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Emory Center for Digital Scholarship

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About

ECDS works collaboratively to explore possibilities for digital scholarship. Our team of subject matter experts works with faculty, students, staff, librarians, and public partners to create innovative and accessible projects.



explore what **ECDS** has **CREATED, SUPPORTED, and BUILT** over the two years

2,091

consultations

161

class visits

82

workshops

45

projects and media

821,716

visitors to websites

503,407

visitors to journals

12

conferences and lectures

14

partnerships


Slave Voyages

Slave Voyages

Trans-Atlantic ▾ Intra-American ▾ African Names ▾ Resources ▾ About ▾ EN ▾

EXPLORE THE DISPERSAL OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC WORLD







This digital memorial raises questions about the largest slave trades in history and offers access to the documentation available to answer them. European colonizers turned to Africa for enslaved laborers to build the cities and extract the resources of the Americas. They forced millions of mostly unnamed Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas, and from one part of the Americas to another. Analyze these slave trades and view interactive maps, timelines, and animations to see the dispersal in action.

 Henry Louis Gates introduces Slave Voyages 2.0 and some of its people


Special features

- [Introductory maps](#)
Overview of slave trade in a series of maps
- [Slave ship in 3D video](#)
View a 3D rendition of a slave ship
- [Timelines of estimates](#)
Number of captives embarked and disembarked

Timelapse
View the movement of slave ships across the Atlantic

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 **EMORY**
LIBRARIES &
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Emory Center for
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Slavevoyages.org

Slave Voyages Trans-Atlantic ▾ Intra-American ▾ African Names ▾ Resources ▾ About ▾ EN ▾

About - Slave Voyages

History of the Project

- About the Project
- History of the Project**
- Project Team
- Contributors of Data
- Acknowledgements
- African Origins Project
- Contact Us
- Glossary
- FAQs
- Legal
- News Center
 - Information Release on the Future of Slave Voyages
 - Note on Terminology

