June 1999

Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites

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Recommended Citation

Rose, Pamela M.; Paul, Sandra K.; and Simmonds, Albert (1999) "Webworthy-Unique and Interesting Websites," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 11: Iss. 3, Article 35.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3928>

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off the shelf—as you do word processing and database modules today. We hope to provide the systems developers who offer these products for sale with STANDARD business practices which have been modeled into re-usable objects. I won't get into the "technology" in this article, but simply say that we believe that modeling will: provide consistent means of capturing user requirements; clarify the semantics of business; provide unambiguous communications exchange among parties; introduce objectivity rather than subjectivity to the process; and provide traceability and documentation of customer requirements.

We have selected **Object Oriented Technology** and the method of providing the models in a format that includes both the "thing" and the "instructions for its use" to eliminate the conversations between trading partners before starting to do EDI. We believe that you can express those "objects" in many languages—including XML. We call this next generation **EDI OO-edi**—Object Oriented EDI.

We have been working on this approach along with the **United Nations** group that developed the EDI standard popular outside of North America—**EDIFACT**. We believe that this work will result in international alignment and a single standard. Saying this, we also recognize that change is required by the X12 and EDIFACT communities. It will require a strategic rather than a tactical approach to manage the change process and expand the user organizations' focus outward, rather than into their own, native requirements.

Conclusion

The February, 1999 edition of **SunWorld** (electronic edition), in an article, "XML, The Future of EDI," stated: "XML-EDI has the potential of taking EDI from an arcane, if venerable technique to the rapidly developing center of enterprise information technology. On the other hand, XML-EDI poorly applied has the potential for wasting billions of dollars and a great deal of effort, and holding up traditional EDI development, for no more than a radically new format that runs immediately into the same old problems."

I think that we should give X12 until June to come up with a STANDARDIZED bottom-up approach to **XML EDI** for the United States, BUT be ready to convert to the **OO-edi** top-down approach to GLOBAL STANDARDS next year. I hope those in the book and serial community anxious to grab hold of XML will wait that long.

Webworthy

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Note: 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! Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science, NetWatch column edited by Jocelyn Kaiser. — PR

Anatomy

Ethical objectors to dissecting living things can now turn to animated reconstructions on the Web. The **Digital Anatomist Project** at the **University of Washington, Seattle** offers interactive images of various anatomical sections, with 360 degree animation and selectable cross-sections. Just a few Quicktime movie animations are available here, but all can be purchased on CD. <http://www9.biostr.washington.edu/da.html>

Animation

Want to feel that thrill in the pit of your stomach without actually bungee jumping? Visit the **Animation Lab** at **Georgia Tech's Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center (GVU)**, where a Quicktime simulation of a bungee jumper off a bridge will remind you why you stay on the ground. Experts create algorithms which run computer models for animation which build on the physical principles of human movement. They also add realism to animated images through attention to such secondary motion details as making sure a trampoline flexes, or a skirt on a female on a swing moves properly. The site also offers Quicktime movies (which take a good 5-10 minutes to load, but are worth the wait if you can multitask) and links to fulltext PDF files of relevant publications. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/animation>

Bioethics

The **Littleton, Colorado** high school deaths were the latest topic on the **University of Pennsylvania's Health System Center for Bioethics** site. Dubbed the **Bioethics Internet Project**, the site collaborates with the NBC television drama **ER**, dissecting the upcoming episode each week in an online essay. A great tool for school classrooms to use as a springboard for discussion, the site also links to scholarly journals, legal documents, and related Web sites. Especially popular is the "Bioethics for Beginners" historical section. The project prides itself on its independent and unbiased approach to issues. www.bioethics.net

Chemistry

Billed as the "Worldwide Club for the Chemical Community," **ChemWeb**, a subsidiary of **Elsevier Science**, requires users to register as members before using the site. Membership is free, but obviously the publishing giant wants user information for demographic reasons. Once registered, users can access a wealth of free information or fee-based fulltext access. Included are journals (many are **Elsevier** titles), chemistry book shopping, lab and software supplies, **ChemDex** (a directory of chemistry Websites), **ChemInform** (the MEDLINE of organic chemistry), a library of chemical structures, patents databases, and notices of job openings and upcoming meetings, as well as online conferences or archived lectures. <http://www.chemweb.com/>

