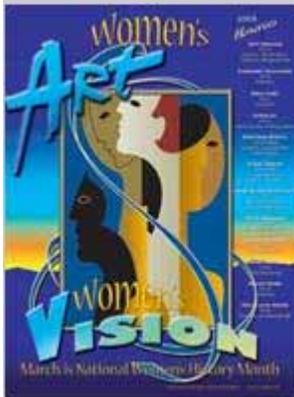




The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center

Yerevan Times

Women's History, Accomplishments Celebrated Every March



In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has since passed such a resolution every year. Congressional action is followed by a U.S. presidential proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

Since its founding in 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHF) has recognized and celebrated the rich and varied contributions of women to the history and culture of the United States.

The accomplishments of 12 women artists are being honored in 2008. Two are historical figures: Violet Oakley (1874-1961), who in 1902 was commissioned to paint murals in the Pennsylvania capitol building -- the largest public commission given to an American woman up to that time -- and Rose O'Neill (1874-1944), one of the first female cartoonists in America and the inventor of the Kewpie doll.

The National Women's History Project also recognizes International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8.

Read more on Women's History at: <http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2008/February/20080227184124liameruoy0.1790735.html>

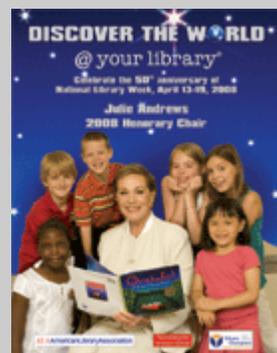
50th Anniversary of National Library Week

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of America's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.

National Library Week will be observed April 13-19, 2008 with the theme, "Join the Circle of Knowledge @ Your Library@."

Since 2002 in Armenia, librarians also celebrate the National Library Week with hundreds of public programs, exhibitions, presentations, etc. The Armenian library week is taking place not only in Yerevan but in the most of regional, city and village libraries.

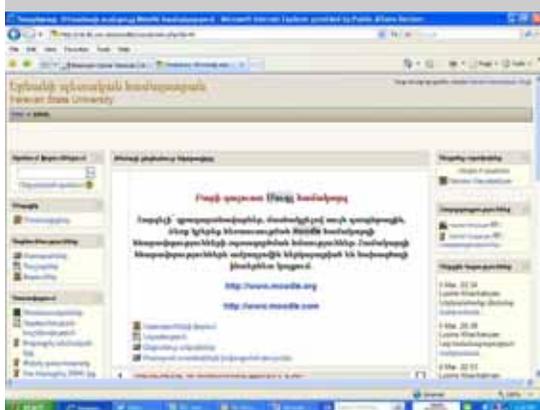


PEACE CORPS WEEK IN ARMENIA

On February 27, 2008, the American Corners in Gyumri, Vanadzor and Kapan hosted a special movie program organized together with the U.S. Peace Corps. The movie was called "American Idealist: The Story of Sargent Shriver." The movie was produced by his daughter, Maria Shriver, who is the niece of John F. Kennedy and the wife of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Before the movie, in three Corners Peace Corps volunteers presented information about the Peace Corps activities in Armenia and all over the world.

For More on American Corners activities, turn to page 3.

LIBRARIANS DISCUSSED DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Representatives from 10 academic and research libraries including Yerevan State University, the American University of Armenia, the National Library of Armenia, the National Children's Library, the Scientific Medical Library, and the RA National Assembly Library participated in a meeting and discussion about distance learning opportunities in Armenia. This initiative started as a result of a Library Speaker Program implemented by the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center. In November and December 2007, Tom Sloan, the Executive Director of the South East Florida Library and Information Network, conducted a two-week speaker program. One of the outcomes was the establishment of an online opportunity to support the training needs of Armenian library workers.

During the discussions and introduction seminars held in the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center, American University of Armenia and the Yerevan State University, library directors and representatives agreed that distance learning is a key issue for Armenian libraries in general because most librarians have very limited funding and resources to develop their professional skills. Some, but not all, libraries have Internet access and computer rooms available for librarians for professional development and training needs. After the discussion, the librarians agreed that the target group to focus on during the first stage of developing distance learning opportunities should be library professionals who work in Yerevan, young librarians, and information specialists.

