HIMALAYA

The Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

1999

Books Received and Web Resources

Recommended Citation

MACALESTER

Himalayan Space: Cultural Horizons and Practices
Eds.: Balthasar Bickel and Martin Gaenszle. Zürich: Völkerundemuseum, 1999.

Mandalas of the Bon Religion
Eds.: Tenzin Namdak, Yasuhiko Nagano, Musashi Tachikawa. Osaka: Senri Ethnological Reports 12, National Museum of Ethnology, 2000.

The Philosophical View of the Great Perfection in the Tibetan Bon Religion
Donatella Rossi. Ithaca, New York: Snow Lion Publications, 1999.

Nationalism and Ethnicity in a Hindu Kingdom: The Politics of Culture in Contemporary Nepal
Eds.: David Gellner, Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, John Whelpton. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1997.

Sky Burial: An Eyewitness Account of China's Brutal Crackdown in Tibet
Blake Kerr. Ithaca, New York: Snow Lion Publications, 1997.

WEB RESOURCES

Color photographs of mountain areas of the world, taken from space by astronauts on the Shuttle Missions, are available for viewing on the web. These include photos of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau region. Images can also be ordered as 35 mm color slides and in other formats from various vendors.

The best way to explore these photographs is to go the following site:
http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop

There is a clickable map then you go to and click on the region you are interested in to view available images. You can also browse photographs by Shuttle mission:
http://images.jsc.nasa.gov/iams/html/earth.htm

However, I would recommend first using the http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop to find selected images from your area of interest and then once you know the Mission Number and Roll Number and Image number for selected photos then go to the site (images.jsc.nasa.gov/iams/html/earth.htm) to look at all the photos from that Shuttle mission.

Another way to view these photographs is the following site:
http://earthrise.sdsc.edu

There are fewer images on this site, but more details are provided when the image comes up on the screen.

tibethand108@hotmail.com

Dear Fellow South Asianists:

I am writing to you today to let you know about a new, freely-accessible on-line resource called Project South Asia that is being developed at Missouri Southern State College with the aid of a two-year federal grant.

What is Project South Asia?

Project South Asia will be a free, Web-based library of post-secondary teaching resources, specifically designed for use by undergraduates and graduate students, as well as teaching faculty in the field of South Asian studies. It will create and introduce an innovative materials and resource development program, designed to assist professors in advancing the study and teaching of South Asian history and culture across several disciplines and at various levels throughout the post-secondary curriculum. The two-year project will focus on developing on-line materials to support courses in the following disciplines: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Economics, Geography, History, International Affairs, Languages, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, Sociology, Theatre, and Women's Studies.

How will Project South Asia be of benefit?

Project South Asia will help stimulate faculty involvement and create new faculty capabilities in many disciplines. It will help improve the teaching of existing courses (including those which may not normally include units on South Asia) and aid in the development of new courses in South Asian Studies.

Project South Asia will include these three major objectives:

Creating linkages across academic departments and with other institutions of higher education, both in the U.S. and in South Asia, to support the goals of the project by stimulating a wider faculty involvement. We will draw upon the strengths of current faculty members at Missouri Southern who have teaching expertise in India and Pakistan, while also drawing on the expertise found worldwide in the field of South Asian Studies, especially but not exclusively among professors who teach at smaller colleges and universities. We have already established an editorial board for the project, which includes prominent specialists in many disciplines, both in the United States and in South Asia.

