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Wandering the Web-Great Art Web Sites for Educators

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Wandering The Web — Great Art Web Sites for Educators

by **Darla Bressler** (Educational Resources Center Coordinator, Western Kentucky University)

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Caught up in both national and state education reform initiatives, today's educators face numerous challenges. To address these new initiatives, today's classroom teachers must examine their current teaching practices and adapt new and unfamiliar methods of preparing and teaching their classes. Educational standards require teachers to think in terms of performance standards, core content, student outcomes, assessment and accountability. Preparing lesson plans often becomes more difficult and time-consuming as teachers learn how to incorporate these essential requirements into the curriculum. Furthermore, teachers are often faced with teaching subject matter that is beyond their expertise. For example, how many elementary school teachers truly feel that they are experts in art? I would venture to guess not many; however, elementary school teachers must regularly teach art classes. Furthermore, they are held accountable for their stu-

dents' performances on required assessment tests. It is not surprising that those who have chosen education as their profession are struggling to reinvent themselves, just as education initiatives struggle to reform our entire educational system.

Fortunately, technology offers the means to alleviate some of this discomfort. Numerous Websites offer teachers of all grade levels access to thousands of resources, as well as examples of how to incorporate educational standards into their lesson plans. Some of the best Websites devoted to art and art education are highlighted below:

Arteducation.com.uk: <http://arteducation.co.uk/> — Originally known as Schoolart, this UK-based site offers over 300 art lessons and art projects for Nursery, Primary, Secondary and K12 Schools, over 500 Weblinks and Website reviews, a notice board for communications to colleagues world-wide,

access to school art galleries and databases, scholarly journal articles about art education, an art bookstore and much more. An annual membership fee of \$16.50 is required; however, a ten day free membership is available.

Art History Resources on the Web: <http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLlinks.html> — This extensive, award-winning site was created by Chris Whitcombe, Professor of Art History, Sweet Briar College, Virginia, and it provides a comprehensive list of links to art and art history resources. Resources are well-organized by period and include links to resources from the Ancient World, Middle Ages, World Beyond Europe, Renaissance and Baroque and Rococo, and Modern and Postmodern World. Links to lists of artists, visual resources, online journals, research resources, prints and photography, museums and galleries, and links to other sites are also provided. A great find for the serious artist, art teacher, art historian, or art lover!

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Art Kids Rule! <http://artkidsrule.com/>

— This large and comprehensive Website provides extensive resources to supplement all aspects of art for educators, students of all ages, artists, and anyone interested in art. Access Arts is the parent company of this site, as well as its sister sites, the World Artist Directory, The Art Teacher, and ArtDeadline.Com., which also provide specialized resources for artists and educators. This searchable and indexed Website is a dream-come-true for teachers, as it features countless art resources organized into numerous categories. Among these are The Art Teacher, The Art Arcade, The Art Kids Board, Art History, Art & Artists, Arts & Crafts, Cool Music, Cartoons, Films & Fans, Photography, Theater & Shows, Art Galleries, Writing & Books, Sculpture Art, Painting, Active Stories, and World Dance. The Art Teacher link offers teachers a multitude of resources for both classroom use and professional development. There are thousands of lesson plans, art tutorials, and activities to be found in all categories and by searching the site's search engine. Words cannot do this site justice; one must see it to appreciate it. Additionally, a portion of all revenues generated from this site is donated to art education programs. It doesn't get much better than this. Bottom line: Art Kids Rule! really does!

The @rt room: http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/rt_room/@rtroom_home.html — Organized to resemble six activity centers in a school art room, this site provides access to six art-related categories: @rt sparkers: ideas for student art projects; @rttrageous thinking: activities designed to inspire students to think like an artist; the @rt gallery: student art exhibitions from around the world; @rtifacts: art-related historical facts and trivia; @rt library: art book reviews; and @rt links: links to other art education Websites. This is a site worth visiting.

Art Safari: <http://artsafari.moma.org/> — Created by The Museum of Modern Art, this site invites your classroom to explore and create paintings and sculptures based on an animal theme. Spotlighting works from artists Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Henri Rousseau, and Diego Rivera, the safari takes visitors through a series of questions to gather information needed to write a story about the painting or sculpture. The Make Your Own Art category prompts visitors to interpret paintings and sculpture and produce their own art works. These stories and works of art can be submitted and viewed later. Links and audio clips help guide visitors through the activities. Another category displays visitors' art work. A fun and educational experience!

