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Wandering the Web — Appalachian Culture & Literature Online

by **Roxanne Myers Spencer** (Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Educational Resources Center, Kentucky University Libraries)

Column Editor: **Jack Montgomery** (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>

Selected Webliography

There is a wealth of information on the Internet about appalachian culture and literature. This diverse American region spans 13 states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. The region comprises many cultures, ethnicities, dialects, customs, and literature. Here are some useful links for further study. This Webliography developed out of a Kentucky Library Association program session, "Appalachian Literature Through Appalachian Eyes," developed and presented October 9, 2003, by **Sean Kinder**, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, and **Roxanne Myers Spencer**, Educational Resources Center Coordinator, **Western Kentucky University**.

Appalachian Culture

1) Appalachia: Spirit Triumphant www.appalachianpower.com/ — Billing itself as "A cultural odyssey of The Southern Appalachian Coalfields," this site contains more than a dozen interviews and oral histories with people of the region, particularly war veterans. The table of contents is attractively illustrated with quilt designs from Appalachian quilters. Information on history, geography, and the coal industry will interest those who wish to begin studying the culture of the region.

2) Appalachian Regional Commission www.arc.gov/ — With resources for community planning, lists of funding sources, and useful regional information, this Website is an excellent start to the economic, topographical, and community profiles of the diverse populations of Appalachia. Included are data on a variety of Appalachian communities, including maps, income, employment, and educational trends. Students may find this site exceptionally helpful for social studies projects.

3) Appalachian Regional Studies Center at Radford University www.runet.edu/~arsc/arsc.htm — This site primarily lists information on the program and titles available at **Radford University's ARSC**. The list of links, however, is an excellent starting point for online research on all things Appalachian. Links include education, literature, folklore, genealogy, museums, community outreach, crafts, music, and storytelling Websites.

4) Archives of Appalachia cass.etsu-tn.edu/archives/ — (Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, **East Tennessee State University**). Another university collection of Appalachian archives, this site includes, among other fine resources, reports on grant-funded projects, such as "Appalachian Collections," a "multime-

dia collection of materials that documents the political, economic, social, and cultural history of Southern Appalachia;" and "Harvesting the Hardwoods: Logging, Lumbering, and Forestry in Southern Appalachia," part of the Appalachian Outreach program.

5) Now & Then: The Appalachian Magazine cass.etsu.edu/n&t/ — Get out your checkbooks! The excerpts from this varied and colorful magazine will make anyone want to subscribe. Writers as well known as **Silas House** and **Lee Smith** are featured in these pages, but it is equally poignant and enticing to read the reflections of the lesser-known Appalachians whose essays grace these pages. A venue for Appalachian poetry, a passion for the environment, a respect for the culture, and a repository of candid daily life photographs, the online and print versions of *Now & Then* are an important chronicle of Appalachian life of yesterday, today, and hopes for tomorrow.

6) CVA: Center for Virtual Appalachia (Morehead State University, KY) cva.morehead-st.edu/ — One of the better-designed portals to the world of Appalachian culture, geography, economics, arts, and education. A useful feature of this Website, among many good cultural and economic links, is the navigational map outlining 406 Appalachian counties across 13 states, with major regional cities noted. How many of you remembered, for example, that Pittsburgh, was smack-dab in the middle of Appalachia? Or that Cincinnati borders Appalachian Ohio?

7) Hillsweb (maintained by **Bobby Allen** of Sheldon Clark High School, KY) mcweb.martin.k12.ky.us/hillsweb/hillsweb1.htm — "Long Live the Hillbilly Nation" proclaims the scroll at the top of this source for Appalachian culture and history. Originally intended as a project for high school students, this site has become the work of one dedicated, overworked teacher and school district Webmaster. Hillsweb has a lively collection of anecdotes, historical articles, fiction, and biographies, which are updated as often as **Allen** can find the time. Photographs depict the extraordinary beauty of the region as well as the day-to-day and season-to-season changes in the landscape.

