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The First World War (A Database Review)

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CCA Review Template

The average review will be 1,500-3,000 words in length.

Title of Product or Resource: The First World War

Product URL: <http://www.firstworldwar.amdigital.co.uk>

(If more than one, indicate each separately)

Author: Patti McCall

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Original Date of Review

Date Last Updated: Only put a date here if the original review is being updated

Producer/Publisher/Vendor: Adam Matthew

Address: Pelham House, Pelhams Court London Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2AG UK

Email: info@amdigital.co.uk

Phone number(s): +44 (0)1672 511921 (UK)

Producer URL: <https://www.amdigital.co.uk/>

Free Text Keywords: First World War, WWI, military, soldier, war

Primary Category (put an X in one box only):

	Art & Architecture
	Business & Economics
	Ethnic, Gender, and LGBTQ Studies
	General Reference
	Government Information
X	History & Area Studies
	Humanities
	Language and Literature
	Library and Information Science (LIS)
	Medicine, Nursing & Health
	Multidisciplinary (or interdisciplinary)
	Music, Theater, Film Studies
	Philosophy & Religion
	Political Science & Law
	Science, Technology, Computers, Engineering (including Environment)
	Sociology, Education, Anthropology, Psychology
	Other

Secondary Categories (put an X in as many boxes as apply):

	Art & Architecture
	Business & Economics
	Ethnic, Gender, and LGBTQ Studies
	General Reference
	Government Information

	History & Area Studies
	Humanities
	Language and Literature
	Library and Information Science (LIS)
	Medicine, Nursing & Health
	Multidisciplinary (or interdisciplinary)
	Music, Theater, Film Studies
	Philosophy & Religion
	Political Science & Law
	Science, Technology, Computers, Engineering (including Environment)
	Sociology, Education, Anthropology, Psychology
	Other

Type of product being reviewed (put an X in as many boxes as apply):

	Abstracting & Indexing
	Aggregator database
	App for mobile devices
	Bibliographic tool
	Biography
	Blog or social media
	Data sets
	Discovery tool
	Image database
	Ebook collection
	Ejournal collection
	Encyclopedia/Handbook/Directory
	Library tool
	Newspaper or news source
X	Primary source digital content
	Publisher or Organization content /repository
	Reports
	Software
	Statistical database
	Streaming video
	Website
	Other

Target Audience (Put an X in as many boxes as apply):

X	Secondary
X	General public
X	Undergraduate (including community colleges)
X	Graduate/Faculty/Researcher

Access (put an X in one box only)::

	Open Access (OA)
	Hybrid (some OA)
X	One-time purchase

	Subscription
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Abstract

The First World War is a treasure trove of digitized primary and secondary documents that provide researchers with an intimate glimpse into life during wartime, especially through the eyes of soldiers. The content is mainly focused on personal experiences during war time and includes diaries, snapshots, sketch books, and oral histories. There is also film footage, newspapers, training documents, and propaganda. Content is contributed from libraries and museums from Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, the United States and other countries.

Pricing Options

Pricing for Liberal Arts Colleges is approximately 25k for all four modules (the fourth module is due to be released in 2018) or individual modules can be purchased for 10k each. There is an annual hosting fee of five percent to a minimum of \$75.00. It would cost \$125.00 per year to host all four modules.

Product Overview/Description

The First World War offers primary and secondary digitized content focusing on four modules. The first module, *Personal Experiences*, focuses on the daily lives of men and women during wartime and addresses issues such as trench warfare, battle, training, death, and daily life in the military. The materials found in this module include diaries, letters, oral histories, cartoons, trench maps, and even sheet music. *Propaganda and Recruitment* addresses morale, censorship, recruitment, dissension, and propaganda development and includes posters, recruitment materials, tribunal cases files, and papers from the Ministry of Information and Kriegspresseamt. Visual Perspectives and Narratives relies on photographs, books and pamphlets, diaries, film clips, and museum objects to convey the story of education, society, entertainment, women and children, and demobilization. A fourth module, *Global Conflict*, is due out sometime in 2018. First World War also offers added features, such as interactive maps that give timelines for key events. It even has a virtual tour of the trenches at Sanctuary Wood in the Ypres Salient.