The Moodle Course Management System (see <http://moodle.com/>) was selected to become a basis for creating distance learning classes for Armenian librarians. Moodle is already translated into Armenian and is the main tool currently in use at Yerevan State University. The following courses have been identified as priority training needs for Armenian librarians: *Cataloging and Classification, Cataloging Internet Resources, Reference Sources and Services, Web Blogs, and Digitization 101*.

A testing interface for Armenian librarians is already available at: <http://vle.lib.ysu.am/moodle/>. People interested can contact Lusine Khachatryan directly at: lyuska@ysu.am



DEAR PATRONS,

According to recent international surveys, people with information needs are more likely to use search engines, rather than go to a library. We would like to share with you a list of best search engines and directories on the web. In addition, you can find a selective list of the most popular search engines in different European countries.

What is the difference between search engines and directories?

The databases used by search engines are made by "robots" or "spiders" that automatically map the Web by following the links between sites. The directories, on the other hand, contain sites that are hand picked by human beings. Still, most search sites present search engine as well as directory results. **Metasearch engines** gather results from several search engines and directories.

Traditional search engines list normal webpages and some other file types that are interlinked to from such webpages. The database sites, however, give you access to data that are not part of the Web as such.

SELECTED WEBSITES FOR SEARCH ENGINES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

- Belarus - www.all.by
- Bulgaria - <http://www.google.bg> and <http://diri.bg>
- Czech Republic - www.seznam.cz
- Estonia - <http://www.neti.ee>
- Latvia - www.google.lv
- Lithuania - www.google.lt
- Norway - www.pandia.com
- Poland - <http://www.google.pl/>
- Russia - www.google.ru , www.yandex.ru
- Slovakia - www.surf.sk ; www.Google.sk
- Spain - www.ozu.es
- Switzerland - <http://www.search.ch/>
- Turkey - <http://www.bilgi.com> and <http://www.didikle.com>

What's New at The American Corners?

Each month, the U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center organizes "American at the American Corners," and "Armenian at the American Corners" lectures. All presentations are free of charge and open to the public.

IN GYUMRI: TURKEY/ARMENIA: YOUTH COLLABORATION

On February 29, the Gyumri American Corner organized a debate on the following topic: "Turkey/Armenia: Youth Collaboration." The debate was held by Tigran Petrosyan, the trainer at the Eastern European Youth Collaboration organization. More than 25 people from different universities and NGOs participated in the debate. Together with KASA Suisse Humanity foundation, 6 students from France were present for the debate. Among the participants, there were also NGO representatives with experience in the field of youth collaboration and they agreed that it's possible to establish relationships with youth from Turkey. However, there were also participants that stated that collaboration isn't possible at all. Both sides shared their opinions. During the debate, participants had the opportunity to watch a short movie filmed by Arman Tadevosyan, a young artist from Gyumri. The film was made during a trip the artist made to Turkey. (Arman's film will compete in the next Cannes Film Festival). The film is called "Transformation" and focuses on how Armenian churches and homes in Turkey have been changed and repurposed. Another participant who has visited Turkey through different youth programs said she liked Kars very much and longs for the Turkish-Armenian border to reopen so that she may visit Kars more often. At the end of the debate, most participants agreed that after hearing both sides of the argument, they believe that collaboration with youth groups in Turkey is possible



IN VANADZOR: PUBLIC LECTURE ON VOTING RIGHTS

On February 12, 2008 U.S. Embassy representative Philip Gale gave a public lecture entitled, "Suffering and Suffrage: A History of Voting Rights in America." Within the framework of Black History Month, this lecture was an illustrated review of African-American history and the struggle against racial prejudice. In addition Mr. Gale introduced current developments in the elections process presenting different variations of voting rights including the Motor Voter Act, electronic voting machines, Internet voting, weekend voting, and resident alien voting. The lecture was followed by a Q&A. A group of students of the local Mkhitar Gosh University participated in the lecture.

IN YEREVAN: U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

On January 17, 2008, U.S. Embassy Vice Consul Jeff Gringer gave a public lecture entitled "U.S. Presidential Selection Process" at the American Corner in Yerevan. Mr. Gringer was hosted by the Corner for the second time as a speaker for the "Americans at the American Corner" public lecture series. Mr. Gringer noted that the U.S. presidential election is not direct and is very difficult to understand even for many Americans. Election rules are regulated by the U.S. Constitution and Americans have voted for president in the same manner for more than 200 years. Mr. Gringer spoke about primaries, caucuses and the Electoral College. Mr. Gringer discussed the Democratic and Republican Parties and presented the most popular presidential candidates. After the presentation, participants asked a wide range of questions. About 30 participants from different universities, organizations and NGOs attended.