Art Teacher Connection: <http://www.inficad.com/~arted/> — Betty Lake, an elementary school art teacher in Phoenix, Arizona, created this site to encourage "innovation in art education through technology." This site provides art teachers with access to art education resources, tips on integrating technology into the arts curriculum, and strategies to integrate art into the curriculum to meet national standards. For a minimal fee, one can purchase Ms. Lake's compilations of **Best Art Lessons on the Web** and **Best Educational Sites on the Web**; however, links to numerous art education lessons, activities, and Websites are free-of-charge on this site. A site map provides easy access to National Arts Standards, as well as over thirty-six links to art-related resources, such as art advocacy links, art education links, art history links, art lessons on the Web, art museum links, integration themes, children's recommended art books, and many more. The Teacher to Teacher category provides a forum for art teachers to communicate and share questions and expertise.

Art Teacher on the Net: <http://www.artmuseums.com> — Developed and maintained by professional art teacher Valerie Colston, this award-winning Website has a lot to offer educators. Art Projects and Lessons, Art History, Parent Ideas, Teacher Exchange, Art Supplies, and After-School Project Ideas are just some of the categories in which teachers will find useful classroom resources. Teachers may order free project sheets and patterns to accompany numerous projects that incorporate art into the curriculum. The Art History for Kids link, one of many great links located within the Afterschool Program Art Ideas category, is particularly good. As art detectives, users search for major art works in some of the world's major museums. While using clues to complete exercises along the way, detectives learn about the week's featured famous artist and his/her work, as well as how to analyze and appreciate art. This is a good site for supplemental art materials.

AskERIC Lesson Plans—Arts: <http://ericir.syr.edu/Virtual/Lessons/Arts/index.html> — From the Educational Resources Information Center database, these K-12 lesson plans are organized into four categories: Architecture, Art Activities, Art History, and Music. The Art Activities category offers 30+ art lessons and activities, ranging from Origami to Painting Like an Impressionist. Links to related Websites are included in with each lesson/activity.

Eyes on Art: <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/art2/> — This recently updated, award-winning site, part of Pacific Bell's Knowledge Network Explorer educational initiative, features six in-depth, visual art Web-based lesson plans accompanied by a detailed teacher's guide. Rubrics, activities, strategies, and instructions, which were designed using refer-

ences from the California State Visual and Performing Framework, teach beginning, middle, and advanced students critical and cognitive thinking skills. Numerous links to online art museums provide superb images to accompany lessons. A most impressive and valuable resource for K-12 art teachers.

Getty Education Institute's ArtsEdNet: <http://www.artsednet.getty.edu/> — Developed by the Getty Education Institute for the Arts, this Website's stated purpose is to meet the needs of "arts educators, general classroom teachers using the arts in their curriculum, museum educators, and university faculty involved in art education." Easy to navigate, this site provides a site map and is also searchable. The table of contents provides links to Discipline-based Arts Education Lesson Plans & Curriculum Ideas; Image Galleries and Exhibitions, ArtsEdNet Talk, an e-mail discussion list; Web Links to numerous art education resources; and Reading Room & Publications, which provides a large number of resources for professional educators. The extensive Lesson Plans & Curriculum Ideas section offers in-depth, interdisciplinary lesson plans for all grade levels, as well as a scope and sequence guide to assist educators in creating curricula in accordance with the National Standards for Art Education framework. In addition to these valuable resources, a changing Online Exhibit features the work of artists, as well as reading lists and online discussions. This is an invaluable site for art educators, as well as the entire art community.

Imagination Factory: <http://users.hsonline.net/kidart/> — Created by art teacher Marilyn Brackney, this fun site is designed to preserve the environment by teaching creative ways to recycle by making art from waste materials. An extensive number of lesson plans and art activities for K-8 students are available. Sample activities include origami boxes made from old greeting cards and rain sticks made from cardboard tubes and chicken wire. Other categories include an Education category, which teaches more about recycling, and a Research & Development category, which provides links to other art and environmental Websites. A unique and timely Website!

