

The advantage of periodicals over books is their ability to convey current information in a more timely fashion. Their main disadvantage is the tendency to hide relevant material “somewhere” in piles of unreferenced back issues. This, unfortunately, also applies to *The New Philosophy*. Within the covers of this journal, which dates back to 1898, can be found a wealth of knowledge about Emanuel Swedenborg, his scientific works and his philosophy. The problem, however, is locating relevant articles for casual reading or research. Besides, no respectable author would want to discover after his or her article has been printed that another person had already written a similar article “just a few years ago.”

Over the years a number of useful indices have been printed for *The New Philosophy*. In Swedenborg Library in Bryn Athyn you can find an index for 1900–1950 and 1950–67. But what if you are looking for an article printed in 1968? Several limited indices covering three years at a time have been printed within the issues of *The New Philosophy*. So the problem becomes a matter of first locating and then consulting a number of indices in order to locate the desired material. A tedious process for those who have easy access to a New Church library, it becomes far more complicated for those without that access. Fortunately, it is now possible to read the last eleven years of issues on *The New Philosophy* website at [www.newphilosophyonline.org](http://www.newphilosophyonline.org). To do that users need to scroll through a list of articles for each of those issues which is becoming less user-friendly as the number of issues increases.

A better way of locating relevant material has recently appeared in the form of Swedenborg Library’s Digital Collections. It is now possible to search online by keyword through all *The New Philosophy* issues back to 1990.

Simply point your computer to

<http://www.brynathyn.edu/academics/swedenborg-library/digital-collections.html> then select Digital Collections> New Church Literature>

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New Church Journals> The New Philosophy. You can choose a particular year to browse through or enter a word or phrase in the *Search For* box. For example, you could query for:

- Swedenborg's travels
- life on other planets
- study of the brain
- scientific dualism
- Rev. Jacob Duché

It is generally best to include names or search terms in quotation marks so that a query for *John Chapman* does not pick up all the *John's* in the database. Once a file has been selected, the software will jump to the first occurrence of the search term. Clicking on the icon of a page with an arrow next to it will move you immediately to the next use of that term.

An additional benefit of using the Digital Collections is that a search may be focused on a specific collection or broadened to include the entire digital library. If you search for "Swedenborg's remains" (his physical body) the program will return five hits from *The New Philosophy* and seven results from other areas. Looking for "Swedenborg's property" will produce a description of the cover from a 1991 issue of *The New Philosophy* and also a 1953 article located in the Swedenborgiana collection.

While in the Digital Collections, you may want to browse through other parts of the library. The Swedenborgiana collection includes the Academy Collection of Swedenborg Documents—over 3,000 documents relating to the life and works of Swedenborg. You will also find a nice collection of portraits of Swedenborg by various artists. It is a good idea to select the *Thumbnail Column* view when browsing through images.

Work is progressing on scanning additional back issues of *The New Philosophy*, gradually working back in time. The goal is to eventually make every issue available and searchable for anyone around the world with access to an online computer. □