



Film information

Screen Network Australia [<http://www.sna.net.au/>] is a new gateway to Australian film and television information on the web. It includes a searchable directory to hundreds of sites about film and the Australian film industry, so if you are looking for copyright information, information about distributors or industry regulation, this is the tool for you.

Take your partners

Though the name suggests a kids club, the Model Editions Partnership is all about creating electronic editions of historical documents in a format suitable for scholars and researchers online [<http://adh.sc.edu/>]. If that sounds like something you want to do, have a look at some of the digitised American historical texts at the site, such as the Abraham Lincoln Legal Papers and the papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony.

Discussion list on electronic collections

e-collection is a new discussion list for people involved in developing electronic collections of information. Join up and share information with like-minded people on collection development, content acquisition and collaborative projects. To join, send a message to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, enter `join e-collections your-first-name your-last-name`. Omit your usual e-mail signature and send the message. If you need to know more, e-mail Stuart Lee stuart.lee@computing-services.oxford.ac.uk or Alicia Wise alicia.wise@kcl.ac.uk.

Multimedia searcher

Lycos has recently launched a multimedia search engine called RichMedia [<http://richmedia.lycos.com/>]. It claims to index over seventeen-million files and uses the same search technology as FASTSearch to deliver quick results. If you are in a hurry, you can choose to access the content directly from the RichMedia search results listing. If you would prefer to visit the site providing the content first, links are provided as well.

ISO standards on the web

Standards from ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, can now be purchased via credit card on the web. You can choose to download a copy instantly, or have a paper copy mailed to you. A ten per cent discount applies to downloaded copies. Standards are published in the portable document format (PDF), and the site provides access to the Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader software for customers who do not have it. You can search for standards by reference number, keyword, or by subject index [<http://www.isostandards.com.au/>].

In their own words

The National Library is creating a national online directory of oral history collections. The site is based on the 1997 print publication *Oral history collections: a national directory*, and will allow you to search within tens of thousands of hours of oral recordings. The search facility was not yet

available when I looked, but should be up by the end of 1999. These collections document Australian life, customs, politics and traditions. The Directory will also link to overseas oral history sites and collections and other useful resources [<http://www.nla.gov.au/ohdir/>].

Through the gateway

The revamped National Library site is also one of the better gateways around for Internet resources [http://www.nla.gov.au/pathways/pthw_global.html]. The resources page is simply laid out, but comprehensive and well-organised, with annotated links to search tools, subject gateways, the invisible web, the NLA's collection of electronic Australiana, government information, electronic texts and discussion lists. If you are interested in creating your own subject gateway, the NLA has two papers on the site that may be of interest — one on the background to gateways at <http://www.nla.gov.au/meta/imesh/overview.html> and one on issues for gateways <http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/sg/>. Metadata is covered at <http://www.nla.gov.au/meta/>.

Safe searching

Kid's search tools <http://www.rcls.org/ksearch.htm> is a one-stop shop for the best children's search engines and directories. It has search forms for Yahoo!igans, KidsClick, Education World, the Awesome Library, Berit's best sites, Ask Jeeves for Kids, and Searchopolis among others.

Fill the gaps with back issues

Schmidt Periodicals describe themselves as specialists in the purchase and supply of reprints, backsets, back volumes and back issues of periodicals and journals to libraries throughout the world. They now have a website at <http://www.backsets.com/>. The site provides an index of all pages dealing with the purchase and supply of reprints, antiquarian backsets and back volumes of periodicals and journals. Send enquiries for journals you are hoping to find or download stock lists by subject area.

In the early stages

If you want to meta-search United Kingdom library catalogues, try the experimental Z39.5 interface to several United Kingdom academic libraries, the Library of Congress and MEDLINE at <http://www.bopac2.comp.brad.ac.uk/~bopac2/egwsgi.cgi/egwrtcl/mtargets.egw/1+0>. When you enter a search, the system searches the catalogues you specify and retrieves and reports results institution by institution. Handy for tracking down items.

