Weavers web

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New full text library from ERIC

Education researchers and teachers will enjoy the recently-launched internet library from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation (ERIC/AE) [http://ericae.net/ftlib.html]. The site provides full-text access to over 250 books, reports, journal articles and papers on educational measurement, evaluation and learning theory. The items are organised by topic, including research, tests, and statistical analysis. All titles have been reviewed. The ERIC/AE site also offers free web access to the ERIC database at http://ericae.net/search.htm.

One from the Asia Society

The Asia Society's new website, AsiaSource, is a good starting point for anyone interested in Asian studies. Look here for news (including breaking news) and resources on Asian culture, business, politics, and history. There are statistics, maps, links to other Asian information, and a database of Asian specialists [http://www.asiasource.org/].

Create your own web index

The Co-operative Online Resource Catalog (CORC for short) [http://www.oclc.org/oclc/research/projects/corc/index.htm] is a research project from OCLC on the co-operative creation and sharing of metadata by libraries. The project should interest any library seeking to provide better access to resources on the web. The driving force behind the creation of CORC was OCLC's member libraries' dissatisfaction with existing web indexes. CORC allows library staff to create resource descriptions (that is, catalogue records) and digital pathfinders (pages that serve as bibliographies of web resources). Once created, records and pathfinders can either be exported for local use or accessed within the CORC database. OCLC may develop the CORC technology into a saleable product at some later stage.

Write it right

The Economist magazine has put its style guide online for free at http://www.economist.com/editorial/freeforall/library/styleguide/. The guide is given to all new journalists on the *Economist* and advises writers on unnecessary words, the use of jargon, capitalisation, punctuation and spelling. Short, snappy and to the point.

Easy e-journals

Anyone hunting for e-journals should be pleased with the Electronic Journal Access Project being developed by the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries. The project [http://www.coalliance.org/ejournal/] provides lists and a searchable index (by title or LC subject heading) of many hundreds of e-journal titles. Either search will provide you with key information about the title, such as URL, abstract, publisher, ISSN, frequency, start date, cost, contact details and whether or not the journal is peer-reviewed. The site also provides links to other directories of electronic journals. You can submit titles for inclusion in the database. Anyone hunting for newsletters online can look at EzineSeek http://EzineSeek.com/. This searchable directory provides a listing of over 600 online newsletters.

Measuring the quality of your service

If you want to know how your library is performing in the new networked, electronic environment, have a look at EQUINOX at http://equinox.dcu.ie/. EQUINOX is a project funded under the Telematics for Libraries Programme of the European Commission and aims to assist libraries to develop and use methods to measure their electronic performance. Indicators being measured include the percentage of the target population reached by electronic services, the number of logins, the number of electronic documents delivered, the number of reference queries submitted electronically, the number of library workstations, and their use rates. Costs, waiting times, system availability and rejected logins will also be measured.

How good is your information?

If you have found information online, but are not sure how good it is, take the Internet Detective test at http://www.sosig.ac.uk/desire/internet-detective.html. This is the second edition of this web tutorial which helps you evaluate the quality of internet resources. You need to register to use it so that the computer can remember your scores and keep track of your progress. For those short of online hours, it is possible to download a version of the tutorial to use offline.

Internet librarians' conference

Organisers of the Internet Librarian International conference have issued a preliminary announcement and call for participation at http://www.libtech-international.com/. The conference will be held between 20 and 22 March 2000, at Olympia 2 in London, and will feature the Libtech 2000 Exhibition and grant you entry to the London Book Fair.

Quotable quotes

No excuses for getting your quotations wrong now that the New Bartleby Library has recently placed five anthologies of poetry online. The Bartleby Verse anthologies [http://www.bartleby.com/verse/] cover American and English poetry from 1250 to 1920, and include the *Yale book of American verse* (1912), *Modern British poetry* (1920), *Modern American poetry* (1919), *Metaphysical lyrics and poems of the 17th century* (1921), and the *Golden treasury* (1875). You can browse by author name, poem title, or first line, or do a keyword search.

Who's on top?

If you want to find out the most-visited sites on the web, have a look at Media Metrix's Top Rankings at http://www.mediametrix.com/TopRankings/TopRankings.html. The site lists the most popular websites by domain (Yahoo! heads the list of most favoured destinations) and by subject, for example news/entertainment, shopping and so on.