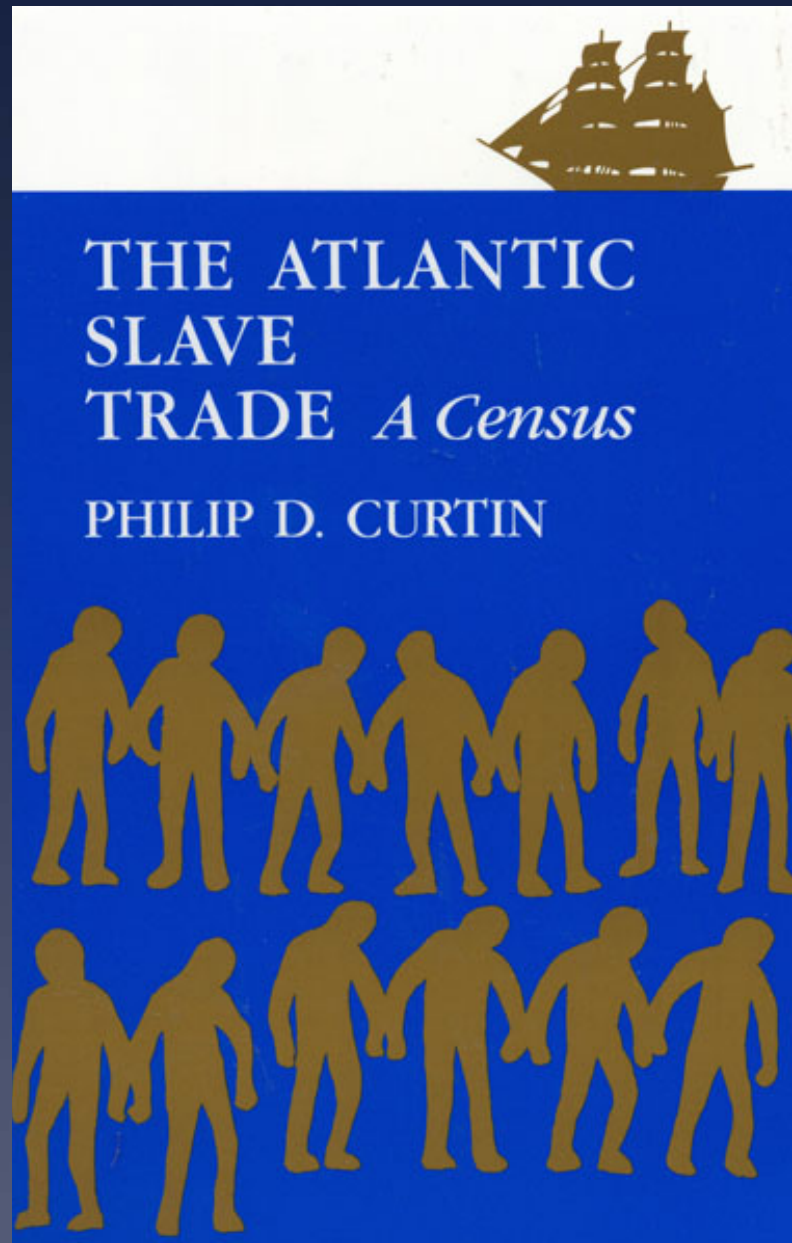
History of the Project

A glance at the Sources section of "Understanding the Database" establishes Voyages as the product of an international research endeavor that has ranged far beyond the labors of the current project team. From the late 1960s, Herbert S. Klein and other scholars began to collect archival data on slave-trading voyages from unpublished sources and to code them into a machine-readable format. In the 1970s and 1980s, scholars created a number of slave ship datasets, several of which the current authors chose to recode from the primary sources rather than integrate the datasets of those scholars into the present set. By the late 1980s, there were records of approximately 11,000 individual trans-Atlantic voyages in sixteen separate datasets, not all of which were trans-Atlantic, nor, as it turned out, slave voyages. And of course, some sets overlapped others. Several listings of voyages extracted from more than one source had appeared in hard copy form, notably three volumes of voyages from French ports published by Jean Mettas and Serge and Michelle Daget and two volumes of Bristol voyages (expanded to four by 1996) authored by David Richardson. The basis for each dataset was usually the records of a specific European nation or the particular port where slaving voyages originated, with the information available reflecting the nature of the records that had survived rather than the structure of the voyage itself. Scholars of the slave trade spent the first quarter century of the computer era working largely in isolation, each using one source only as well as a separate format, though the Curtin, Mettas, and Richardson collections were early exceptions to this pattern.

The idea of creating a single multisource dataset of trans-Atlantic slave voyages emerged from a chance meeting of David Eltis and Stephen Behrendt in the British Public Record Office in 1990 while they were working independently on the early and late British slave trades. At about the same time, David Richardson was taking over detailed multisource work on the large mid-eighteenth-century Liverpool shipping business begun years earlier by Maurice Schofield. All this work, together with the Bristol volumes that Richardson had already published, made it seem feasible to integrate the records for the very large British slave trade for the first time, and beyond that, given the available Dutch, French, and Portuguese data, to collect a single dataset for the trade as a whole. Meetings in January, 1991 at the American Historical Association and, in 1992, at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University, headed by Professor Henry L. Gates, Jr resulted in grant proposals to major funding agencies. In July 1993 the project received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities with supplementary support coming from the Mellon Foundation.

1969

Publication of *The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census*, by Philip Curtin.
University of Wisconsin Press.



