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Wandering the Web -- Web Resources for Beginners

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ing pads (coarse to fine) and a polishing pad one by one as needed. It uses a water filtration and recirculation system that eliminates the need for hoses and drains. The automatic disc repair turntable tilts up for easy pad replacement; and the cost per disc repaired is low.

Those who don't want to purchase a disc polishing machine or perform the repair work in-house can contract with a service agent like **Dr. Disc Company** (803 East Curry Road, Suite 101, Tempe, AZ 85281, tel: 480-966-DISC, fax: 450-966-8900, email: <Ryan@DrDiscCompany.com>). Customers determine the average number of discs taken out of circulation due to scratches and determine an annual maintenance program that best fits their needs. For a monthly fee and a \$2.00 cost per disc, they just package damaged discs in mailers provided by **Dr. Disc** and ship them in the mail.

Both **RTI** and **Azuradisc** also manufacture disc inspection systems to quickly determine which discs are good and which are not. **RTI's DiscChek** high-speed electronic inspection system is fully automatic and simple to use. It checks DVDs in three minutes and CDs in two. A CRT display provides setup data and damage location.

Azuradisc's iScann high-speed disc tester (\$1,899.00) is a standalone desktop unit that verifies the playability of a CD or DVD disc. It can test a disc with over 90% reliability in a minute. Adjusting the scan time can achieve a higher percentage of reliability. The **iScann** takes hundreds of large data samples across the whole surface of the disc data and looks for the number and concentration of hard and soft errors and for repeated requests for read retries. By comparing this information with preset limits, the tester determines if a disc will play satisfactorily in an average consumer audio or DVD player. The LCD panel displays a notice at the end of the cycle, showing the errors detected. A Pass/Fail message indicates whether a disc is likely to skip under normal playback conditions.

iScann also supports **Playstation® 1** and **2** game discs as well as computer data discs. Music or data CD, CD recordables, DVD video, dual layer DVD, data DVD, DVD RAM, PlayStation 1 and 2, and any CD that uses High Sierra or ISO 9660 format. Additional formats will be available in the future as software upgrades.

These devices can save time by identifying those discs which require repair. They can also be used to scan discs after cleaning or polishing to verify that the repair was successful. Through reliable, consistent quality control, they can increase patron or customer satisfaction.

In addition to repair and testing devices, there are products that cover the label side of the disc with a clear adhesive laminate to protect the information/foil layer which lies just beneath the silk screen printing. Once this foil layer is damaged, it cannot be repaired; so it is important to protect it from damage.

ProLine (A Division of AMI Corporation, P.O. Box 27682, Denver, CO 80227-

0682, tel: 1-800-325-0853 or 1-303-761-3999, fax: 303-761-1818, <http://www.ami-proline.com/>), a producer of accessories and media packaging for the home entertainment and computer environment, developed a clear disc coating that makes the data side of all disc formats more scratch resistant. The product, **Disc Guard 2** (www.discguard2.com), is a liquid compound of special emulsifiable resins that simply buffs on and off the disc surface leaving oxygen-activated molecules that produce a clear layer of protection over a short period of time without restricting immediate disc use.

Application of two small drops costs just pennies per disc and creates a hard protective

glass-like coating that guards against accidental scratching and fingerprints during disc handling. Repeated use of the formula provides added protection and durability because the coating takes most of the abuse while preserving the data content embedded on the disc. A new application adds continued protection, prolonging disc life.

ProLine's Disc Guard 2 (suggested retail price: \$16.95) is available from the suppliers listed below in a complete kit that includes a disc-gripping applicator base, two soft application and buffing cloths, and a two fluid ounce bottle of the formula sufficient to condition more than 200 discs.

www.shopatdad.com	SUPER VIDEO Alamo, TX 956-783-1601
BRODART 888-820-4377 www.shopbrodard.com	DEMCO 800-356-1200 www.demco.com
MIKE'S MOVIES Boston, MA 617-266-9222	LAKES VIDEO Forest Lake, MN 651-464-8965
THE LIBRARY STORE 800-548-7204 www.thelibrarystore.com	MOVIE WORLD Cumberland, KY 606-589-5790
M&R SOFTWARE Galena, OH 614-395-7858	MAJOR LEAGUE VIDEO Houston, TX 281-447-8113

Even the smallest library can afford the products to protect its collection of optical media; but not all have collections large enough or damage severe enough to justify the purchase of a disc repair machine. Lower-priced models are adequate for fixing scratches and minor damage. Gouges and serious surface abrasion require a more expensive model. Libraries that need such equipment but find it difficult to justify

purchasing their own unit can join with other libraries or members of a consortium to share the machine. Another alternative is to defray the purchase cost by providing disc repair service to patrons or members of the local community at a nominal charge. This could provide a valuable service and increase traffic in the library.

