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Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites

Pamela M. Rose

Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu

Sandra K. Paul

SKP Associates, Sandy@SKPAssoc.com

Albert Simmonds

SKP Associates, awsimmo@ibm.net

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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 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, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002 716-829-2408 <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>.

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

Alzheimer's Disease

The **Alzheimer Research Forum** was "established for the purpose of enhancing information access and promoting collaboration both within the traditional Alzheimer research community and across the numerous scientific disciplines." Maintained by a full-time manager and team, the extremely well-organized site offers numerous links under three major categories: The Research Front, including latest news, journals, drugs in clinical trials, and a diagnosis and treatment guide; On-line Forums, including live discussions, virtual conferences, and Alzheimer Hypotheses; and Resources, including patents, conference abstracts and calendar, electronic journals, research grants, and antibody and drug company directories. The On-line Tools link alone (under Resources) opens access to the **Alzheimer Disease Mutation Database**, the Whole Brain Atlas, and neuroscience sites. Also included are the usual About and contact us links, as well as advertising GIFs to biomedical and health sites. The opening screen does ask users to identify themselves as belonging to one of three groups, but users can go directly to [/members/index.html](http://www.alzforum.org/members/index.html). <http://www.alzforum.org/>.

Environmental Science Understanding

The basic concepts behind environmental issues is the focus of this site by the **Environmental Literacy Council**. Quality filtering has produced an incredibly useful site full of links organized by major environmental categories: air, water, forests, climate, food, biodiversity, energy, population, waste, economics, and risk. Each opening page in-

Webworthy

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose** (Web Services and Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University of Buffalo) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>
<http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~pmrose>

roduces the topic, including pros and cons, and offers links to further research and discovery. Teachers of introductory level college environmental science courses can share labs, field studies, and innovative teaching methods with colleagues at the **Environmental Science Labs and Field Studies** link, and complete reviews of textbooks are provided through an Adobe pdf file. <http://www.enviroliteracy.org/>.

Reference Conceived

By html and web creator **Tim Berners-Lee**, the **WWW Virtual Library** is maintained by hundreds of volunteers around the world. One of the highest quality guides to selected sections of the Web, the site will undoubtedly improve with its recently adopted set of bylaws and plans to elect a council to oversee a revamp and subsequent expansion. The main page is currently organized into 14 broad categories from Agriculture to Society. Each subject section of links has been carefully collected and screened by someone knowledgeable in the field, and is often among the most authoritative in its area. VL invites lurking experts to join! <http://www.vlib.org/>.

Seismology

Providing a special page of New Users was mandatory for the **Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology**. The complex site, which

is grouped into 5 sections, is overwhelming even for an experienced seismologist! The page does, however, offer quick links to Workshops, What's New, Publications, and a Search feature. To start, click on the Seismic Monitor world map, which links to a dynamic, graded listing of worldwide seismic events, with further detail, including downloadable seismograms and tectonic graphics, available for Richter 6.0 and higher. The Education & Outreach section is geared to IRIS programs designed for K-12 applications. <http://www.iris.edu/>.

Teaching

"Created, owned, and run by students," **teacherreviews.com** is just one of several sites on the web that post unedited, narrative reviews by students of classes and teachers that are also graded from A-F, and can include instructors' statements. Users can click on "who's making the grade" and "who's not cutting it," as well as retrieve listings by department, class, and instructor. Originating at the **City College of San Francisco**, one CCSF professor has sued the site alleging false and defamatory statements, but other instructor feedback is positive and encouraging. The site offers pages for over 2000 schools in the U.S. and other countries, but many lack reviews (**State University of New York at Buffalo**, for example). Other similar sites are **grade-it.com** and **come.to/collegepronet**. <http://www.teacherreviews.com/>.

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