

Oxford African American Studies Center wins top reference award

Oxford University Press is pleased to announce that its **Oxford African American Studies Center** (www.oxfordaasc.com) has won the prestigious Besterman/McColvin Medal for an outstanding work of reference in electronic publishing.

The 2006 Reference Awards are organised and administered by the Information Services Group of CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and sponsored by Nielsen BookData. The nominees for the electronic publishing award were judged on a range of criteria including: authority and originality of the work; the quality and kind of articles and entries; and accessibility and presentation of the information.

The award winners were announced last Wednesday (18/04/07) at the Library and Information Show, Birmingham, UK, and the judging panel of expert librarians praised the **Oxford African American Studies Center** as *"the worthy winner... The initial impact of this site is attractive with the 'Feature of the month' engendering immediate interest... The transport of information from the printed sources to the electronic format has been handled well, giving the information a high level of accessibility... All in all a notable effort."*

"We are so proud to receive the Besterman/McColvin Medal," says Casper Grathwohl, Publisher of OUP's Reference Programme. *"Oxford's online team spent over a year fine-tuning the site's features, debating the best ways to present content, and creating thoughtful routes to navigate through it. For CILIP to honour us with this distinction is incredibly validating."*

The **Oxford African American Studies Center** combines the authority of carefully edited reference works with sophisticated technology to create the most comprehensive collection of scholarship available online to focus on the lives and events which have shaped African American and African history and culture. It provides students, scholars and librarians with more than 7,500 articles by top scholars in the field.

The core content of the **Oxford African American Studies Center** currently includes the highly acclaimed *Africana*, the new *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895*, the award-winning *Black Women in America, Second Edition*, the *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present*, and the much-anticipated *African American National Biography*. In addition to these core reference works, the Center draws on other key resources from Oxford's reference programme - including many primary source materials with specially written commentaries, maps, images, charts, and tables – and the ongoing editorial schedule of new and updated content will be a key feature of the site.

The **Oxford Dictionary of National Biography** (www.oxforddnb.com) won the Besterman/McColvin Medal when it was last presented in 2005.

For further information or for press access to the Oxford African American Studies Center, please contact Juliet Evans, Oxford University Press, on 01865 353911 or email juliet.evans@oup.com

Notes to Editors

The **Oxford African American Studies Center (OAASC)** is the online authority on the African American experience. It has been created with the latest in online technology to give users a robust and unique research experience. It contains over 7500 articles from Oxford's authoritative reference programme — with primary source documents, images, maps, chart and tables, and much more. Search and browse features allow the user to focus and refine results by era and subject category. Visit www.oxfordaasc.com for more information.

"The folks at Oxford have once again thought of everything.... There's not enough space to extol OAASC's virtues sufficiently... Because it is so extraordinary, the resource makes it necessary this once to raise the usual rating scale of 1 to 10 to an unprecedented 11! The Bottom Line: A remarkable achievement in accessible scholarship, Oxford African American Studies Center is strongly recommended for all libraries."

— Cheryl LaGuardia, *Library Journal*

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford, and the world's largest university press. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education in its worldwide publishing. In addition to publishing over 4,600 new books each year and over 180 journals, Oxford is a major provider of online information to libraries and individuals worldwide. Information about all Oxford online products is available at www.oxfordonline.com

ISG (CILIP)/BookData Reference Awards / Besterman/McColvin Medals

The Awards, which are judged by a panel of expert librarians, have been rewarding excellence and promoting awareness of outstanding reference products since 1970. They consist of The Besterman/McColvin Medals for works of reference (print and electronic) and the Walford Award for an individual who has made a sustained contribution to bibliography. Administered by the Information Services Group of CILIP and sponsored by Nielsen BookData, the leading supplier of bibliographic information, the Awards were open to works first published in the UK between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006.

CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals

CILIP is the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers, with around 22,000 members working in all sectors, including business and industry, science and technology, further and higher education, schools, local and central government, the health service, the voluntary sector, national and public libraries. For more information about CILIP, please go to www.cilip.org.uk.

CILIP Information Services Group

ISG is a special interest group of CILIP. It supports members' interests in the provision of information services by promoting activities that improve the effectiveness of information provision to all sectors of society. For further information go to www.cilip.org.uk/isg

Nielsen BookData

Nielsen BookData is the sponsor of the ISG (CILIP) / BookData Reference Awards for the fifth year running. BookData is the leading provider of information services to libraries and library suppliers worldwide, creating and maintaining records for English-language books and other published media, collected from publishers in over 70 countries.