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Webworthy-Aquariums

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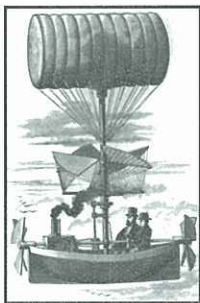
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Webworthy

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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**, Health Sciences Library, Univ. 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**.*

Anatomy — Spare a mouse, won't you please? The **Mouse Brain Library** features high-resolution images and numerical data from over 750 brains from many genetically characterized strains of over 8000 mice. A collaborative project between **Robert W. Williams** (Neuroscience Institute, University of Tennessee, Memphis) and **Glenn D. Rosen** (Department of Neurology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston), visitors with **Quicktime** can step through stacked frames of brain cross-sections or do a MRI Fly-Through of a Mouse Head and Brain in the Frontal Plane. Click back and forth between sections to discover the brain weights of different genetic strains or the phenotype for the CXB strain. The images and data can be used as references for experiments or just study to figure out which specks of gray matter are caudate or cortex. A recently added tutorial has instructions for creating your own mouse brain atlas! <http://www.mbl.org/>

Aquariums — The jeweled top snail makes its home in the Kelp Forest on **Monterey Bay's E-Quarium** site. The Website, which has grown tremendously since its 1996 debut, offers an incredible wealth of educational information. Clicking on "Living Species" opens a second browser window where viewers can visit the Estuaries and Sloughs or the Reefs and Pillings to learn about their inhabitants. Kids and Teachers have their own E-Q pages in the Learning Center where they can design their own "eco card" to send to their pals or plan school field trips. The site also offers areas describing exhibits, conservation efforts, and member information. If you live or plan to visit the Monterey Bay area, you can view a map of the physical aquarium and purchase tickets online. (*Adobe Magazine* Sep./Oct. 2000.) <http://www.mbayaq.org/>

Archaeology — The exhalations of the throgs of visitors to the original **Cave of Lascaux** in France began to so erode the paleolithic paintings that the cave was ordered

closed in 1963. A replica, Lascaux II, was created and opened to the public in 1983. Virtual visitors can view the various sections of the cave on this whimsical site artfully executed in primitive style. The site defaults to English or visitors can choose French or German. A "searchlight" pans over the black background of the opening page, highlighting sections of the cave wall; primitive forward and back arrows page viewers through the information, and stick figure quicklinks make for easy browsing. Geographical and chronological contexts are detailed along with the initial discovery and the closing. A "Learn" section offers technical information on analyses of the drawings — the tools and techniques used by early humans, along with games and puzzles to test your knowledge! The **Cave of Lascaux** site was honored with a "Webby Award" in the category of Science in May 2000. (*Adobe Magazine* Sep./Oct. 2000.) <http://www.culture.fr/culture/arcnat/lascaux/en/>

Animal life share a number of common activities, including excretion, and the analysis of those remains, often called coprolites, can be illuminating to say the least. Wade through this extensive and well-annotated list of references to publications dealing with pollen, parasites, and plant remains in North American archaeological and palaeo-environmental sites. One paper describes remains which are dated to about 5200-5300 yr BP, believed to be the oldest finding of whipworm infestation in a human. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~abeaudi/stuff/dung.htm>

Community Health — As of July 2000, Erie County, New York, had approximately 944,472 people, with 13.7 of those individual living below the poverty level compared to a peer county range of 10.9 - 42.2%. Reports for all 3,082 U.S. counties are available on the Community Health Status Indicators Project page from the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**. The demographic information presented for each county was gathered from existing sources and compiled into downloadable PDF files (requires Java and Adobe Acrobat). Factors including Population size, Population density (people per square mile), Individuals living below poverty level, Age Distribution, and Nonwhite Population are summarized on a result screen for quick review along with comparative data from peer counties, or visitors can view or download the entire county report. The site allows local health officials to add supplementary data if they wish. A companion Data Sources, Definitions, and Notes document is also available. <http://www.communityhealth.hrsa.gov/default.htm>

Entomology — It's not just for bats anymore! Humans have adapted radar technol-

ogy to "track migrating and foraging insects with high precision using sensors originally designed to spot incoming enemy bombers or storm fronts." The **Radar Entomology** site offers basic information, a comprehensive address list of Field studies as well as current projects, a bibliography, some historical material, and links to other sites containing information on the technique and its applications. Visit the **Desert Locust Information Service**, and view radar images of Birch Aphids in a sea-breeze off the coast of Finland. http://www.ph.adfa.oz.au/adrake/treww/ww_re_hp.htm