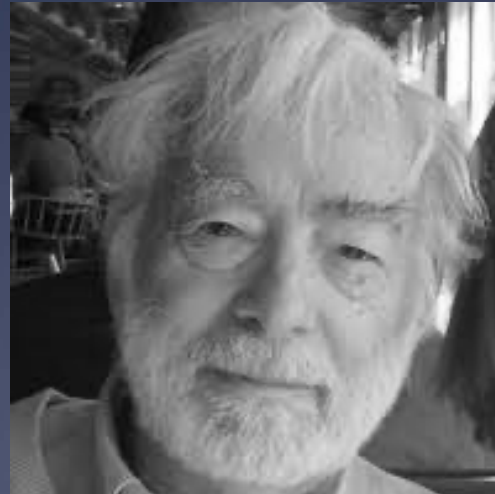
1970s
1980s



David Eltis



David Richardson



Herbert Klein



Stephen Behrendt

Founders of the
Transatlantic Slave Trade
Database



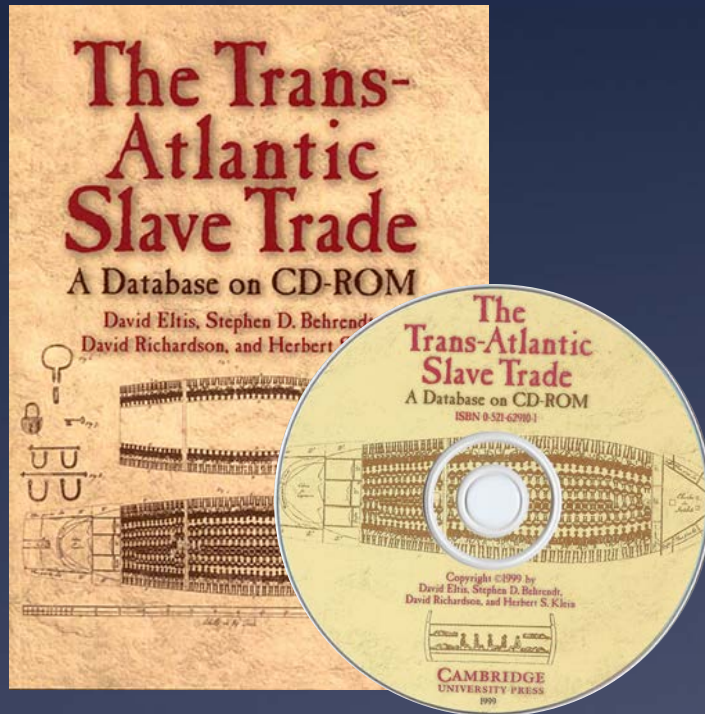
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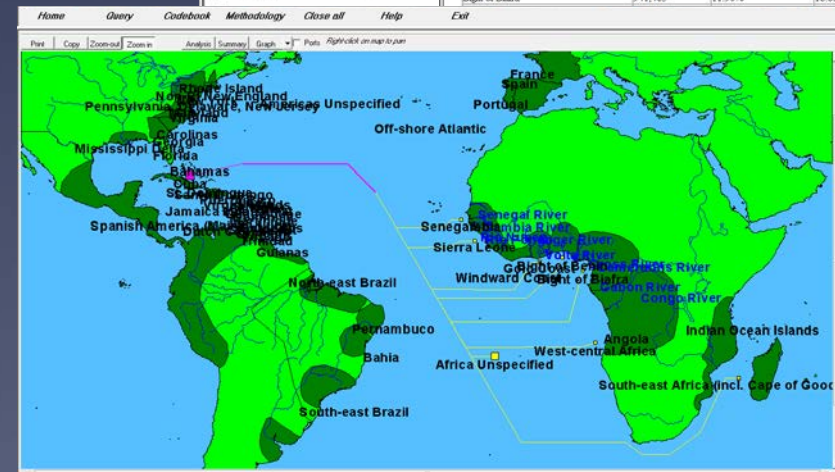
1999



Summary

Slaves embarked: 7,943,600

Region	Number	Percent of Total	Percent less Unspecified
Africa unspecified	2,281,690	28.70%	---
West-central Africa	2,064,500	26.00%	36.50%
Bight of Benin	1,131,284	14.20%	20.00%
Bight of Biafra	941,463	11.90%	16.60%



Publication of the first digital version of 27,000 transatlantic slave voyages on a CD-ROM
Cambridge University Press, Price \$199

2008

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database has information on more than 35,000 slave voyages that forcibly embarked over 12 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. It offers researchers, students and the general public a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of peoples in world history.

Search the Voyages Database

Examine Estimates of the Slave Trade

Select time frame

From 1514 To 1866

Basic variables

- Ship, nation, owners (4 variables)
- Voyage Outcome (3 variables)
- Voyage Itinerary (4 variables)
- Voyage Dates (1 variable)
- Captain and Crew (3 variables)
- Slaves (numbers) (2 variables)
- Slaves (characteristics) (7 variables)
- Source (1 variable)

