Weavers web

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Annual honours

The Past Men of the Year archive from *Time* magazine http://www.pathfinder.com/time/special/moy/ provides the full text of articles (and the magazine covers) honouring previous winners of this title. Despite the name, not all those celebrated are men. The chosen represent, in *Time's* view, 'the single person (man, woman, or even idea) who, for better or worse, has most influenced events in the preceding year.' Articles with pictures of the magazine covers are available from 1927 and are browsable by decade. Trivia question — Who was *Time's* first man of the year? Answer: Charles Lindbergh who flew the Atlantic from New York to Paris in 1927.

Mid-East Web

The Middle East Information Network http://www.mideastinfo.com/ aims to offer the best of the Middle Eastern Web. Links are copious, but are not annotated. Categories include news (links to news wires, newspapers, news agencies and magazines), countries (a range of information — government, culture, politics, media, business — about individual places), religion (including Baha'i, Islam, and Zoroastrianism), education (good for university and college links), and business (bank and stock exchange/market links).

Festivals.com

This database of festivals and events, http://www.festivals.com/, can be searched by category, by geographical location, by keyword, by name, or by date. Details for listed events include the name, date, location, and where available, web or e-mail addresses for those wanting further information.

ISIS online

The International Species Information System (ISIS) serves nearly 550 zoological institutional members from fifty-four countries. The ISIS Abstracts directory lists the living collections of these organisations. It consists of an alphabetical list by scientific name of the major zoological categories — Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Bony Fish, Cartilaginous Fish, and Jawless Fish. There is currently no search facility. To see the information you want, scroll through the list or use your web browser's Find/Find in Page function. Information provided includes the name, address, and telephone number of the owning institution, as well as detail of the number of males, females, and births (if any) in the past six months: http://www.worldzoo.org/abstract/index.htm.

Read or recommend?

TopBestsellers [http://www.topbestsellers.com/] provides a composite list of United States best-selling books in both hard and soft cover — fiction and non-fiction — or browse through the top sellers in twenty different categories, for example biographies, mystery/thriller or children's books. The site also links to news and reviews as well as to other prominent bestseller lists.

Back to 1969

The United Kingdom Public Records of 1969 are a new release of records previously sealed under the thirty-year rule [http://www.pro.gov.uk/releases/nyo2000/default.htm]. The Public Records Office provides general descriptions of the record series, and a list of the highlights, as well as scanned images of selected records. The selected records cover, among other topics, nuclear deterrence, the deployment of British troops in Northern Ireland, President Nixon's visit to Britain, and the royal family. Each selection includes a brief commentary. There is also a list of United Kingdom Cabinet Ministers in 1969.

That was then

A Century of Change: Trends in UK Statistics Since 1990 provides short summaries of selected United Kingdom social and economic trends since 1900. It contains graphs, tables and facts on a number of subjects, such as crime, education, health, population, transport and leisure, among others. Lists of sources, arranged by subject, are also provided [http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp99/rp99-111.pdf].

Crime and justice research

Librarians will probably find the databases section of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute most useful, but there are other interesting things on the site. It links to UNICRI projects such as the Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Global Programme against Corruption. Listings of UNICRI publications from 1968 onwards are also provided as is a link to the United Nations system web locator. The databases section comprises two databases — the LMS Bibliographic Collection and the World Directory of Criminological Resources — and a thesaurus of terms. The first database indexes more than 6000 authors and 300 series on the prevention and control of criminality and deviance as well as related social problems, such as drug abuse, while the second contains information on over 470 criminological institutes from some 70 countries. Both databases are searchable by keyword [http://www.unicri.it/].

The history of city planning

If you want to know how urban planning developed, have a look at Urban Planning, 1794–1918 [http://www.library.cornell.edu/Reps/DOCS/homepage.html], which gathers together articles, reports and conference papers on this subject. The site provides links to 'primary source material for the study of how urban planning developed up to the end of World War I.' The materials include statements about techniques, principles, theories, and practice by those who helped to create the professional field of city planning. Browsable by author, date, subject, and searchable by keyword.

