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Review of the database Fold3 History and Genealogy Archives Plus

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Fold3 History and Genealogy Archives Plus. EBSCO. Contact publisher for pricing.

URL: <http://www.ebscohost.com/>

[Visited Apr'12] EBSCO is the exclusive provider for library/institutional access to *Fold3*, which started as *Footnote* (CH, Feb'08, 45-2969) and is now owned by *Ancestry.com*. ("Fold3" refers to the way flags are folded at military funerals.) This reviewer was authenticated on

an EBSCO screen but immediately switched to the *Fold3* platform on the *Footnotelibrary.com* domain. (EBSCO hopes to move some content to its own interface at some point, but also will continue to offer the *Fold3* interface.) The *Plus* version of *Fold3* includes the Fold3 History and Genealogy Archives, African American Archives, Native American Archives, Revolutionary War Archives, US Bureau of Investigation Case File Archives, and World War II Archives. The first one may be subscribed to separately; the latter five archives may be purchased individually on a perpetual access basis.

Most of the collections are digitized from the US National Archives, but others come from local archival collections, including the Allen County Public Library, the Boston Public Library, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harris County Archives, Southern Utah University, and the Center for Research Libraries. A few of the genealogical collections are not yet fully digitized; e.g., the US Federal Censuses for 1900, 1910, and 1920 were only 6 percent complete. What makes the suite of products important and impressive are the scanned original documents (with metadata; 60,000-plus pages), which are high-quality images rather than transcripts. Users may either browse individual titles or search across all titles by name or keyword. Documents are displayed in the *Fold3* viewer, which requires no separate software, and users can zoom in, rotate, adjust brightness and contrast, and also search for a word in the document. Users can print both images and metadata; images and selected portions thereof can be saved as JPEGs.

Some representative titles in the various archives include Correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division Relating to "Negro Subversion," 1917-1941; Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRs) of the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942-1947; Investigative Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922; and the stunning Frank A. Rinchart Photographs of Native Americans, taken at the 1898 Indian Congress. The five newspapers included are *Atlanta Constitution* (1868-1923), *Chicago Tribune* (1849-1923), *San Francisco Chronicle* (1865-1923), *The Times* (London; 1785-1919), and *The Washington Post* (1904-21). Aside from a generic EBSCO support link, the database lacks a "help" feature. Although *Ancestry.com* owns *Fold3*, the two products are very different. Whereas *Ancestry.com* is still the basic source for family research, *Fold3's* archive of original historical documents will provide a wealth of primary source materials for students and historians as well as genealogists. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Lower-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty; general audience.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*