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WEBWORTHY

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THE MARTHA STEWART LOOSE LIPS PROBLEM

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Advance copies of science journal articles sometimes sent to thousands of MDs, journalists and professors gives ample opportunity for trading in a company's shares long before others get the word. Journals typically use "embargoes" to allow journalists to analyze and docs to digest breaking science studies prior to release to subscribers. If no one else, authors know the results of their studies and when they will be published. Which puts a lot of savvy folks out there to short a pharmaceutical stock when bad news is about to be unleashed.

See — Scott Hensley, Peter McKay & David Hamilton, "Leaky Lid on Science News," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 25, 2002, p. B1.

ACADEME CHASES THE PATENT DOLLAR

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Universities are hot to make big bucks off scientific research. **Florida State, Columbia, Brigham Young** and **Dartmouth** lead in bang for the research buck. **U. of Michigan**, despite its big research reputation, lags badly due to faculty distaste for the university licensing personnel and "the notion of commercializing inventions." Plus the land of the frozen automotive oligopolies lacks a go-go entrepreneurial climate like Texas and California.

See — Goldie Blumenstyk, "How Colleges Get More Bang (or Less) From Technology Transfer," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 19, 2002, p.A24-26.

WEBWORTHY

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Webworthy has reviewed 256 Websites to date!

Websites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, 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; 716-829-2408 <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science, NetWatch column edited by Mitch Leslie. — PR

Archives

Math wizard **Alan Turing's** (1923-1972) unpublished materials held by **King's College**, Cambridge, U.K. and previously accessible only by visitors are now available and searchable on the Web at **The Turing Digital Archive**. The site includes letters, obituaries and memoirs written by colleagues, talks and publications on the **Automatic Computing Engine**, his work at the **National Physical Laboratory**, the theories of computable numbers, digital computers, morphogenesis and the chemical development of cells. — <http://www.turingarchive.org/>.

The Turing Archive for the History of Computing (linked from **The Turing Digital Archive**) is another notable collection of digital facsimiles of original documents by **Turing** and other pioneers of computing, plus articles about **Turing** and his work including artificial intelligence. Hosted in the U.S. and Australia by the **University of San Francisco** and the **University of Canterbury**, the site, still under development, also includes a section on codebreaking and a series of reference articles concerning **Turing** and his work. — <http://www.alanturing.net/>.

Turing's most famous contribution was the **Turing Test**, meant to determine if a computer program has intelligence. Graduate student **Ayse Pinar Saygin** maintains **The Turing Test Page** (from which devotees can subscribe to the **Turing Test List**, which notifies users when the page is updated). Browse through a list of references to online articles on the subject (for example, "Objections to the **Turing Test**: Is the Brain a Digital Computer?") or a list of background reading resources on artificial intelligence. Learn about the **Loebner Prize** and other contests, and actually interact with programs that have won prizes. — <http://cogsci.ucsd.edu/~asaygin/tt/ttest.html>.

For biographical information on **Turing**, visit **The Alan Turing Homepage**, maintained by **Andrew Hodges**, author of *Alan Turing, the Enigma*, where he describes the brilliant man as "Eccentric, solitary, gloomy, vivacious, resigned, angry, eager, dissatisfied." A short online biography describes the punishment meted out for **Turing's** affair with another man — mandatory injections of "oestrogen" to curb his libido. — <http://www.turing.org.uk/turing/>.

Biogeography

Talk about easy research! This bibliography of primary sources (especially periodical articles) that have most affected the evolution of our thoughts on the geographical and ecological distribution and diversity of life offers a serious shortcut to students of biogeography, "the study of what creatures live where, and why." Compiled by **Charles H. Smith**, Science Librarian at **Western Kentucky University**, the list includes several hundred primary sources published between the 1700s and 1950. Links are to free online full-text where possible, or to **JSTOR**, an archive service subscribed to by many libraries. Many of the listed authors are also linked to their online biographies. Although no search feature is included at the moment (it's in the works, as is a

thesaurus!), visitors can use their browser "find" feature to locate particular titles or authors. — <http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/biogeog/>.

Bioterrorism

Anthrax, smallpox, and mail workers take center stage on this site devoted to information on all aspects of bioterrorism. **Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response**, from the **Centers for Disease Control**, offers FAQ pages for each topic, as well as the latest news, listings of biological, chemical, and radiological threats, surveillance and training information, and special sections with more detailed information for public health professionals. — <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/index.asp>.

It's not just for **SETI** anymore! Scientists at **Oxford University** developed a screen saver run on individual PCs which functioned as a powerful distributed supercomputer to help find a cure for anthrax. The computing power was used to identify for future research some 300,000 molecules, some of which may thwart anthrax bacterium proteins from assembling on cell surfaces and producing toxins. — <http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/anthrax/>.

Dinosaurs

Even 10 seconds of watching **T. rex** guard a recent kill was enough for me! This wonderful resource for dinosaurs resides at the **Natural History Museum** in London's Website, which includes not only the **Quicktime** video, but also a "Dino Directory"—a guide to 105 different dinosaurs; "Dinosaur data files" — 28 nifty formatted data sheets with basic statistics like size, weight, food, teeth and group, as well as relevant comments; a treatise on the importance of dinosaur fossils found in the **Gobi Desert**, and "Science casebooks" (some are interactive) which address whether scientists can actually extract DNA from fossilized insects encased in amber (NOT!), and the story of tracking the beast of **Bodmin Moor** from a

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strange skull found in the area. — <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/museum/lifegalleries/dinosaurs.html>.

