



## A Selection of Recommended Web Sites for Research and/or Teaching

### Reference or Multidisciplinary Sites November 2010

- Data.gov <http://www.data.gov>

Part of the important Open Government Initiative for President Obama's administration, this site aims to "increase public access to high value, machine readable datasets generated by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government." In addition to providing "raw data" on many subjects, which may be downloaded in a variety of formats, many online tools are provided for managing the data.

- Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply and Questions to Ask  
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

This is an easy-to-understand tool created by the librarians at UC Berkeley that is particularly useful for students.

- FedStats <http://www.fedstats.gov/>

Links are provided to many of the statistical sites of federal government agencies and other statistical web sites. This includes links to the U.S. Census Bureau's web sites such as the online version of the standard *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. The *Statistical Abstract* provides key data on many areas of American life garnered from a variety of government sources.

- Internet Moving Image Archive <http://archive.org/details/movies>

This is a collection of almost 300,000 movies, including classic feature films, animated cartoons, documentary works, educational and industrial films, newsreels, advertisements, and propaganda. Many are open source and public domain titles that may be freely downloaded.

- ipl2: Information You Can Trust <http://www.ipl.org>

This is a searchable, subject-categorized directory of authoritative web sites, including links to online texts, newspapers, and magazines; special sections for kids and teens; and special collections on a variety of topics such as literary criticism. The site is created by volunteer librarian/information science professionals and students associated with Drexel University's College of Information Science & Technology.

- KU ScholarWorks <http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/>

University of Kansas faculty and staff adhere to an open access policy whereby their scholarly work is freely available in full text via this digital repository. Documents are searchable, or users can browse by community, author, subject, etc.

- Library of Congress: American Memory <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

*American Memory* is a gateway to rich online primary source materials related to American history and culture. Drawn from the vast holdings of the Library of Congress, supplemented by other institutions, these materials include digitized manuscripts, prints, photographs, posters, maps, sound recordings, motion pictures, books, pamphlets, and sheet music, and are organized into 100 thematic collections. The collections may be browsed, searched individually or collectively. Note that the Library of Congress' research/reference staff will respond to questions about the *American Memory* materials that are submitted via an online form.

- LibriVox <http://librivox.org/>

LibriVox is a library of recordings of books in the public domain, read by volunteers. Users can search or browse the catalog. iTunes or a similar tool is needed to download the files. There are over 3,000 recordings already available.

- LIFE Magazine (photo archive hosted by Google) <http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

Approximately 10 million images from the *LIFE* photo archives are available. Many of the photos were never published and are now accessible for the first time. Users can search by keyword, browse by decade, or select featured events, people, or places.

- National Atlas of the United States <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/>

This site is a fascinating and useful tool, with maps and articles for all disciplines. The user may search or browse. Suitable for students and faculty.

- SnagFilms <http://www.snagfilms.com/films>

SnagFilms offers freely available documentary films over the web. Over 1,000 films are currently available on a wide range of topics. The collection is searchable and browsable. The term “snag” in the title of the site refers to the fact that technology is provided in the form of a widget that allows users to “snag” a film and put it elsewhere on the web, for example, on a faculty web site, as long as it is for non-commercial purposes and meets certain other criteria. Check the “terms of use” section. Because the content is free, the site is supported by advertising, which can be distracting at times, but this is still a great site for faculty looking for content.

- United Nations Statistics Division <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

This site acts as a gateway to statistical information from the databases of the UN and its member states. It links to the *UNData* site at <http://data.un.org>, which enables free and easily searchable access to the UN’s 32 databases and 60 million records. Plans are underway to include the databases of member countries into *UNData* services.

- WWW (World Wide Web) Virtual Library <http://vlib.org>

This may be considered the oldest “catalog” on the Web since it was started by Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of the precursor of the Web in 1991. The Virtual Library consists of over 250 individual catalogs or lists of web sites, organized by subject, which are compiled and maintained by volunteers from all over the world, many of whom are subject experts.

- Wolfram|Alpha <http://www.wolframalpha.com>

This is a premier search engine for those searching for fact-based data, especially computational, quantitative data. Rather than returning lists of Web pages to users’ queries, *Wolfram|Alpha* searches for facts or computes answers to questions. Its software translates natural language queries in order to retrieve information from knowledge databases and then returns results in natural language. The engine is as easy to use and navigate as Google, but is superior in its special application niche.