

Trip around ALIANet



Kerry Webb

It has been a while since I wrote about our host site, ALIANet. It's definitely worth a visit at <http://www.alia.org.au/> (as if you didn't know!). The most striking feature on the home page is the News column, updated every month. December featured Listservs (there are twelve operated by ALIA for its members), Information literacy and Christmas closing times. There's also an archive of 'What's new' for each month, so that if you haven't been back for a while you can see what's been happening.

For the next year or so, a key feature of the site will be the information on the new peak body to be formed by the merger of ALIA and ACLIS (<http://www.alia.org.au/alia-aclis/>). Here you can keep up-to-date with all the developments and use the bulletin board to express your comments about the process.

In such a large site, covering so many topics, it's not always easy to find the information that you want. One way to address this is to use a site-mapping facility. A good example is Mapuccino which you'll find at <http://www.ibm.com/java/mapuccino/>. This is an application which dynamically constructs visual maps of websites, which can be viewed using any Java-enabled browser, and can be stored for quick reference or shared with other users. You supply Mapuccino with a URL (for example www.alia.org.au) and an area of interest (say, education or the Internet). It then displays a map of the site, with relevant pages highlighted. There's only a demonstration version available (IBM hopes that you'll buy the full product) but it's enough to give you an idea of its potential.

Back to the public library

Another old favourite that's worth a return visit is the Internet Public Library at <http://www.ipl.org>. It continues to grow, with new links being added all the time. A quick browse through Biography in the Reference Section revealed the 'Political graveyard' (an index of former American politicians and where they're buried), the 'Complete list of Popes', and 'Who's who in Asia'.

Improve your searching

Reva Basch, a specialist in online searching, has written an article on the ZDNet site about how to find information on the Net. It goes all the way from 'Search engine basics' to 'Customised research services'. See it at <http://www.zdnet.com/complife/fea/9708/findny10.html>.

And while we are on the subject of searching, there's a site which covers all aspects of search engines and their uses at <http://www.searchenginewatch.com/>. It provides information on how the search engines work (and how you can improve your ranking when they index your site), relative performances of the search engines in different areas of interest, and tutorials on how to use each one.

The brain project

Stephen Jones, one of Australia's experts in multimedia developments has, with the assistance of the Australian Film Commission, put together a site which explores many aspects of the nature of consciousness, covering philosophy, organised systems, neural nets and quantum physics. The project arose from Stephen's attendance at a conference titled 'Towards a science of consciousness' in the United States of America in 1996, and is a continuing development. He says that it's for people who are interested in the area but not specialists. Check it out at http://www.merlin.com.au/brain_proj/.

Address correction

The problems of tight deadlines (sigh!). In the December *inCite* I gave the address for VideoTalk, an Australian site featuring technology used in digital video and audio libraries, but between then and now, the address was changed. The correct URL is <http://www.cmis.csiro.au/DMIS/VideoTalk/VideoTalk.html>.

Issues for youth

Anne Hugo of the National Clearinghouse for Youth Studies is responsible for *Youth Field Xpress*, the NCYS newsletter which is distributed by e-mail and the web. Each issue features articles on youth matters as well as links to pertinent sites. See it at <http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ncys/yfx/>.

New at HealthWeb

The United States of America HealthWeb site has announced the addition of new subject pages in Allied Health, Ophthalmology and Rural Health, bringing the total number of subjects to fifty. They are at <http://healthweb.org>.

More health information

Masaaki Tonosaki of the Nippon Medical School Central Library has produced an extensive directory of biomedical journals on the web. There are 2800 entries with URLs, details of what's available and what charges (if any) apply. It's been published in the journal *Online Kensaku* (V17 (3/4) 1996.09/12) and there are plans to put it up on the web. If you want to contact the author, the e-mail address is tonosaki@nms.ac.jp.

Meanwhile, another large collection of links (not limited to journals) is MedWeb, a collection of Biomedical Internet resources run by Emory University. See it at <http://www.cc.emory.edu/WHSC/medweb.html>.

Community Networking site

David Novak of Community Networking has put a lot of work into setting up his site at <http://cn.net.au>. In announcing its establishment, he said that he hopes that this will be the sort of thing that public libraries do in the future. I don't agree. I think public libraries have better things to do than to duplicate information that has been compiled in other places. How-

For the next year or so a key feature of the site will be the information on the new peak body...