Internet Searching

A map is worth a thousand directions, and this new meta-search engine proves it! Created over three years of research by **Laurent Baleyrier** and his team, **KartOO** allows users to: simultaneously search a range of information sources; compile search results; sort and classify information according to actual relevance; give an overall view of the different topics related to the request; visualise the semantic links which relate information; and represent information using a cartographic interface. Available in French, Spanish, English and Portuguese in either HTML or Flash format, the engine can also search multiple media formats (Web, databases, software, portals), and offers multi-channel retrieval. The sparse opening screen and visualizations may be daunting at first, but slick pull-down menus and a little practice may hook you forever! — <http://www.kartoo.com/>.

Laboratory Science

So you're in your lab and need a refresher on microelectrode techniques. No problem! Just visit **BioVisa.net** for the full text of the "Microelectrode Techniques Handbook," or browse the other 1,800+ protocols contributed by researchers in the life sciences. The result of a brainstorming session on bioinformatics, the site also offers a list of biomedical journals, including 175 titles that are either free or free after one or two years. — <http://biovisa.net/>.

Marine Biology

With just five individuals left, the shy **Chinese River Dolphin** is the most endangered **Cetacean** on the planet. Find out why at **Cetacea**, a site devoted to whales, dolphins and porpoises. Find out which whale is the largest or which **Cetacean** has the heaviest brain on the FAQ page, trace **Cetacean Evolution**, or read the sobering treatise describing man's influence on these marvelous creatures. — <http://www.cetacea.org>.

Phylogeny

Treebase's the name, phylogeny's the game! Need to know how rock hyraxes — **Hyracoidea** — are related to elephants — **Proboscidea** (Both in order **Ungulata**)? Check this site hosted by the **State University of New York at Buffalo**. Evolutionary biologists and other researchers can browse more than 1,750 phylogenetic trees. Freely available software can be used to download, prune and label the diagrams. — <http://www.treebase.org/treebase>.

Primateology

Want to see marmosets at play? View the **Callicam** at the **University of Wisconsin Madison Primate Research Centers's Primate Info Net**. The site offers a wealth of resources including directories of organiza-

tions and people in the field, career information, job listings, and a wonderful bibliographic database called **PrimateLit** containing references for articles, books, papers, reports, and dissertations. Search the literature back to 1940, or browse the most current citations or recent books. — <http://www.primatol.wisc.edu/pin/>.

Reference

Over 120,000 biomedical acronyms derived from **Medline**, from **AAO (The American Association of Orthodontists)** to **ZP (zero-peak OR Zona pellucida)**, can be found on **Acromed**, part of the **Medstrat** project, "whose goal is to apply natural language processing technologies to extraction of knowledge from biomedical texts." — <http://gungadin.cs.brandeis.edu/~weiluo/main3.htm>.

Scholarship

Similar to the success of initiatives like the **Physics** pre-print archives, the **California Digital Library** of the **University of California** has created a central location for faculty anywhere in the world to post pre-publication scholarship. The **eScholarship Repository** mission "provides persistent access to working papers and makes them easily discoverable." A simply search on "philosophy" turned up 20 articles on topics such as economics, law, and the architecture of cyberspace. — <http://repositories.cdlib.org/>.

Sociology

Have six degrees of separation shrunk to five or four? Find out by participating in **Small World Research** run by the Department of Sociology at **Columbia University**. There's a complete FAQ page that explains, among other things, why email is used, as well as a page documenting the fine details of the experimental design, the research team, and external links to relevant sites of interest. — <http://smallworld.sociology.columbia.edu>.

Typography

Stix and stones — the **Scientific and Technical Information Exchange (STIX)**

font creation project launched by six scientific publishers aims to provide royalty-free a complete set of over 7,000 characters/glyphs for the scientific community. Although the fonts are not expected to be available until 2003, the fonts will be browser compatible and easy to download. — <http://www.stixfonts.org/>.

Weather

Do you know the difference between weather and climate? What are **Milankovitch** cycles? How do **El Niño**, **La Niña**, and the Earth's rotation on its axis affect our climate? Was there really a little ice age in Europe? The **Climate Time Line Information** tool allows users to examine climate change and variability at different time scales ranging from today's weather by powers of 10 to 100,000 years ago. Each section offers in nifty mouse-over menus a summary, the climate science and history, and a resources section for that range of years. Relying on a wealth of data gathered from human recorded weather data, pollen distribution, tree rings and other archaeological data, the interactive site lets users discover the relationships between, for example, a protracted drought in the Southwestern U.S. and the demise of the **Anasazi** civilization about 700 years ago. Questions for further study and related links are also provided. This still-under-development site is anxious for feedback. — <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/paleo/ctl/index.html>.

After you've explored the global view at the **Climate Time Line**, focus on the **World View of Global Warming** site, a gallery of images that documents climate change ranging from disappearing toads in **Costa Rica** to surging sea levels in **Siberia** through science photography. From the demise of **Adelie** penguins due to a rise in temperature favoring the chinstrap penguin in **Antarctica** to the 11 day longer growing season of famous English oaks, global warming affects more people across the globe than war. — <http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org/>

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