The Incredible Art Department: <http://www.artswire.org/kenroar/> — Created by educator Ken Rorher, this huge, awesome Website has won dozens of awards and is a must-see for art students, teachers and lovers. The colorful home page depicts a shift-eyed Mona Lisa, with bubbles delineating each of the site's twelve categories. Frequently updated and easy to navigate, this site features art news, dozens of lesson plans for all grade levels, cartoons, a discussion group, information about jobs in the art

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field, an Art Site of the Week, which links to diverse art-related Websites; an Art Room, which provides a show place for the art work of students from various school districts; and an Art Stuff category, which provides links to art departments for all grade levels, as well as thousands of links to other great art sites. This will most assuredly be the art site that teachers will return to again and again!

Kennedy Center's ArtsEdge: <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/artsedge.html> — Established by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts to "link the arts and education through technology," this site provides numerous resources and opportunities for teachers to learn about education news in the US, share lesson plans, etc. This site is organized into five components: NewsBreak, Community Center, Web Spotlight, Search Lab, and Curriculum Studio. The Community Center offers information on job opportunities and a bulletin board posting center. Of particular interest to educators is the Curriculum Studio, which provides art teachers and educators with numerous K-12 lesson plans and standards-based resources for integrating art into the curriculum; standards, frameworks, and assessment guidelines for designing curriculum, examples of model art curriculums, software and book reviews, links to other art education sites, and much more.

KinderART: <http://www.kinderart.com/lessons.htm> — Created by artists, this award-winning site offers teachers, student teachers, parents, and students access to numerous art-related resources. Although the site is searchable, a Quick Site Menu on the home page provides easy access to numerous K-12 Kinderart lessons, bulletin board ideas, library/reference resources, art terms, trivia, contests, and much more. Kinderart Corner features a regular column which offers art ideas, tips for teaching art, etc. The Fridge is a student art gallery, and the Kinderart Bulletin Board offers a means of communication to those interested in art for kids. Professional development resources for art educators and links to other art and educational sites are also available.

Lifetime of Color: <http://www.sanford-artedventures.com> — Created by the Sanford Corporation, this award-winning art education site offers a number of art and art history lesson plans, teacher resources, ArtEdventure games, and much more. Resources are organized into four main categories: Create Art, Study Art, Play Art Games, and Teach Art, as well as a link to the Lifetime of Color Newsletter and archives. Included in these categories are

hands-on activities, art techniques, featured artist biographies, a student art gallery, an art timeline and glossary of terms, ArtEdventure games, which are both fun and educational, lesson plans and teacher guides that address national art standards and incorporating art into the curriculum, a lesson plan exchange, and the newsletter, which offers news of interest to art educators.

Pieces and Creases: A Fun Guide to Origami: <http://tqjunior.advanced.org/5402> — This award-winning Website, created by four fifth-grade students, covers all aspects of origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. Categories include History, which provides the history of origami; Uses, which describes the uses and benefits of origami; Terms, which teaches terms, symbols, and tips pertaining to origami; Peace, which explains how origami contributed to peace in Japan; Poems, which consist of poems about origami and origami that illustrates poems; Activities, which include numerous activities, lesson plans, and projects, as well as directions and quizzes; and Resources, which features a bibliography of print and electronic resources. This is a site both teachers and students will love. There's "a whole lotta folding" going on!

Perpetual Preschool's Art Area: <http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/art.html> — The Art Area is but one section of the Perpetual Preschool, but this section offers a large number of easy-to-use art lesson plans for preschool and elementary school teachers. Lesson plans are organized into various categories: Glue and Paste Recipes, Paint Recipes, Assorted Art Activities, Christmas Art, Halloween Art, Dinosaur Art, Mother's Day Gift Ideas, Summer Art Activities, etc. Teachers may also submit their art lesson plans. In addition to art lesson plans, preschool and elementary school teachers will find many other helpful links, such as Songs, Games, Snacks, Activities for all of the holidays, and much more.

