A Sampling of Folk Song Databases
Compiled by Lyn Wolz

With the advent of the World Wide Web, tools for finding folk songs and tunes have become much easier for the general public to use. Anyone with a home computer and an Internet service provider can now find the words to many of the world's traditional English-language songs, sometimes even accompanied by tunes in music notation or playable sound files! Here is a sampling of the different types of folk song databases that are currently available.

The Bodleian Library Broadside Ballads Project (www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads)
30,000+ songs on broadsides printed mainly in the British Isles during the 16th through 20th centuries. The image of each broadside includes lyrics, often a woodcut or some other kind of decoration, and sometimes musical notation of the tune or a "sung to the tune of" designation. Some also have playable MIDI tune files attached. The database is searchable by keyword within all fields including song texts and the images are browsable by topic and searchable by key word.

The Broadside Ballad Index (web.archive.org/web/*sa_/http://users.erols.com/olsonw/)
3600+ songs are indexed in this database, mainly 16th and 17th century broadsides that appear in both published and unpublished collections in British and American libraries. Each song record includes a tune in ABC or MIDI format but no lyrics. This database is searchable using the browser's "Find" command. (Index compiler Bruce Olsen died this year; as yet, there is no announcement about the ownership or permanent address of this very useful collection.

The James Madison Carpenter Collection (www.hrionline.ac.uk/carpenter/index.html)
6200+ songs collected by Harvard University researcher James Madison Carpenter are indexed in this database. Carpenter collected most of the songs between 1927 and 1955, mainly in the British Isles but also in America. Versions of Child ballads make up a large percentage of the songs, but there are also many sea shanties and other types of songs. No lyrics or tunes are currently included, but plans are in the works to add them later.

The Carter Family (www.silcom.com/~peterf/ideas/carter.htm)
275+ songs sung by the original Carter Family. Contains complete lyrics (but no tunes) to traditional songs sung by the family and to songs written by family members, mainly by A.P. Carter. Use your browser's "Find" function to search by keyword.

Copper Family Songs (www.thecopperfamily.com/songs.html)
70+ songs traditionally sung by generations of one English family, Rotterdean's Copper Family, first recorded by Kate Lee of the Folk Song Society in 1904. No tunes are included. Songs appear in one alphabetical list. Use your browser's "Find" function to search by keyword.

The Digital Tradition Folksong Database (www.mudcat.org)
9,000+ lyrics for traditional and authored songs, mostly in English, from all countries and eras. One of the most useful databases for "old folkies" who just want the words to a song, though some entries include tunes in ABC or MIDI formats. This database is browsable by title or searchable by keyword within song texts, titles, and subject designations. DT is hosted by the Mudcat Café website, which also offers a useful archived, searchable discussion list on the topic of folk songs.

The Helen Hartness Flanders Ballad Collection
(web.middlebury.edu/lis/lib/guides_and_tutorials/guides_to_collections/collection_guide-flanders)
4,500+ songs and dance tunes collected in New England by Flanders and others between 1930 and 1966. The Middlebury College Library owns the Flanders Collection. The database is searchable by song title, performer, or keyword and includes lyrics and some tune notations.

Folk Music: An Index to Recorded Sources (www.ibiblio.org/folkindex)
39,000+ song titles and 12,297 performer names are indexed in this database. It covers mainly American and British songs and tunes from recordings and songbooks. No lyrics or tunes are included. The database is browsable

erformer or song title and searchable by keyword within performer or song title fields. A discography/bibliography 𝗑 info on record labels is included.

Folk Song Index / Broadside Index   (Not yet available on the Internet)
230,000+ songs appearing in thousands of published and unpublished recordings, books, journal articles, and songsters are indexed in this database. This index is rapidly becoming the standard reference work for scholars looking for folk songs and broadsides in the British/American tradition. These indexes are especially strong in British and Irish collections but also include many American, Australian, and Canadian collections. The database does not include lyrics or tunes but does give the first line of most songs. It can be sorted by title, standard title, singer, collector, place, date, source, or standard number. One innovation is the designation of a "Roud number," similar to Child numbers, linking together all versions of a particular song. An annual CD subscription can be purchased and some libraries now subscribe to it. Contact Lyn Wolz at lwolz@ku.edu for more info on these important indexes.

The Max Hunter Folk Song Collection (www.smsu.edu/folksong/maxhunter/index.html)
1560+ songs recorded in the Missouri and Arkansas Ozarks between 1956 and 1976 by Max Hunter. This is a very strong regional collection of folk songs. Complete lyrics are provided for each song along with a playable file of the field recording made by Hunter in MIDI, RealAudio, and AIFF formats. Musical notation is not given for the songs. The database is browsable by song title or singer and searchable by keyword within song lyrics. Each entry includes notes by Hunter on the appearance of the song in the Child, Belden, Randolph, and Brown collections.

The National Sound Archive of the British Library (www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/cat.html)
2,500,000+ songs appearing on published and unpublished recordings, many deposited in the British Library for copyright purposes. This automated catalogue includes only recordings made or issued in the United Kingdom. No lyrics or tunes are included in this database. It is searchable by keyword, name, title, subject, and place.

The New Zealand Digital Library (www.nzdl.org/fast-cgi-bin/music/musiclibrary, then click on "folkfull")
9000+ tunes for songs in the Digital Tradition and other databases. The NZDL includes lyrics, tunes (MIDI), and musical notation for each song. There are two features that make this database unique: while a chosen tune is playing, the musical notes appear on a staff and on a virtual keyboard, and the entire database can be searched for a particular pattern of notes. The song bank is browsable by title and searchable by keyword within titles.