Distance Learning

Sharing is the great power of the Web, and the **University of Texas** is maximizing that benefit by maintaining the **World Lecture Hall**, where hundreds of professors worldwide have posted links to their online courses. Full and/or not Boolean searching capability with an impressive list of subjects. <http://www.utexas.edu/world/lecture/>

Internet

"Possibly the most useful round-up of new resources for academic users" — *The Student's Guide to the Internet 1998/99*. The **Internet Resources Newsletter** site provides access to the current issue as well as an archive of all sites covered in previous issues. The annotations are chatty but informative, with sites selected for primary interest to UK academics. An exciting section called **PINAKES** (after the catalogue developed by the poet **Callimachus** for the **Library of Alexandria** in Egypt) organizes links by broad subject areas including **OMNI** for medicine and **BUBL** for information and library science. Anyone can submit interesting sites for inclusion. <http://www.hw.ac.uk/libwww/irn/>

Medicine

Controversial former **JAMA** editor **George Lundberg** has launched the first all-electronic, peer-reviewed general medical journal, **Medscape General Medicine**. **MedGenMed** intends to follow the same rules for medical journals set by the **Vancouver Group** as other prestigious print medical journals, with an emphasis on brevity for the electronic environment. Frequency? According to its Web introduction,

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"MedGenMed will not be an annual, a quarterly, a monthly, or a weekly. We will publish when the article is ready. Why wait?" <http://www.medscape.com/Medscape/GeneralMedicine/journal/1999/mgm0409.lund.html>

Paleontology

Did Dilophosaurus really spit poison and sport an erectile neck frill as displayed in the movie *Jurassic Park*? Find out at the **Paleontology Without Walls** site from the **University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Paleontology**. Users can browse the discipline of paleontology via phylogeny, geologic history, or the history of evolutionary thought on the exhibits page. The special exhibits section includes other links to Coelacanth, Sabretooth Tigers, and the **Paleontological Institute of Russia**. And an innovative "subway" section emulation displays a neat color-coded branching graphic which links to an impressive array of Internet sources, everything from collection catalogs to UC Berkeley's main site, to WWW developers' guides. Archives and FAQs are included. <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/>

Paleonet update:

Reviewed in *ATG* (December 98/January 99 issue, p.80), **PaleoNet**—both a site and email list covering the entire breadth and depth

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Wandering the Web ... An Eclectic Amalgam of Selected Theater and Theater History Websites

Compiled and Annotated by **Roxanne Myers Spencer**

This column for **Wandering the Web** grew out of a Webpage pathfinder compiled for an introductory information sources class. My interest piqued, I, of course, found the research exciting and frustrating. Most searches for "Theater history" or "history of the Theater" led to pages about the history of individual local theaters. **NorthernLight's** folder organization helped the search, cutting down on information overload. Once I found one or two comprehensive, well-organized sites, my task became easier. Let the show begin!

Educational Resources

Theater History on the Web <<http://artsci.washington.edu/drama/jack.html#Information>>

"A Resource for Theater Historians and Students of the Theater's History," this site, developed by a retired drama professor from the **University of Washington**, features links to area studies in Theater, cultural sites, and resources for the serious student of theater. Research and map centers, museums, and libraries are listed, some with brief annotations.

Worth reading, a discussion on "Theater History and Computing: The Role of Computing in Theater Research: A Retrospective," provides insight into the possibilities and realities of new technology in the development and understanding of theater history. "Indexes and Resource Sites" lead viewers to a short but varied list of important theater-related sites. The frames and tables design of the homepage leave something to be desired for the viewer, but this site is well worth browsing.