Several libraries, museums, and document repositories including Great Britain, Germany, United States, Canada, and New Zealand have partnered with Adam Matthew to digitize content. They they include the Imperial War Museum, the National WWI Museum, Bibliothele für Zeitgeschichte of Stuttgart.

User Interface/Navigation/Searching

A basic search box to the right of the screen enables researchers to conduct an easy, no fuss search that can then be modified using filters that appears to the left of the search results. The filters include “Document Type” (which can 3D objects, film and other formats as well as documents in the traditional sense), Library/Archive (origin of the content), theater of war, language, and module. An advanced search page allows user to like multiple terms by Boolean operators while also applying the filters. The search feature searches across document level metadata as well as image level for full text search documents. Users can click on the “Popular Searches” button and view the most popular searches by keywords in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish as well as battles and theaters of war.

Critical Evaluation

With interactive maps, a virtual trench tour, visual galleries where one can jump in and look at objects, cartoon/comics, posters, etc Adam Matthew provides users with added content as well as various access points for accessing materials. Users can opt to conduct a traditional search or make use of several galleries where document types (i.e. cartoons/comics, oral histories, paintings) are grouped together in their own collection. For example, users can browse the collection of cartoons/comics and filter results with available options. The images are clear, high quality, in color, and can be zoomed and downloaded. Users can create their own archive to stash their results. The First World War is a high quality archive with many added features that will prove useful for researchers from novice to experienced.

Competitive Products

There is no comparable product the Adam Matthew’s First World War. Although researchers may access other library collections and research databases they will not find the breadth and depth of this collection, especially with the meta data and full text search capabilities.

Purchase & Contract Provisions

Describe some of the major contract provisions or peculiarities that may be of interest to subscribers. For example, what are provisions for archiving or ongoing availability if the company goes out of business, what are the rights for interlibrary loan or redistribution of information, are there limitations on institutional users, MARC record availability (if appropriate), COUNTER compliant use statistics, etc. Do not skip this section as it is very important to readers. You may need to get a sample copy of the contract from the vendor if you cannot find the provisions online.

Authentication

Describe the authentication or security options available to subscribers. Typically this might include items such as does the product or service provide IP filtering, username/password, Shibboleth support, LDAP support, or others.

References

About the Author

Patti McCall is the Science Librarian at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. In addition to her MLS, she has her MA in history with a research emphasis on United States Military History.

Scoring

Please provide a numeric score between 1-5 (one being the lowest and 5 the highest). The score can be as granular as one-half point intervals (e.g. 3.5). Please avoid a perfect score of 5 in any category unless the product is virtually perfect with no room for improvement. If a product is open access please score the Pricing and Contract options as N/A (not applicable).

The composite score should be an arithmetic average of the four scoring categories.

Composite Score:	Score 5	
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Content:	Score 5	Many fascinating gems can be found, such as footage of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo just minutes before his assassination.
User Interface/Searchability	4	It would be nice if there was a way to do a keyword search with search results. Users also need to be aware that there is no translation for non English language documents.
Pricing	4	The cost may be prohibitive to schools without any course devoted solely to the First World War.
Purchase/Contract Options	5	The contract is standard.

Special Instructions for Screenshots and Tables

Screenshots or other images may be included in a review if desired. Care should be taken not to include too many as they are more likely to be cut if space is needed in the final layout. The online version of the journal will show images in color but images in the printed version will be converted to grayscale.

- Please submit all screenshots in color
- Screenshots must be delivered as separate numbered image files in .jpg format
- Screenshots should be captured at the highest resolution available
- Place a numbered call out in the Word document where the image is to be inserted such as **<Insert Figure 3 here>**.
- Make sure that the separate .jpg images are given file names that correspond to the call-outs in the text

Tables (created by the author, not screen captures) may also be included in reviews.

- Use tabs to separate columns (NOT multiple spaces)
- Use paragraph returns to separate rows