Writing on sand

After the Time-Warner/AOL merger which

seems to have shaken up the global media business, I would not like to have the maintenance of Who Owns What, a list of media companies and their subsidiaries, but it is good that *Columbia Journalism Review* have put this site up. The list is alphabetical and includes such giant media companies as Time-Warner, Knight-Ridder and News International, it covers print media publishers as well as radio, television and cable companies. There is an essay on media concentration by the Dean of Columbia's journalism school, and the site also provides links to the websites of the media companies in the list [http://www.cjr.org/owners/].

History on the net
The Internet History Sourcebooks Project contains collections of public domain and copy-permitted historical texts — the main ones covering ancient, mediaeval, and modern history (which seems pretty comprehensive to me). There are links to other material as well such as articles and discussions. The site also features some thematic sourcebooks, for example on African, Indian, Islamic, Jewish, Women's, and East Asian history among others [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/].

History is also the subject of WebChron: The Web Chronology Project (though the title sounds more like an Internet timeline site) http://campus.northpark.edu/history/WebChron/. WebChron offers fifteen hyperlinked chronologies of Western civilisation and world history — the links take you to other chronologies and articles on particular topics. More broad brush than painstaking miniature, so use the links provided to fill in any gaps.

Party on
For those who tuned out or slept through the coverage, *2000 Around the World* features photos of New Year's Eve celebrations from various time zones around the world. You can choose to see the celebrations in time zone sequence or pick and choose using the time zone map. The site is provided by the New York Times. http://www10.nytimes.com/library/photos/timezone_one.1.html

All about the Euro
The Euro Homepage http://www.econ.yale.edu/~corsetti/euro/Euroit.htm provides a swag of information on European monetary policy and European Monetary Union. There are more than a dozen sections to the site covering economic and monetary policy, news and analysis, official sources, the views of economists, ongoing debates and a daily chronology of events from 1998.

It is a reference tool
Don't feel guilty browsing through the Urban Legends Reference Pages — you might need it to answer a question some day. The site at http://www.snopes.com/ covers 'not only urban legends but also misinformation, old wives' tales, strange news stories, rumours, and celebrity gossip.' Sounds like most popular magazines... The site is searchable.

New World Bank report
Find out what's happening in the world economy in the World Bank's new report, *Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries 2000.* According to this year's report, growth in Asia will be strong through 2000, as the countries slowly pull themselves out of recession. The full report is online, but can only be downloaded a chapter at a time. Chapters are in .pdf format. The summary is available in several languages [http://worldbank.org/prospects/gep2000/].

The gen on genes
Among other things, the Gene Almanac offers 'DNA from the beginning' (claimed to be the world's first online animated genetics primer). The current featured section is Molecules of Genetics, and the series aim is to make genetics comprehensible to non-scientists. The site is nicely designed and includes animations to illuminate DNA concepts as well as nucleotide sequences for a set of plasmids. The newsletter GeneNews has links to recent news about genetics and genetic research [http://vector.cshl.org/].

Museum and libraries newsletter
The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has launched *Primary Source,* a new monthly electronic newsletter. It will provide information about new grants, highlights of best practices and successful grant proposals, notices of new publications, and other news. You can subscribe to get the newsletter via e-mail, or simply read the material at the IMLS site [http://www.imls.gov/whatsnew/prscarch/prsc0100.htm].
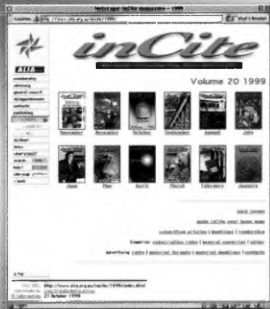
In like FLIN
The conference papers from the recent ALIA ACT/Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN) Digital library conference are now available on the web at http://www.nla.gov.au/flin/conferences/digital_library99/program.html The papers include two on 'Digital libraries: who, what, when, how and why', and discussions of consortia issues, licensing and implementation.

Library search
And finally, a search engine for library-related information. Called LibraryLand, the site's search engine allows you to search the contents of web documents at major sites dedicated to the practice of librarianship. The site covers issues from digital imaging to document delivery, from electronic reserves to traditional archives [http://www.librarylandindex.org/]. ∎

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