

## Weavers web



**Belinda Weaver**

weaver@alia.org.au

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# Only academics need apply

All Academic is a new site for academics to post electronic versions of their own writings and research, such as conference papers. The materials are then freely available for other academics to search and read. Unlike search engines, All Academic [<http://www.allacademic.com/>] will provide concise bibliographic citations for the works on the site. The site will only accept listings for free publications, which would knock out many scholarly publications, but it is a new place for academics to showcase work. Items can be books, journal articles, scholarly projects, working papers, book reviews or conference papers. Academics wishing to submit papers must hold all copyrights on the material they lodge. You can also suggest online publications for inclusion in the index (as long as they are freely available, they will be added).

### Giving it away

FindArticles.com [<http://www.findarticles.com/PI/index.jhtml>] is a new joint effort from the LookSmart search service and the Gale Group. The site offers free access to articles published in over 350 magazines and journals dating from 1998. The journals indexed range from the popular (*Saturday Evening Post*) to the more academic (*British Medical Journal*). Topics include business, health, society, sports and entertainment. You can search within the topic only, or across all subjects. To see what is available, you can view publications listed under topics, or as an alphabetical listing. Full-text is available free of charge, which makes this a very attractive source for all kinds of libraries. You have to wonder how sustainable this kind of enterprise can be — where is the revenue to come from if you are giving your product away?

### Painless learning

The Virtual Training Suite from the Resource Discovery Network in the United Kingdom [<http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/>] offers free tutorials for students, lecturers and researchers who want to learn what the internet can offer in a particular subject. The eleven existing tutorials are all subject-related, for example 'Internet for historians', 'Internet politician', and 'Internet business manager'. A general information skills tutorial, along with another twenty-six topic-related ones, will be available from May 2001. The material is aimed at the higher and further education communities in the United Kingdom, and includes quizzes and exercises to check your progress.

Further tutorials as well as advice on designing your own tutorial can be found at the Library Instruction Round Table at <http://diogenes.baylor.edu/Library/LIRT/lirtproj.html>. The range of tutorials includes general guides to researching on the internet, subject-specific guides, and evaluation criteria for web-based materials. There is also a bibliography if you want to go further into the subject.

### Is there any other kind?

The Researching Librarian [<http://www2.mssta.edu/~kerjsmit/trl/>] looks as if it is still in the early stages, but it does provide some useful resources for librarians using the internet for research. It lists, and links to, free bibliographic databases, such as Eric; information on writing research grant proposals; e-journal and current awareness services; statistical information; and library research-related search tools. It also hosts a discussion board so that you will not have to feel all alone. The site is of a manageable size, and is attractive and easy to use. You can submit resources for inclusion if you wish.

### The shipping news

Lloyd's List has been a major source of international news and intelligence for the shipping industry since 1734. Published six times per week, this news service is now available electronically [<http://www.llplimited.com/llisthme.shtml>]. Follow the link for the Free Services Area to read Webriefs — free news and data, or the Maritime Law Brief. Not much else on the site is free, though you can sign up for free trials, either for the daily news, or for the very large archive. There is also a free demo on the workings of Lloyd's List. Subscription costs for access to the archive start around the thousand dollar mark, so this is not a service for everyone, but presumably those who need to know this stuff are prepared to pay for it. One of the free services is the Inmarsat ships satcoms directory, which allows you to find e-mail addresses or fax, phone and telex numbers for ships.

### Searching, but not finding?

SearchBooks [<http://www.searchebooks.com/>] seems to be the latest in the 'Search a domain' services that have appeared on the web this year. SearchEdu [<http://searchedu.com/>], SearchMil [<http://searchmil.com/>] and SearchGov [<http://searchgov.com/>] are already in action. Now here is SearchBooks. This site does not have its own archive — it just

points to sources of electronic books on the web. You can use it to search for a specific author, or you can see what is around on a topic. Results are a bit of a jumble. If you search for Stephen King, you get people grousing about his publishing online at all, articles about him, links to bestseller listings at Amazon.com, as well as links to material he has published online.

#### Used book lover's guides

This site at <http://bookhunterpress.com/> provides access to seven regional guides to over 7900 used, out-of-print or antiquarian booksellers in the United States and Canada. The guides, from Book Hunter Press, can be searched for dealers of interest, and provide phone details and mailing addresses as well as online addresses where available. You can see a sample dealer listing. Locations of dealers and bookshops include New England, the Mid-Atlantic states and Canada, though this information will probably be less relevant to librarians here.

#### Memorable maps

Map Collections, 1544–1999, is part of the American Memory section of the Library of Congress. The site, at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>, is a searchable collection of a small part of the Library's Geography and Map Division, which contains 4.5 million maps. The web collection only includes those maps that have been converted to digital form. The maps have been divided up into seven topic areas such as Cities and towns, Military campaigns and battles (something for the Civil War buffs there), and Discovery and exploration, among others. If you do not want to search by topic, you can perform a keyword search, or browse indexes by map creator or geographic location. The maps are mostly out of copyright so they can be downloaded.

#### Report on progress

The Blair Labour Government (United Kingdom) has recently published an annual report for 1999/2000 [<http://www.annualreport.gov.uk/>]. The report, according to Prime Minister Tony Blair, sets out what the government has done, the effect it has had, and what needs to be and will be done next. Sections are tied into manifesto commitments. Topics include the economy, work and welfare, Europe, health, education, transport and crime, and also includes images from short films on front line public sector work.

#### Wiley portals

Wiley Publishers have set up three new research gateways, for anatomy <http://www.wiley.com/products/subject/life/anatomy/>, genetics <http://www.wiley.com/products/subject/life/genetics/> and neuroscience <http://www.wiley.com/products/subject/life/neuroscience/>. The three look quite different, but provide access to Wiley journals and books of interest on each topic, as well as to selected internet resources of use. The genetics gateway also provides links to public databases in genetics which may be handy for people researching the topic. All three gateways are primarily designed to showcase Wiley's publications in print and CD-ROM, but you can get sample journal articles and a lot of publication information at each of the sites.

#### The online body

Project Bartleby has added *Gray's Anatomy of the Human Body* to its collection of classic books at <http://www.bartleby.com/107/>. The web edition is taken from the 1918 publication and includes 1247 engravings, many of which are in colour, as well as a subject index with 13 000 entries. If you prefer, you can get information by using the hyperlinked table of contents.

#### Big towns

City population [<http://www.citypopulation.de/>] is a German site, also available in English, which provides information on city populations around the world. The information is quite comprehensive, ranking cities by size, as well as alphabetically, within a country. If you need to know how many people live in Geelong or Bendigo, this is the place to look.

#### Two more for the virtual reference collection

The World Time Server [<http://www.worldtimeserver.com/>] is a fast-loading new site for finding world times. You can get the time for a country, or for major cities within it. The all nations telephone search engine [<http://www.escapeartist.com/global/telephone.htm>] provides dialling codes and links to appropriate searchable phone directories. You select the country you are calling from, as well as the country you want to call, and you are then presented with dialling codes and links to as many phone directories (including business directories) that the site can dig up for you. Some of the directories may be in languages other than English. ■

**This column  
[with URL links]  
can be found at:**



<http://www.alia.org.au/incite>

**Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Belinda Weaver via e-mail.**

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