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Webworthy-computer viruses

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Webworthy
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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 to Pamela M. Rose. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science. NetWatch column edited by Jocelyn Kaiser.

Anthropology
The Behavioral Sciences Department at Palomar College in San Marcos, California, offers an online tutorial off its Anthropology Program home page. The home page itself (http://daphne.palomar.edu/anthro/Default.htm#top) offers a basic description of the discipline, faculty, and programs as well as relevant external links, but the tutorial, developed by Dr. Dennis O’Neill, is the best part of the site. There are 16 tutorials in Physical (Biological) Anthropology, including the Synthetic Theory of Evolution and the Biological Basis of Heredity, and 5 tutorials in Cultural (Social) Anthropology including Language and Culture and the Nature of Kinship. Geared to introductory undergraduate level, each “chapter” includes a table of contents, glossary and relevant external links.

http://daphne.palomar.edu/anthro/tutorial.htm

Computer Viruses
Are you afraid of flesh eating bananas? Current hoaxes being perpetrated on the Internet are all detailed at these three sites. The details include assurances from the authoritative agencies who debunk such stories as well as whether the virus might be real but overblown.

http://www.ciac.org/CIAC/CIACHoaxes.html has 33 listings
http://www.kumite.com/myths/ has over 130 entries!
http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/vinfodb.html (where you can search the Symantec AntiVirus Research Center encyclopedia)

Ecology
Earth’s principle source of “scientifically rigorous and focused information” on global biodiversity, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre site boasts an incredible wealth of information ranging from species, forests, protected areas, marine and freshwaters, habitats and climate change, and the relationship between trade and the environment. The site includes 30 searchable databases containing timely and impartial data presented in graphs, maps (some are interactive), tables, and reports; a Capacity Building Programme which offers advice, supporting materials, and training services to help individuals and organizations develop multi-user information systems; and a variety of publications including the Biodiversity Bulletin, books such as the Global Biodiversity: status of the Earth’s living resources (WCMC, 1992), the most comprehensive compendium of conservation ever published, and CD-ROMS (which are restricted to registered users). Although registration may take a while to confirm, it’s well worth the wait for serious researchers. The site’s index carries along nicely to lower level pages, and a nifty current news graphic flashes various dated bulletins.

http://www.wcmc.org.uk

Internet
Do you know why we call the Internet the Internet? Or how the World Wide Web was invented? Answers to these questions can be found at this truly historical site detailing the origins and history of the Internet, the Web, Usenet Groups, Electronic Mail, Mailing Lists, Internet Relay Chat, and Multi-User Dimensions. Current news about the Net is also featured.

http://www.livinginternet.com/

Neuroscience
Dedicated to “providing accessible, high-quality information about how the brain works and how people learn,” Brain Connection.com gives access to an incredible wealth of information on language, learning, reading, vision, memory, and other topics related to how the brain interprets and functions. Find fun brain facts: did you know there are 100 billion neurons in the brain? Visit the Education section and discover how children learn to read. Register to receive neuroWire, an online magazine, via email. Exercise your neural pathways with sound discrimination exercises, or play memory attention games. The site is graphic-rich, so slow to load, but well worth the wait. Developed by Scientific Learning (http://www.scilearn.com/), a company which produces programs, products and services that develop and enhance learning and communication skills.

http://www.brainconnection.com

Oceanography
Placing a seismic monitor close to volcanic activity is not without risk: check out the picture of a mooring trapped in a chunk of lava, testament to this close encounter as an undersea lava plume enveloped the probe. The Vents Program, run by the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, uses a wide variety of sensors on seafloor observatories at a number of major venting sites to record data, much of it displayed on this fascinating site, to understand the effects of deep ocean volcanism and hydrothermal vents. Explore the link to NeMO, New Millenium Observatory, 200 miles off the Oregon coast, which displays real-time imaging and data transmitted from the site. View the animations and video clips, and explore the links to more information on hydrothermal vents and volcanoes. The site is also packed with factoids and tidbits of information.

