

African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 11
Issue 4 *December 2008*

Article 10

12-1-2008

Launch of Voyages: The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan>

Recommended Citation

(2008) "Launch of Voyages: The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database," *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 4 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol11/iss4/10>

This Announcement is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.

Launch of Voyages: The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database

Emory University

'Voyages' sheds light on hidden history of 12.5 million slaves

Two years in the making at Emory University, this free and interactive web-based resource documents the slave trade from Africa to the New World between the 16th and 19th centuries, says David Eltis, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of History and one of the scholars who originally published *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade* as a CD-ROM in 1999. He

and Martin Halbert, director of digital innovations for Emory Libraries, directed the work that made the online *Voyages* project expandable, interactive and publicly accessible. The new, internet based database is available at:

<http://www.slavevoyages.org>.



"*Voyages* provides searchable information on almost 35,000 trans-Atlantic voyages hauling human cargo, as well as maps, images and data on some individual Africans transported," says Eltis. Funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Harvard University's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, *Voyages* is based on the seminal 1999 work, *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*. That CD-ROM included more than 27,000 slave trade voyages and has been popular with scholars and genealogists alike. However, it is no longer available and had several limitations.

"Everyone wants to know where their ancestors came from," Eltis says. "There are more data on the slave trade than on the free migrant movement simply because the slave trade was a business and people were property, so records were likely to be better. What the database makes possible is the establishment of links between America and Africa in a way that already has been done by historians for Europeans."