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Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites

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Under My Thumb by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Designed to protect India from outside threats, a 3-decades-old rule restricting access to geographical data (and other outdated restrictions on health and environmental data) has come under fire as scientists struggle to follow-up on discoveries. At least 15 bureaucratic procedures are now required to gain access to high-resolution maps, steps that no longer make

sense in an era of remote sensing and global positioning systems. Scientists at the **Indian Academy of Sciences** are preparing a document recommending that access be eased, but whether it will be considered is uncertain. See—**Pallava Bagla**, "Indian Scientists Question Government Grip on Data," *Science*, Jul. 30, 1999, p.659.

From the Computer into the Red Tape by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The stress that faculty feel from having to keep up with information technology is directly related to their age, up to 65 anyway. So say the results of a survey conducted by the **Higher Education Research Institute** at the **U. of California, Los Angeles**. The study concludes that the stress is a reflection of the time faculty invest, noting that disciplines already using the computer

more heavily show less stress. Two-thirds of respondents report information technology stress outranks research and publishing demands, teaching load, and promotion. Only time pressures, household demands, and institutional red tape were more stressful. See—"High-Tech Anxiety," in *NetWatch* section edited by **Jocelyn Kaiser**, *Science*, Sep. 10, 1999, p. 1635.

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the regular contributors and consultants are available on the site. An excellent lay-oriented Web tool to answer numerous consumer health questions! <http://www.drkoop.com/hcr/drugstore/interactions/>

Energy — Learning about energy was never this much fun! Check out **Percy's Puzzles** or ask **Dr. Questor** at **EnergyQuest**, a wonderful educational site from the **California Energy Commission**. Click on "Oops!" to find you can get a prize if you find a mistake on their site; read "Devoured by the Dark," an online mystery which begins with the line: "It slithered slowly across the cornfields, sucking up everything in its path[!]" Learn about fossil fuels, energy safety, and nuclear energy. Try the science projects, or enter the Art Contest. Extremely useful for K-12 classes. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/education/>

Genetics — The hook is the free access until January 31, 2000, but this electronic journal on genes and function called **Physiological Genomics** debuted by the **American Physiological Society** will undoubtedly generate lots of interest. The site features large data sets and dynamic formats not possible in print, although a paper version will be used for archiving purposes. The site links to the most recent papers, is searchable by authors and keywords, and offers electronic submission of manuscripts. <http://physiolgenomics.physiology.org/>

Medicine — **Current Medline Scanner** is a free service maintained on the bioinformatics computer at **The Weizmann Institute** in Israel. Users can register and enter up to 20 specific search queries which will be run automatically and results e-mailed each week. Once logged in, the system displays a personalized page with forms to enter search terms, and the option to save it for regular notification of new articles. The searches are run through **PubMed**, which provides the **Medline** citation and abstract, with options to order the article through **Loansome Doc** (a

fee-based document delivery service). <http://bioinformatics.weizmann.ac.il/cms>

Microscopy — Did you know that silicon chip designers leave "doodles" on the microscopic products? Now you can view a gallery of such images at the **Molecular Expressions Photo Gallery**. An impressive array of full color photomicrographs arranged in a huge Gallery under categories like Pesticides, Vitamins, Amino Acids, and Birthstones. Some of the images are breathtaking! Careful though ... the site is copyrighted, and use of any of the "art" requires permission! <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/micro/gallery.html>

Mummies — Unwrapping a mummy isn't what it used to be, but now anyone can do it! **The Virtual Mummy: Unwrapping a Mummy** by **Mouse Click** site offers amateur Egyptologists and archaeologists the ability to see what's under those mysterious wrappings through the same technology that constructed the **Visible Human**—imaging of a body slice by slice and reconstructing the whole through computer modeling. Here users can view Quicktime movies (some required Quicktime VR, but the link for downloading is offered here) of the mummies head "unwrapping", and read the description of the virtual creation process. <http://www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/institute/imdm/idv/forschung/mumie/index.en.html>

Reptiles — Old-fashioned taxonomy is a much-neglected study, according to **Peter Uetz**, who has mounted an impressive array of over 1,000 photos with complete taxonomic information including synonyms and distribution of nearly all of the 7,900 living species in the Reptilia class. The system doesn't appear to retrieve information using common names of species unless that word is part of one of its synonyms. Once you find the taxonomy of a particular species, clicking the "link" box will give you a choice of a dozen or so other databanks to link to and retrieve more specific information. The main page also includes links to species statistics, bibliographic references, a bookstore of herpetological titles in coop-

eration with **Amazon.com**, related pages, and a page advising that reptiles are NOT advisable as pets. Kudos! <http://www.embl-heidelberg.de/~uetz/LivingReptiles.html>