Wandering the Web — Web Resources for Beginning Educators

by **Darla Bressler** (Reference Librarian/Social Sciences and Education Subject Specialist, Harvey A. Andruss Library, Bloomsburg University)

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

In January of 2002 **President George W. Bush** signed into law the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**. As with all school reform initiatives, the implementation of **President Bush's** plan presents numerous challenges for classroom teachers and library media specialists. Increasingly, these educators are required to assume more demanding classroom responsibilities as they diagnose learning needs, customize teaching, work collaboratively with other teachers, etc. while, at the same time, being held accountable for higher academic standards and student achievement. Moreover, these teachers are required to modify and adapt

instructional practices to meet these new standards, all the while providing quality classroom instruction. While accomplishing this is often challenging for the veteran teacher, it is particularly difficult for beginning teachers and library media specialists; many of these new educators have not yet developed the necessary confidence or skills. Many first-year teachers and library media specialists feel overwhelmed as they assume a myriad of new responsibilities, such as learning school policies and procedures; implementing classroom management strategies; perfecting time management skills; as well as preparing for and teaching the school curriculum with the development of standards-based units, lessons, themes, activities, etc.

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How can beginning teachers and library media specialists cope with the demands associated with standards, accountability, and education reform while they are still learning how to select the most appropriate combination of instructional strategies to meet the needs of their students? One immediate means of support for beginning teachers and library media specialists is ready access to select Websites that provide support for new teachers, as well as examples of effective instructional practices. When beginning teachers and library media specialists have immediate access to these types of resources during the first years of teaching, they are provided the ability to consult a variety of instructional methods and strategies that have been practiced by others and have been found to be effective. Thus, in many cases much of the anxiety is eliminated for these beginning teachers who might be implementing them for the first time. Access to these resources will encourage beginning teachers and library media specialists to experiment with new methods and strategies to find those that are most effective for both themselves and their students. Furthermore, when attempting to translate research findings into effective teaching practices or align state standards to curriculum, these new teachers will have the expertise of accomplished teachers to support and guide them.

The following select Websites, and others like them, can provide invaluable support to pre-service and beginning teachers and library media specialists, as they provide practical examples of educational methods and strategies, as well as examples of how to implement them in the classroom. Although there are a great many Websites that provide access to excellent educational resources, priority was given to sites featuring cost-free PreK-12 resources that would be most beneficial to student teachers and beginning classroom teachers and library media specialists during the first years of teaching.

Especially for Beginning Educators

ADPRIMA Main Page: <http://www.adprima.com/mainmenu.htm> — **Dr. Robert Kizlik**, Professor of Education at **Florida Atlantic University**, has developed this site with the goal of providing “the best possible site for new and future teachers.” ADPRIMA offers detailed and practical information on topics of interest to beginning teachers and library media specialists, such as “lesson planning, learning objectives, teaching methods, home schooling, instructional grouping, teaching and values, classroom management, assertive discipline, study skills, thinking skills, job searching, education reform, discussions, contrary opinions, and a whole lot more.” The Internet Education Resources link provides access to numerous Websites that have been selected because of their usefulness to pre-service and beginning educators. A wealth of information for new educators, ranging from the practical to the inspirational, can be found on this site.

Beginning Teacher's Toolbox: <http://www.inspiringteachers.com/> — Developed and maintained by the **Inspiring Teachers Company**, a

group of veteran teachers who are also the authors of the book *The Survival Kit for New Teachers*, this site provides a multitude of “resources for new teachers so that they will have a successful first year.” This award-winning site offers monthly features that include practical tips, articles, and recommended books and Websites, as well as a newsletter, message board, email discussion lists, links to professional and classroom resources, and mentoring services. The new teachers' home page is a great place for new educators to gain support and practical information for the first year of teaching.