General variables

Current query

Search New query

Create a link

Previous queries

List of voyages

Voyage identification number	Vessel name	Year arrived with slaves*	Principal region of slave purchase*	Principal region of slave landing*
1	Pastora de Lima	1817	Southeast Africa and Indian Ocean islands	Bahia
2	Tibério	1817	Southeast Africa and Indian Ocean islands	Bahia
3	Paquete Real	1817	West Central Africa and St. Helena	Bahia
4	Bom Caminho	1817	Southeast Africa and Indian Ocean islands	Bahia
5	Benigretta	1817	West Central Africa and St. Helena	Bahia
6	Voador	1817	Southeast Africa and Indian Ocean islands	Bahia
7	Formiga	1817	West Central Africa and St. Helena	Bahia
8	Vigilante Africano	1817	West Central Africa and St. Helena	Bahia
9	Constante	1817	West Central Africa and St. Helena	Bahia
10	Comerciante	1817	West Central Africa and St. Helena	Bahia

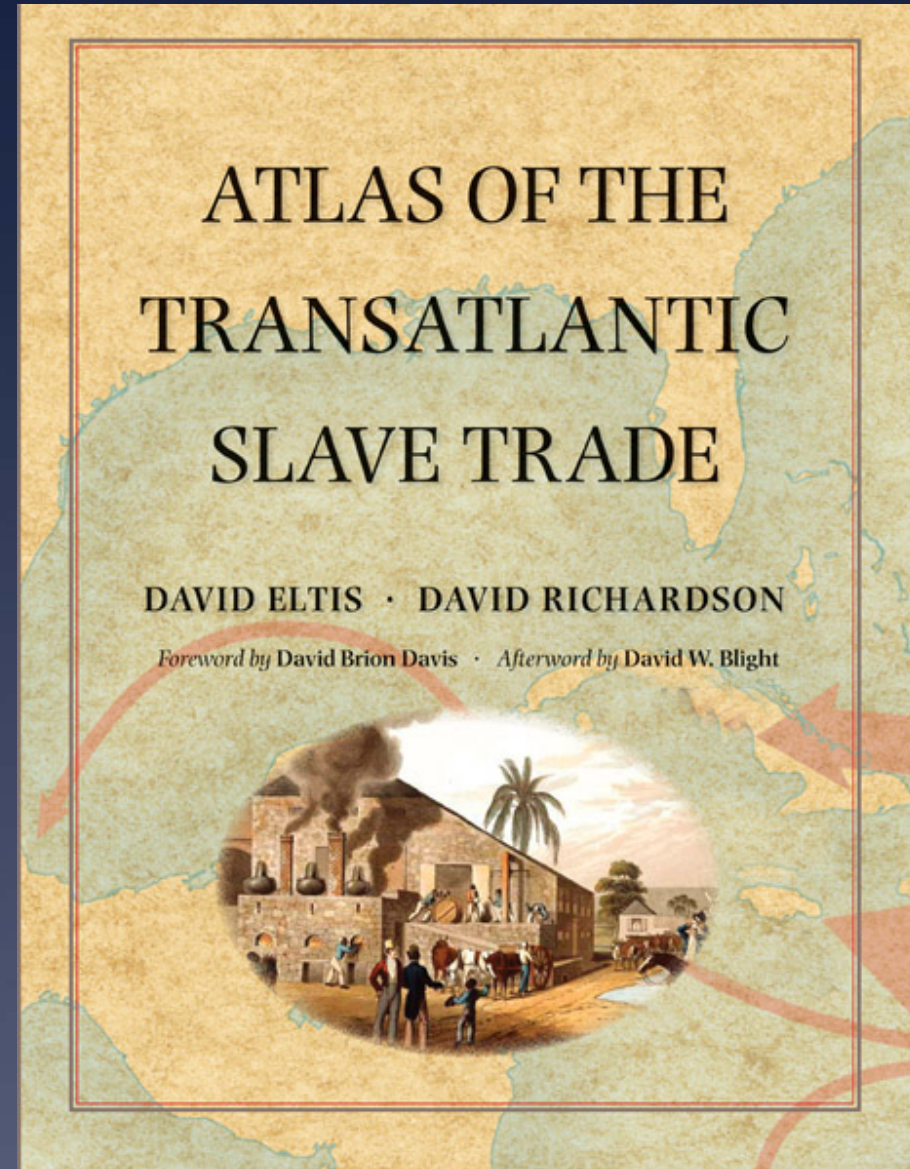
Showing 1-10 out of 34946, display 10 results per page.

