

Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Online

Report to the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada
December 4, 2002

During the past year we have added 65 articles to the Encyclopedia. Most of these were new biographies, primarily from British Columbia and Ontario. A few new “source” documents have been added at the suggestion of Encyclopedia users, e.g. James Urry of New Zealand.

Below is a table showing comparable figures since statistics began to be kept in April 2000.

	Dec. 2000	May 2001	Dec. 2001	Dec. 2002
Hits per Day	1,786	2,119	2,920	4,215
Visitors per Day	524	603	657	734
International Visitors		62.2%	65.3%	65.45%
Unique visitors (Total)		115,355	173,599	314,027
Page Views per Day		1,659	2,215	3,072
Articles in CMEO	2,216		2,239	2,304

The most hits we've had was on November 11, 2002, when we received 14,686 hits; this was related to tracking by the Google search engine. The most popular pages in the Encyclopedia are: “Conestoga Wagon,” “Amish,” “Furniture and Woodworking,” “Folk Medicine,” “Dress,” and “Amish Division.”

Many reference questions continue to be received. I have forwarded a few to other editorial committee members, including a recent query requiring an answer in French. Recent questions have included the distinction between Old Order Amish and Old German Baptist Brethren, where to purchase Amish readers, whether Mennonite women can shave body hair, where to buy “Mennonite” furniture, identification of an old book obtained by the visitor, and the location of Mennonite congregations in England. Clearly these questions are similar to those received by all Mennonite librarians.

I have continued to modify articles to reflect the changed format approved a couple of years ago. This has meant creating separate “Bibliography” pages for almost all articles, changing the linking patterns on the articles, and modifying the format of the bibliographies. As I've proceeded I've also tried to update congregational articles as possible. I had hoped to finish this process by our meeting; I am now in the “W's.”

Work should be initiated to incorporate new Canadian Mennonite congregations. When I have finished updating the current articles I hope to begin on this by reviewing the denominational periodicals and yearbooks. I also wish to add some additional articles from the print version of the encyclopedia, and welcome suggestions for additional “source” documents that should be added. In recent months on the MennoLink listserv a number of references have been made to the confessions of faith currently published on our site.

I wonder if it is time to set up a subgroup of the editorial board to find ways to systematically update the information within articles, particularly the “subject” articles. The “Who Are the Mennonites” section of the MHSC website remains in need of revision.

Submitted by Sam Steiner,
Managing Editor