Ever wonder what happens to bodies when they die? "Find out now!" advises this fascinating site (not for the faint of heart). The **Forensic Entomology Pages International** are devoted to discovering the details of possible foul play through an analysis of the insects active in dead flesh. The time and cause of death, whether the body was shifted after death, and a listing of the insects commonly found are all detailed here, as well as 27 forensic case histories. A wealth of links are nicely categorized into Forensic Entomology, Forensic Science, Entomology, Bookstore, World Wide Forensic Entomologists, Workshops and Symposia, Tools, and a Message Board. When you've digested (!) the information, take the Forensic Entomology Quiz! http://www.uio.no/~mostarke/forens_ent/forensic_entomology.html

Mathematics — You probably thought that those Lava Lamps sold by **Spencer Gifts** were totally useless. Not so! At least one site on the Internet uses them to produce TRULY random (rather than pseudo-random) numbers, important for use in encryption methods. Any "random" number generated by an algorithm is by definition pseudo-random, and any truly random number must be generated from a source of entropy outside the system. Radioactive decay, atmospheric noise, and yes, Lava Lamps, are being used to generate truly random numbers by these three sites. **Lavarand** will let you download previously generated numbers, but don't use them to encode national security data; hackers can intercept the bits as you download them. <http://www.fourmilab.ch/hotbits/>; <http://Random.org>; <http://lavarand.sgi.com>

Quackery — The **Museum of Questionable Medical Devices**, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a veritable encyclopedia of the world's most inane and useless information about how to cure and/or comprehend what may ail or puzzle you. You can take a virtual tour on the museum's Web site, where you can also purchase the **Quackery Gallery Video** hosted by proprietor **Bob McCoy**,

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who can also be seen on the Web site getting a "phrenology" reading. Links to "Great American Quacks" such as **John Harvey Kellogg**; a page of "Quack Links" including "Contemporary Quackbusters;" a selection of the Museum's device collection including a Foot Operated Breast Enlarger Pump and a Radium Ore Revigator, and a new online exhibit entitled "Graphics from the 1930's: Health the Magazine that Builds Body Mind and Spirit" can all be found here. <http://www.mtn.org/quack/index.htm>

Reference — Some of us may know the term "alpha geek" (the most technically adept person), but fewer would be able to define "angry fruit salad" (bad visual-interface design that uses too many colors) or "zorkmid" (the canonical unit of currency in hacker-written games)! The heady slang used among computer hackers for fun, social communication, and technical debate has been beautifully organized by **Eric Steven Raymond**, largely self-educated co-founder and Technical Director of **Chester County InterLink (CCIL)**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization chartered to provide free InterNet access to the residents of Chester County, Pennsylvania. The site is a wealth of information on construction, usage, style, and pronunciation of a

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Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award

Purpose: This award of \$1,500, donated by Harrassowitz Company, is given to recognize the contributions by and outstanding leadership of an individual to the field of acquisitions librarianship. This recognition is made for individual achievement of a high order in this area. The winner will be presented the award at the ALCTS President's Program at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco in June 2001.

Criteria:

1. Nominees must have demonstrated leadership related to acquisitions librarianship, which has contributed significantly to improvements in the field.
2. Nominees must have demonstrated achievement in the field of acquisitions as evidenced by one or more of the following:
 - contributions to professional associations;
 - contributions to the literature including research;
 - contributions to the education of acquisitions professionals; and
 - contributions to the advancement of the profession.
3. Two letters of reference.
4. Employees of the Harrassowitz Company are not eligible to receive the award.

Submission procedure: In order to nominate someone for this award, please send a formal letter of nomination to the Chair of the Leadership in Acquisitions Awards Committee. Each letter of nomination should include 1) relevant biographical informa-

tion, e.g., name, address, positions(s) held, place of employment, phone numbers, ALA membership number, educational background; 2) statement of work and/or professional experience, professional activities, honors, and any other factors relevant to the nominee. Nominators should arrange to have two letters of reference, sent directly to the chair from the author, not via the nominee. The award may be divided among two or more individuals who have participated jointly in the achievement for which it is granted.

Deadline for submission of nominations: December 1, 2000.

Please submit nominations to: Wanda Dole (zzwdole@washburn.edu), Chair, Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award Committee, University Librarian, Washburn University, Mabee Library, Topeka, KS 66621. Phone: 785-231-1179; Fax: 785-357-1240.