Creating an innovative South Asian Studies Website from which a worldwide audience could gain easy access to information and resources on the study and teaching of South Asia. The Project South Asia Website will be a comprhensive site (the first of its kind on the Internet), designed to assist users in teaching and learning about South Asia by providing a core of information for use in a wide variety of courses. Among other items, the Website will contain an on-line historical dictionary of South Asia, an encyclopedia of indexed on-line essays in each discipline, annotated bibliographies of works in the field and other reference materials, all produced by academic contributors from across the country and indeed, the world. The essays will cover a wide range of topics, from an overview of the ancient Harappan civilization, to the history of the Kashmir dispute and current Indo-Pakistani foreign relations, to discussion of the epic tradition in India. The Website will also contain an extensive image bank of historical and contemporary South Asia, and other resources designed to aid in teaching. Among many other items, it will include cultural materials such as images of political figures, historical and contemporary cityscapes and landscapes, secular and religious architecture, the arts, and maps. Documents, texts, translations, and other primary sources will also be included, and will comprise one of the main strengths of the Website. Other important resources which will be available on the Website are course syllabi highlighting a wide range of courses, from those which have partial South Asian content, like introductory World History, to more specialized, advanced courses in South Asian history, politics, geography, art history, archaeology, among others. Finally, the Website will contain information about the study and teaching of South Asian languages,
especially Hindi, and will have details about study and internship abroad programs in South Asia. Our goal is to include materials that will be of utility to a wide range of users, emphasizing those materials and resources that are not currently available on the Internet, and are not easily accessible through inter-library loan or other

similar means.

More also needs to be done to diffuse teaching and learning about South Asia at all levels of the college curriculum, focusing especially on general education courses, in order to have an impact on the largest number of college students possible, not just on those who may enroll in an upper-division specialty course. The Website will aid this process by offering faculty materials and resources needed to incorporate South Asian topics in the non-specialty courses they teach every semester. In an introductory World History course, for example, faculty could use primary documents to illustrate the Indian experience with imperialism. In a comparative government course, faculty could make comparisons between the Indian and Pakistani constitutions and that of the United States. In an International Studies course, faculty could ask students to use the Website to examine Indian economic development, the nature of the Kashmir dispute, or changes in U.S. policy toward South Asia. The range of courses that could be affected is as wide and varied as the courses taught by the faculty members who will use the Website and its resources. The project Website will be an invaluable electronic resource to teaching professors by providing comprehensive and up-to-date materials on South Asia. It will enable professors across the country, who may not have the time or the financial resources to create their own course WebPages, to utilize the Website we create and thus be able to "Web-enhance" their own courses, making use of this new technology. Our project will enable faculty around the world to improve and enhance the South Asian content of their courses, increase the number of students exposed to information and ideas about South Asia, and thereby help advance this critical field of international education.

Creating a unique on-line journal, freely accessible through the project Website, which will be devoted exclusively to promoting the study and teaching of South Asia at the post-secondary level. The electronic journal will feature articles, written by teaching professors from across the world, addressing issues and problems of course and curriculum development relating to South Asia, from introductory courses in World History and International Studies, to upper division specialty courses in the field. The on-line journal will act as a forum for teaching professors discussing new and innovative ways of infusing the study of South Asia into the college and university classroom in a wide range of courses, and will lay important emphasis on interdisciplinary teaching methods. It will contain sections dealing with the art and craft of teaching about South Asia, the state of the field, notes and comments, review articles, and book reviews. Unlike traditional print journals, for which rising paper and printing costs are a factor, our on-line journal will provide more space for discussion and thus serve to stimulate faculty involvement in the project in ways that no print journal can.

How can you help with Project South Asia?

Although many parts of the Project South Asia Website will be built by our in-house staff, we want the site to grow and to be useful to a wide range of users, from undergraduate and post-graduate students to specialists in the field of South Asian studies. We strongly encourage those with academic credentials in South Asian studies (including faculty members and advanced graduate students) to consider submitting a written work or other items for use on the site. Our concern is the same as that of our users: we want the site to be of high quality, contain academically reliable information and interpretations, and to be a forum for those who study and teach about South Asia.

To maintain the academic integrity of the Project South Asia Website, submissions should meet the general professional standards found in other, more conventional academic works, such as journals, encyclopaedias, or dictionaries, use primary sources whenever possible, and be accessible to an intelligent, but general academic readership at the undergraduate level.

Submissions may be in any of the following disciplines represented by Project South Asia: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Economics, Geography, History, International Affairs, Languages, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, Sociology, Theatre, and Women's Studies.

