ARDA Tutorial:

How to Explore the Interactive Historical Timelines

The ARDA’s interactive historical timelines illustrate the history of religion in the United States. Written by historians, sociologists, and journalists, these timelines offer users a wealth of information --including text, pictures, graphs and more-- regarding important religious events and people over the last 400 years. This easy-to-use educational tool is great for both researchers and teachers alike. This tutorial will teach you how to accomplish the following:

1) Navigating the Timeline Homepage
   The homepage for the timeline presents the theme of each timeline along with buttons that connect to an interactive timeline as well as webpages listing all the timeline entries.

2) Opening the Interactive Timeline & Changing the Display Options
   After opening up the interactive timeline in a separate tab, the user can manipulate the visual display options, which include a “3d” mode.

3) Searching & Reading Interactive Timeline Entries
   Each entry on the interactive timeline displays a written introduction, brief description (~<150 words), multiple photos, and the option to read an extended narrative in a separate tab.

4) Browsing Timeline Webpages
   If one desires to see the timeline entries without opening up the interactive timeline, the user can browse all the timeline entries in list form. Entries are assorted into “Events by Date,” “Events by Name,” Biography,” and “Religious Group.”
Navigating the Timeline Homepage

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: www.theARDA.com.
2) Click on the red “Interactive Timelines” tab near the top of the screen.
3) You are now on the Timeline homepage.

a. Below the “American Religion Timelines” banner is the theme of each timeline.

b. The “Interactive Timeline” button opens up a window displaying an interactive timeline, allowing users to visually experience and interact with people and events across American religious history.

c. The “Biographies” button takes you to a webpage where all the biography entries of that particular timeline are listed in alphabetical order from last name.

d. The “Events By Date” button takes you to a webpage where all the event entries of that particular timeline are listed in chronological order.

e. The “By Religious Groups” button takes you to a webpage where all entries for that particular timeline, both biographies and events, are listed by a specific religious groups (e.g., Adventist, Catholic, etc.).
Opening the Interactive Timeline & Changing the Display Options

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: www.theARDA.com.
2) Click on the red “Interactive Timelines” tab near the top of the screen.
3) You are now on the Timeline homepage.
4) When you are ready, click the blue “Interactive Timeline” button under a particular timeline (e.g., “Prominent Religious Events and People”).
5) After clicking on the blue “Interactive Timeline” button on the timeline homepage, a short description of the timeline will pop up. After reading it, click on the “Continue” button.

a. Dates are displayed above and below the entries.
b. Drag the red box at the bottom to explore the timeline entries across time.
c. **OPTIONAL:** Click on the “3d” button on the lower left-hand corner to go from the default 2d mode to a fun 3d mode.
d. **OPTIONAL:** Click on the “Wrench” icon on the bottom right-hand corner to change the display options. The user can alter the displayed categories (e.g., event, biography, historical context, etc.), view type, spacing of entries, and zoom magnification.
**Searching & Reading Interactive Timeline Entries**

1) After clicking on the blue “Interactive Timeline” button on the timeline homepage, a short description of the timeline will pop up. After reading it, click on the “Continue” button.

   - To look for a specific entry, click on the “Wrench” icon on the bottom right-hand corner and clicking on the “Search” tab.
   - Clicking on the “more” button under a particular entry will open up a small window displaying an introduction, brief description, and multiple photos.

   c. At the bottom of the main picture of the timeline entry are other related pictures. Click on another picture to change the picture in the main window
   d. Click on the arrow to the right of the pictures to reveal more clickable pictures.
   e. The “Find out more” button takes you to the entry’s full webpage with more information (e.g., extended narrative, related links, etc.). This button will take the user off the timeline through a new tab, but the interactive timeline tab will stay open.
Browsing Timeline Webpages

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: www.theARDA.com.
2) Click on the red “Interactive Timelines” tab near the top of the screen.
3) You are now on the Timeline homepage.
4) Click the blue “Events by Date” button under a particular timeline.

a. The “All Timelines” tab takes the user back to the timeline homepage.
b. The “Events By Date” tab takes you to a webpage where all the event entries of that particular timeline are listed in chronological order.
c. The “Events By Name” tab takes you to a webpage where all the event entries of that particular timeline are listed in alphabetical order.
d. The “Biographies” button takes you to a webpage where all the biography entries of that particular timeline are listed in alphabetical order from last name.
e. The “By Religious Groups” button takes you to a webpage where all entries for that particular timeline, both biographies and events, are listed by religious groups (e.g., Adventist, Catholic, etc.).
f. The user can search for a specific entry’s webpage using the search engine here.
g. Clicking on the timeline entry will take the user to the entry’s webpage with a short description, extended narrative (if available), related links, source information, and related photos! The “Find out more” button on the interactive timeline (see page 4, 1e) also takes you to the same exact webpage.