Weather — The **National Hurricane Center Tropical Prediction Center** would be your first stop if you lived in Charleston, SC last week! The site offers the latest forecasts, historical predictions and actual strikes in the U.S., satellite imagery and basic information about hurricanes and cyclones. It even gives information on the naming system. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Women — Women are, and always have been, scientists. Now you can read about over 125 women who lived prior to 1900 and were brilliant researchers in their own right. The site offers links to the thousands of women who have contributed (and are still contributing) in the 20th century, as well as a "did you know" section (did you know that the automatic dishwasher was invented by **Josephine Garis Cochrane**?). There's also a neat interactive quiz and a crossword puzzle. <http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/4000WS.html>

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PS Form 3526, September 1995 (Preceding)

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

Anatomy — "The first ... curriculum that links together the study of anatomy, physiology, histology, pharmacology, immunology and medical ethics via the Internet," the Integrated Medical Curriculum, part of the Gold Standard Multimedia Network, houses an impressive array of tools to assist the student. The anatomy section includes images of human cadaver dissections. Essentials of physiology and immunology are presented in chapter form just like a printed text. The histology link includes a tutorial on how to use the microscope as well as hundreds of slides of human and animal tissues. The caveat to all of this "free" information is that the site includes advertisements for journals, other Internet sites, and CD-ROMs. Some of the programs are also available for Macintosh users. You

must register a username and password to enter the site which appears as a separate window from your browser session. This is the shape of things to come, as more and more commercial producers take advantage of advertising to promote their tools. <http://www.imc.gsm.com/>

Animal Diversity — Hyperlinks and multimedia are the major advantages of Web-based collections of information. Mammalogist **Phil Myers** at the **University of Michigan Museum of Zoology** has taken full advantage of these tools in putting together an impressive databank on the Animal Diversity Web. A seemingly brief and basic description of a lemur, for example, can lead to an exhaustive wealth of knowledge—from its taxonomy to an explanation of its tritubercular "cheek teeth" or molars. The site includes QuickTime images of skulls that you can view from any angle, a special section for instructors, and the ability to just browse or search a specific animal. <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/>

Astronomy — For over a century, professional and amateur astronomers have worked together by forming the **Astronomical**

Society of the Pacific (ASP), founded in Northern California in 1889. Its earliest purpose was to disseminate astronomical information, and ASP has worked to explain the mysteries of the universe to students, teachers, hobbyists, and the general public. As the largest general astronomy society in the world, ASP now runs an impressive educational program from its Web site, offering workshops, lectures, annual meetings, professional publications, and a newsletter. Their educational initiative includes several projects, and a proposed journal whose future will depend on feedback from their site survey. <http://www.aspsky.org/>

Botany — What fun! The Carnivorous Plant FAQ page, courtesy of the **International Carnivorous Plant Society**, answers everything you wanted to know about these botanical "monsters." Geared to just about anybody with a curiosity, click on links like "These Latin names are pretty nerdy. What do they mean?" and "Exactly how to I feed my Venus Flytrap?" <http://www.sarracenia.com/faq.html>

Chemistry — **Avogadro's number** is named for a real person, and you can read the fulltext of his writing in the *Journal de Physique* from 1811 that includes his hypothesis that equal volumes of gas contain equal numbers of molecules. The **Selected Classic Papers** from the **History of Chemistry** site provides subject and author access and is updated weekly. Links to papers at two other sites are included as well. Beware! These are not available for your next chemistry paper due on Monday; your professor will instantly recognize the author! <http://maple.lemoyne.edu/~giunta/papers.html>

Drugs — Did you know that dairy products can decrease the effectiveness of tetracycline? This site not only provides information about drug-drug and drug-food interactions, it also includes links to comparative health insurance information, a "Preventionnaire" personal health questionnaire, nutrition, men and women's health, current health issues, a health chat room, addition, mental health, and aging. **C. Everett Koop**, former **Surgeon General of the U.S.**, has formed a company dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by empowering them to improve their health. The site is run by Dr. Koop and a distinguished board of directors which includes **Dr. Nancy Snyderman** who is often seen on **Good Morning America**. Short biographies of all

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