

**University Libraries**  
**Technology Fee – Instructional Technology Enhancement Project (ITEP)**  
FY 2010/2011

This is a proposal for the purchase of the Early English Books Online (EEBO) database, which contains the complete electronic reproductions of more than 100,000 books and pamphlets published between 1473 and 1700. The total cost of this proposal (including the one-time cost of the archive minus \$20,000 placed forth by the Roberta C. and Herman V. Yeager Memorial Library and one year's worth of the annual access fee) is \$43,345.

**Project Description:**

Early English Books Online (EEBO) offers unprecedented electronic access to 100,000 texts written between 1473 and 1700, including the first book published in English. The UWF Libraries, in collaboration with the English & Foreign Languages Department and the Yeager Memorial Library, wish to purchase this archive which will fill immediate student needs for the English Department's studies from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment as well as provide an opportunity for an in-depth collaboration for a course being developed jointly with Dr. Yeager and his colleagues at Tulane and Florida State University.

However, this project has broader implications and multidisciplinary benefits. It will increase the UWF Libraries' electronic book holdings immediately by 100,000 titles which will continue to grow as the EEBO digitization project expands to include 25,000 additional texts. As the archive is a one-time fee, the UWF Libraries will have 24/7 access to these materials permanently, which will allow students to access and search primary source materials from their desktops and faculty to link to texts through E-Learning for years and years to come. Additionally, the archive contains more than literary texts (such as the earliest editions of *The Canterbury Tales* and Shakespeare's plays) and includes original versions of royal statutes, proclamations, Parliamentary documents, news reports, and mathematical and scientific treatises (including original texts by Newton and Galileo, to name a few).

At 62 cents a title—and 42 cents a title with the Yeager Library contribution—EEBO offers a remarkable value to UWF students on electronic titles that will become a permanent part of the Libraries' collection.

**Description of alignment with UWF Strategic Plan:**

UWF's vision statement (2008-2012) states that UWF "seeks to empower students with the knowledge, skills and opportunity to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex world." The acquisition of EEBO would provide such an empowering opportunity by placing UWF students at the forefront of cutting-edge textual research. They can be on-par with their peers from other institutions who are developing these skills and know that they are receiving access to the absolute best resources while getting the one-on-one faculty attention that distinguishes UWF from the others.

- **Strategic Focus: High Quality Academic Programs**

With the emergence of EEBO, students may now conduct original primary source research and construct their own interpretations of the works based upon first-hand knowledge of the material. This access allows students to work with information previously only accessible to visiting scholars at institutions with extensive rare

collections. High quality academic programs demand access to the latest, most comprehensive developments in the disciplines, and EEBO provides such access.

- **Strategic Focus: Partnerships and Collaboration**

Dr. Robert Yeager is currently developing a course in collaboration with his colleagues at Florida State and Tulane University through the new Yeager Memorial Library. This course will primarily look at the manuscript holdings of the three institutions, including digitized collections. The addition of EEBO to our collection will enhance inter-institutional collaboration for students at all three places by allowing students to share and analyze works that were previously inaccessible, even through interlibrary loans, in an online forum.

**Description of benefits provided:**

a. Ways in which student access to technology will be enhanced:

Some of the most engaging research projects that we see in the Libraries involve students who are searching for primary source materials. Unfortunately, primary texts are often limited to our own library holdings or what has been digitized on the open web which does not carry the breadth and variety of the EEBO texts. The most diligent students will attempt to acquire microfilm and rare books from other institutions but will often reach a dead-end because either an institution will not lend out their rare and aged materials (and even if they do, it can take up to two weeks) or because the students were ordering microfilm based solely on the information they gleaned from a library record about the material. Hours upon hours are often spent combing a microfilm reel without finding a shred of the relevant material they need for their projects. As a result, most students give up and conduct their research in a secondhand fashion, adopting the conclusions of other scholars in the discipline.

With EEBO, students will not only have access to the entire 100,000 works but also have the ability to search and browse by subject, indexing that was not done in the microfilm versions. And, with EEBO's new Text Creation Project initiative, it may be possible to eventually search the full ASCII text of a growing body of these documents, pinpointing points of relevance within seconds. This efficiency and precision in research is necessary if we want to keep our students up-to-date with the kinds of research that are possible in their fields. EEBO has also recently added an EEBO Interactions social networking feature that allows students and scholars to post comments under the original works. This type of access to-- and interaction with—scholars and other students truly realizes the idea of a global classroom.

b. How the student experience will be enhanced:

Students will be empowered by coming to know early books and manuscripts first hand—or as close to first hand as excellent digitizations can make possible. EEBO at UWF will permit courses to be developed in fields such as printing/textual history, the book as a technology changing over time (the latter culminating in being able to look at the very digitizing process as a step in the continuing evolution of the book, so that EEBO itself, as an object, could become part of the case study capable of connecting departments—Computer Science and English, perhaps—across disciplinary and even college lines). EEBO can, quite literally, change the way UWF students at all levels approach books both as texts with specific content, as objects of

design and aesthetic presence (of interest to the Art Department), and as technology with a future in the electronic age.

