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Webworthy-More Interesting Internet Sites

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Webworthy — More Interesting Internet Sites

Edited by **Pamela M. Rose** (Web Services and Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>
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Interesting, educational Websites selected both for content and uniqueness are organized by broad subject area. In some cases, the topic of interest is part of a more general Webpage, in which case specific pointers are added to guide you to the link.

Internet sites are reviewed and annotated, then revisited just prior to publication to ensure they are still active. Please let the column 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**.

Chemistry. Faster than a speeding atom, leaps heavy uranium plants in a single bound, it's **Metamorpho!** Welcome to A Comic Book Periodic Table, brainchild of chemistry professors **John Selegue** and **Jim Holler** of the **University of Kentucky, Lexington**. Elements of the periodic table link to actual comic strips discussing that element, including a description and history of the comic itself for buffs. Intended to be educational, the site also includes links to real periodic tables. <http://www.uky.edu/~holler/periodic/periodic.html>

Education. "Distance Learning: Promise or Threat?" by **Andrew Feenberg**. An interesting discussion from an experiential point of view by a Professor of Philosophy at **San Diego State U.** (And after reading his paper, check out Dr. Feenberg's main page, and a Paris apartment for rent!) [**Red Rock**

Eater News Service <rre@lists.gseis.ucla.edu> 2.15.99] <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/feenberg/TELE3.HTM>

Humor. Need to laugh at your latest deadline? Check out **Oxymoron Humour Archive: Scientific Articles**, a wonderful collection of science jokes. Links to Administratum (a new element), The Dark Sucker Theory, and The Science of Shoes will brighten your day. <http://paul.merton.ox.ac.uk/science/>

Symbols. A nifty online encyclopedia of graphic symbols, searchable by the symbol's characteristics, such as symmetric, single or double axis, soft (=curved), open or closed, and whether any of the lines in

the symbol cross. Each entry gives the background and history of the symbol, who used it and for what purpose. [**Red Rock Eater News Service** <rre@lists.gseis.ucla.edu> 2.15.99] <http://www.symbols.com/>



Group Therapy —

How do you handle offers of access to online editions of print journals when the access is by registration and password?



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

Hey y'all out there! Do you have any gripes? Come to your therapist! Try <rbazirji@mailier.fsu.edu> or FAX 904-644-5170.

GRYPE: (Submitted by **Anne Frohlich**, Serials Librarian, McNeese State University):

How do you handle offers of access to online editions of print journals your institution subscribes to when the access is by registration and password? Do you ignore these offers, publicize them and give the password to inquirers, put the password on a Web page, other? We had received several of these and would like to know how others have handled the situation.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **John Haar**, Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development, Vanderbilt Univ.):

We prefer not to handle offers of this kind and are reluctant to subscribe to journals and other databases that mandate password-controlled access. We understand that a publisher needs to protect their investment in their products, but we usually try to convince them to use Internet protocol address recognition as their security device. IP-based access is easy for us to administer and transparent to authorized users.

Password-controlled access is a particularly cumbersome security measure. If we establish an institutional password and username, we have to distribute them to authorized users. Unless the pub-

lisher also imposes IP or domain-based access controls, authorized users can share passwords and usernames with unauthorized users, which hardly serves the publisher's interests. If the publisher insists on individual passwords and usernames, we have to publicize this to patrons, and persons who forget or lose the information will almost certainly contact us and expect us to remember for them. In both cases, we take on the responsibility of validating (and over time, revalidating) user authorizations.

For those electronic subscriptions where there is no alternative to passwords and usernames, we create a institutional password and username, if possible. We post both on a local Webpage restricted by IP address to authorized users and add a link from this site to the journal. Entries for the journal on both our Web e-journal list and our catalog point to this page. This strategy provides the security publishers demand and keeps us out of the business of managing access on an individual basis.

Some publishers will not accept institutional passwords and usernames; they require individuals to register and create their own security identification. They usually employ this process (redundantly, in our view) in tandem with IP registration. In these cases we add a note to our e-journal list that registration is necessary. Often we create an intermediate page explaining the registration procedure.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **Claire M. Ginn**, N. American Consortia Mgr., MCB Univ. Press):

continued on page 92