8) Religion in Appalachia (student project) www.les.appstate.edu/courses/appalachia/religion/ — As an introduction to the important role religion plays in the life of Appalachian peoples, this student project uses a historical perspective, demographics, and draws believable conclusions about the roles of religion and community in Appalachia. The economic hardships, the landscape, the British ancestry and heritage of peoples in the region are also touched

upon in this nice overview of religious practices in the region.

9) Tennessee Tech University's Sociology of Appalachia page (student oral history project, in Free Hills, TN) www2.tntech.edu/sociology/app/ — Free Hills was the first free black community within Tennessee, and in Fall 2000, sociology students undertook an oral history project. The project itself is not yet complete, but the selection of links amassed offers an excellent introduction to the culture of the region. Links to articles on the economics and environment, music and storytelling, foodways, crafts and festivals, and education and religion, are of use to anyone interested in learning about this diverse, little understood region of America.

Women in Appalachia

10) Women in Appalachia: A Bibliography, compiled by **Christiana Miewald**, Department of Anthropology, **University of Kentucky**. www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter/wombib.htm.

11) Appalachian Women (Archives of Appalachian) cass.etsu.edu/archives/women.htm — Stereotypes have a strong hold on our national consciousness; this Website aims to dispel the more common stereotypes of women in the region. Aviators and educators, authors and miners, the **East Tennessee State University** Center for Appalachian Studies archives contains manuscripts by and about the diverse women of Appalachia.

12) Appalachian Women's Alliance appalachianwomen.org/ — A grassroots organization that reaches Appalachian women from all walks of life. Projects include the Appalachian Women's Caravan, which tours the region to raise awareness about abuse; and to build leadership, empowerment, and self-esteem among isolated women in the region; and Sister Gathering, bringing women together to share resources, skills, and ideas. *Appalachian Women's Journal* and the *Ironweed Newsletter* keep a diverse network of women connected to issues that concern them, crossing educational, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic boundaries.

Appalachian Children's Literature Links

13) AppLit: Resources for Readers and Teachers of Appalachian Literature for Children and Young Adults www.ferrum.edu/applit/ — A very comprehensive look at juvenile and young adult Appalachian literature. Includes bibliographies, links to lesson plans, professional papers, and information on local dialects. This excellent resources for introducing the rich literature of the

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region to young readers. A thorough introduction to the diversity and richness of Appalachian children's and young adult literature and its applicability in the classroom.

14) Carol Hurst's Appalachia in Children's Literature www.carolhurst.com/subjects/appalachia.html — Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Website is one of the great resources online for juvenile literature, and she does an admirable job of introducing teachers and other students of regional literature to Appalachian books for young readers. A chart of books related to Appalachia with brief annotations is helpful, as is a webbing chart that helps instructors graphically identify important themes and concepts in the literature and the region.

15) Internet School Library Media Center Appalachian Resources falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/mulapach.htm — Inez Ramsey, who has labored countless hours to compile and maintain the ISLMC on the Web, is closing the site down "as quickly as I can take the pages down," so make sure to check out these resources before they are gone. Features include

"Characteristics of Good Appalachian Literature," an annotated bibliography, an essay from the ALAN Review on Rebecca Caudill, and a link to Appalachian Resources on the Web, from Shepherd College in West Virginia.

16) Appalachian History (Power Point slide presentation) jc-schools.net/write/app-history_files/frame.htm — A history lesson by Terry Sams, 4th grade teacher at Piedmont Elementary School, Dandridge, TN. A simple but eloquent tribute to the long and varied history of Appalachia. Slides includes additional links and vivid photos and illustrations, which will stimulate students, interest and appreciation for the heritage of this vast, uniquely American region. A chronology of significant events and people from the 18th century to the present effectively shows the realities of economic hard times and the virtues of shared community and hard work.

Appalachian Literature Sites

17) Digital Library of Appalachia www.aca-dla.org/ — Beautifully designed and easily navigable, the Digital Library of Appalachia is a project of the Appalachian College Association Central Library. Containing scanned documents on subjects such as: work, domestic life, politics and government, music,

art and culture, religion, minorities, and education, researchers can view historical papers and photographs pertaining to this diverse American culture.