EEBO allows students to situate their studies in time; that is, they will be able to read news reports, pamphlets, and the popular thought of the day first-hand and not rely upon summaries of the period. Any student who wants to look at the history of their discipline or provide cultural or historical context on a topic will benefit. Using this approach with EEBO, Dr. Wilder at the University of Toronto notes that students are “less likely to recycle academic cliché’s” because they aren’t reliant upon secondhand research. Moreover, she goes on to say that by looking at non-canonical works, the students are more likely to take risks and produce something that is “brave and original.”<sup>1</sup> Looking at these rare works enhances the faculty and student relationship like never before by allowing for original research in the fields.

Finally, collaborative projects such as EEBO, being the fruit of labors of people around the world who own these collections of rare early texts, can itself be a model for imagined projects by students whose careers as scholars will necessarily depend increasingly on sophistication with such entities as EEBO.

c. How assessment will be conducted.

Part of the way success will be measured will be to record the number of courses that have constructed assignments using the EEBO materials. Since assessment of student learning outcomes that are developed in these assignments will be the best way to measure student success, random samples of student work will be analyzed according to a rubric. Surveys will also be conducted among students to measure the differences in students’ research experiences and learning in the past to the ones in assignments using the EEBO database.

d. Which and how many students will be impacted.

Since EEBO would become a permanent addition to the Pace and Yeager Library collections, the number and kind of students using it over time would extend indefinitely. Immediately, EEBO will be integral to 2-3 classes of undergraduates and 2-3 classes of graduate students in the English & Foreign Languages Department, for perhaps a total of 200 students per year. However, EEBO is multidisciplinary and as it is promoted, its use will grow across the disciplines, including: literature, history, philosophy, linguistics, communication arts, music, fine arts, education, mathematics, and science.

e. How students with special needs or disabilities would be helped.

Students with special needs or disabilities will experience enormous benefits in using EEBO, if for no other reason than that they can work with primary source materials from venues undoubtedly more friendly to them than physically coming to, and negotiating, a library to take research materials in hand. Indeed certain primary source research is often too cumbersome of an endeavor to pursue for students with special needs, and EEBO solves the problem by being accessible from anywhere.

f. How training of students and faculty in the use of technology would be enhanced.

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<sup>1</sup> Early English Books Online. “Case Study: Early English Books Online – Dr. Georgia Wilder at the University of Toronto,” <http://eebo.chadwyck.com/about/EEBOcasestudy.pdf> (accessed February 28, 2011).

By bringing UWF students together with a digitized, electronic textual experience involving such an extensive database, the sophistication of both students and faculty in the ready manipulation of electronically delivered information can only grow. The images of the works are able to be downloaded as a TIFF file, which allows for easy manipulation, and each image comes with a durable URL which may be placed in E-Learning courses.

**How success will be measured:**

The Libraries will measure the success of the EEBO collection by maintaining usage statistics and conducting surveys. The number of library instruction workshops that are given to instruct students on the use of EEBO, as well as the number of courses that develop assignments around the EEBO materials will also be counted.

**Resources for the project and projected ongoing resource needs:**

The cost of EEBO, \$62,175, is a one-time fee for the electronic archive of all of its content. An annual access fee of \$1170 is required to view the content. \$20,000 is being given by the Yeager Memorial Library to bring down the one-time cost to \$42,175. The UWF Libraries will continue to pay the annual access fee after the first year.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Early English Books Online database -(minus) Yeager Library contribution	\$62,175 – \$20,000 = <b>\$42,175</b>
Annual Access Fee	<b>\$1170</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$43,345</b>

**Proposed timeline:**

EEBO will be purchased as soon as funds are made available and access is usually available one week after purchase. The ongoing maintenance fee is due annually, beginning on the first anniversary of purchase.

**Plan for sustainability:**

All electronic databases are maintained by the library staff, and EEBO will be no exception. Specialized databases, like EEBO, are also taught and promoted by the librarians involved in the Library Instruction Program, so librarians will be responsible for teaching its capabilities and features to both faculty and students and promoting it as an online resource.

**Resource Matching Commitments:**

\$20,000 from the Roberta C. and Herman V. Yeager Memorial Library will be given to the UWF Libraries for the purchase of EEBO (see attached letter from Dr. Robert Yeager).

**Individual or group responsible for implementation:**

Once funds are received, Shari Johnson, the Electronic Resources Librarian, will initiate the order with our ProQuest representative and ensure that the link to the EEBO database is added to the Libraries' website. The collection should be available within a week placing the order.

Dr. Robert Yeager will be responsible for incorporating it into courses within his department, and the English & Foreign Languages Librarian and Library Instruction Coordinator, Britt McGowan, will be responsible for teaching its features to students and promoting it across the disciplines.

**Persons Responsible for Reporting and Accountability:**

**Oversight & Accountability:**

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**Principal Investigator:**

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University Libraries – Early English Books Online Proposal

March 2, 2011

Dear Britt:

Per our earlier discussions, the Department of English and Foreign Languages, in conjunction with the Roberta C. and Herman V. Yeager Memorial Library, will commit to contributing up to \$20,000 to the purchase of Early English Books Online (EEBO).

Sincerely,  
R.F. Yeager  
Professor and Chair  
English & Foreign Languages Department  
University of West Florida  
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