Shanties and Sea Songs (www.jsward.com/shanty/index.shtml)
100+ songs sung at Los Angeles shanty singers' get-togethers; it includes lyrics (without tunes) that are listed first by type, then alphabetically by title.

Sing Out! Resource Center (www.singout.org; click on "The SORCe", then on "Go to the Index")
3700+ songs that were published in *Sing Out!* magazine between 1950 and 1997. Some traditional songs are included, but most of the songs indexed here were written by contemporary singer/ songwriters like Bob Dylan. This database does not include lyrics or tunes; the songs are referenced by the volume/issue numbers of the magazine in which they appeared. Use your browser's "Find" function to search by keyword within titles.

The Traditional Ballad Index (www.csufresno.edu/folklore)
9400+ songs that appear in over 100 published folksong collections. This database is an index only; it contains no lyrics or tunes. This is one of the few folk song indexes where the songs are grouped together by subject headings. Some of the songs have standard titles included in their records. The database is searchable by keyword or title.
(Con't. Page 8)

Waterson's Songs and Tunes (www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/~zierke/watersons/songs)
350+ English traditional songs sung by England's musical Waterson and Carthy families. The songs are listed alphabetically by title. The pages include lyrics but not tunes.

The John Quincy Wolf Folklore Collection (www.lyon.edu/wolfcollection)
200+ Ozark songs collected by Wolf between 1952 and 1963. This is an important collection of Wolf's recordings of hundreds of singers, mainly from Arkansas. The site is hosted by Lyon College in Batesville, AR. where Wolf used to teach. Each song entry includes complete lyrics and the tune is a playable file using either RealOne or AudioPlayer. The list is browsable by song title or singer. Use your browser's "Find" feature to search by keyword.

HONORING DOLF AND BECKY SCHROEDER

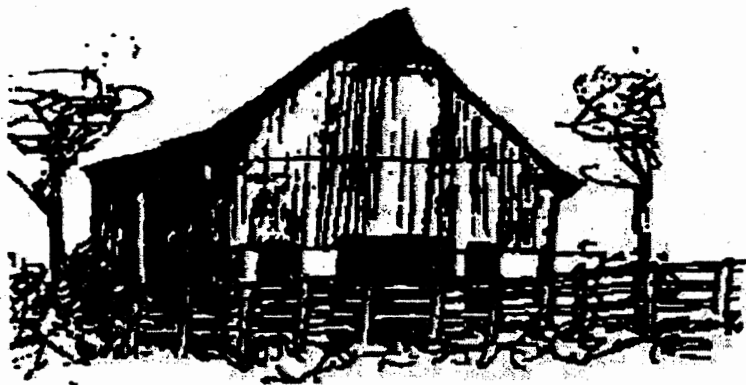Dear Friends of the Missouri Folklore Society:

The Missouri Folklore Society has established a scholarship endowment fund in honor of Becky and Dolf Schroeder. Becky and Dolf were the driving forces behind the revival of the Society in 1977 and have remained loyal supporters and tireless laborers on behalf of the Society ever since. Their contributions to Missouri folklore — and to American folklore, history, and culture scholarship — has been enormous, and, we believe, should be honored and perpetuated. We have set an initial monetary goal of raising $10,000.00 by our 2006 100t h anniversary meeting in Columbia, MO, so we can make the first scholarship awards then.

Several members have already pledged substantial donations, including one who wrote his check immediately upon completion of the vote to establish the fund. However, we are still a long way from that initial goal and are, therefore, soliciting donations from all those who have been touched by these wonderful people. If you would be willing to donate to this worthwhile fund, please make your checks – large or small – to the Missouri Folklore Society and mail them to:

Missouri Folklore Society
P. O. Box 1757
Columbia, MO 65201

Please indicate on your check's memo line that the donation is for the Rebecca B. and Adolf E. Schroeder Endowment Fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

FROM HILLBILLIES TO NOUVEAU-ZARKERS:
MFS to Meet in Springfield November 2005

Planning is underway for the 2005 meeting at Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU) in Springfield, November 10-12. The meeting's theme *From Hillbillies to Nouveau-zarkers* offers the opportunity for papers and activities focusing on the Ozarks' vibrant history and folklore, as well as modern changes to the area.

Lodging will be available at the University Plaza Hotel (417-864-7333) located next door to the historic Kentwood Hotel, a well known stop in the grand days of Route 66. Kentwood is now part of the SMSU campus and will host our evening meals and events.

Building on this historic link at least one paper session organized by Don Holliday will focus on the folklore of truckers and experiences of trucking. (Additional papers or sessions might focus on Route 66 history, folklore or personal experiences at the Kentwood Hotel. Share what you remember!)

Other sessions will focus on the preservation of traditions within the Ozarks home and Ozarks crafts, such as tanned skins and the creation of coon skin hats. Clyde Faries is organizing a session to revisit the definition of the term folk. The McCollums are organizing a session on tall tales. Carolyn Bening is organizing a session on slave narratives. Please contact these individuals or your conference organizer (mrg464f@smsu.edu, subject: MFS), if you have a paper idea that might work with their sessions. Also, please encourage students to attend and create sessions for this year's conference, since

Historic Kentwood Hotel
A Route 66 Postcard

presenting will put them in competition for the new MFS student research presentation contest. Information on the Student Research Contest is on pages 11 amd 12. Conference activities include a trip to Wilson's Creek Battlefield on the Thursday afternoon (Nov. 10th) and a trip to Branson for a Baldknobbers show on Saturday afternoon (Nov. 12th).

Last thoughts…it's never too early to send your paper and panel ideas in! Let us know what's on your mind!

The Call for Papers for the 2005 Annual Meeting is included in this newsletter.