Belinda Weaver

weaver@alia.org.au

Belinda Weaver

weaver@alia.org.au

The guides can be used by anyone who wants to learn to use the 'net, and may be particularly useful for arts, heritage and cultural workers and organisations who want to put up a website...

Theses online

The Australian Digital Theses Project [http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/thesis/thesis.html] aims to host digital versions of theses produced by Australian postgraduate research students. The current institutional participants in the project are the University of New South Wales, the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University, Curtin University of Technology, and Griffith University. There are only a few theses on the site, but there are onscreen instructions for students wanting to submit their theses to the archive.

ScreenSound Australia
The National Film and Sound Archive has been re-invented as ScreenSound Australia [http://www.screensound.gov.au/]. A virtual tour is on offer, as well as information about ScreenSound's activities of collecting and preserving Australian film, sound and television materials.

Getting the arts online
The Australian Cultural Network has just updated its set of ten Internet Development Guides. The guides [http://www.acn.net.au/resources/guides/] can be used by anyone who wants to learn to use the 'net, and may be particularly useful for arts, heritage and cultural workers and organisations who want to put up a website. The Guides include nearly 100 screens of information and more than 300 links to other useful resources on the internet.

From Russia — with information
Lots of Russian resources have been announced this month. These include Integrum World Wide [http://www.integrumworld.com/eng_test/], a very large database on Russia and the CIS that gives online access to over 700 databases, including the full text of central and regional newspapers, magazines, bulletins and other sources of information. Integrum is a fee-based service, but you can sign up for a free trial. Russia on the Net, [http://www.ru/] is a portal for Russian resources which you can browse by topic. Russian History on the Web [http://www.russianhistory.org/] aims to be a critical guide to web resources relating to Russian history. My personal favourite is the State Hermitage Museum at [http://www.hermitage museum.org/]. Follow the link to the English language version where you can browse the Museum's digital collection of images, find out about exhibitions and the Museum's extensive collections or take a virtual tour (no plugin needed), which includes Tsar Nicholas II's library.

Tate Gallery online
Another gallery that has recently gone online is the United Kingdom's Tate Gallery. The site [http://www.tate.org.uk/] showcases the Tate's three collections (based in London, Liverpool and St Ives) which include many works of British art as well as international modern art. Some images are available online. It's not quite as snazzy as the Hermitage, but worth a look.

Conference on libraries and staffing
The vital link: library staffing in the 21st century

will be held on Thursday 22 July and Friday 23 July 1999 at the City West Campus, University of South Australia. The conference is a joint effort of the University of South Australia Library and ALIA. Details and registration form available via http://www.library.unisa.edu.au//events/vital.htm.

World radio at your desktop
The World Radio Network [http://www.wrn.org/] provides a gateway to radio broadcasts around the world. You can listen to live feeds and recent archived broadcasts in several formats and languages.

The hardest working librarian?
The hardest working librarian on the 'net must be Gary Price of George Washington University. He publishes an awesome number of web pages, including Direct Search, http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/direct.htm, an enormous listing of links to databases not generally accessible by internet search tools. His bibliography page at http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/bibs.htm contains numerous searchable bibliographies and other tools for locating resources. The Speech and Transcript Center [http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/speech.htm] contains links to English language speeches from government and business leaders from around the world, while Internet Accessible Audio/Video is a useful tool for monitoring local and foreign broadcasters as well listening to events you are unable to attend, such as seminars [http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/audio.htm]. Price's List of Lists, [http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/listof.htm] is a web guide to all those 'Best of' and 'Top-100' lists.

If you want to discover who's the richest person on the planet, have a look at Forbes Magazine's new 1999 listing of the world's richest people at http://www.forbes.com/tool/toolbox/billnew/. No real surprises about number one — Bill Gates — but he is only one of 200 billionaires from around the globe.

High noon for search engines
Greg Notess is another hardworking librarian on the 'net. The author of government information on the internet has launched a new site called Search Engine Showdown at http://www.notess.com/search/ which provides reviews, analysis, statistics, and search strategies for some of the major search engines.

E-prints and pre-prints
Physicists were among the first to publish e-prints on the internet. The oddly-named arXiv.org e-print archive [http://xxx.lanl.gov/] at Los Alamos National Laboratory contains the newest results from science experiments in physics, mathematics, non-linear sciences, and computer science, often well before the results appear in print. Over 100 000 articles are currently available, with most recent additions posted first.

