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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, SKPAssoc@cwixmail.com*

Albert Simmonds

*SKP Associates, awsimmo@ibm.net*

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## Webworthy

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

Unique and interesting Web sites organized by broad subject area are visited just prior to publication to ensure they are still active. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions are 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](mailto: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.

### Anthropology

The **Anthropology Review Database (ARD)** has been given the distinction of being listed as a featured site in **UniGuide's Academic Guide to the Internet**, honored as a 4-Star Award Web Resource, and given a two-star "recommended" rating by *Britannica Online*! Not bad for a venture believed to be the first of its kind in the field. The editorial staff consists primarily of faculty at the **University at Buffalo Department of Anthropology**, and the review board includes experts in the field from a variety of institutions. Opening screens offer immediate search forms, as well as the ability to browse the entire review database by date, author, title, or only new arrivals. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/anthropology/ARD/>

### Archaeology

Ever wonder exactly how they perform radiocarbon dating? **Tom Higham** of the **Radio-carbon Lab** at the **University of Waikato in New Zealand** has put together some 50 Web pages covering the method and measurement; applications in archaeology, oceanography, palaeoenvironmental studies, calibration and dendrochronology, and palaeoclimatology; links to other sites arranged by country; publication information; and a special section for corrections for certain conditions which may affect the calculated date. The page is designed for kids (see the special K-12 section) as well as scientists. <http://c14.sci.waikato.ac.nz/webinfo/index.html>

### Astronomy

The **Mars Society** maintains this current and informative site on any and all information relating to the Red Planet, including fulltext articles; links to other Web sites; planned and proposed expeditions; information about life on Mars; and scientific and geologic data about the planet itself. <http://www.marsnews.com/>

### Exhibits & Museums

The **Carl A. Kroch Library Exhibition**

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## Booksellers since 1856

**Gallery on the Cornell University Rare and Manuscript Collections** site currently features a wonderful "Beautiful Birds" exhibit from the **Hill Ornithology Collection**. Take a virtual tour via artist, changing techniques, or travel through the timeline beginning with **Mark Catesby** in the 1700s. The captured pages are vividly displayed, along with the timeline information above each picture, and an informative description. The site also offers links to previous exhibits, including "The Art of the Book: 500 Years of Printing, Illustration, and Bookbinding Folklore & Legends" and "Louis Agassiz Fuertes and the Harriman Alaska Expedition." <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/exhibits/exhibits.htm>



tion, everything from the home pages of the University to the Geophysical Institute site which has links to topics such as Volcanology and Seismology, as well as the **Alaska Science Forum**, which displays fulltext articles on topics ranging from dinosaurs to cat communication. One of the best features of the site is the Aurora link, which houses striking images and downloadable film clips of the aurora borealis. Full videos are also available for purchase. The site's most popular feature is the aurora forecast a few days in advance with charts indicating the best viewing locations. <http://www.pfir.alaska.edu/>

### Infectious Diseases

The **World Health Organization** offers an informational site on **Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response**, where users can get information on specific diseases, have access to the *Weekly Epidemiological Record* (requires Adobe Acrobat to read online), gives advice to international travelers, and has a special section on anti-infective drug resistance. <http://www.who.int/emc/index.html>

### Mathematics

Does the word math scare or excite you? Either way, this site may be the remedy. Mathematician **Alexander Bogomolny's** attitude is pragmatic: whether you never learned, feel stymied, or are gung-ho, there's no reason to dwell on the past. Start exploring here, where the site's rich array of hyperlinked articles, interactive Java applets, problems, and puzzles (complete with the underlying philosophy and theory) will intrigue and incite! <http://www.cut-the-knot.com/>

If the above site isn't enough of a thrill, you might find more satisfaction at the **Glossary of Mathematical Mistakes** site maintained by  
*continued on page 84*

### Genetics

"Bet You Missed It" has included reports on the controversial plan for a private database of genomic and health data on the people of Iceland. Now two anthropologists have set up a special site which includes links to the **deCode Project** site (the biotech company which first proposed the idea), as well as a discussion forum and extensive background reading material. <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/biotech/iceland/iceland.html>

### Geosciences

The **University of Alaska Geophysical Institute** operates the world's only scientific rocket launching facility owned by a university and maintains a wealth of information and scientific data on the Web. **Poker Flat Research Range**, located about 30 miles north of Fairbanks, launches sounding rockets and maintains a variety of scientific instruments designed to study the Arctic atmosphere and ionosphere. The site links users to an incredible variety of informa-



# Group Therapy — You Have the Fulltext CD-ROM, Do You Drop the Paper?

Column Editor, **Rosann Bazirjian** (Penn State University)

*Hey y'all out there! Do you have any gripes? Come to your therapist! Try <9rvb@psu.edu>*

**GRIBE:** (Submitted by **Jennifer Little**, Public Services Librarian, Taylor University):

We are a small college (FTE 2,000) and our library currently subscribes to 700 periodicals. We are considering "canceling" periodical subscriptions because we own several of the **H. W. Wilson** fulltext CD-ROMs. My director's rationale is that because we actually own the CDs, we will always have access to the back issues and there is no reason to continue to subscribe to the paper issues. Are there any of you who subscribe to the Wilson CDs who are doing something similar? I know the issue of dropping subscriptions has been discussed before, but I'm looking for specific information from libraries that actually house the fulltext information at their libraries.