New Teacher Connection: <http://www.pdkintl.org/ntc/ntchome.htm> — Provided by **Phi Delta Kappa**, the **Professional Association for Educators**, this page offers access to **Ask the Teacher Across the Hall**, an advice column for teachers; personal stories from new teachers in the field; and an online bookstore that offers quality resources for beginning teachers. New educators will find the New Teachers Link, which highlights Websites that “provide insight, tips, resources, and activities for teachers just starting out,” to be very helpful.

New Teacher Online Resources: <http://www.electricteacher.com/newteacher/> — **The Electric Teacher:** <http://www.electricteacher.com/>, a top-notch educational site created by **Cathy Chamberlain** to help teachers who are beginning to integrate technology into the curriculum, provides this page specifically for new teachers. Resource categories include New Teacher Resources, Educational Sites, Interactive Sites, Kindergarten Sites, First Grade Sites, and so on through Sixth Grade Sites. The New Teacher Sites category highlights thirty Websites that are designed to provide support for beginning teachers, through articles, tips and idea, chatboards, survival guides, etc.; Educational Sites links to a wide variety of teacher resources, such as lesson plans, songs, and games; Interactive Sites includes links to a Worksheet Generator, Rubrics Generator, Create a Venn, Interactive Games, and much more. The Grade Specific Resources categories feature links to lesson plans, units, experiments, worksheets, songs, and many other supplemental resources. As the author contends, this site will provide new educators with a site for “one stop shopping” for a very large number of essential resources. This site is a must-see for new educators!

New Teacher Survival Guide: <http://hannahmeans.bizland.com/> — Provided by twenty-five year veteran elementary school teacher **Hannah Means**, this guidebook is designed to prepare beginning teachers for their first days of teaching by offering tips and advice on topics such as getting organized, what to do on the first day of class, classroom management, discipline, homework, and grading, as well as links to other sites designed to support new teachers. This well-organized site is a good place for new teachers to start.

New Teachers Online: <http://teachers.network.org/ntol/index.htm> — The **Teachers Network**, a “nationwide, non-profit education organization that identifies and connects innovative teachers exemplifying professionalism and creativity within public school systems,”

provides this page devoted to new educators. A **New Teacher Helpline** is available to enable new teachers to ask questions of experienced teachers and receive an “expert” answer within seventy-two hours. A How-To page offers a wide variety of invaluable resources to help new educators get started, manage the classroom, implement standards, curriculum, and assessment, adjust teaching styles, work with students' families, and much more. Lesson plans links provide access to a large, searchable bank of standards-based lesson plans for elementary through high school teachers. Links to a bulletin board, daily classroom specials, professional organizations, curriculum resources, museum resources, and a teacherstore are examples of resources that will compel new educators to visit this site on a regular basis.

TEAMS Beginning Teacher's Resources: <http://teams.lacoe.edu/documentation/places/newteachers.html> — Provided by California-based **TEAMS Distance Learning:** <http://teams.lacoe.edu/>, the “largest interactive distance learning provider for the elementary grades in the U.S.,” this page for beginning teachers provides a multitude of helpful resources on topics that include classroom management, classroom environment and preparation, graphic organizers, lesson plans and models, standards and assessment, grades and rewards, best sites for teachers, technology and learning, search tools and internet support, WebQuests, and much more. New teachers will certainly want to bookmark this valuable site!

Lesson Plans Aligned to Standards

Core Knowledge Resources: <http://www.coreknowledge.org/CKproto2/resrscs/index.htm> — Presented by the **Core Content Foundation**, this site features information about **Core Knowledge** and **Core Knowledge** resources, the preschool and K-8 **Core Knowledge Sequence**, and preschool through eighth grade units and lesson plans developed by teachers who teach in **Core Knowledge** schools. Units are reviewed by content area experts, cover all subject areas, and typically include eight to ten lessons. Each unit is available in PDF format and features an abstract; an overview that includes concept objectives, core content sequence, and skill objectives; background knowledge; resources; detailed lessons; culminating activity; bibliography; and all handouts and worksheets. New teachers will find this to be an invaluable resource.

DiscoverySchool.com: <http://school.discovery.com/> — A component of **Discovery.com**, this colorful site offers a multitude of teaching and learning ideas for teachers. In addition to teaching tools like puzzle makers, quiz makers, clip art, and worksheet generators, **DiscoverySchool.com** offers a link to **Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educator**, a wonderful guide to educational resources that will help new teachers in their classrooms daily. A link to **The Curriculum Center** provides activities, puzzles, and project ideas to support the elementary and middle school science curriculum. Additionally, the **Lesson Plan Library** offers standards-based K-12 lesson plans for all disciplines that can be searched by grade, subject, or both. The basic

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lesson plan format includes objectives, materials, procedures, evaluation, vocabulary, and academic standards, but many offer suggestions for extended activities, discussion questions, etc. Lessons are available in PDF format, and plans include links to the online teaching tools to help teachers design custom worksheets, etc. for specific lessons. New teachers and library media specialists will love this site!

