June 2001

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

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rose, Pamela M.; Paul, Sandra K.; and Simmonds, Albert (2001) "Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 13: Iss. 3, Article 36.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3516>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Book Pricing Update from page 84

L Classes), with by far the heaviest concentration of eBooks falling into the "H" Class (representing over 21% of all titles).

The second surprising point is that Library Science (the Z Class) made up more than 3% of the total e-books. In a "normal" year, the number of Z Class titles that might be treated on approval would hover around 1% of the total, and rarely reach as high as 2%. If this trend continues, it bodes well for librarians looking for electronic versions of professional literature.

It is still too early to form any firm conclusions about what impact eBooks will have on library collections. However, a sample of 15,000 titles is not a bad start to creating a baseline against which to measure future developments. I'll report back next year. 🍷

Figure B

WEBWORTHY

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose** (Health Sciences Library, Univ. at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-2408) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>

Websites 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**, 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. — PR

Butterflies

In this case, they really are free! Welcome to the Butterflies of North America online atlas, hosted by the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Maintained by three Lepidopterists including Paul A. Opler, who also founded a sister site, the Children's Butterfly Site (<http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/butterfly/Butterfly.html>), users can search through photo thumbnails to identify a species visually, or use checklists or distribution maps. Contributions by both amateurs and professionals are encouraged with specific instructions and a FAQ. <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/bflyusa.htm>.

Cell Biology

Frustrated with teaching a fast moving field without a good textbook, Dr. Michael Hendzel of the University of Alberta created this site by relying on sponsorships and advertising so its educational content would be freely available. The site includes movies and animations of the cell nucleus in action (they are huge files so be patient). Users can also link to numerous research resources, including the electronic ver-

sion of the classic textbook, *Molecular Biology of the Cell*. Also check out the professional positions and conferences. <http://www.cellnucleus.com/>.

Environmental Issues

Imagine the earth wrapped in a "digital skin," transmitting signals over the

Internet almost as a living creature relays impulses through its nervous system — scientists refer to this as ubiquitous or pervasive computing. Aside from privacy issues, how would such a world change the way we preserve and protect our environment? A magazine-like Web report put out by the Rand

continued on page 86

ERASMUS

Your Supplier for European Books

Please send your orders and inquiries to:

Erasmus BV
P.O. Box 19140
1000 GC Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel.: +31-20-627 69 52
Fax: +31-20-620 67 99
E-mail: erasmus@erasmusbooks.nl
Internet: <http://www.erasmusbooks.nl>

For books from France:
Librairie Erasmus
28, rue Basfroi
75011 Paris, France
Tel.: +33-1-43 48 03 20
Fax: +33-1-43 48 14 24
E-mail: erasmus@erasmus.fr

Erasmus

- Professional
- Traditional
- Academic

Science and Technology Policy Institute, "Our Future—Our Environment" considers how environmental policy over the next 10-15 years might be shaped by everything from genomics to whether we should mine methane locked within permafrost. Video interviews with experts are sprinkled through, and a wealth of related links provide continuity. <http://www.rand.org/scitech/stpi/ourfuture/>.

Fluid Mechanics

Everyday items like milk and syrup offer a wonderful opportunity to study the physics and beauty of fluid behavior. Virginia Polytechnic Institute Professor Mark Cramer's Gallery Of Fluid Dynamics is a work in progress, but already sports some impressive images of tornadoes to illustrate vortices and a wonderful collage of tinted milk resisting a sudden change in motion. Interesting links include a few of the credited photographers' home pages for more wonderful photos, the Virginia Tech Fluids Page which has many more links to related newsgroups and publications, and an "ear witness" account of sounds accompanying an aurora borealis. <http://www.eng.vt.edu/fluids/msc/gallery/gall.htm>.

Geophysics

A section of the Seaborg Center for Teaching and Learning Science and Mathematics (named for Nobel laureate Glenn T. Seaborg, co-discoverer of Plutonium and 10 other elements), **Hot Pages** offers links to various geophysical and other topics including: Clouds;

Earth History Resources which offers Life through Geologic Time: a Pictorial History of Life on Earth where users can download pictures of mammoth bones or museum diorama graphics; Groundwater Issues; Its About Now, where you can tap into the U.S. Naval Observatory master clock or view the current world population figures; Virtual Field Trips; Water on the Internet; Websites for Girls and young Women; Websites for Seniors; and Wolves in the Upper Great Lakes. <http://seaborg.nmu.edu/hot/>.