Download current view Download all results

Launch of the first internet version of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Database (34,000 voyages): www.slavevoyages.org

2010

Publication of The Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade by David Eltis e David Richardson. Yale University Press.



2019

Slave Voyages

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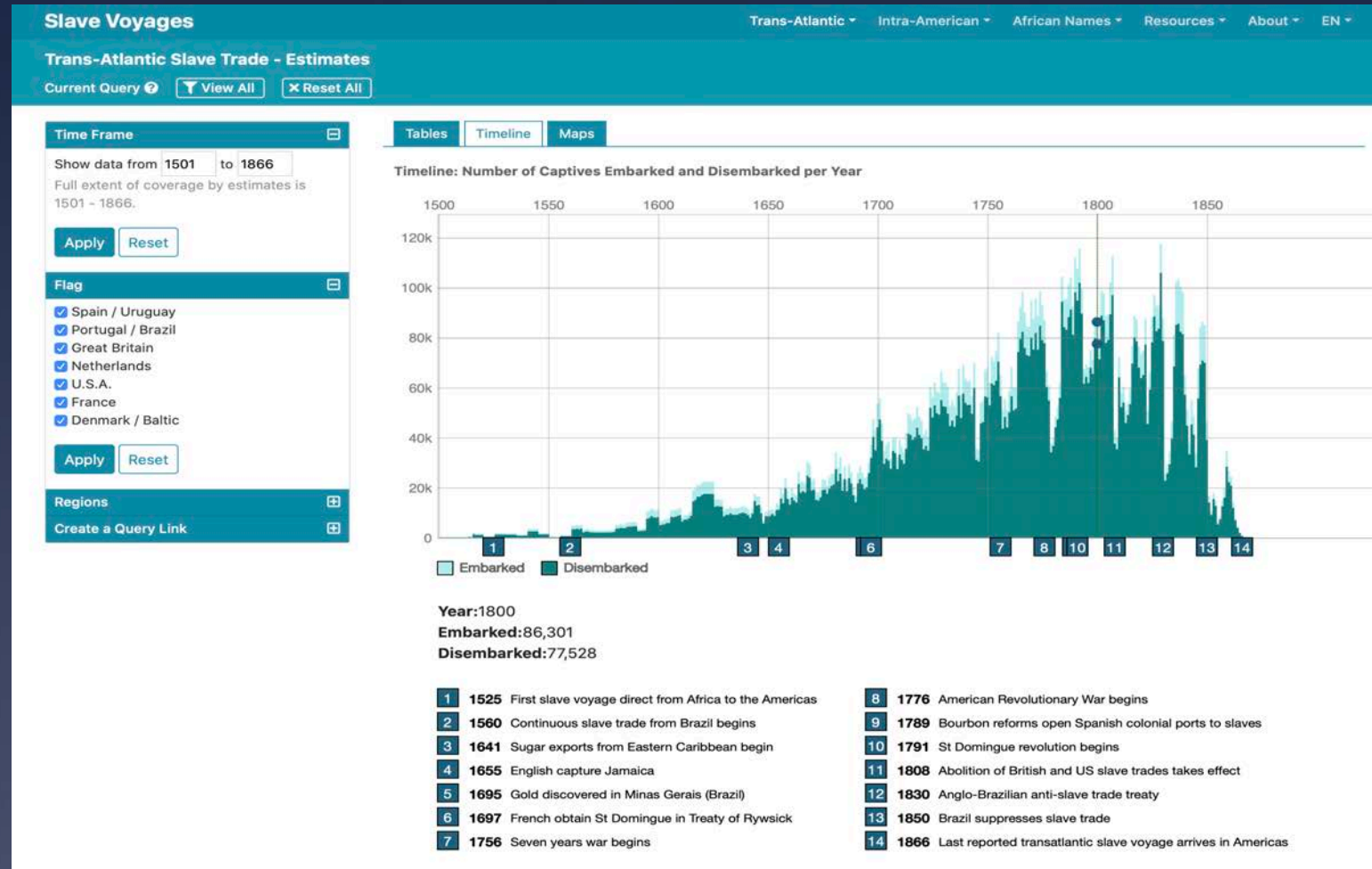
Number of captives embarked and disembarked