InTime: <http://www.intime.uni.edu/> — Developed by the **College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa** in conjunction with the **U.S. Department of Education's PT3 Program (Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology)**, this site uses "contemporary technology, high quality conceptual models, online streaming videos, case studies and probing questions analysis to help educators learn the skills necessary for improving student learning." New teachers and library media specialists will find this collection of over 560 online video vignettes and accompanying standards-based lesson plans to be extremely valuable, as they demonstrate examples of real classroom preK-12 teachers integrating technology into proven research-based methods of teaching and learning; these materials can be located by grade level, content area, learning element, etc. and are available for viewing on the Web at no cost. An additional valuable tool is the interactive build a case study feature that allows educators to design their own activities using the videos; a Case Study tutorial provides instructions on how to use this feature. This is an excellent resource for new educators or those educators who are new to the integration of technology into the classroom.

MarcoPolo: <http://marcopolo.worldcom.com/index.aspx> — Provided by the **MarcoPolo: Internet Content for the Classroom Program**, a consortium of national education organizations, state education agencies and the **MarcoPolo Education Foundation**, this site provides a multitude of exceptional resources for K-12 educators, including professionally developed lesson plans and resources that are aligned to national and state education standards. This popular site also offers links to reviewed Internet resources, teacher guides, practical classroom planning resources, student activities, and professional development resources for educators. The **MarcoPolo** site provides direct links to the following seven partner sites where discipline-specific resources can be accessed: **ARTSEdge:** <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/> provides K-12 standards-based lesson plans and teaching materials to help educators incorporate the arts into all disciplines; **EconEdLink:** <http://www.econedlink.org/> offers K-12 standards-based lesson plans devoted to economics; **EDSITEment:** <http://edsitement.neh.gov/> offers standards-based K-12 lesson plans and units pertaining to subjects within the humanities and include categories such as literature and language arts, foreign languages, art and culture, and history and social

studies; **Illuminations:** <http://illuminations.nctm.org/index.html> offers K-12 lesson plans, as well as numerous resources to improve the teaching of mathematics by helping educators understand and apply **NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics**;

ReadWriteThink: <http://www.readwritethink.org/> provides K-12 standards-based lesson plans and resources for teachers and students of reading and the language arts; **Science NetLinks:** <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/> provides outstanding standards-based lesson plans and resources devoted to the sciences; and **Xpeditions:** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/> offers a variety of K-12 standards-based lesson plans, unit plans, and interactive maps and activities for teachers and students of geography. New educators will come to depend upon these superior resources, as they are of the highest quality and they are very easy to locate and implement.

McCREL Lesson Plans: <http://www.mcrel.org/lesson-plans/index.asp> — Provided by the **Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning**, a "nationally recognized, private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving education for all through applied research, product development, and service," **The McCREL Lesson Plan Library** features "K-12 lesson plans, activities, and curriculum resources that link to corresponding content standards from the **McREL Standards Database**." Lesson plan categories include art, behavioral/social sciences, civics, economics, foreign language, geography, health/pe, history, language arts, math, interdisciplinary, science, and technology. A large number of links to other similar sites makes this a superior resource for new educators.

MiddleWeb: Exploring Middle School Reform: <http://www.middleweb.com/index.html> — Since 1996, **MiddleWeb** has worked to provide "a wealth of resources for schools, districts, educators, parents, and public school advocates working to raise achievement for all students in the middle grades." **MiddleWeb** offers a large collection of reform-oriented resources for the new middle school educators, including resources devoted to the new teacher, curriculum, assessment and evaluation, teaching strategies, teacher professional development, parent involvement, school leadership, book reviews, a discussion group, a free newsletter, and a large number of subject-area resources. Organized by core content area, these subject-area resources include a large number of standards-based lesson plans and links to Internet sites that support middle school education and reform. A link to **MiddleWeb's 10 Great Websites for Teachers** makes this site a must for all beginning middle school teachers.