**RESPONSE:** (Submitted by **Robin Lent**, Head of Collection Development, University of New Hampshire):

At the University of New Hampshire, we have a number of full text CD-ROM databases and electronic databases. So far, we have not canceled any of the paper subscriptions that duplicate what is available electronically. However, this is something we are beginning to discuss. The first category of material we will examine is our microfilm subscriptions that duplicate paper subscriptions. We do not always bind the paper. Sometimes we discard it, sometimes we keep it. If we cancel the micro subscriptions because they are available electronically in fulltext, we will have to decide whether or not to revise the binding policy.

I think the question to consider in regard to the full text CDs is whether or not this is a medium that will last. If the CD is lost or damaged, will it be replaceable? Electronic fulltext is a bit more complicated. If the online subscription is canceled or the vendor goes out of business, will the library lose access to the full text? For example, **JSTOR** has promised that we will always be able to get this. Other vendors may not make promises like this or may require that we pay a maintenance fee of some sort. This was the case for us with **ABI-INFORM**. When we stopped subscribing to the database, we needed to pay an annual copyright fee in order to keep the CD-ROMs.

At UNH, we have not come up with a definite policy or procedure. I imagine that our Collection Management Committee will be discussing this in the coming year.

**RESPONSE:** (Submitted by **Debbie Loeding**, Director, Product Manager, H.W. Wilson Co):

Although the periodical fulltext articles are delivered by **H. W. Wilson** on CD-ROMs, the ownership, strictly speaking, is with the copyright holder of the fulltext document, the journal publisher. Also,

we cannot guarantee that the fulltext will always be available from the publisher. As you are aware, the publishing industry has experienced many acquisitions and mergers, and this can jeopardize fulltext agreements with integrators, such as Wilson, or any vendor who aggregates fulltext. Publishers do monitor their number of print subscribers and usually scrutinize these after they award electronic rights.

You probably are also aware that our ASCII fulltext on your CD-ROMs is a different representation of an article compared to its paper form. At present, we do not include images, graphs or visual charts, though I will note that page images will be available on **WilsonWeb** in 2000. However, even when this occurs, we may not have permission from the publisher to reproduce selected images, as the photographer, illustrator, or someone may hold copyright other than the publisher.

Additionally, there are an increasing number of authors who withhold permission from a periodical publisher to reproduce their article in electronic format. Wilson is not unique in being forced to omit selected fulltext articles from a particular journal. In these cases we include a note explaining why the article cannot be reproduced.

Are there other items in the paper issue of the journal that may be of use to your researchers? Depending on the periodical, letters to the editor, short columns, advertisements, or other features may be pertinent, but not available in the current electronic ASCII representation of periodical articles.

As a database producer and information integrator, we are concerned that we assist you by 1) negotiating the inclusion of as many fulltext titles as possible for the Wilson indexes, and that 2) we communicate to you, our subscribers, if any changes occur. We display a list of fulltext title changes on The Wilson Company home page, <http://www.hwwilson.com> and the list is updated monthly. We welcome your comments as to how we can assist libraries in resolving fulltext issues.

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**Paul Cox.** It includes mistakes made by advertisers, the media, reporters, politicians, activists, and in general many non-math people. You can find out how likely you are to win at Lotto, as well as muse over puzzles and problems, and check out the **Mistake of the Month**. <http://www.mathmistakes.com/>

## Mineralogy

It's not just for geodes anymore! There are nearly 4,000 known minerals, 3,968 of which can be found in their old and new classifications

**RESPONSE:** (Submitted by **Carl Teresa**, General Manager, EBSCO Subscription Services):

I have posed your question to several members of our organization as well as discussions we have had with many publishers of both print and electronic format of data (CD-ROM and Web access). The consensus of opinions was that database products are complements to subscriptions, not replacements for them, and cancellation of print subscriptions as a way to free up money for database purchases may not be a wise decision. I credit much of the following information to one of our experts in this field, **Mr. Phillip Wallis** of EBSCO Publishing's Licensing Group who indicated that at a recent **NASIG** meeting, one of the presentations discussed a survey of the impact of fulltext aggregated databases on collections. Twenty-one out of 32 (>65%) of respondents reported canceling some print subscriptions because of aggregated electronic access. The results are interesting even though this is a very small sample. Results are skewed by the fact that no distinction was made between aggregated collections such as those available through EBSCO or our competitors and collections like **Academic Press' IDEAL**. In the latter case, AP has made it clear that archival access is guaranteed, so print cancellation would be less risky.

Several publishers we have talked with recently made a single strong point: if a library is considering canceling two roughly equivalent titles and one is part of an aggregated fulltext database and the other is not, the library is more likely to cancel print for the one they will be able to maintain some access to, however limited that access may be. I'm not sure cancellation scenarios ever look like that, but it is a tough position to argue against. The evidence as indicated by the library canceling because of CD-ROM access would not be, in our estimation, at all reassuring to publishers.

A challenge question for librarians: what do you think the end result on aggregated fulltext collections will be if buyers of those collections cancel large numbers of print subscriptions? 🐾

at the **Mineralogy Database**. Check the chemical composition and crystallography, or view images of some specimens from geology consultant **David Barthelmy's** private collection. <http://web.wt.net/~daba/Mineral/>

## Reference

**Medline Workbench** is a gateway to current covers and TOC (table-of-contents) of mainstream scientific journals like the *New England Journal of Medicine*, as well as over 100 journal home pages. It also offers connections to **Medline** through several modes of access, including **Grateful Med**, **Infotrieve**, and **Pub Med**. <http://www.cshl.org/medline/> 🐾

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