http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/vents

Reference
From Alderney to Yugoslavia, this online version of the Index Herbariorum and Plants Specialists Index provides search access by institution, city, state, acronym, staff member, correspondent, and research specialty resulting in contact information including telephone, fax, email and URL. Maintained by the New York Botanical Garden, the listings include 2010 herbaria in 134 countries.

http://www.nybg.org/bsci/ih

Reference
The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) has set up a new PrePrint Network to search more than 20 databases and scores of departmental Web pages for articles in physics, math, chemistry, environmental science, and any other areas funded by DOE. The site complements DOE’s PUBScience and...

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select, acquire, catalog, service, and we have not even figured out how to really store it in the very long run. I have likened it to a secret librarian plot to assure our job security. Paper is/was a breeze by comparison. But am I, are we, deluding ourselves? Are we selecting and cataloging the music to be played while our Rome burns?

Since the “we” of librarianship includes so many thousands of people, the answer has to be at least a partial YES. But it doesn’t and won’t be true of everyone. I am confident in the midst of competing “online enablers,” all of whom will come and eventually go, there will still be a need to understand the needs of the faculty and students who are associated with our institutions, and to decide which enablers should be adopted for which purposes. I am confident that there will continue to be too many enablers and too few dollars with which to purchase their services. Each enabler, moreover, will no doubt provide a menu of choices and librarians, or whatever we are called, have experience choosing from such menus. In the midst of multiple enablers, there will also be a need to organize their offerings into a single non-chaotic portal and then to train students and faculty how to use these important resources. And finally, as part of the academy moves on to work on more immediate problems, other parts will continue to assess and value the cultural works of the past. These works will then need to be stored and preserved.

What, then, is the major challenge facing libraries and their directors in the future? I believe it still is to stay relevant to the changing needs and situations encountered by our institutions, faculty, students, communities, and to the people who work in them—but to put a greater emphasis on the word “changing” because the academy is in the midst of a revolution.

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Webworthy
from page 96

Information Bridge, a body of full-text R&D grey literature issued since July 1995.
http://www.osti.gov/preprints

Zoology

Part of the “Free Resources” section on the BIOSIS Web pages, the Internet Resource Guide to Zoology contains an incredible wealth of links to Web sources covering everything from Sea Anemones to Zoraptera. Here users can instantly link to many zoo and wildlife parks of the world. Links are arranged alphabetically in each list, and general areas like publications, journals, and entomology are listed along with specific species like Psocoptera (book list).
http://www.york.biosis.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/

ATG Interviews Bob Doran
from page 86

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ADVERTISERS’ INDEX

35 ABC Clu
44 Absolute Backorder
39 ACM
95 ACS
2 Alfred Jaeger
11 Alibris
59 Am. Institute of Physics
27 Annual Reviews
63 ASME International
5 ATG
14 Aux Amateurs De Livres
12 Basch Subscriptions, Inc.
13 Bell & Howell
3 Blackwell's Book Services
65 Book House
73 Casalini Libri
17 CatchWord
20 The Charleston Advisor
10 The Charleston Report
93 Choice
87 Coutts
91 Eastern Book Company
23 EBSCO Information Serv.
29, 31 Elsevier Science
33 Elsevier Science
75 Elsevier Science
67 Emery Pratt
85 Erasmus
9 Faxon
41 IEEE
19 Institute of Physics
99 Kluwer Academic
83 Library Tech Alliance
69 Major
21 MCB Univ. Press Ltd.
81 McFarland
43 McGraw-Hill
100 Midwest Library Service
22 NEDBook
7 NetLibrary
77 NetLibrary
79 Martindale Nuffield Int'l
18 NISO
61 Project Muse
69 Rittenhouse
71 Sage Publications
16 Schonfeld Foreign Books
25 M. E. Sharpe
24 Swets Blackwell
56 Wiley
57 Wiley
97 Worldwide Books
37 YBP

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Against the Grain / June 2000