Timelapse

View the movement of slave ships across the Atlantic

New, expanded and recoded edition of Slave Voyages (36,000 voyages), with additional video features and a database of the intra-American slave trade containing 12,000 voyages that sailed between ports in the Americas. In English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Web-based Data Analysis



Unique Digital Scholarship

TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE DATABASE

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database now comprises 36,000 individual slaving expeditions between 1514 and 1866. Records of the voyages have been found in archives and libraries throughout the Atlantic world. They provide information about vessels, routes, and the people associated with them, both enslaved and enslavers. Sources are cited for every voyage included. Users may search for information about a specific voyage or group of voyages. The website provides full interactive capability to analyze the data and report results in the form of statistical tables, graphs, maps, a timeline, and an animation.

[About](#) [Database](#) [Estimates](#) [Essays](#) [Downloads](#) [Contribute](#)



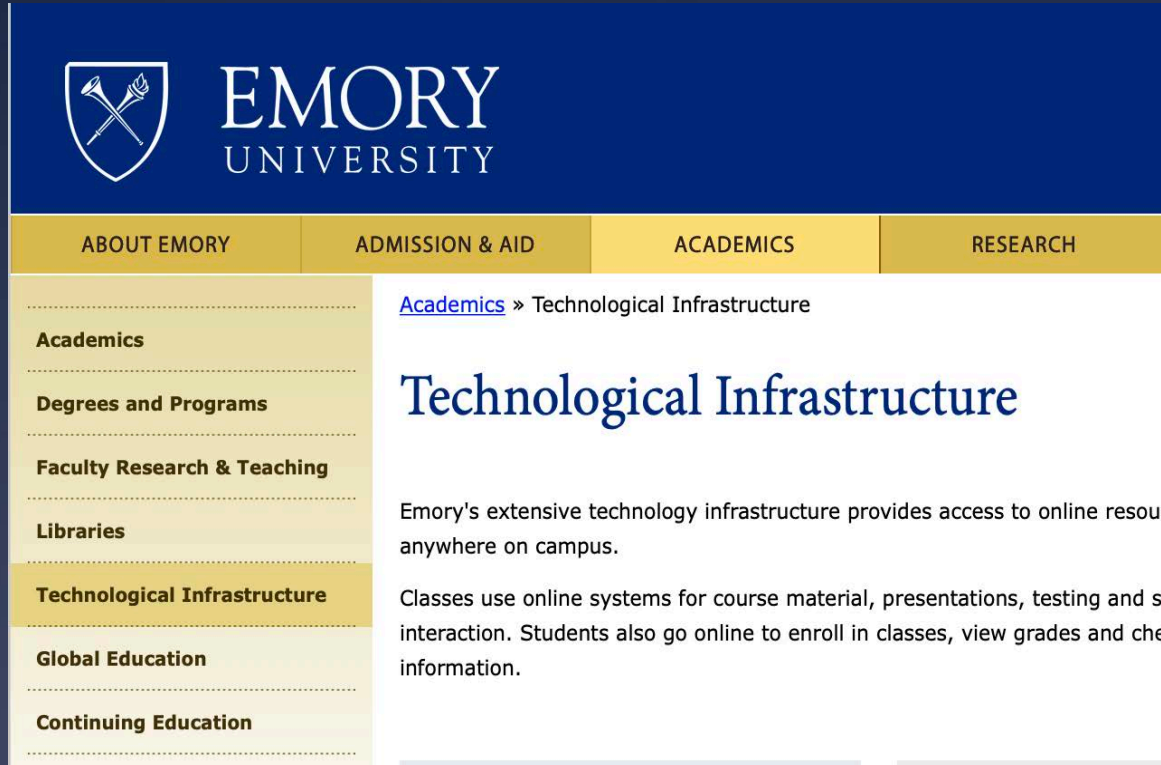
INTRA-AMERICAN SLAVE TRADE DATABASE

The Intra-American Slave Trade Database contains information on approximately 10,000 slave voyages within the Americas. These voyages operated within colonial empires, across imperial boundaries, and inside the borders of nations such as the United States and Brazil. The database enables users to explore the contours of this enormous New World slave trade, which not only dispersed African survivors of the Atlantic crossing but also displaced enslaved people born in the Americas.

