

Internet Resources for Libraries

Seema Vasantrya Pophale* Dr. Vivek Sathe **

*** Research Scholar**

Department of LIS, Dr.
BAMU, Aurangabad,
Maharashtra, India

**** Librarian,**

Chetna Arts Sr. College
Aurangabad, Aurangabad,
Maharashtra, India

QR Code



Abstract: - *Anyone who has spent even 10 minutes surfing and searching the Internet discovers an important truth: There are almost as many Web sites out there in cyberspace waiting to be discovered as there are stars visible in the heavens on a clear night. Therefore, it is not a matter of quality that is involved in finding places where information is stored—it is a matter of sorting the wheat from the chaff. To borrow a metaphor from the physical world around us, you can literally throw a rock in any direction at all and hit something if you are not especially choosy about what you hit. However, sorting through this abundance of information riches and hooking up to the “good stuff”, those sites that are at once useful, accessible, accurate, and up-to-date, takes a good deal of careful research. This paper, proposes to discuss the ways in which valuable and useful Web sites can be located, the best Web has to offer (the “cream of the crop”), how different search engines and Web sites are organised, and how they can best be exploited to yield valuable information.*

Keywords: Internet, Reference Sources

The Internet as a Reference Tool.

Reference work is still very much the same as it always was: people have information needs, they pose a question to the library, the librarian seeks information on the subject and presents it as an answer. However, the Internet has transformed the way reference work is being done and made it possible for every individual to become an independent reference librarian/researcher. So,

what is the impact of the Internet on a book-based reference service?

As an example of book-form materials that are still unparalleled in their ability to provide information, consider multivolume encyclopedias, and in particular, specialised encyclopedias. Table 1 presents some comparative aspects of Internet encyclopedias and adult, standard, print encyclopedias. The comparisons assume that the

user is untutored, and unfamiliar with the use of such reference tools.

Table 1: Comparative Advantages of Internet and Print Reference Sources

Variables	Internet Encyclopedia	Print Encyclopedia
Storage-dependent	No storage space requirement	Requires shelf space
Budget-dependent	Very little	Extremely
Cost	No additional cost	Expensive
Cross- indexing	Links from subject to subject	Some indexing
Vulnerability	No physical damage	Subject to wear, fire, bugs
Updating	Continuous	Annual
Instruction in source	Little	Usually considerable
Time required	May be substantial	Needs no instructions
Simultaneous users	Multiple users simultaneously	not possible
Intimidation	May be substantial	Normally, zero
Intermediary required	Normally	No need
Amount of information	May overwhelm	Usually appropriate
Fact- finding	Finding specific facts difficult	Frequently better
Thoroughness of search	Extremely	Varies
Full-text availability	Sometimes	always
Printer paper, ink costs	May be substantial	None
Staff training	Required	Not required
censorship	Filtering often imposed	Only in selection
Security precautions	For hardware, software	For books
Connection charges	May be substantial	Non
Electricity-	Yes	No

dependent		
Amt.of info. available	Unlimited	Selected materials

Search engines:

Many search engines now feature buttons that accompany a search, but the thinking behind what these buttons will lead you to is based on previous human behaviour as exhibited by Web-traffic flow patterns and link popularity. The theory behind this is that because people tend to return to the most useful sites, so will you.

Table 2 lists selected Web sites categorised by type.

Table 2: Recommended Internet Search Engines, Directories and WebSites, by Category (number of entries per category)

Category	Number
(A) General/ meta – search engines	45
(B) reference sites	18
(C) news and information sites	10
(D) business/ financial sites	10
(E) sports sites	10
(F) travel sites	10
(G) food/ cooking sites	10
(H) health sites	10
(I) technology sites	10
(J) childrens /parenting sites	11

- A: 1, About.com (www.about.com)
- A:2, Alexa (www.alexa.com)
- A : 3 All-in-one(www.albany.net/allinone)
- A :4 All the web (www.alltheweb)
- A : 5 altavista (www.av.com)
- A : 6 America online (www.aol.com).
- A : 7 Ask jeeves(www.askjeeves.com/also:ask.com)

