

Web Resources on Leibniz (Editorial)

Imagine you left your copy of GP or GM or Guhrauer—or one of the early As—back at the office or in another country. You'd really like to look up a specific page and check a reference. You happen to have access to the web. You're in luck. (Thanks to Philip Beeley for noticing this.) A web page gives you easy (and fairly quick, if you're not working with a modem) access to any given page of those and other works, with most versions of Acrobat reader. Where is this magic page? The address is brief and easy to remember:

<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

(For writings by predominantly French contemporaries of Leibniz—together with numerous other authors ranging from the Middle Ages to the Nineteenth Century—, see the same site but add the suffix 'classique' after 'fr'.) This is a site provided by the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Once there, simply click on "Recherche" and enter "Leibniz" in the dialog box under "Auteur." You will then have access to what is listed below, and more. If you know the page you want, click on "Pagination" once the Acrobat file for the work you select opens and click on the specific page. A few seconds later a facsimile (which can be made larger or smaller with Acrobat) of that page appears. They have made it easier to pinpoint what you want by separating, e.g., the seven volumes of GP so that each is individually clickable. That makes the list longer but dramatically increases ease of use.

Needless to say, this site deserves attention because it can save all of us a lot of time and perhaps money. We all love hard copies resting nicely on our shelves, but this service opens a new vista in textual resources.

The Leibniz listings are more substantial than those of Descartes and Spinoza, for instance. Figures related importantly to Leibniz are also well represented. It is interesting to note that the first edition (1694-98) of François Lamy's *De la Connaissance de soi-même* is here. As R. S. Woolhouse pointed out in his "Leibniz and François Lamy's *De la Connaissance de soi-même*" (this *Review* (2001) 11: 65-70), that first edition is not the one of interest in Leibniz studies because only the second edition (1699; reprinted 1701) contained Lamy's response to Leibniz's work. (The relevant pages of the second edition were reprinted from a microfilm in that same issue of the *Review*, pp. 72-100.) The advantage of this resource over microfilm is palpable: one need not run the whole film through, but can pinpoint

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a specific page. As one might expect, some period journal issues are available here—for instance, *Acta eruditorum* and *Journal des savants*. One can see the first appearance of the New System! Also to be found are the likes of Bayle's *Dictionnaire historique et critique* (16 vols., 1820) and Michaud's *Biographie universelle* (45 vols., 1843). A massive list of other journals is provided. Wow.

But, as they in business, that's not all. As noted by Herma Kliege-Biller at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster—whose help in revising drafts of this notice has been invaluable—, you can also download these files. The Acrobat page has the option of “Téléchargement de pages” marked at the top and the dialog box that opens should be checked “La l'ère page” and, if you want the entire work, “Jusqu'à la fin de l'ouvrage”. For Acrobat, click “Fichier PDF.” It will then begin preparing what you want. The tricky part with many web browsers comes when you are prompted to click here (“en cliquant ici”). Most browsers do nothing because the download is so large (30 or so mb). So, holding down “control” or some appropriate key on your keyboard, click on it and you will have the option to “save link as” or some such thing. When you ask for that, downloading begins and takes about 15-20 minutes using a fast-connect cable. (Don't try this at home with “dialup.”) The work can then be placed on a CD if you like or kept on your hard drive. Even so, the web connection is superior in that going directly to a page is easier. The “thumbnail” on the side of the Acrobat file allows you to see the individual pages in the abstract, but the pagination of these does not correspond directly to that of the works they're covering. Still, with a little math, the actual page number can be determined. Individual pages are easily captured simply by printing or copying them.

For anyone on the move and who lacks internet access but has a computer with a CD reader, this last option is perhaps the best. It is certainly the most astonishing. I'd say Acrobat has changed the world.

On that site items under Leibniz include (pretty much in the order listed):

Briefwechsel zwischen Leibniz und Christian Wolff

Collectanea etymologica : illustrationi linguarum, veteris Celticae, Germanicae, Gallicae, aliarumque inservientia / Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz ; Johannis Georgii Eccardi

Correspondenz von Leibniz mit Caroline / hrsg. von Onno Klopp

Correspondenz von Leibniz mit der Prinzessin Sophie . I / hrsg. von Onno Klopp

Der Briefwechsel von Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz mit Mathematikern / hrsg. von C. I. Gerhardt

