

**Homicide in Chicago 1870-1830.** *Access:* <http://www.homicide.northwestern.edu>.

Home of the blues, Chicago has always been an articulate and tough town.

Now, under the direction of Leigh B. Bienen, senior lecturer at Northwestern University School of Law, the Chicago Historical Homicide Project provides primary source access to “a rich log of 11,000 homicides maintained consistently and without interruption by the Chicago Police Department over the course of 60 years, from 1870-1930.”

## HOMICIDE IN CHICAGO 1870-1930

Funded by several grants, including one from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the research and development of this new Web site “was to make available to a wide audience, of teachers and students at the undergraduate and graduate level, to professionals and to amateurs, all of the cases and the rich contextual materials available on this period in Chicago.” Arranged chronologically, these contextual materials consist mainly of historical photographs, illustrations, and newspaper clippings.

The most unique offering on this site is the “Interactive Database” that allows curiosity seekers and researchers alike the ability to search for an individual or a group of cases. Users may search the database by case number, date of offense, a variety of circumstances, a description of the victim and the defendant, their relationship, and the legal outcome of the case. The site also permits researchers to download the database in three formats: SPSS, Microsoft Access, and Excel.

After trying out the “Interactive Database,” Homicide in Chicago visitors won’t want to miss some of the more famous “Crimes of

the Century,” including titles such as “Capone vs. McSwiggin,” “Death by Moonshine,” and the “Haymarket Affair.” With all the links to related documents, photographs, and hypertext references, avid readers will become engrossed for hours in these cases that have shaped Chicago’s brutal history.

A “Publications” link offers PDF access to 11 primary and secondary resources useful to the study of Chicago criminology. And finally, click on “Interviews” to watch and listen to several law professors discuss at length various studies

and cases, alongside a rare interview of

Clarence Darrow, circa 1932, staunchly expressing his views on the nature of criminal behavior.

Homicide in Chicago 1870-1930 is an innovative and well-designed site that provides easy access to primary and secondary source documents that scholarly researchers and casual visitors would have difficulty accessing otherwise. It is highly recommended for anybody interested in “an opportunity to study the rule of law, or its absence.”—*James Smolens, Gloucester County Community College, [jsmolens@gccnj.edu](mailto:jsmolens@gccnj.edu)*

**Digital Libraries Initiative Phase 2.** *Access:* <http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/>.

Although it seems like light years ago, the Digital Libraries Initiative Phase 1 (DLI1) began just ten years ago. DLI1 featured a definition of digital libraries and a description of the initiative’s first six projects, which were all domestic. In contrast, DLI2 contains links to three dozen domestic and more than a dozen international partnerships.

The level of sophistication of the projects has increased as they have proliferated. Early efforts were seminal and represent an important base for the concept of the digital library, but the newer projects (most generated in 1999 or 2000) represent an ongoing commitment to the storage and manipulation of large collections. They also exhibit a renewed

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commitment to the searching, retrieval, and processing of collections and to development in the areas of system architecture, metadata standards, component-based application architecture, and network services.

The current projects span the disciplines and include ventures in the sciences and the humanities. The projects explore such areas as artificial intelligence, information retrieval, and distributed object computing.

Although graphically cluttered, DLI2's homepage offers numerous links and topics, such as "DLI2/Special Projects in the News," "Highlights," "Program Announcements," and "Sponsor Agencies and Programs." The vertical navigation bar offers links to a rich array of information.



Unfortunately, some of the links to funded projects, the *raison d'être* for this site, are no longer viable domain names. It is possible that the DLI2 coordinators believe that the links to the projects' Web sites will be kept current by those responsible for the various projects. Even if the sites are current, the broken links prevent easy access to them.

One of the most interesting and potentially useful educational features of the site is an area on the homepage, "DLI2/Special Projects in the News."

The thumbnail illustrations of 15 of the projects are attractive and invite browsing through articles about these projects. Again, unfortunately, more than one of these links are dated and lead to inaccessible archived news features.

This site, a treasure trove of information about groundbreaking projects, is rich in detail and includes abstracts, summaries, and contact information. Better attention to updating would add reliability to DLI2's many other strengths. DLI2 would be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about successful digital projects.—*Shannon Van Kirk, Miami University, vankirk@lib.muohio.edu*

**The Vietnam Project.** Access: <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/index.htm>.

The Vietnam Center of Texas Tech University was created in 1989 to encourage and educate users about the impact of the Vietnam

Conflict upon U.S. history. The creators also hope to increase American understanding of Southeast Asian beliefs, values, and lifestyles. The Vietnam Project Web site is home to a number of primary sources, exhibits, and educational materials. It also includes information about publishing, conferences related to American involvement in Vietnam, and the history and current context of Southeast Asia.

The Web site contains four main sections: "The Vietnam Center," "The Virtual Vietnam Archive," "The Oral History Project," and "The Vietnam Archive."

*Indochina Chronology*, a quarterly publication that is no longer being published, is available in full text under the "Publications" section of "The Vietnam Center." Issues include historical chronologies of events and conditions in Southeast Asia, as well as annotated bibliographies of publications (books, journal articles, official statements, etc.) on these subjects. Topics covered range from current events to history, culture, and economics.



The archives areas of the Web site contain primary documents chronicling personal experiences from the Vietnam Conflict, information and records of organizations of veterans, and other documents. A wide range of sources is indexed in a searchable database that links to the full text of articles from serials, journals, newsletters, and microforms. Resources include information about air campaigns and the use of Agent Orange, records of operations, video and audio recordings, photographs, political cartoons, diaries, letters, biographies of those who lost their lives in the conflict, slides, films, and more.

"The Oral History Project" offers a wealth of firsthand accounts from participants in the wars of Southeast Asia. Transcripts of most of these interviews are available online in either print or audio format. This area also includes an online or downloadable workshop about the scope and methods of oral history practices.

Those interested in peace studies, Asian studies, U.S. history or oral history, will find the Vietnam Project a rich resource.—*Connie Ury, Northwest Missouri State University, cjury@mail.nwmissouri.edu* ■