New York Times Learning Network: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/> — The **New York Times Learning Network** is divided into three areas: student connections, teacher connections, and parent connections, and each of these components provide a multitude of learning experiences and resources for its audience. Of significant importance to new teachers of 6-12

grade students is the **Lesson Plan Archive**. Lesson plans from the archive can be searched by keyword, subject, and grade range, or browsed by subject. Subject categories include american history, civics, current events, economics, fine arts, geography, global history, health, journalism, language arts, mathematics, media studies, science, social studies, teaching with the *New York Times*, and technology. Lesson plan units for all of these subjects are also available. Detailed lesson plans include grade level, subject(s), overview, time allowance, objectives, resources/materials, activities/procedures, questions for discussion, evaluation/assessment, vocabulary, extension activities, interdisciplinary connections, and academic content standards. New teachers of middle and high school students will visit this site often.

PBS TeacherSource: <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/> — Provided by the **Public Broadcasting Service, PBS TeacherSource** provides access to over 4,000 preK-12 standards-based lesson plans, as well as professional development tools for PreK-12 educators. Some of the high-quality, well-designed lesson plans are designed to incorporate PBS television programming and videos, but most do not depend upon these resources. Lesson plans can be searched by subject, grade level, and topic within a subject, and lists of recommended books and Websites are also included. Lesson plan format varies, but many include an overview, objectives, estimated time, necessary materials, teaching procedure, assessment recommendations, extension/adaptation ideas, recommended resources. All provide links to relevant national and/or state academic standards. New PreK-12 educators will be thrilled with the high quality resources from this site.

Mega Sites: Teacher Favorites

A to Z Teacher Stuff Network: <http://atozteacherstuff.com/> — Founded in 1997 by, then student teacher, **Amanda Post**, this award-winning site encompasses thousands of pages of free educational resources. Resources include thematic units, lesson plans, printables, teacher-tested tips, articles, teacherstore, teacher chat forum, and links to other excellent educational sites. Beginning teachers will find the thematic units and lesson plans pages extremely valuable, and a link to A to Z's affiliate lesson plan site, **LessonPlanZ.com:** <http://www.lessonplanz.com/> provides access to many more printables, an online word search maker, teacher Web pages, tools to create printables, collaborative projects, as well as hundreds of thematic units, WebQuests, and K-12 lesson plans, which are organized by subject and grade level. Lessons include title, age recommendation, a rating based on user feedback. Furthermore, links to **LearningPage.com's Sites for Teachers:** <http://sitesforteachers.com/index.html> and **TeAch-nology.com's The Best on the Web for Teachers:** <http://teachers.teach-nology.com/index.html> connect new teachers to another one of the Web's most comprehensive sites for teacher resources and educational materials.

Awesome Library: <http://www.awesome-library.org/> — Provided by **Dr. Jerry Adams** and the **Evaluation and Development Institute**, this award-winning, searchable, mega-site

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devoted to education includes "15,000 carefully reviewed resources, including the top 5 percent in education." Organized into twenty-four categories, resources span all topics and grade levels. Furthermore, individual links provide access to educational resources specifically for teachers, kids, teens, parents, librarians, and college students. Resources include links to articles on timely educational issues, pictures, histories, biographies, a multitude of lesson plans, worksheets, current events, and more. This site has earned over 95 awards and recognitions—it is truly an outstanding resource for beginning educators!

Blue Web'n: <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluwebn/index.cfm> — Provided by **Knowledge Network Explorer (KNE)**, the official Website of **SBC's Education Program**, **Blue Web'n** a "searchable library of over 1800 outstanding Internet sites categorized by subject, grade level, and format (lessons, activities, projects, resources, references, & tools)." Resources can be located by subject on the Subject Area list or by both subject and format on the Content Table. A Refined search feature allows searching by grade level, application type, content area, Dewey number, or keyword. Of particular value is the five-star rating system to help new educators select quality resources; an Evaluation Rubric provides the criterion that guides the evaluation of these educational Websites. As an extra bonus, there is a link to **Filamentality:** <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/>, an affiliated site that provides templates to help new educators to create Web-based hot lists, treasure hunts, and WebQuests with fill-in-the-blank ease. One can also subscribe to the **Blue Web'n Weekly Update**, a free service that informs subscribers of new sites. New educators will find that the star ratings, as well as the easy-to-use content table, make this site one of their favorites.