Top 50 in sci-tech

So much for statistics. *Popular Science* magazine has compiled a 'Best of the web' which has nothing to do with statistics and everything to do with

design and content. The site at http://www.popsci.com/context/features/bow99/ lists the magazine's selections of the top fifty websites for science and technology.

Digital theses
Last month it was Australian theses. Now the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is getting in on the act with its new experimental digital archive of selected master's and doctoral theses submitted to departments at MIT. This archive of e-theses is set to grow [http://theses.mit.edu/].

New database for scientists?
The United States Department of Energy (DOE) plans to launch a new searchable database of peer-reviewed scientific and technical journal literature on 1 October. The database, PubSCIENCE, will index virtually every scientific journal not already indexed in PubMED, the free medical database from the National Library of Medicine. PubSCIENCE is jointly sponsored by the DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Journal publishers in the trial service include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, Elsevier Science, and the Institute for Scientific Information. The DOE hopes to provide searches of 400 current journals. If PubScience is anywhere near as successful as PubMED (which claims 180 million searches a year), it will be a hugely popular service [http://www.doe.gov/osti/projects.html].

New search tools
A whole range of new tools has appeared this month. Yureka! http://yureka.com/ searches the databases of other search engines such as Excite and AltaVista, and then filters the results. Search Engine Colossus http://www.searchenginecolossus.com/ promises a directory of more than 1000 search engines. If that seems dauntingly large, try SearchIQ [http://www. searchiq.com/] which provides guidance on the selection of web search tools. Newshounds can check out Moreover [http://www.moreover.com/], a brand-new site for news. Headlines are offered from 1500 different sources (gulp!) but you can choose to view news by category which makes it easier.

Two for the VR collection
A couple of sites for your virtual reference collections: The World Biographical Index http://www.biblio.tu-bs.de/acwww25u/wbi_en/ claims to list short biographical entries for almost two and a half million people. The electronic version of the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy should also find a place in any virtual reference collection. The online version at http://www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual/ provides the complete contents of the seventeenth edition.

Opening government
The United Kingdom National Digital Archive of Datasets offers access to a variety of United Kingdom government datasets and associated documents. You need to register (free) to use it. There is a getting started guide on how to access data which you should take a look at before trying your search [http://ndad.ulcc.ac.uk/]. Datasets in the social sciences, including surveys, census and time series data, can be found at the resource guide for the social sciences [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/subject/socsci/]. This range of electronic resources (some free) also includes bibliographic, reference and research information, and subject gateways.

Buying British
Two new sites for the British and Irish book trade have come out almost simultaneously. BookWeb [http://www.bookweb.co.uk/] offers pull-down menus of booksellers, publishers, library suppliers, book fairs and book review sites. Each section provides links and some annotations (more descriptions are promised). Handy if you want to get quick access to a range of publishers' sites and check out their recent publications. You can see more booksellers at the Booksellers Association of Great Britain and Ireland [http://www.booksellers.org.uk/].

Get the figures
UNESCAP (United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) has released an online version of its 1999 Population and Development Indicators for Asia and the Pacific. The data sheet is at http://www.unescap.org/pop/data_sheet/data99.htm and provides data on population, birth and death rates, life expectancy, population projection, and more.

Managing knowledge
Anyone looking at intranets or knowledge management should visit the Law Library Resource Exchange [http://www.llrx.com/]. There is a current article called 'Intranets and knowledge management solutions: Law librarians lead the way', as well as a whole section devoted to the topic. The section includes books, links, previous LLRX articles, other articles, and presentations. If that is not enough, have a look at the Journal of Systemic Knowledge Management. This new scholarly publication is devoted to research about knowledge management and its applications [http://www.free-press.com/journals/knowledge/]

Archives
If you are looking for research collections via the web, try out Repositories of Primary Sources at http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html. The site has a listing by geographical location of 3300 websites which describe holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs, and other primary sources for the researcher. You won't necessarily find the collection you want online, but you will get a lot of information about it. The Australian section (listed under Asia and the Pacific) has links to a large number of Australian collections.

New Australian multimedia catalogue now online
The Australian Multimedia Catalogue has just been updated and is now available on the Australian Film Commission's website [http://www.afc.gov.au/resources/searchd/mm/]. The catalogue lists 740 interactive multimedia titles recently completed or in current development. The catalogue includes a variety of platforms and genres, from games to computer-based training, and you can search by product or by company. ∎

Newshounds can check out Moreover, a brand-new site for news. Headlines are offered from different 1500 sources (gulp!) but you can choose to view news by category which makes it easier