A Brief Guide to Internet Resources in Theater and Performance Studies <http://www.stetson.edu/departments/csata/thr_guid.html>

"A Brief Guide to Internet Resources in Theater and Performance Studies" is maintained in the Communication Studies and Theater Arts Department of **Stetson University** (Fla.). A site organized in a way dear to the

librarian's heart, the Contents clearly describe the Webpages' scope and links to other resources. Those interested in researching stagecraft and technical production, actors and acting, plays and playwrights, arts and non-profit management, among other topics, will find online primary sources, e-journals, e-texts, and suggested print materials. Links to listservs, newsgroups, and other guides round out a comprehensive online introduction to Theater and performance studies. Simply designed, with no graphics to adorn—or clutter—this resource, this site is an excellent starting point for research.

History of the Theater <<http://199.179.28.2/academic/theater.htm>>

This resource, posted on the **Davison Community Schools (Michigan) High School English Department Website**, contains links

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of paleontology, now has two locations. The original site, now dubbed **PaleoNet West**, is still at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/Paleonet/home.html>, and the mirror site is at http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/paleonet/. There is yet a third **PaleoNet** site maintained by an individual at <http://www.paleo.net/>, which is much more limited in scope. It offers data analysis to paleoscientists, as well as fulltext articles on various topics.

Patents

"Bibliographic data for patent publications from 63 countries or regional patent offices, covering approximately the last 30 years; Facsimile images of patent documents from 20 countries from 1920 onwards." The homepage of the **European Patent Office** also offers links to patent sites around the world. One caveat—you need to know what you're looking for! Search capabilities include the author and title, but without the patent registration number, it's difficult to narrow your search to a manageable number of hits. <http://www.european-patent-office.org/index.htm>

HOWEVER, the **U.S. Patent and Trade Office (USPTO)** site is much more user friendly, albeit limited to searching **U.S. Patents**. Search fields include the author's city as well as Boolean and advanced search features. Information on patent applications is also avail-

able here. <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>

Physics

"The story of physics in the 20th century unfolds like a splendid tapestry teeming with people, ideas, and things." A nifty timeline section on the **American Physical Society's** Website offers a color-coded map to five storylines that weave the history of physics. For example, the "Living World" goldenrod storyline shows how physics is related to medicine and biology. See it at: http://www.timeline.aps.org/APS/home_HighRes.html.

Reference

So you thought theses were dull? An academic consortium is promoting electronic Web archives of these valuable works. The site is part of an "... initiative to improve graduate education, increase sharing of knowledge, help universities build their information infrastructure, and extend the value of digital libraries." The site offers links to various member universities with both citation + abstract and fulltext entries, as well as a few theses submitted by individual students. **UMI** is among the links, however users must have a **ProQuest** subscription to access 1997 and prior years. <http://www.theses.org/>

Statistics

Need to know what the population of Albania will be in 2010? No problem! Check the **International Data Base (IDB)** on the **U.S. Census Bureau's International Programs**

Center (IPC) site. IPC "conducts demographic and socioeconomic studies and strengthens statistical development around the world." Or for a demographic snapshot of the world look at the **World Population Profile** with a special chapter focusing on HIV/AIDS in the developing world. Some documents are available through PDF. You can also download software for analyzing population statistics or doing the work of census and survey data processing. <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/>

War

One of the best U.S. intelligence Web sites, the **Intelligence Resource Program** page is "... a comprehensive resource on the past and future of the American intelligence community." Maintained by the **Federation of American Scientists**, the site is packed with hundreds of secret weapons' labs and other targets of military significance from satellite reconnaissance images used in past military initiatives. A link in the "New" section in April shows **Operation Desert Fox** photos of Iraqi sites. FAS's **John Pike** notes that although the photos are aging and no longer influence policy decisions, they are going to "... introduce a new standard of facility to the public policy debate." There are also links to e-Prints on various topics ("U.S. Black Aircraft"); intelligence agency homepages; a special section on the Gulf War; links to Congressional floor debates, hearings and reports; and "hot links" to such items as a novel by **Dan Brown** titled **Digital Fortress**. Analyze and enjoy! <http://www.fas.org/irp/>