Education World: <http://www.education-world.com/> — This award-winning site features over 120,000 excellent resources on every subject of interest to educators. Resources include a subject directory featuring a large number of well-organized educational topics; a search engine that searches only education Websites; practical, hands-on information for teachers, including unit plans, lesson plans, and WebQuests; a worksheet library; a career center and employment listings; professional development resources; message boards; an international directory of K-12 teachers, schools, and universities; materials to help teachers integrate technology into the curriculum; educational Website reviews; daily features, and much, much more. Of particular interest to new teachers and librarians is the **Back to School Guide for Beginning Teachers:** http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr264.shtml, which provides resources for first year teachers, including advice about getting started; back to school activities; lesson plans and assessment; time and behavior management; technology; free things for beginning budgets, and much more. **Edu-cation World** also provides great teacher tools and templates at <http://www.education->

[world.com/tools_templates/](http://www.education-world.com/tools_templates/). This premier site truly is "The Educator's Best Friend."

Educator's Reference Desk: <http://www.eduref.org/> — The **Information Institute of Syracuse** has developed the **Educator's Reference Desk** to provide access to educational resources that were formerly provided by **AskERIC**, one component of the **Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)** that was closed in December 2003. Although the Q&A Service is no longer active, the other **AskERIC** resources are available, such as the **ERIC** database, which provides access to more than one million journal articles and **ERIC** documents; a collection of over 2,000 lesson plans; links to Internet sites for educators; and much more. Beginning teachers will find all of these resources to be valuable, but they will repeatedly consult the teaching resources and the lesson plan collection. The searchable lesson plan collection is organized by grade level and subject, and each lesson plan typically includes the following components: grade level, subject, duration, description, goals (many are aligned to national and state curriculum standards), objectives, materials, procedure, and assessment. Links to supplemental materials are often available. A beginning teachers link provides resources for and about new teachers, and includes topics such as classroom management, instructional materials, and teaching methods. This site is a **MUST** for all new teachers!

EduHound: <http://www.eduhound.com/> — Living up to its slogan "Everything for Education K-12," this directory of educational resources provides a good starting point for new educators. Organized by 60 broad categories, annotated links to resources cover all aspects of education; some examples include art, back to school, children's authors and publishers, clipart, earthquakes & volcanoes, employment, guidance & employment, history, internet tutorials, kid sites, language arts, lesson plans, mathematics, music, P.E. & sports, science, seasonal resources, social studies, special education, standards & assessment, substitute

teaching, teacher resources, technology, weather, WebQuests, worksheets, and world & countries. An alphabetical index of keywords helps to narrow topics, and **EduHound Espanol** is available for those who speak and/or study the Spanish language. **EduHound's** little brother site, **EduPuppy** at <http://www.edupuppy.com/> is a similar directory for educators of early childhood through grade two students. Both of these sites have won numerous awards and are must see sites for new PreK-12 educators.

Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM): <http://www.thegateway.org/> — Sponsored by the **U.S. Department of Education**, **GEM** provides access to over 24,000 quality unit plans, lesson plans, activities, and projects from over 320 **GEM** consortium members; members include federal, state, university, non-profit, and commercial organizations. According to project representative, **Marilyn Tickner**, "the main strengths of the **Gateway to Educational Materials**" are that (1) "Metadata allows precision searching;" (2) "It is a collection of educational resources designed for educators;" and (3) "It makes finding educational resources on the Internet efficient and effective rather than overwhelming and time-consuming." Resources can be accessed through browsing the subject directory or searching the collection by subject, keyword, or grade level. Lesson plans are rich and detailed, and many include corresponding academic standards and accompanying worksheets and extension materials. Soon a new and enhanced **Gateway** interface will be available. The new interface features an advanced retrieval engine that performs "faceted searching," which "combines searching for specific words and phrases with browsing descriptions of resources." This new and improved interface can be previewed at <http://eg2.ischool.washington.edu/>. Whether using the new and improved **GEM** or the old, new teachers and library media specialists will quickly come to love the speed and ease in which they are able to access just exactly what they need. 🐶

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The Internet Guide to Travel Health is your one-stop resource for authoritative, reliable, and up-to-date information for preventing illness and injury while traveling in the United States and abroad. For persons traveling near or far, this useful, easy-to-consult guide identifies dependable Web sites with advice, tips, and accurate facts on health issues that can affect travel plans.

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Anne K. Robichaux, MSLS, AHIP, Professor Emerita and former Associate Director of Libraries, Medical University of South Carolina