Librarianship

New Breed Librarian is a bimonthly publication intended to foster a sense of community for those new to librarianship, whether in school or just out. The site features articles, columns, interviews, TechTalk, jobs, advice and résumé samples, and more. The brainchild of Juanita Benedicto and Colleen Bell, librarians at the University of Oregon, the funky layout and upfront news links make this site a bit challenging, but worthwhile. <http://www.newbreedlibrarian.org/>.

Microscopy

Although Nikon provides this forum and favors its own optical microscopes, this site offers information for a much broader audience. Maintained by microscopists at Molecular Expressions (Florida State U.), the site was designed to provide an educational forum for all aspects of optical microscopy, digital imaging, and photomicrography. Take a Java tutorial and tweak a virtual microscopy, or search for an obscure term in the microscopy dictionary. There are competitions, a museum and a digital movie gallery

with stunning images, screen savers, and a searchable knowledge database. <http://www.microscopyu.com/>.

Occupational Health and Safety

OshNet: Gateway for Safety & Health Information Resources is an Internet gateway site for occupational safety and health information and resources. Geared to the safety and health professional, OshNet has over 1,300 annotated links to relevant interesting Internet sites. Owned and published on a for-profit basis by WorkCare(tm); an occupational health consulting and outsourcing firm which also uses a volunteer editorial/articles advisory committee. The site offers not only discipline information organized by over 100 major categories and subcategories, but also includes job listings, paid advertising, a bulletin board, and a newsletter. <http://osh.net/index.htm>.

Reference

When you've finished with Webworthy, turn your interest to a neat metasite that offers a great current week plus 6 month archive of Marylaine Block's forays on the Net. Neat New Stuff I Found This Week is a wonderful potpourri of interesting sites intelligently chosen and annotated by the "librarian without walls." Her selection algorithm is clearly defined (basically she skims for interest, comparing the process to collection development) and you can subscribe to the weekly picks via email. You can also visit links to her Ex Libris (a weekly e-zine for librarians) and BookBytes sites, as well as Best Information on the Net, a site she built for O'Keefe Library at St. Ambrose University. <http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html>.

Sense and Sensibility — The Big Deal

by **Margaret Landesman** (Head, Collection Development, Marriott Library, Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112; Phone: 801-581-7741; Fax: 801-585-3464) <mlandesm@library.utah.edu>

What's worrisome about "the Big Deal?" Why do online journal packages from high-priced publishers make me so nervous?

It's not so much the dollar total. "Big deals" look manageable for at least a few years. In addition to providing online access to print subscriptions, they add access to all or a larger selection of titles at a price per hit which lowers per use cost - though not necessarily to within the reasonable range. And we all know now - if we didn't know before - that we are not good at predicting what titles will be used. A larger selection of titles is simply better from our user's point of view.

Just as there are millions of books our patrons wish we owned, there are thousands of journals to which we don't subscribe. Most are not part of large packages, nor do their publishers send us salesmen or even advertisements. It is slower and much more work to find, evaluate, and negotiate for the good ones. But large packages aren't the only - or

best - places to start. Their long range implications are serious. Large packages could do to the materials budget, print and electronic, just what print journals did to the book budget.

Packages are easier to subscribe to than to cancel. They have an addictive quality for our users. They build brand loyalty. They create audiences for journals which had no audience and protect titles which might naturally die. One might also note that they rouse competitive instincts in librarians counting titles and turn their customers into advocates for other libraries — a natural turn of things, but one with some danger for a harmonious and united library community.

The problem with packages is that, by their nature, they are not easily contained. You can't prune a bit here and a bit there. You lose the ability to realize significant savings by canceling paper. And when the cost of a package grows faster than does the budget,

the percentage of funding devoted to a particular package or publisher grows.

When economists recommend spending no more than 30% of income on housing, the reason doesn't have to do with the cost and/or value of the house. It has to do with being able to pay other bills and have the income to do other things. Foregoing a spare bedroom when buying a house is an option. But having signed the mortgage, getting rid of a room to meet your budget is no longer an easily available choice. Libraries are signing mortgages - and mortgages in which they have agreed not only to pay rising prices, but to pay prices which rise by an amount capped not in dollars, but in percentages.

We know what happens when income goes up by a fixed percentage - the gap between pay for law/business/science faculty and English/fine arts professors gets wider. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

continued on page 87