



Virtual ideas

Innovative Internet Applications in Libraries is a great starting place for librarians who want to make use of technology to provide a better, closer service to their users, or to see samples of ideas other libraries are developing. The site is more a gateway than a resource in its own right, but it is fairly small, simply organised and genuinely helpful. It is divided into several sections, each of which provides links to good examples of what the section is all about. 'Ages & Stages' has examples of special interest sections such as services or activities for children, 'Special Collections & Online Exhibits' shows you how to showcase your unique holdings, 'E-Journals' has links to existing newsletters libraries are publishing, and so on. If you have been thinking about setting up a virtual tour, building local databases, starting a Virtual Reference Desk, or creating a personalised 'My Library' interface for your users, then this is the spot for you. See what other people have done and adapt the ideas you like best. [<http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/innovate.html>]

Weavers web



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similar in look and feel to the humanities-oriented *Arts & Letters Daily* (to which it also links). Even a layperson would find something of interest here. Check it out at <http://www.scitechdaily.com/>.

News portal

JournalistExpress is a new service for journalists but most librarians will find it handy as a one-stop shop for online news. In design, it is a fairly close copy of the excellent business portal, CEOExpress [<http://www.ceoexpress.com/>] (which it links to). The two together would just about sew up the business news market. It has everything you would expect at a media site — links to news wires, broadcast, newspapers, headlines, news archives, directories, market information — even the cartoons. Links are also provided to research material such as databases, reference tools and statistics. Everything is on the front page so it is easy to grasp the site at a glance. The only gripe is the American bias, but you will get some Aussie papers through here. [<http://www.journalistexpress.com/>]

Web book

The guide to digital resources for the humanities is in the process of being 'webified'. You can buy the *Guide* in print, but the authors plan to make the whole thing available over the Web within the coming months. That way, they hope to keep it both comprehensive and up-to-the-minute. The sections in the guide are divided into major themes — Classics and Ancient History; Language & Linguistics; Media and Film; Literature; Philosophy; and Religion and Theosophy. The full contents of each section are listed, yet only a few chapters have been linked so far. Existing chapters are liberally sprinkled with links to enable users to make best use of the advice in the guide. One to watch. [<http://info.ox.ac.uk/ctitext/index.html>]

For the techies and for the rest of us

Anyone who is a sci-tech junkie will find happiness at the *SciTech Daily Review*, an online news digest and gateway to resources in the area. It includes snippets of a large number of articles (which you can click on to read in full), as well as a lot of breaking news via such services as AlphaGalileo, ABC Science, BBC SciTech News, CNN Sci-tech, Discovery Channel News, Eureka Alert, HMS Beagle, Nova and many others. It also provides a useful one-stop shop to popular journals (*National Geographic*, *New Scientist*, *Smithsonian*) and news services in science and technology. The service is very

Working for digital excellence

The Centre for Digital Library Research at the University of Strathclyde is worth a look if you are interested in diverse projects in this area. The Centre hopes to become a centre of excellence on the issues involved in digital libraries, such as information retrieval and document storage technologies and standards. Some of the current projects which you can visit from the CDLR site include the Glasgow Digital Library, the Digital Information Office, the BUBL Information Service (an excellent starting point for any kind of Web search), and the Clyde Virtual University (a joint venture to develop and deliver internet-based teaching materials to students at five institutions in the West of Scotland). [<http://cdlr.strath.ac.uk/>]

ISI's Web

The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has announced plans to build Current Web Contents, a collection of evaluated scholarly web-sites. In the absence of the process of peer review and established publishing standards, ISI has developed new selection criteria specifically for web information. These will be modelled on existing editorial standards developed by ISI. Sites will be evaluated for the criteria of authority, accuracy and currency. The sample record on the ISI site shows that records will include the page title and the full URL; a concise de-

scription of the entire web-site highlighting major content features (written by ISI, not taken from the site); ISI-assigned keywords (from a controlled thesaurus); the site author (if identifiable); the copyright holder for the site's content; the language; data type, for example, database, abstracts; the file formats such as MPEG, PDF; the site sponsor, for example government or educational institution; and date of evaluation. Have a look at the site now and then visit again when it all starts to happen. [<http://www.isinet.com/products/webselect/webselect.html>]

Minding the body

ErgoLib is a site more concerned with librarians' physical safety and stamina than with anything more cerebral. It aims to give you advice on how to design a healthier work space so that you can avoid injury and strain, especially when working with computers, keyboards and mice. The site links to many other sites concerned with ergonomics and workplace health and safety. It is nice to know that someone cares. [<http://library.ucr.edu/ergolib/>]

They keep on coming

Even more sites for digital theses popping up this month. Dissertations in Central Asian Studies contains information on approximately 150 recent dissertations in the field of Central Asian Studies completed in different universities around the world. It's at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~casww/CASWW_Diss.html. Only drop into TheseNet if you have enough French to get round the site — there is no English translation. This database indexes dissertations for PhDs granted in France. It contains citations for dissertations for applied and hard sciences, humanities, social sciences, and law (from 1972), health sciences (from 1983), and veterinary medicine (from 1990). [<http://thesenet.abes.fr/>]

Newspaper and journal archive

The UK *Financial Times* has made its Global Archive available for free over the Net. The archive includes over 6 million articles from 3000 newspapers and periodicals, and most of the material can be accessed for free. [<http://www.globalarchive.ft.com/>]

Legal research

Two winners from LLRX this month. This legal research site consistently produces helpful material on library and Web issues and has now come up with the Guide to Researching the Council of Europe at <http://www.llrx.com/features/coe.htm>. The Coun-

cil of Europe was created in 1949 and now comprises 41 member states. If this seems an incredible number, check out the site — it includes many newly independent states that had previously been part of the USSR or the former Yugoslavia. The site explains how to find official information and publications. As sites like the COE grow, good guides are a great help in navigating quickly and easily (think of the UN site — an embarrassment of riches). Still it is nice to have too much information than not enough. Tara Calishain, who produces the excellent ResearchBuzz e-mail newsletter, has launched a new current awareness service at <http://161.58.34.171/buzz/buzz1.htm>. LLRX Buzz — The Latest on Legal Research aims to help legal researchers and lawyers stay on top. Sign up to get your e-mail copy or read it at the site <http://www.llrx.com/LLRX>.

Jet propelled reports

Is document delivery getting easier with so much material moving on to the Web, or is the bar of expectation just getting higher? The Jet Propulsion Laboratory Technical Report Server has gone online, so searching for any of the 8000 reports held there should be easier. Some reports are in full-text, some have abstracts. You can search by keyword or look for citations and abstracts by year. Links are also provided to other, related technical report systems such as the NASA Technical Reports Server. [<http://jpltrs.jpl.nasa.gov/>]

Perfect match?

I am still very content with the search engine Google, but for those still seeking that perfect match, have a look at Search Engines Worldwide. This gives listings and links for a range of engines and directories organised by country or continent at <http://www.twics.com/~takakuwa/search/>. AltaVista's new search service, Raging, may not have made it in there by the time you visit, but you can check out this Google-lookalike at <http://www.raging.com/>.

Hard words

The Dictionary of Difficult Words is now online at <http://www.lineone.net/dictionaryof/difficultwords/>. You can search for specific words or browse the alphabetical listings.

Diagnosis — workaholic (revisited)

Last month we featured MEDLINEplus, but neglected to include the URL. For those who couldn't find it, the URL is <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/> ■

This column [with URL links] can be found at:



<http://www.alia.org.au/incite>

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Belinda Weaver via e-mail.

The site explains how to find official information and publications. As sites like the COE grow, good guides are a great help in navigating quickly and easily...