Sloan E Despeaux (despeaux@wcu.edu) and Robert Manzo* (rorobe15@email.unc.edu). A New Resource for the History of Mathematics: The Educational Times Online Database of Mathematical Questions and Answers. Preliminary report.

The Educational Times (ET) began in 1847. While it initially focused on pedagogical themes, mathematical questions soon infiltrated the monthly journal. The format of the ET, in which mathematicians posed questions for others to answer, proved to be a highly dynamic form of communication between mathematicians (both male and female) with diverse backgrounds and training. By 1918, the ET had published over 18,000 questions. While these questions and their answers provide an invaluable window inside the inner workings of mathematical communication in Britain, it has been difficult for historians of mathematics to search the journal in any systematic way. However, Jim Tattersall has painstakingly catalogued the contents of the ET in spreadsheets. A team then embarked on a multiyear project that converted these spreadsheets into a searchable, online database, now available for use: http://educational-times.wcu.edu. In this talk, we will describe the capabilities of the database and give examples of the types of questions this tool can help historians of mathematics explore. (Received September 12, 2020)