Cognitive scientists have followed suit, with the newly-launched Cognitive Sciences Eprint Archive. CogPrints [http://cogprints.soton.ac.uk/] contains papers in the study of cognition — this

encompasses a whole range of subjects from psychology, anthropology and philosophy, to neuroscience and computer science.

The final article (early)
Springer-Verlag is now offering early access to selected articles destined for print publication. The new service, Online First [http://link.springer.de/doi/online-first.htm] will provide full-text articles in as pdf files. Journals included are *Applied Physics A, Applied Physics B, European Physical Journal C, Inventiones mathematicae, Mathematical Programming, neurogenetics, Supportive Care in Cancer,* and *Theoretical Chemistry Accounts: Theory, Computation, and Modeling.* Springer-Verlag stress that this is not a preprint service — the publications are in their final form.

WWW8 papers
Papers from the *Eighth international World Wide Web conference,* held from 11–14 May 999, in Toronto, are now available full text online at http://www8.org/fullpaper.html. Forty-eight papers from sixteen sessions are supposedly available, though I could not get into 'Surfing the Web backwards' on the day I tried. Topics include: 'User adaptable multimedia presentations for the world wide web', 'Finding related pages in the world wide web', 'Trawling the web for emerging cyber-communities', and 'Automatic RDF metadata generation for resource discovery'.

Find out how it is done
S Diane Shaw, special collections cataloguer at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, has created a site listing over 350 library and archival exhibitions on the web [http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions/online-exhibitions-title.htm]. The exhibitions were all created by American libraries, and all materials displayed (including photographs, documents, posters, prints and postcards) come from library and archival collections.

Census facts from America…
The American FactFinder site [http://factfinder.census.gov/] is a new service from the United States Census Bureau providing online access to a huge collection of demographic and economic data.

… and Canada
Statistics Canada also has census data (from 1996) at http://www.statcan.ca/ The site provides many kinds of statistics as well as selected articles and abstracts from journals such as *Canadian Social Trends.*

Canadian digital projects
The Inventory of Canadian Digital Initiatives [http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/initiatives/index.html] is a database of current digital projects — including information resources created for the web, general digital collections, resources centred around a particular theme, reference sources and databases.

Civil engineering e-journals
The American Society of Civil Engineers has announced it will launch twenty-seven of its journals on to the world wide web in an incremental program [http://www.pubs.asce.org/journals/press.html]. The trial phase of the program will provide free, full-text access to the 1999 journals along with the 80 000 bibliographic records of the Civil Engineering Database. Access to each journal's abstract, searchable content, and author information will be free until January 2000.

Government documents in the United States of America
For those confused about United States government document searching after the recent mix-up over the newly-launched Northern Light/NTIS partnership, try Google's new 'Uncle Sam' search tool [http://www.google.com/unclesam] which indexes United States government sites. Query results feature links to other sites that link to the page found by the search. MyGo also has a useful meta-index page for United States government resources at http://www.govstartpage.com/.

Q&A at LookSmart…
Looksmart [http://www.looksmart.com] is now offering e-mail answers to users' search questions. Answers should appear within twenty-four hours and should include relevant site recommendations and information on how to search the internet. From the look of the URL, the service is still under construction [http://www.looksmart.com/beta/live.html]. LookSmart aim to build a searchable archive of the answers they provide.

…and at the Electric Monk
Newcomers to the 'net generally like being able to ask simple questions in plain-English. You can do this successfully via the Electric Monk [http://www.electricmonk.com]. I asked for (and got) a recipe for Anzac biscuits (and yes, they were delicious). Results consist of links to relevant websites which should provide answers.

Middle East and beyond
If you are searching for Middle Eastern, Armenian, and Central Asian Studies, try the UCLA Library which has extensive collections in these areas and also provides a directory of internet resources [http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/url/colls/mideast/]. Resources are listed for Afghanistan, the Arab World, Armenia, Assyria, Central Asia, Iran, Kurdistan, Turkey, Islam, and Middle Eastern Studies. Links include countries and cities, libraries, research institutions, and universities, publishers and book dealers, communities, media, and religious and cultural resources.

Human rights searching made simple
A new search engine for Web-based human rights information is at http://www.innovamedtech.com/lawform.html. You can search by keyword at any or all of twenty-three different web sites, including the United Nations, the European Court of Human Rights, the Red Cross and Amnesty International. Results are combined into a single page.

How many?
Library staff at the University of Sydney have compiled a useful list of resources on population, demography and statistics [http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/Guides/Readyref/population.html]. The links are annotated, which makes them much quicker to navigate when searching for figures online. ∎