



Sabin Americana, 1500-1926

Reviewers: Francis Alba and Virginia Kerr, Center for Research Libraries

Date of review: January 5, 2011

Abstract

Based on Joseph Sabin's bibliography, *Bibliotheca Americana*, this digital collection from Gale Cengage provides a variety of material published about the Americas between 1500 and 1926. Included are works from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

Sources

Sources for this review include information publicly posted or obtained directly from the publisher, data collected by CRL staff and members, and examination of the digital collection when possible. Other sources are noted where cited.

REVIEW

Collection Content

Title History

All of the titles are from those listed in Joseph Sabin's bibliography, *Bibliotheca Americana, or Dictionary of Books Relating to America*. Tricia Clayton in a review in *The Charleston Advisor* notes that Sabin's effort to comprehensively list imprints about the Americas was conceived in 1866 but not completed until 1935, finally listing over 106,000 titles in 250,000 editions.¹

¹ Tricia Clayton, "Sabin Americana, 1500-1926", Advisor Reviews, *The Charleston Advisor* April 2010 (review dated December 15, 2009)
<http://charleston.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/charleston/chadv/2010/00000011/00000004/art00015?> Accessed October, 2010

Source of the digitized content

The first portion of the digital content came from titles already assembled in Gale's multivolume microfiche product *The Sabin Collection*, consisting of material primarily from The Huntington Library and the Library of Congress. Titles were subsequently reproduced from originals at Yale University Library and the American Antiquarian Society, first in both digital format and microfiche, and more recently in digital format only. The total number of titles scanned from microfiche, according to the publisher, is 28,169. As of October, 2010 there is a total of 36,390 titles/43,991 volumes in the digital collection. The publisher has indicated that the final goal for the digital collection is around 55,000-titles. At one time it was hoped to include around 75,000 titles of the 106,000 listed by Sabin, but logistical arrangements have caused the goal to be revised.

Content overlap

Clayton searched to compare date range hits with EEBO, ECCP, and the *Early American Imprints Series I and II* (Evans and Shaw-Shoemaker), suggesting a small percentage of overlap. The publisher has confirmed estimates of maximum overlap based on analyzing publicly available data (title lists and spec sheets) from other collections:

<p>COMPLETE COLLECTION</p> <p>Total Titles: ~ 55,000</p> <p>Total Pages: ~ 15,100,000</p>
<p>Max Overlap ECCO: < 8.0%</p> <p>Max Overlap EEBO: < 1.8%</p> <p>Max Overlap Evans: < 11.1%</p> <p>Max Overlap Shaw-Shoemaker: < 8.2%</p>

Timetable for release

The collection was launched in December, 2005. Gale continues to add content at a rate of approximately 1 million pages per year, in two releases. Completion is expected in 2013.

A list of holding institutions posted by Gale as of March, 2010, indicated sixty U.S. institutions, including over thirty CRL members. As of October, 2010, thirty-five libraries reported holdings in WorldCat (OCLC #63205055).

Delivery

Metadata

The vendor sells MARC records for the titles.

Technical platform & interface

The database provides persistent urls which can be cited directly in course management tools.

Gale provides copies of page images and xml of the full text and metadata which can be used to load locally, but not the application/interface tools.

In her [Charleston Advisor Review](#) Clayton notes a number of strengths in the search and display interfaces for *Sabin Americana*: availability of word proximity and word order proximity searches; fuzzy search for normalizing spelling and typography variations; broad topical categories for browsing; indexed transcriptions of chapter headings; and persistent URLs for referencing documents, portions of documents, and predefined searches. Weaknesses cited include limits on display of browse results; no relevance sorting for search results; absence of fast forward and reverse navigation within documents; and awkward provisions for emailing documents.

Terms

Price

Gale sells *Sabin Americana* as a one-time purchase with an annual hosting fee. Pricing varies based on the size and purchasing history of the institution.

DETAILS

Collection content

Sources

Sources for details about this digital collection include information publicly posted by the digital publisher. Other information obtained directly from the publisher at the time of writing is highlighted in blue. Information from the review in *The Charleston Advisor* by Tricia Clayton is highlighted in beige. Any other source is specifically noted where cited.

Subjects covered	history, literature, culture, discovery/exploration, colonial settlements, law, government and politics, indigenous cultures, slavery, religion, science, medicine
Geographic coverage	North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean
Chronological coverage	1500-1926
Major languages	English (also French, Spanish, German, and other European languages as well as some Native American)
Content type(s)	Pamphlets, letters, essays, booklets, land tracts, congressional speeches, journals, memoirs, published legislative proceedings, broadsides, government records, monographs, and articles
Source formats	Microfiche (c. 28,000 titles), hard copy (up to c. 27,000 titles planned)
Total titles	50,000- 55,000 on completion (c. 36,000 titles/ 44,000 vols. in 2010)
Total pages	9,477,000 as of 6/2010; 12.5-13 million final goal
Digital collection launch date	December, 2005
Update frequency	Semi-annual
Collection ongoing (y/n)	y
Completion date	Estimated completion: 2013
Available supplements	NA

Metadata

MARC records available (y/n)	y
Creator of MARC records	BackStage Library Works
Structural metadata exposed anywhere?	Y if files acquired on hard drive
Subject authorities used	Library of Congress
Name authorities used	Library of Congress

Technical platform

Browser compatibility	Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Opera, Chrome (for details see http://support.gale.com/gale/article.html?article=1166)
Authentication options	IP address; Athens; Shibboleth; cookies; barcode or patron number; library managed passwords
Archiving solution – master files	Portico
Archiving solution – derivative files	Portico
Availability in web discovery tools (y/n)	n
Open url target (y/n)	n
Federated searching, z39.50 (y/n)	y
Local host option (y/n)	y (images and xml available for local access)
Usage statistics (y/n)	y

Interface tools

Full text displayed (y/n)	n
Page images (y/n)	y
Color images (y/n)	n
Search full text (y/n)	y
Advanced search (fielded) (y/n)	y
Search within results (y/n)	y
Limit results by dates and/or document types (y/n)	y
Display highlighted search terms (y/n)	y
Display snippet -- search term in context (y/n)	n
Relevance sorting (y/n)	n
Save searches (y/n)	y
Download PDF (y/n)	y
Download HTML (y/n)	n
Print page (y/n)	y
Print full document (y/n)	y (but limited to 50 page increments)
Export citations (y/n)	Yes
Annotation tools (y/n)	n
Cross-product searching (y/n)	n
ILL (y/n)	y (for limited printed copies)
Restrictions on use	Copies may be loaned or incorporated in course management tools, for educational and personal use only

	(non-commercial)
--	------------------

Provider

Publisher / Distributor	Gale Cengage Learning
Address	Gale 27500 Drake Road Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535
url ; contact email	http://mlr.com/DigitalCollections/products/Sabin/ ; http://gdc.gale.com/
Related product(s)	<i>Making of the Modern World; 19th Century U.S. Newspapers; Slavery and Anti-Slavery: a Transnational Archive</i> (not cross-collection searchable)

Terms

TERMS	OPTIONS	NOTES
Subscription option (y/n)	n	
Purchase option (y/n)	y	One-time purchase fee; price quotes range from \$30,000 to \$240,000
Multiple year payments option (y/n)	y	Can spread cost over 2-3 years
Hosting charges (y/n)	y	Annual hosting fee
List of purchasers available (y/n and url)	y	http://www.informationaccess.com/DigitalCollections/holdings/SabinAmericanaCustomers.pdf
Sample license available (y/n and url)	y	(available upon request)
MARC records purchase fee (y/n)	y	
Price tier basis	FTE	