Lianna Amirkhanyan, the Yerevan American Corner coordinator together with "Educated Society" NGO members visited the Zeitun orphanage. Together with volunteers American Corner staff organizes movie programs and English conversation

Resources Available at the Information Resource Center

IRC ONLINE DATABASES ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

Armed Conflict Database

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) published the following journals: Survival, Military Balance, and Adelphi paper. Also, in order to keep up-to-date on conflict-related matters around the world, IISS has produced The Armed Conflict Database. It is a project that aims to provide an interactive and user-friendly source of information on armed conflicts worldwide.

As with the IISS Chart of Armed Conflict, the database seeks to cover international and internal conflicts, as well as terrorism. It provides an interactive and user-friendly source of information on 70 armed conflicts including terrorism, refugees/ and returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), weapons used, fatalities, historical backgrounds, annual updates and timelines.

International Crisis Group

The International Crisis Group is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, with some 130 staff members on five continents, working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict.

Crisis Group's approach is grounded in field research. Teams of political analysts are located within or close by countries at risk of outbreak, escalation or recurrence of violent conflict. Based on information and assessments from the field, it produces analytical reports containing practical recommendations targeted at key international decision-takers. Crisis Group's reports and briefing papers are distributed widely by email and printed copy to officials in foreign ministries and international organizations and made available simultaneously on the website. Crisis Group works closely with governments and those who influence them, including the media, to highlight its crisis analyses and to generate support for its policy prescriptions.

Terrorism Knowledge Database

Developed by the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT), the Terrorism Knowledge Base offers in-depth information on terrorist incidents, groups, and trials.

Columbia Gazetteer of the World

A database of names, descriptions, and characteristics of over 165,000 places in the world. Users can search all the information— not just place-names—and segment it.

Country Watch

Country Watch provides critical country-specific intelligence and data through its suite of products to over 4000 clients including public and private sector organizations with overseas operations and global interests.

TREATIES IN FORCE

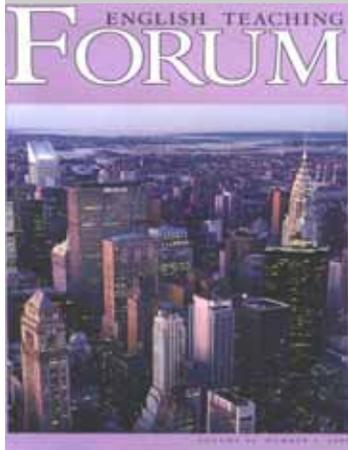
We would like to distribute the following notice about the online availability of Treaties in Force. This is a very useful resource tool for research purposes.

Treaties in Force 2007 is now available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format on the treaty affairs web site <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/2007/index.htm>. Treaties in Force 2007 lists treaties and other international agreements of the United States on record in the Department of State as of January 1, 2007, which had not expired by their own terms or which had not been denounced by the parties, replaced or superseded by other agreements, or otherwise definitely terminated. As explained on the web page, however, certain types of agreements are not listed, and the absence of a listing for a particular agreement should not be regarded as a determination that it is not in force.

Treaties in Force is divided into two sections. Section 1 <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/2007/section1/index.htm> includes bilateral treaties and other international agreements listed by country or other international entity, with subject headings under each entry. Section 2 <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/2007/section2/index.htm> lists multilateral treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a party, arranged by subject, and includes listings of the parties to those agreements.

Please see the main Treaty Affairs web page <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty> for further information about treaties and treaty making, including a number of useful links."

Resources Available at the Information Resource Center



ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM

English Teaching Forum, published by the United States Department of State for teachers of English, is distributed abroad by U.S. Embassies. These journals contain ready-to-use lesson plans and are suitable for students at the intermediate level. Each chapter contains background information, classroom-ready activities, and related resources and references. The English Teaching Forum is published four times a year, in January, April, July, and October.

The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section is happy to provide Armenian universities and libraries with a copy of The English Teaching Forum. The Forum is widely used by AELTA members and English teachers not only in Yerevan, but in Gyumri, Vanadzor, Goris, Kapan and many other places in Armenia. According to our patrons feedback it is very useful addition to their English language programs.