[About](#) [Database](#) [Downloads](#) [Contribute](#)

- ❖ Size of data
- ❖ Web interface
- ❖ Multi-language
- ❖ Continual scholarship
- ❖ Changes in key leadership positions

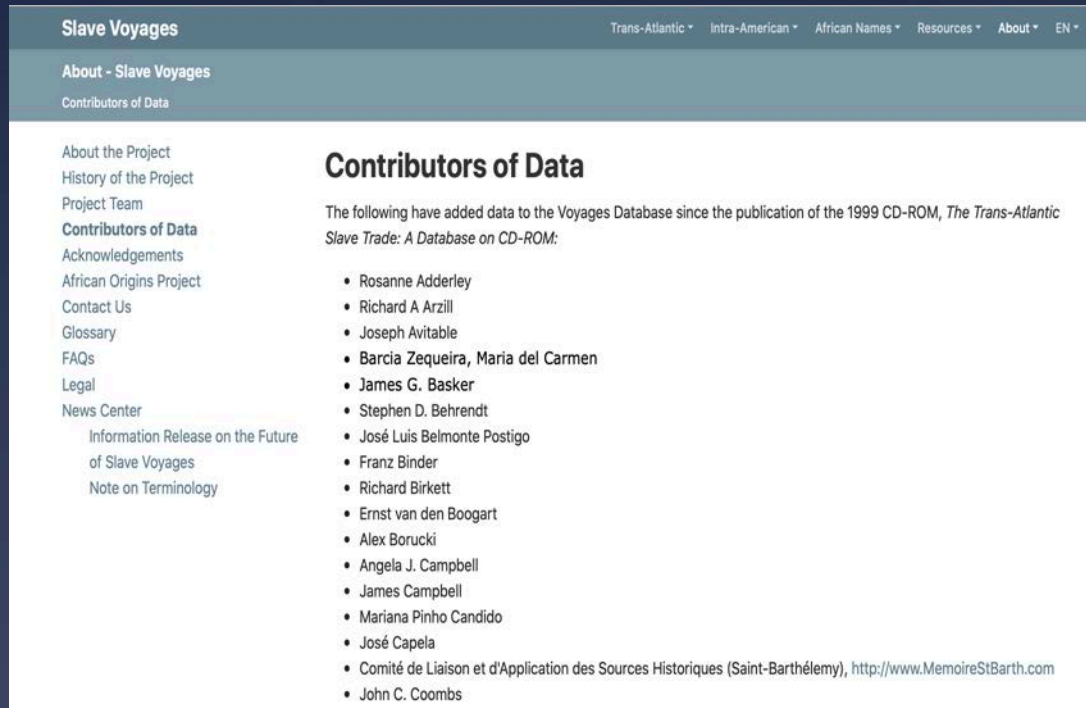
On-premises Sustainability



The screenshot shows the Emory University website's navigation menu and a page titled "Technological Infrastructure". The navigation menu includes "ABOUT EMORY", "ADMISSION & AID", "ACADEMICS", and "RESEARCH". The "ACADEMICS" menu is expanded, showing sub-items: "Academics", "Degrees and Programs", "Faculty Research & Teaching", "Libraries", "Technological Infrastructure" (highlighted), "Global Education", and "Continuing Education". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "Academics » Technological Infrastructure" and the title "Technological Infrastructure". Below the title, there are two paragraphs of text: "Emory's extensive technology infrastructure provides access to online resources anywhere on campus." and "Classes use online systems for course material, presentations, testing and student interaction. Students also go online to enroll in classes, view grades and check information."

- ❖ Organic growth
- ❖ Evolution of code
- ❖ Critical partnerships
- ❖ Network demands
- ❖ Scholar's access
- ❖ DS center resources

Collaborators and Contributors



The screenshot shows the 'Slave Voyages' website. The main navigation bar includes 'Trans-Atlantic', 'Intra-American', 'African Names', 'Resources', 'About', and 'EN'. The left sidebar contains a list of links: 'About the Project', 'History of the Project', 'Project Team', 'Contributors of Data', 'Acknowledgements', 'African Origins Project', 'Contact Us', 'Glossary', 'FAQs', 'Legal', 'News Center', 'Information Release on the Future of Slave Voyages', and 'Note on Terminology'. The main content area is titled 'Contributors of Data' and includes the text: 'The following have added data to the Voyages Database since the publication of the 1999 CD-ROM, *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-ROM*:' followed by a bulleted list of names and organizations.

