

May 16, 2005

Lisa A. Moske, Director
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401 Golden Shore, 5th Floor
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

Dear Lisa,

At Readex, we deeply appreciate the EAR Committee's thorough and thoughtful April review of the Readex digital *Archive of Americana*.

Your reviewers' recognition of the value of the four major *Archive of Americana* collections for nearly every humanities and social science discipline matches that of the 290 diverse institutions that have made these highly praised digital collections available to their students and faculty in the past few years. We were pleased that your reviewers not only "saw use for these databases across numerous disciplines," but also determined that the *Archive* "makes a wealth of information, in a highly desirable format, available to our researchers and their classes."

Further, we appreciated your reviewers' comments that "the importance of the...databases to the study of early American history can probably not be overstated," and that "the coverage would address the needs of our graduate students, and professors, but also those students with an assignment requiring a primary document component." Also like our 290 current customers, your reviewers agreed that "there is nothing that compares to the *Early American Imprints Evans* and *Shaw* series and the content of these databases is exceptional. Similarly the value of the *Congressional Serial Set* cannot be overrated for historical research."

Finally, the near unanimous praise of the *Archive of Americana's* search interface, user support services and accessibility of service was equally gratifying.

To our regret, your reviewers had mixed views on the topic of cost. While many noted that the price was reasonable in light of the "large amount and high quality of the information made available," others said that it would be "difficult to determine the level of activity that they would generate by our professors."

Perhaps your reviewer who noted, "Evaluating the potential for a broader pool of users is important in evaluating this product," best reflects your final decision. This reviewer continued, "This possibility of broader use is interesting but not yet a proven need, and not likely to happen unless the campus library makes a strong outreach effort to campus faculty to more strongly integrate the use of primary docs into GE type classes."

Please let us know if we can work collaboratively with you to reach out to your faculty. At our April 2005 Workshop & Symposium for academic librarians—an integral part of our Enhancements, Training, and Content program available to *Archive of Americana* customers—participants heard from two distinguished guest speakers from the University of California, Irvine. Michael P. Clark, Associate Executive Vice Chancellor and Professor of English, and Elizabeth Losh, Writing Director, Humanities Core Course, presented a stimulating discussion on the interdisciplinary collaboration and institutional networking that has fully integrated web-based instruction and research into U.C. Irvine's first-year core humanities classes.

If we can share their paper with you, or provide any additional information, feel free to contact us.

Warm regards,



David Braden
President, Readex
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