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Review of the website Central Asian Studies World Wide

John A. Drobnicki
CUNY York College

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Central Asian studies worldwide

URL: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~casww/>

Sponsored by the Harvard Forum for Central Asian Studies, this Web site's purposes are to acquaint users with Central Asian studies, provide links to and information about relevant research institutions, and provide access to basic reference tools, including those in print. Instead of trying to be a comprehensive virtual library of links, it attempts to cite basic sources for beginning students. General editor John Schoeberlein (director of the Forum) arranges information under seven broad categories (e.g., Entrees into Central Asian Studies; Making Contact: Scholars in the Field). The list of recent dissertations in the field (currently 212) and the Central Asia Experts Directory should both be particularly useful for younger researchers and graduate students. Unfortunately, many of the site's promised features are "still in draft"—for example, Reference Materials (which will include a bibliography) and contact information for Archives—hence it is difficult to determine how useful this site may eventually be. Since there are no graphics, the site loads quickly, but the exterior search function (IndexMySite) did not work properly, delivering an error message when one attempts to retrieve more than the initial ten hits. An advanced search function is needed to either include or exclude materials from the CentralAsia-L listserv archive. For its limited purpose, this site should be valuable for graduate students and faculty, but in fairness the site should be reexamined in future when more of the draft items are added. Libraries wanting a virtual library of links would better link to *REESWeb* <<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb/>>, which includes Central Asia and the Caucasus in addition to Russia and eastern Europe and is currently being reorganized.—*J. A. Drobnicki, CUNY York College*