Contributors of Data

The following have added data to the Voyages Database since the publication of the 1999 CD-ROM, *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-ROM*:

- Rosanne Adderley
- Richard A Arzill
- Joseph Avitable
- Barcia Zequeira, Maria del Carmen
- James G. Basker
- Stephen D. Behrendt
- José Luis Belmonte Postigo
- Franz Binder
- Richard Birkett
- Ernst van den Boogart
- Alex Borucki
- Angela J. Campbell
- James Campbell
- Mariana Pinho Candido
- José Capela
- Comité de Liaison et d'Application des Sources Historiques (Saint-Barthélemy), <http://www.MemoireStBarth.com>
- John C. Coombs

- ❖ Historians
- ❖ Code developers
- ❖ UI/UX specialists
- ❖ Systems engineers
- ❖ Data management librarians

Internal and External Resources



Emory Center for
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Slave Voyages v2.2.11

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Consortium Concept

Project Team

Many people contributed to the creation and implementation of this site. They include the following (unless otherwise indicated), Project Development Team members were affiliated with Emory University.

As this site transforms and evolves, team members have also changed. Here are the team members listed by era.

2019 - Present 2015 - 2018 2008 - 2015

Executive Committee

- Alex Borucki - Department of History - University of California, Irvine
- Daniel B. Domingues da Silva - Department of History - Rice University
- Jane Hooper - Department of History - Georgia Mason University
- Nafees M. Khan - College of Education - Clemson University
- Gregory E. O'Malley - Department of History - University of California, Santa Cruz
- Philip Misevich - Department of History - St. John's University
- Nicholas Radburn - Department of History - Lancaster University, UK
- Rebecca Shumway - Department of History - University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- Jelmer Vos - Department of History - University of Glasgow, UK

- David Eltis - ex officio
- Allen Tullos - ex officio

Editors, Intra-American Slave Trade Database

- Alex Borucki - Department of History - University of California, Irvine
- Gregory E. O'Malley - Department of History - University of California, Santa Cruz

Editors, PAST (Origins)

- Daniel B. Domingues da Silva - Department of History - Rice University
- Philip Misevich - Department of History - St. John's University
- Nicholas Radburn - Department of History - Lancaster University
- David Eltis - Professor of History - Emeritus, Emory University

- ❖ Membership
- ❖ Project Team to Governance Structure
- ❖ Sustain External Funding Opportunities
- ❖ On-premises to Cloud
- ❖ Operationalize Systems

Consortium Components

- ❖ The term of institutional membership is 3 years and is renewable.
- ❖ The cost of annual membership is collected via dues, in return for which members will be able to shape the future development of Slavevoyages and share in all the publicity that the site receives.
- ❖ A single member institution would serve as the “host” of the site for a 6-year period, during which time, its memberships fees would be waived.
- ❖ The host institution would have responsibility for maintaining performance metrics and providing an open access development environment and administrative support.
- ❖ The host institution would receive funding from the institutional dues of the other five members to offset costs of maintaining and hosting the site.
- ❖ Soft funding for further development of the site would be obtained via application to outside granting agencies on the part of any member of the consortium.

Consortium Challenges

- ❖ Change from one primary scholar to team of scholars (change management)
- ❖ Considerations for various types of institutions joining the consortium (higher education state and private, museums, etc.)
- ❖ Cloud-based hosting model (aid in managing resources for care and feeding)
- ❖ Continuing challenges (upgrades, updates, additions of new data and content types)

Consortium Successes

- ❖ Continuing support from University leadership
- ❖ Continued strong partnership with General Counsel's team
- ❖ Initial agreement by first group of probable members
- ❖ Flexibility being introduced into the forming documents to recognize diversity in membership
- ❖ Potential site host stepping forward
- ❖ Continuing innovative forms of scholarship



Thank You

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❖ deltis@emory.edu

❖ digitalscholarship.emory.edu



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