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Review of the website Founders Early Access

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Founders Early Access, from the University of Virginia Press.

URL: <http://www.rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/FOEA.html>

[Visited Aug'10] *Founders Early Access* (FOEA) is an effort to make early American documents available to the public via the University of Virginia Press's Rotunda Web site before these documents have been edited and published. The project is a collaboration of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities' Documents Compass group, and the Papers of George Washington editorial project. Documents included come from the six continuing Founding Fathers projects: the Papers of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington (CH, Aug'07, 44-6604), the Adams family (CH, Oct'09, 47-0629), Thomas Jefferson (CH, Nov'09, 47-1215), James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. The usual process is for original documents to be proofread, edited, and annotated before the public gets to read the published versions, whether in print or via online sources. These FOEA documents, however, are made available soon after their initial proofreading and appear online as transcriptions. The source of each document is included.

As of June 2010, the site had been updated three times with a total of 7,826 documents added. Documents can be browsed by volume/dates, e.g., George Washington Papers/Revolutionary War Papers: 15 September 1778-31 October 1778. The site also offers a search function. Once a document has been fully edited and published in its appropriate Founding Fathers project Web site, it is removed from the FOEA site. Each FOEA document contains a caveat stating, "This early access document should not be cited in formal research." Nevertheless, researchers and students likely will enjoy browsing the site, even if they are prohibited from citing it. Libraries that link to the various Founding Fathers projects' Web sites also will want to link to FOEA. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★
Upper-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*