PubMed revamp

The United States National Library of Medicine has recently released a new version of its PubMed search. In addition to providing search access to more than ten-million journal citations from MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE and other databases, Entrez, the new service, integrates information from a number of the National Center for Biotech-

Weavers web



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nology Information databases — such as nucleotide sequences, protein sequences, macro-molecular structures, and whole genomes. The new interface has some additional features such as a search history and clipboard that should improve functionality for users [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>].

Rule Britannica

Unless you have been marooned on a desert island, you will probably have heard about Encyclopaedia Britannica's recent decision to go free and public with its data. The site promptly crashed under the demand. After adding more capacity, Britannica is back up, offering full access to its encyclopedia content, to articles from over seventy-five magazines, and to American and world news. There are also links to selected websites from Britannica's internet guide [<http://www.britannica.com/>].

Knowledge database

The Community of Science (COS) [<http://www.cos.com/>] has expanded its existing coverage of scientific expertise and funding opportunities in Canada and the United States to include Britain and the Commonwealth. The British data has been loaded into the COS Expertise database [<http://expertise.cos.com/>]. Some of the profiles need updating. COS has also collaborated with the Association of Commonwealth Universities to produce the Commonwealth Knowledge Network [<http://acu.cos.com/>] which provides very similar information. Further details of these developments can be found at <http://acu.cos.com/>.

Virtual classic

The Perseus Image Browser is a new tool from the Tufts University Perseus Project, a digital library of the ancient world [<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>]. There are than 30 000 images to browse or search via the Perseus lookup tool. Results list categories, for example sculpture or buildings, and provide thumbnails from which the full catalogue entry and image can be viewed. A fun way to bring ancient history to life.

Virtual reference directories

Association Central [<http://AssociationCentral.com/>] provides both search and browse access to its index of associations and association-related information. *Doctoral research in educational technology — A directory of dissertations, 1977–1998* [<http://www.edtech.univnorthco.edu/disswww/dissdir2.htm>] is another useful reference item. It indexes doctoral dissertations in instructional design and technology completed between 1977 and 1998 at fifty United States universities. You can browse the directory in five ways — by student name, keyword, institution, chair or year. The directory will be updated annually with listings for dissertations completed during the previous year.

Solve it

The Internet Anagram Server will get you through the crossword quicker, and save lots of scribbles

on scraps of paper. You can type in any combination of letters and see them rearranged into words or phrases [<http://www.wordsmith.org/anagram/>].

Breaking business news

AFXpress is a new (and free) business news service launched by the online partnership of Agence France-Presse and the United Kingdom Financial Times. You can select a specific area for news, for example Europe, or read world business news. The site also allows you to register for additional features, but registering was not 100 per cent reliable when I visited, so these could not be tried out [<http://www.afxpress.com/servlet/FrontPage>].

Looking, but not finding?

The National Library's Australian Library Collections Task Force has just released *Looking for books: A report on access to research monographs by academics and higher degree researchers at Australian university libraries*. The study shows that Australian university libraries are facing great challenges supporting research in some subject areas. Copies of the report are available from the National Library. Comments on the findings can be directed to Paula Williams at the National Library on 02 6262 1481, e-mail pwilliams@nla.gov.au. Additional information about the work of the Australian Library Collections Task Force is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/initiatives/alctf/>.

What the judge says

CNN's financial network has put together a special report, Microsoft on trial, to provide a full picture of the anti-trust case against Microsoft. The site provides the Judge's full report, and links to many materials in the case, such as other anti-trust materials on Microsoft [<http://cnnfn.com/news/specials/antitrust/>].

Open AusInfo's toolbox

The Commonwealth Manager's Toolbox provides free access to government documents from a number of departments and agencies. The documents cover best practice guidelines, human resources management, workplace relations, emergency management and finance and budgeting. Contributing agencies include the National Archives, the Privacy Commission, the National Library of Australia, the Office for Government Online, and many government departments [<http://www.cmt.gov.au/>].

Study abroad

The International Students Information Exchange is a United States-based organisation which provides customised information to prospective students worldwide. The services provided on the site include a database of American universities, application forms, help with study options, finance information and what you need to do before you go. There is a five-step self-assessment plan to check if you are really ready to take on the world. You need to register to search the database [<http://www.isix.com/index.cfm>]. ■

**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.

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