The journal is also available online at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/forum/>



THE LONG CAMPAIGN U.S. ELECTIONS 2008

This edition of eJournal USA presents an introduction to the upcoming 2008 U.S. elections. In these elections, U.S. voters will have the opportunity to vote for president and vice president, congressional representatives, state and local officials, and ballot initiatives. The journal describes aspects of this election which make it different from most recent elections and includes a pro-con debate of the Electoral College.

The journal is also available online in English at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1007/ijde/ijde1007.htm>

The journal is also available online in Russian at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1007/ijdr/ijdr1007.htm>

Cover image: A father and son in Ohio use an electronic voting machine to vote during the 2006 election. ©AP Images/Amy Sancetta

All educational establishments and NGOs', libraries that are interested in obtaining a copy of English Teaching Forum or U.S. Elections brochure are welcome apply to IRC at: ircyerevan@usa.am or via phone: 49-44-11 or 49-42-65

INFORMATION ABOUT U.S. ELECTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND KIDS

[Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government for Kids: Election Process](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/election/index.html) (<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/election/index.html>)

This Library of Congress site explains how Americans pick their leaders.

CNN Student News <http://edition.cnn.com/studentnews/>

This site offer news for children and learning projects.

PBS Kids The Democracy Project <http://pbskids.org/democracy/vote/>

This interactive Web site teaches how Americans vote.

Scholastic News: Election 2008 <http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/election2008.htm>

This site posts news for kids, reported by kids.



FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

For more than a century after the founding of the United States, American women did not have the right to vote. But, thanks to the persistent efforts of women activists over more than 70 years, women finally earned that fundamental right with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS Of the U.S. Department of State

THE NEXT NEW THING

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, January, 2008



Since the time of Benjamin Franklin, when he harnessed electricity using a simple kite and a key in the 1700s, Americans have embraced the power of imagination, ingenuity, and creativity. Each year the United States issues more than 180,000 patents to scientists, students, corporations, and everyday people so that they can protect and build on their idea and introduce it to the world.

Innovation is the art of creating something new, and everyday in the U.S. and around the world, scientists, students, and everyday people are working to bring to life an idea that is theirs alone. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of innovators and their creations.

This e-journal is available at the following web address:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0108/ijse/ijse0108.htm>

IMMIGRANTS JOINING THE MAINSTREAM

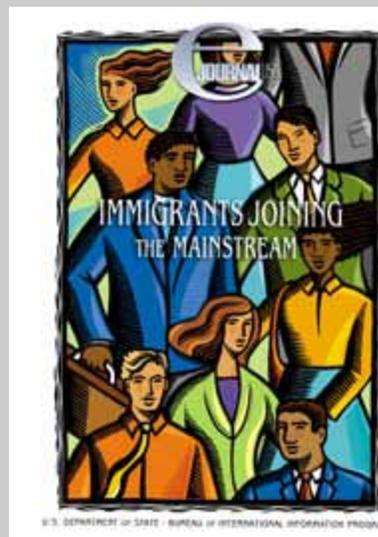
An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, February, 2008

Immigrants made the United States what it is. Being an American depends on acceptance of certain American ideals, not on the place of birth of a person or of his or her ancestors. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of immigration and diversity as it has played out through the centuries and continues to play out now.

It is often said that the United States is a country of immigrants. In fact, in the 1960s President John F. Kennedy, the great-grandson of Irish immigrants, published a book titled A Nation of Immigrants. This label is not quite accurate, however, since we know that Native American civilizations had flourished in this land for thousands of years before the first European settlers arrived in the 1500s.

What is true is that immigration has been a central issue in determining this country's history. The immigrant French farmer Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur in 1781 posed a famous question: What is an American?

This e-journal is available at the following web address:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0208/ijse/ijse0208.htm>



AMERICAN MOVIE HOURS



Dear Patron, on a monthly basis IRC organizes an American Movie Hour, showing an award-winning movie. IRC patrons are invited to watch a film and practice their language skills. A thirty minute discussion follows each movie. The upcoming movies are scheduled on March 17 and April 21. If you plan to attend one of the programs please RSVP to ircyerevan@usa.am.

The U.S. Embassy Information Resource Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 13:00 to 18:00.
1, American Ave., Yerevan 0082, Republic of Armenia
Tel: (374-10) 49-44-11, 49-42-65
E-Mail: ircyerevan@usa.am <http://www.usa.am/irc3.html>