Recipients of the Award

Year	Recipient(s)
2000	Frances C. Wilkinson
1999	Carol Pitts Diedrichs
1998	Christian M. Boissonnas
1997	Katina Strauch
1996	Joseph W. Barker
1995	Carol E. Chamberlain



Back Talk — How much blood is there on your digital edge? A Digital Library Measurement Tool.

by Tony Ferguson (Columbia University) <ferguson@columbia.edu>

Everyone seems to be concerned with determining how well they are doing in the race toward digital relevance. I am. So when I recently reviewed reports for ten members of the Digital Library Federation (<http://www.clir.org/diglib/pubs/news01/reports.htm>), it occurred to me that if I developed a list of the categories of activities in which these leading institutions were involved, I could create a test or measure of how well an institution might be doing.

Before I reveal my test (*located in this issue on page 94*), let me confess it is anything but scientific. Nor is it inclusive of every kind of digital/electronic activity possible. These are the activities that were mentioned in the Federation's Website reports, or activities which occurred to me upon reading these reports. If I left out any important categories, just integrate them into my scheme and compute your own score. Since not all digital activities are equally important or easy/difficult to accomplish, you'll note that I

decided to introduce a weighting factor. These factors have not been agreed upon by a committee of experts, just a couple of friends and I, and we couldn't agree completely with other, so I don't imagine you will agree with me either.

In general, if I thought a library could buy a service and implement it without creating a completely new position, I gave it a one (1) difficulty rating. If I figured the technology level was more difficult but still no new position was required, it got a two (2). If a new position was needed, the technology level was even more complex and/or it required the cooperation of multiple parts of an organization or multiple organizations to cooperate in very new ways, it got a three (3). A four (4) difficulty rating was given to services/projects that would require several new positions, very significant new expenses,

and/or the technology was extremely complex or had to be developed locally.

So, here is how the test works.

Step One. Go through the list of digital activities on the list and give your library one to three points: One (1) point if you have thought about (prior to taking this survey) doing this but have not even started doing anything. Two (2) points if you have planned your work and are in the process of implementing your plan. Three (3) points if you have accomplished the activity or have it in production. Write each activity's points in the space provided in the "Your Library's Score" column.

Step Two. Multiply each of your point scores by the weighting factor and write that in the space provided in the "Your Library's Weighted Score" column.

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unique subculture put together by Eric and a host of unnamed volunteers. The lexicon itself is organized alphabetically from A-Z with logical previous and next term links. A few visits to this site, and even you can talk to IT! <http://www.tuxedo.org/~esr/jargon/html/>

Science — The comprehensive homepage for K-12 science educators, **Science Netlinks** (maintained by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** (AAAS — the organization which publishes *Science* magazine)) features the **AAAS Project 2061**, a long-term initiative to reform science education nationwide. Browse the site's Benchmarks, 12 major categories including the Nature of Science; Mathematics; Technology; The Living Environment; the Human Organism; Historical Perspectives; and The Habits of the Mind. Each benchmark area features online resources, lessons, and an introductory essay. Kids can visit Kinetic City, an episodic science website designed especially for them. <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/index.html>

Space Travel — John Sisson's unrealized dream to live in orbit gave birth to this wonderful archive of children's space travel books published between 1883 and 1974. The Biological Sciences Librarian at the Science Library, **University of California** at Irvine, **John's Dreams of Space** site includes hundreds of illustrations from the books, dozens of quotations from notables such as **Willy**

Ley and Carl Sagan, and an impressive bibliography focusing on post-1950 publications. Organized chronologically into five major themes (Imagination: 1883-1948, Preflight: 1949-1953, Countdown: 1954-1956, Liftoff: 1957-1960, and Flight and Touchdown: 1961-1974), each description links to illustrations from the book and a short biography of the author. **Sisson** traces the evolution of the book's themes and content, noting for example that by 1961 "imagination had run into reality," changing content from prediction to reality. A glorious trip down memory lane for wannabe astronaut baby boomers! <http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~jsisson/john.htm>

Statistics — **SEDAC**, the **Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center**, is one of the **Distributed Active Archive Centers (DAACs)** in the **Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS)** of **NASA**. **SEDAC** focuses on human interactions in the environment and serves as an "Information Gateway" between the Earth and social sciences. Located at the **Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)** at **Columbia University/Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory** in Palisades, New York, **SEDAC's** Web site offers a variety of interactive applications to manipulate the wealth of population data. Check out the **Climate Change Integrated Assessment Modeling**, which considers the social and economic factors that drive emissions, or the **Ultraviolet Interactive Service (UVIS)** where you can custom-query on-screen visualization of hourly, daily, and

monthly UV dose variables from selected locations across the U.S. There is a link to the **AIDS Data Animation Project**, and the complete text of **Environmental Treaty** texts. <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/>