Visible Knowledge Program: <http://www.vkp.org> — Developed by New York City's New Museum of Contemporary Art, this outreach and curriculum development program strives to "build students' capacity for critical thinking, by exploring connections between contemporary art and broader historical, cultural, and social issues." VKP pairs artist/instructors with high school educators and their students to discover new ways to integrate contemporary art into the core high school curriculum. Resources are organized into four categories: Galleries, where both the art of contemporary artists and students is displayed; Classrooms, where participating teachers set up their own online classrooms and communicate with others studying the same

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Web sites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions welcome. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in *Science*, NetWatch column edited by **Jocelyn Kaiser**.

Alternative Medicine

If you're confused about complementary and alternative medicine, you're not alone. With increasing numbers of patients using alternative therapies, the **National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine**

(NCCAM), part of the **National Institutes of Health**, provides guidelines for consumers on criteria for assessing the safety of a particular therapy and locating a practitioner in your area, and offers guidelines and grant application information for investigators in this area. The site also links to research databases, including the **CAM Citation Index (CCI)**, derived from **Medline**. <http://nccam.nih.gov/nccam/>.

Bonnie Snow clearly defines what is important in evaluating Websites, and applies that acumen to rating sites on alternative medicine. In this article which appeared in *DATABASE*, August 1998, she evaluates resources accessible solely through the Internet and provided free-of-charge. "Internet Sources of Information on Alternative

Medicine" clearly defines the author's criteria and philosophy, and provides a no-nonsense guide. Ratings range from "no rating" to 4 stars. As she notes in the beginning, "anonymity is automatically suspect, and humility definitely misplaced, in the context of scientific data." <http://www.onlineinc.com/database/DB1998/snow8.html>.

Animals

The **World Animal Net** includes the **World Animal Net Directory**, the "world's largest database of animal protection societies - with over 10,000 listings, including more than 3,000 links to Web Sites" available on line or in print, a Resources page with background information on cosmetic testing, anti-fur and animal protection laws, e-mail lists, and related links. Search topics include anti-vivisection, fur, farm animals, animals in entertainment, and genetic engineering. You can also choose areas geographically, see an extensive list of vegetarian societies. <http://worldanimal.net/>.

Music

Do you have perfect pitch? Also known as absolute pitch, the subject fascinated **Richard Beddingfield**, now a business administration student at the **U. of Michigan**, who has played piano since he was 5 years old. While still in high school, Richard was particularly interested in "the physical way in which the human brain could detect and 'remember' absolute musical tones, and why this ability is found only in a small percentage of people." The result of his research is the "home" of perfect pitch on the Internet." Here visitors can link to research results; learn about **Bruce Koestner's** Eaea language which is designed to allow musical instruments the opportunity to speak words through combinations of pitches; find a list of famous people with perfect pitch; learn if genetics plays a role; or download ListenUp 3.0 software which improves pitch listening skills. http://www.provide.net/~bfield/abs_pitch.html.

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materials; Studios, where participating teachers create their own studios and communicate through the online forum; and the Library, which features curriculum and lesson plans which can be down-loaded. A remarkable site for high school educators.

Other Great Art-Related Websites

There are just too many wonderful art-related Websites to highlight them all. The following Websites deserve attention too, as they also feature valuable art materials, lesson plans, activities, and links. Be sure to check them out!

Art for Kids: <http://artforkids.miningco.com/kidsteens/artforkids/>

Art School Online: <http://www.angelfire.com/ar/rogerart/>

Association for the Advancement of Arts Education: <http://www.aaae.org/index.html>

Aunt Annie's Craft Page: <http://auntannie.com/>

Crayola Art Education: <http://education.crayola.com/>

Exploring Leonardo: <http://www.mos.org/sln/Leonardo/LeoHomePage.html>

Kodak Picture Playground: <http://alts1.kodak.com/US/en/corp/playground/index.shtml>

Metropolitan Museum of Art: <http://www.metmuseum.org/html/file/Education/edu.html>

Museum of Web Art: <http://www.mowa.org/>

National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts: <http://www.nfaa.org/index.htm>

National Gallery of Art: <http://www.nga.gov/home.htm>

National Museum of American Art: <http://www.nmaa.si.edu/>

refdesk.com—Art and Culture: <http://www.refdesk.com/culture.html>

ReNATssance Art: <http://www.best.com/~natalew/main.html>

WebMuseum, Paris: <http://metalab.unc.edu/louvre/>