Submissions to the Project South Asia Website can take a number of forms:

Article-length essays on topics of general interest to those in the field of South Asian studies
  Photo essays
  Edited documents
  Images (slides, photos, maps)
  Research reports
  Case studies
  Interviews
  Dictionary entries
  Translations into English
  Original writings in South Asian languages for use in language courses
  Conference reports
  Workshop reports
  Literature reviews (review articles)
  Reviews of books, journals, film, video, and software
  Pedagogical studies, reviews of teaching materials, and course syllabi
        will be considered for publication in Teaching South Asia, Project South Asia's on-line
journal

Length of submissions may vary depending upon the type of submission.
General guidelines are as follows:
  Article-length essays (up to 10,000 words)
  Photo essays (up to 7,000 words)
  Edited documents (length may vary)
  Images (number submitted may vary)
  Research reports (up to 7,000 words)
  Case studies (up to 7,000 words)
  Interviews (up to 7,000 words)
  Dictionary entries (up to 500 words)
  Translations into English (up to 7,000 words)
  Original writings in South Asian languages (up to 7,000 words)
  Conference reports (500-1,500 words)
  Workshop reports (500-1,500 words)
  Literature reviews (up to 3,000 words)
  Reviews of books, journals, film, video, and software (up to 1,000 words)
  Pedagogical studies, reviews of teaching materials, and course syllabi
        will be considered for publication in Teaching South Asia, Project South Asia's on-line
journal (maxi   mum length varies)

Submissions generally should be previously unpublished, but if an author can secure permission for us to reprint an article or other item for use on the Project South Asia Website at no cost, we will consider that type of submission as well. All written submissions must be made electronically, preferably as an e-mail attachment in MSWord or WordPerfect.

Before submitting any manuscript, potential authors must make an initial e-mail query of the project director, Dr. Karl J. Schmidt (psa@mail.mssc.edu), who will determine if the intended submission falls within the general scope and goals of Project South Asia.

In your e-mail query, please include the following information:

Full name, including preferred form of address (Ms., Mr., Dr.,
Professor, etc.)
E-mail address
Title or topic of intended submission
Brief abstract of intended submission

Type of submission
Brief statement of academic credentials and background

After being accepted in principle by the project director, submissions in the form of essays, photo essays, research reports, case studies, dictionary entries, translations into English, and pedagogical studies will be peer reviewed. Referees will comment on content as well as how the submission will best be placed on the Website. This review process
may take 2-4 months. All other submissions will be reviewed in-house by the Website co-editors. This process can occur more quickly, taking no more than one month.

Once reviewed and accepted for publication, your work will appear on the Website within a month. We will copyright all submissions under the general copyright of Project South Asia (Copyright © 2000 Project South Asia) unless you would prefer to hold the copyright in your own name.

In addition to submissions, we are also looking for suggestions for what should be included on the Website. One of our first tasks has been to develop a list of documents, images, and other items that we should include on the Website. As our purpose is to offer teaching materials that would be of assistance to professors at the college level, what sorts of materials should we include? As you think about your own courses, what South Asian-related documents, images, and other items would be useful for you and your students to have easy access to on-line? In other words, what ancillary materials would enhance your own teaching about South Asia? Our plan is to locate these materials, whether they are in archives, museums, in books, or wherever, and obtain or copy them for use on the Website. The bulk of these materials need to be in either the public domain (anything published before 1923 is in the public domain in the U.S.) or documents or images that Project South Asia can get permission to reproduce on-line at low cost.

Part of the Website will be devoted to course syllabi. Would you be willing to send me copies of your course syllabi that contain South Asian material for posting on the site? The syllabi do not have to be for courses that are only about South Asia. If you teach World History, World Literature, Asian religions, or other courses that contain some South Asian component, please submit those as well. Part of our goal is to show even non-South Asian specialists that bringing a South Asian component into their regular courses is possible. If you can send syllabi, we would prefer them sent as e-mail attachments. If that is not possible, then feel free to send them on disks through the regular mail.

We currently have a preliminary Website on-line. Although it is only in the beginning stages, this preliminary site will give you some idea of the final scope of Project South Asia, and the promise it will hold as a post-secondary teaching resource. It can be accessed at:

http://www.mssc.edu/projectsouthasia

Please feel free to visit the site and let us hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Karl J. Schmidt, Ph.D.
Director, Project South Asia
Associate Professor of History
Missouri Southern State College
3950 E. Newman Rd.
Joplin, Missouri 64801-1595
U.S.A.
E-mail: psa@mail.mssc.edu