West Nile Virus — "What happens if you cut the sensory nerve in the mosquito's stomach? The little whiner can keep sucking blood until it bursts (oh, sweet justice!)." This is just one item in the **Mosquito Fun Facts** section on the **Mosquito Genomics World Wide Web Server**. Here you'll find databases on five of the some 2700 species of mosquitos, including *Culex pipiens* which carries the West Nile virus, as well as one on information across all species. The site hosts a massive fully searchable database of about 70,000 mosquito-related references, almost half of which were rescued from a punch card archive at the **University of Notre Dame**. Links include the **American Mosquito Control Association** and other general mosquito sites. <http://klab.agsci.colostate.edu>

The **National Atlas** at the **U.S. Geological Survey** are keeping us abreast of the progress of the **West Nile Virus** as it sneaks down the coast. Check your town on the **West Nile Virus Maps** page, where three types of maps: online interactive, dynamic multimedia, and high quality maps for printing and reproduction, are updated weekly. The maps are created from surveillance report summaries led by the **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** and categorized by Human Cases, Wild Bird Cases, Mosquito Surveillance, Veterinary Cases, and Sentinel Flock

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Surveillance. <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/virusmap.html>

Zoology — "Their back were grey, and gross were they, and hideous of head." So goes a line from the poem "The Ballad of the Ice-Worm Cocktail" by **Robert W. Service**, full-text available on the Annelid Resources page, which serves as a guide to scientific information on annelids, and to current worm research and researchers. This 4 year old site offers a discussion group, an annotated bibliography of recent papers on worm phylogeny, and a directory of worm experts. You can also look for worms in literature, search museum collections for Annelida, visit Worm Lab pages, and take Random Field Trips to other worm sites. Particularly fascinating are the recently discovered vent worms, who live in extremely high temperatures, and the leeches who are making a comeback in medicine. **Charles Darwin** spent much time observing earthworms and postulating on their mental abilities, recounted in his 1881 book *The Formation Of Vegetable Mould Through The Action Of Worms With Observations On Their Habits* available through a link to **Project Gutenberg Etexts** (<http://www.promo.net/pg/list.html>). To finish off your visit, download a 5 megabyte Quicktime video clip from the movie **Tremors!** <http://biodiversity.uno.edu/~worms/annelid.html> 

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the findings from an interim evaluation is now available in html at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/pub00/nesli_evaluation_report.html and in Word at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/pub/index.html#projects>. The study was commissioned by the **Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)** and undertaken by staff from the **Human Sciences & Advanced Technology Research Institute of Loughborough University** during March to June 2000.

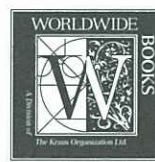
Among the outcomes of the study were that the over-riding view was that **NESLI** has achieved much in a rapidly-changing and complex environment. It was stated repeatedly that the **Managing Agent** has done very well in difficult circumstances. Progress in agreeing to deals, getting them accepted by libraries and achieving end user take up has been slow because of the complexity of the process. Nevertheless there are signs of gathering momentum and support from all the necessary stakeholders. The offers that have been made have been of value to some libraries but the different situations of the libraries means that a single offer cannot meet all needs, and evaluating complex deals in a limited timescale has led to many libraries being unable to take up offers. The recommendations from the evaluation are that the experience of **NESLI** be built on with a view to exploring alternative ways of providing a single negotiating agency and achieving some flexibility for libraries to obtain deals that meet their specific requirements, and to use the services they choose for subscription handling and service delivery. 

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Step Three. Add up all of your library's weighted scores and divide by 435 (The total points possible. If you add or subtract activities be sure to adjust this total).

Now that you have your score, what should you do with it? First of all, you can compare it with the following non-scientific arrived at scale and feel good or bad about your library:

- 80 to 100 points means your library is a super digital library
- 60 to 79 points means it is well on its way to becoming a super digital library
- 59 points and below means your library needs a lot more money to

get a higher score (or you can declare it dumb to want more points).

Unfortunately, the thought that the digital future is cheap was a dream.

Second, you could go through the list and line out all the things that don't match your library's needs and/goals and then re-compute how well you are doing. Be sure to adjust the total points possible in step three above. In either case, I have found it useful to think about all the things that could be done and to do a self inventory for my library. 

I would be happy to hear how well your library did on this digital library measurement scale or what you thought of the scale. Drop me an e-mail: ferguson@columbia.edu.

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