

Net Notes

LINKPENDIUM SURPASSES FIVE MILLION LINKS

www.linkpendium.com

FIVE MILLION. Even when it comes to the Internet, that's a big number.

Linkpendium, www.linkpendium.com, has announced that it now boasts more than the five million genealogy links. Founders Brian Leverich and Karen Isaacson, also founders of RootsWeb, www.RootsWeb.com, said they have categorized close to 550,000 links relating to US localities. The bulk of the links on Linkpendium though, are categorized by surnames worldwide, with nearly 4.5 million entries.

"Linkpendium is by far the largest directory to genealogical resources on the web," said Leverich in a

release. "It is, to our knowledge, the second largest human-edited directory of any kind on the web."

Genealogists and regular visitors are invited to recommend websites to add to the growing list. In general, submissions are reviewed and, if accepted, added to within two weeks.

Leverich also said the database of links continues to grow and Linkpendium is looking to expand its localities listings to other countries. The site also plans to add more categories, offering links to websites that do not fit into the Surname or Locality sections.

— John Mather

IRON RANGE RESEARCH CENTER

www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org

The Iron Range Research Center (IRRC), www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org, is located in the Mesabi Iron Range in Minnesota. Though most of its resources focus on this region, the IRRC is also a wonderful resource for finding records of the upper Midwest.

I learned about the IRRC while researching two Finnish brothers, Johan and Matti Blom (from Ylistaro, Vaasa) who migrated to Eveleth, St. Louis County, Minnesota in the early 1900s.

The IRRC's collection contains about 7,500 books, 12,000 microfilm reels, 66,000 maps and more than 150,000 photographs. Of interest to the genealogists is the online index that holds close to 1.5 million name entries.

The IRRC also provides research services for a fee.

The database is easy to search by first name, last name, county and records type. The types of records currently indexed are: Birth; cemetery; marriage; naturalization index; obituary/death (Minnesota death records, 1900-



1917 only); Chippewa census; mine accident; high school index; name index; arrest; and the Minnesota Alien Registration of 1918.

A search on John Blom and Matt(i) Blom in St. Louis County,

Name	John Blom	Matt Blom
M/F	Male	Male
Date at Death	10/8/1921	1/18/1918
County	STLOUIS	STLOUIS
State	Minnesota	Minnesota
Age at Death	—	—
Block	7	7
Lot	43	17
Grave	2	1
Cemetery	Eveleth	Eveleth

yielded these cemetery entries:

With this information, I requested a search of the death

index and obtained the death certificates for a fee. This revealed the addresses, spouses, occupations, ages, manners of death, etc. for the brothers. The City Directories for Eveleth were also consulted by the Center staff.

Learning about Matti was interesting since family lore said he had been killed as the result of a railroad accident. The researcher discovered that he was actually

killed at a logging camp. The Eveleth newspaper reported on the death in gruesome detail.

Some other unique records that you can obtain for a fee are mining fatality and accident reports (specify St. Louis, Itasca or Crow Wing Counties), and newspaper items — Iron Range and Duluth events, birth/death announcements, etc.

I found the staff very helpful in answering queries via e-mail and directing me to other local resources. Though my research focused on Minnesota, the Resource Center also has materials for Wisconsin, Michigan, North Dakota and other locales.

— Diane Richard

THE BRITISH NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

www.bl.uk and www.uk.olivesoftware.com

THE BRITISH LIBRARY, www.bl.uk, is the national library of the United Kingdom, and holds a vast collection of 58 million newspapers, 13 million books, 7 million manuscripts, 4.5 million maps, 56 million patents, 3.5 million sound recordings and 8 million stamps.

Historically, the British Library has taken a leading role in utilizing technology, especially in regards to the Internet. Continuing the trend, the library is now working to create the National Digital Library — a searchable database of millions of the British Library's records.

In 2005, the library announced a strategic partnership with Microsoft to digitize 25 million pages from 100,000 out-of-copyright books now, with a long-term commitment to digitize more in the future. MSN Book Search will deliver the search results.



Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, said, "The items digitized will be available to anyone, anywhere and at any time."

The National Digital Library will also include a substantial proportion of the Library's early British newspaper collection. This effort will provide searchable online access to two million

sheets of the 19th-century newspaper collection by September 2006. A pilot of this project is now available on-line at www.uk.olivesoftware.com

The search facility is very easy to use, and the search results screen shows: Date, the newspaper's name, a relevancy



The front page of the News of the World on 10 November 1918. See the whole page or zoom in on articles or cartoons at www.uk.olivesoftware.com

score, an extract from the newspaper page with the search word and more information about the article.

Users can choose to display the article or view the newspaper page itself. When a newspaper page is displayed, the article is highlighted. You click on the article to get a larger image. The article can then be printed, e-mailed or downloaded as a PDF

file.

The quality of the digital newspaper pages and articles at the pilot site is excellent.

The pilot site notes that the content of the website can change at anytime. In addition, not all the features of the full edition are available.

The British Library's newspaper holdings occupy more than 20 miles of shelves and 8 miles of microfilm shelf space — all these newspapers are an important resource for genealogists.

The digitization of these newspapers by the British Library will provide genealogists access to a resource that previously could only be con-

KAISER ABDICATES
HEAD OF HOHENZOLLERNS
VACATES THE THRONE,
AUTHOR OF THE WAR
PAYS THE PRICE.

How are the mighty fallen! The avar, author of the war, has abdicated, and has thus paid part of a penalty for defiling the world with blood. The rest is to follow, as Wilhelm's abdication was signed last evening as follows:

His Majesty, Imperial, German, and of Prussia, and the King of Hanover, have abdicated.

His Majesty, King of Prussia, and the King of Hanover, have abdicated.

His Majesty, King of Prussia, and the King of Hanover, have abdicated.

Prince of the House of the German Empire and of Prussia, and the King of Hanover, have abdicated.

His Majesty, King of Prussia, and the King of Hanover, have abdicated.

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sulted by going to London.

The planned launch of the British newspaper collection is expected to include nearly 50 old British newspapers, from the daily *Pall Mall Gazette* (1865-1900) to the weekly *Hull Packet* (1800-1886).

— S.C. Meates