A ;8 Beaucoup(www.beaucoup.com)
A: 9 C4 (www.c4.com)
A: 10 Google (www.g00gle.com)
B: Basic Reference Sources Online: Essential Web Tools
B1 .(www.bartleby.com)
B.2 (www.bigbook.com)
B.3 (www.booksinprint.com)
B .4 (www.eb.com) Britannia Online , on-line encyclopaedias.
B. 5 (www.dictionary.com)
B 6 (www.infoplease.com) almanac is online.
B 7 (www.worldbank.org) The World Banks useful information.
B 8 (lcweb.loc.gov) Library of Congress, Lets users browse holdings of the largest library.
B 9 (www.thesaurus.com). Rogets Thesaurus, An online way to find synonyms.
B 10 (www.onelook.com) OneLook dictionaries
C : News and Entertainment Sites
C 1 ABCN News .com (www.abcn.com) The powerful major news network.
C 2 ABP News.com (www.abp.com) This web site is connected with crime, justice and safety.
C 3 CNN Interactive (www.cnn.com) For quick updates of breaking and developing news.
C 4 MSNBC (www.msnbc.com) This site makes good use of the news resources of a major television and Radio news network.
C 5 The Newyork Times (www.nytimes.com) updates and access to the paper's archives.
D—Financial News and Information Sources:
D 1. CBS Market watch (cbs.marketwatch.com)
D 2. MSN Money Central (www.moneycentral.com) for banking, retirement and wills, real estate, taxes, family finance, etc.
D 3. Yahoo! Finance (quote. Yahoo!.com)
E: Sports Sites
E 1 Cbs Sportline (www.sportsline.com)
E 2 CNNSI.com(www.cnnsi.com) News ,statistics standing scores and more.
E 3 ESPN (www.com) scores play by playsstatistics standing news.
E 4 Golfoline (www.golfoline.com) everything about golf.
E 5 NBA.com(www.nba.com)information about basketball.
F- Travel sites
F-1 Arthur Formers Budget Travel Online (www.frommers.com)

F-2 Biztravel.com(www.biztravel.com) Web site that arrange for airline ticket, hotel reservation, rental cars and apply frequent-flyer benefits.
F-3 Expedia (www.expedia.com) Easy-to-use, all purpose travel site.
F- 4 Travelocity (www.cyberdiet) Good for finding airlines schedules.
G. Food / nutrition Sites
G 1 CyberDiet(www.cyberdiet). Nutritional profiles, meal planner.
G 2 Digital Chef (www.digitalchef.com), The shopping oriented site, and professional cookware.
G 3 Food and Wine Online (www.pathfinder.com/foodWine) detailed recipes, and a searchable wine guide.
Gs The Kitchen Link (www.kitchenlink.com) Food related link.
G 5 StarChefs (www.starchefs.com), Celebrity chef.
H—Health / Medical Sites
H 1 Ask Dr.Weil(www.drweil.com) Advice on vitamins and natural remedies from the leading alternative medicine proponent Dr. Andrew Weil.
H 2 Centres for Disease Control and prevention(www.cdc.com) Site on disease outbreaks, and useful tips.
H 3 Health finder (www.healthfinder.com) site for medical Journals, news, libraries, agencies etc.
H 4 Mayo Clinic Health Oasis(www.mayohealth.com) site deals with diseases such as cancer, nutrition, allergies etc.
H 5 National Institute for Health(www.nih.com) This site offers medical information.
I: Technology sites:
I- 1 CNET(www.cnet.com) A good site for finding tech news
I—2 The Industry Standard .com
I=- 3 RedHerring Online(www.redherring.com) Focusses primarily on tech business.
I—4Service911.com (www.service911.com) All Types of computer support in a single click.
I—5 Tech Web (www.techweb.com) Information Technology professions will find a wealth of product review.
J: Children's / parents Sites.
J- 1 Ask Jives for Kids (www.askjeevesforkids.com) This sites lets

kids (and Their Parents) type in a questions in plain English and then present response.

J 2 BabyCenter.com(www.babycenter.com)

This site provides new parents and to-be parents caring for and raising babies.

J 3 Family Education Network(www.familyeducation.com) this site for all about family related.

J 4 Parent's place(www.parentsplace.com) site for baby care and raising of healthy children.

J 5 Yucky.com (www.yucky.com) Fun for kids.

Amazon.com Books (www.amazon.com) pioneered Internet book buying and revolutionized the publishing industry. Barnesandnoble.com

(www.barnesandnoble.com), a relative newcomer to online book buying, features the stock of the ubiquitous bookstores , plus recordings, video, and so forth. Books on-line

(www.cs.cmu.edu/) is a division of buy.com , and books are only one area in which one can order merchandise. Borders.com

(www.borders.com) is a deep discounter of standard publishers list prices.

References:

1 "Ticker," Brills Content, May 1999, 128

2 Sara Robinson, :Searching the Web still hit-or-miss," Dallas Morning News,3 November 1998,D I.

3 Storage Tek product advertisement in Newsweek, October, 1999.

4 Abraham Kaplan, The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioral Science (San Francisco: Chander Publishing , 1964), 11.