North American Women’s Letters and Diaries

Choice Outstanding Title Winner

Library Journal Best Reference Winner

“The content of this database is extraordinarily rich—I know of no electronic resource even remotely comparable for women’s history.” –Library Journal

North American Women’s Letters and Diaries is the largest online collection of women’s diaries and correspondence ever assembled. Spanning more than 300 years, it presents the personal experiences of hundreds of women. The database is designed for research in women’s studies, history, sociology, literature, genealogy, and a range of other fields.

The writings provide a detailed record of what women wore, ate, and read, the conditions under which they worked, and how they amused themselves. It highlights how frequently they attended church, how they viewed their connection to God, and how they prayed, and creates an ideal lens through which to examine their relationships with lovers, family, and friends.

Content

The collection includes approximately 150,000 pages of letters and diaries from Colonial times to 1950, including 7,000 pages of previously unpublished manuscripts—all online for the first time. The material is drawn from more than 1,000 sources, including journal articles, pamphlets, newsletters, monographs, and conference proceedings, and much of it is in copyright. Represented are all age groups and life stages, a wide range of ethnicities, many geographical regions, the famous, and the not-so-famous. More than 1,500 biographies enhance the use of the database.

Sample materials include:

- Extracts from the journal of Mrs. Ann Manigault, 1754–1781
- The life of Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Julia Heller’s Boyfriend Book, the 1932 diary of a Pennsylvania teenager
- Letters of Phyllis Wheatley
- Letters of Ellen Louisa Tucker to Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Letters of Margaret Fuller
- Memoirs and letters of Dolly Madison
- Letters between Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray Greene
- The diaries of a Beverly, Massachusetts, shoe binder, Sarah E. Trask, circa 1849

The functionality behind North American Women’s Letters and Diaries makes it easy for students to locate the most relevant materials. With unprecedented ease and clarity, users can contrast texts, discover rare works, and explore new avenues of inquiry. No other resource makes it so easy for users to explore such detailed queries as:

- All diary entries and letters written between 1820 and 1900 that discuss childbirth
- All materials written from 1941 to 1945 that mention war
- All correspondence from women in the Northeast to their husbands in the Northwest during the Gold Rush
- All letters written by African Americans who were educators
- All letters sent by Abigail Adams that mention Boston
- All diary entries by suffragettes that have women’s rights issues as subjects
- Diaries and letters, written by women younger than 20, which mention marriage

Publication Details

North American Women’s Letters and Diaries is available on the Web through one-time purchase of perpetual rights or annual subscription. Prices are scaled to institutional size and budget. To request a free trial or price quote, please e-mail sales@alexanderstreet.com.