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- Deutsche Schriften / Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz ; hrsg. von G. E. Guhrauer. I
Die philosophischen Schriften von Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. hrsg. von C. I.
Gerhardt
- Annales imperii occidentis brunsvicensis . Annales Annorum 768-1005
- Geschichtliche Aufsätze und Gedichte / Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz ; aus den
Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Hannover hrsg. von Georg
Heinrich Pertz
- Lettres et opuscules inédits / Leibniz ; précédés d'une introd. par Louis Alexandre
Foucher de Careil
- Mathematische Schriften . Band I-VII, hrsg. von C. I. Gerhardt
- Nouvelles lettres et opuscules inédits / Leibniz ; précédés d'une introd. par Louis
Alexandre Foucher de Careil
- Oeuvres / Leibniz. I, Lettres de Leibniz, Bossuet, Pellisson, Molanus et Spinola
pour la réunion des protestants et des catholiques publ. pour la première fois
d'après les ms. originaux avec notes et introd. par Louis Alexandre Foucher de
Careil
- Lettres de Leibniz, Bossuet, Pellisson, Molanus et Spinola pour la réunion des
protestants et des catholiques Histoire et politique
- Histoire et politique
- Projet d'expédition d'égypte
- Petits traités politiques
- Leibniz et les Académies, Leibniz et Pierre le Grand
- Opuscules et fragments inédits / Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz ; extr. des ms. de la
Bibliothèque royale de Hanovre éd. par Louis Couturat
- Reise-Journal : 1687-1688
- Sämtliche Schriften und Briefe:
- Allgemeiner politischer und historischer Briefwechsel . Fünfter Band, 1687-
1690
 - Zweite Reihe, Philosophischer Briefwechsel. Erster Band, 1663-1685
 - Allgemeiner politischer und historischer Briefwechsel . Sechster Band, 1690-
1691
 - Allgemeiner politischer und historischer Briefwechsel . Erster Band, 1668-
1676
- Theologisches System
- Mantissa codicis juris gentium diplomatici, continens statuta magnorum ordinum
regiorum,... / Godefridi Guilielmi Leibnitii

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Dissertatio de arte combinatoria, in qua, ex arithmeticae fundamentis complicationum ac transpositionum doctrina novis praeceptis exstruitur
Esprit de Leibnitz ou Recueil de pensées choisies sur la religion, la morale, l'histoire, la philosophie, etc. : extraites de toutes ses oeuvres latines et françoises.
Tome premier & second
Lettres et opuscules inédits / de Leibniz ; précédé d'une introd. de A. Foucher de Careil, ...
La monadologie / Leibniz ; avec une notice sur Leibniz... de D. Nolen, ...
Leibniz : "nouveaux essais sur l'entendement humain" / [éd.] par J.-H. Vérin
La monadologie / Leibniz ; publ. d'après les ms. et accompagnée d'éclaircissements par Emile Boutroux. Suivi d'une Note sur les principes de la mécanique dans Descartes et dans Leibniz / par Henri Poincaré, ...
Leibniz : la monadologie / avec étude et notes [de] Clodius Piat, ...
Discours de métaphysique / par G. W. Leibniz ; introd. et notes par H. Lestienne

Of course that is just one site. Other worthy sites that have a wealth of bibliographic information and links to translations and editions are as follows.

The new site sponsored by the SeL (as reported in this issue under "News from the Spanish Leibniz Society") has links to the "gallica" site just described as well as to many other site of interest to Leibniz scholars. Its URL is

www.leibnizsociedad.org.

A website which has a fine bibliography and maintains, among other things, the *Leibniz Society Newsletter*, has been created by Gregory Brown at

<http://www.hfac.uh.edu/gbrown/philosophers/Leibniz>

Donald Rutherford has a site that currently maintains the Leibniz Society of North America and *Leibniz Review* information among translations and many other resources. Its address is:

<http://philosophy2.ucsd.edu/~rutherford/Leibniz>

(If one simply enters "www.leibnizreview.com" one is automatically taken to the *Leibniz Review* information on Donald Rutherford's site.)

There are some translations available from Lloyd Strickland at:

<http://www.leibniz-translations.com/index.php>

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And George MacDonald Ross has translation of the *Monadology*, with a running commentary viewable in a split screen, at

<http://www.prs-ltsn.leeds.ac.uk/generic/screentexts/leibframe.html>

(Clicking the link in the translation brings up the relevant commentary, and *vice versa*.)

Official web sites for the Academy edition of Leibniz's works are announced and updated annually in the *Review* by Herbert Breger—see “News from the Leibniz-Gesellschaft” at the end of each issue.

There are no doubt other sites, and I would ask people who know of them to contact me (hartz.l@osu.edu) with that information.

In the world of print most of us grew up in, web resources like these can appear threatening. Even this journal, which I intend to continue as a printed booklet, has had to deal with the question of maintaining an on-line presence. Indeed, the Leibniz Society of North America's Executive committee approved making it available to subscribing institutions through Poiesis. Libraries are dramatically affected of course. Their “serials” collections are more and more online, removing the need for storing rafts of journal issues. As George Leaman once told me, the future of journals is in online access. Some libraries may even subscribe but choose not to receive a hard copy! It goes without saying that it is a “brave new world” for publishers of books and reprints as well.

On the other hand, the “gallica” online site gives you one page at a time and is not searchable. For many works, one gets pinpoint facsimiles, but any stretch of pages would be hard to access and look through in an efficient manner. However, some of the material is available as text and can be copied into a data file and searched using conventional methods. It should be noted that the Poiesis site has a powerful search engine for its journals, and the same engine for use with the Philosophy Documentation Center's “Past Masters” Series. (One of the Past Masters items is GP. Another offers AG and NE.)