18) James Still Homepage (maintained by Sandy Hudock, Colorado State University-Pueblo) faculty.colostate-pueblo.edu/sandy.hudock/jshome.html. Former poet-laureate of Kentucky, James Still, was highly respected by many in the writing professions for his spare, naturalistic writing style. Still is regarded for his versatility as well; he is praised for his command of the short story as well as poetry. He had an ear for dialogue and the unique qualities of mountain voices, which he conveyed in his works, most notably, his book, *River of Earth*.

19) KYLit: A Site Devoted to Kentucky Writers www.english.uku.edu/SERVICES/KYLIT/ — Maintained by the English Department at Eastern Kentucky University, this site provides brief biographical essays on writers from Kentucky, both native and by choice. The roster is an important one; such diverse talents as Barbara Kingsolver, Robert Penn Warren, Elizabeth Madox Roberts, Silas House, and Harriet Arnow are profiled by students in this slowly developing resources on Kentucky writers. 🌿

WEBWORTHY

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose, M.L.S.** (Web Services & Library Promotion Coordinator, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo; Phone: 716-829-3900 x129; Fax: 716-829-2211) pmrose@buffalo.edu wings.buffalo.edu/~pmrose

Webworthy has reviewed 310 Websites to date! Websites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, functionality 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, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-3900 x129; pmrose@buffalo.edu. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science's NetWatch column. — PR

Astronomy

Want to know how to make crop circles without alien help? Wonder if the Nazca lines were really made by alien visitors? Teachers can locate resources to help educate their media-bombarded students through Astronomical Pseudoscience: A Skeptic's Resource List. Compiled by Andrew Fraknoi, an astronomer at Foothill College in California, the site from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific lists reputable Websites, books and articles that scientifically prove these pseudo-scientific claims. — <http://www.astrosociety.org/education/resources/pseudobib.html>

Digital Collections

Anatomy, Geology, Broad-sides, Champlain, Poetry and Insulin: strange bedfellows? Not when they are part of the Digital Collections pages on the University of Toronto

Libraries' Website. Anatomia 1522-1867: Anatomical Plates from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, features 4,500 full page plates of 95 individual titles published 1522-1867. Discovery and Early Development of Insulin, 1920-1925, presents over 7,000 pages reproduced from laboratory notebooks, correspondence, published papers, scrapbooks, and printed ephemera. Don't just drop by, stay a while! There's so much to see! — <http://digital.library.utoronto.ca/>

Library & Information Science

With so much content out there, have you ever wished for one stop shopping of all your favorite library related journals? Look no further than the Informed Librarian Online. Brought to you by Infosources Publishing, IL is a monthly compilation of the most recent tables of contents from over 275 titles, including national and international library or information-related journals, magazines, and newsletters in both print and electronic format, many of them full text. In addition to browsing TOCs by subject collection or alpha by title, the IL Website offers a guest forum, a featured article, a featured book and the Editor's Picks. Journals span a broad range of subjects: you'll find selections from *Online to Nursing Economics* to *Choice*. Best of all, it's free with registration! Subscribers receive an email every month

which includes a password to login to the site. For librarians wanting to stay up on the trends & literature across the library spectrum in the most time saving manner, this site has it all. (Maureen Knapp, Louisiana State U. Health Sciences Center) — <http://www.informedlibrarian.com/index.cfm>

Literature

Say "Gothic fiction" to most people today and they think of bad supermarket romances. The Literary Gothic returns to the genre's true roots with its large collection of e-texts of ghost stories, supernatural tales, and other Gothic works. Browse this well-designed and organized site by title or author. The site creator, an English professor, has also compiled an invaluable collection of well-chosen and annotated links of resources on the Gothic genre. The few links to Amazon are unobtrusive and the content is so good that they're worth enduring. (Michelle L. Zafron, University at Buffalo) — http://www.litgothic.com/index_fl.html

Morbidity & Mortality

Demographers do it with data, and where better to access fairly reliable birth, death, population size, and life expectancy figures for 18 different countries than The Human Mortality Database. A collaboration between the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Germany and the Berkeley Mortality

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