000, she served as elected treasurer of LAUNC-CH. She chaired the association's Program Committee in 2000-2001. Prior to

working at UNC, Hinton was an elementary school teacher from 1963 to 1974. She then returned to Campbell University in a variety of library positions that included head of circulation, cataloger, assistant librarian for technical services, and assistant librarian for public services and head of reference.

**Kay L. Shaffer**, senior associate librarian at the University at Albany (UA)-State University of New York, died on September 16. She joined the UA Libraries in 1973. In her nearly 33 years at Albany she held a number of assignments, including her most recent duties as bibliographer for Russian and East European studies. During her tenure at UA she was involved in an exchange program with Moscow State University and traveled more than six times to Bulgaria to participate in a U.S. Information Agency (USIA) project with Sophia University. Shaffer belonged to a number of national and state professional organizations, including ALA, ACRL, ALCTS, ENY/ACRL, and the State University of New York Librarians Association. ♪

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The strengths of this site include links to digitized collections, sound recordings available for listening, and Teachers Resources available for select collections. Links to digitized or online collections makes this a dynamic resource for users. The encyclopedia also provides the users with the opportunity to listen to musical recordings, such as the folk songs from the American Tour. Some collections offer information and links for K-12 educators, such as themed resources, lesson plans, and activities. While the collections themselves are only available at the Library of Congress, this encyclopedia is a wonderful reference tool for anyone beginning research in the performing arts. *Debbi Renfrow, University of California-Riverside, debbir@ucr.edu ♪*

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