Internet Resources for Children

By Blythe Bennett

Although there are many educational Web sites on the Internet that are great for children in elementary and middle school, finding them can often be difficult. Offering a sampling of such sites, this ERIC Web Links describes more than fifty that will be of special interest to children in grades K-8, teachers, parents and librarians during the 2001-2002 school year and beyond.*

Collections of Sites

- Berit's Best Sites for Children
  Compiled by a librarian, this is one of the oldest and most reliable lists of sites for children in primary grades.
  http://www.beritsbest.com

- BJ Pinchbeck's Homework Helper
  Compiled by a middle school student who understands the reference needs of his fellow students.

- Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators
  A popular site for teachers. Compiled by a school librarian who has also created a collection for students.
  http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/

- Kid Info/School Subjects
  Another student-created site. Arranged by subject area and linked to many of the best educational sites online.
  http://www.kidinfo.com/School_Subjects.html

- PBS TeacherSource
  Sites selected for curriculum content, arranged by subject areas.
  http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/recommended/index.shtm

- 700+ Great Sites from ALA
  Compiled by members of the American Library Association for students, teachers, librarians, and parents.
  http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/

Art

- Archive
  An impressive group of Web sites and book suggestions for artists and schools of art including Impressionism, Cubism, Photography, and Abstract Expressionism. Try one of the tours.
  http://archive.com/core.html

Current Events

- CNN Interactive
  Read the latest news. Search the archives for information about past events. Choose links to top stories, hot topics, sports, weather, and more.
  http://cnn.com/index.html

Health

- Centers for Disease Control
  Health and disease topics A to Z.
  http://www.cdc.gov/health/diseases.htm

- Healthfinder
  Gateway to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The hot topics are especially useful.
  http://www.healthfinder.gov/

- HealthWeb
  Provides links to non-commercial Web sites on specific health topics, evaluated and selected by health sciences librarians.
  http://healthweb.org

- Partnership for a Drug-Free America
  Accurate, authoritative resources for information about illegal drugs and their consequences.
  http://www.drugfreeamerica.org/

History/Social Studies

- American Civil War Homepage
  This collection of online resources about the Civil War includes graphics, letters, information about specific battles, and more.
  http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html

- American Memory from the Library of Congress
  Browse or search for events, people, places, or time periods in American history. Includes rich visual resources.
  http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amhome.html

- Ancient World Web
  Collection of links to sites about ancient civilizations, including Aztec and Egyptian. Search by geographical area or subject.
  http://www.julien.net/ancient/

- CIA World Factbook
  This site, updated every year, is one of the most authoritative sites about countries of the world.

- Encyclopedia Mythica
  Mythology and folklore collection. Contains over 4,000 definitions of gods and goddesses, supernatural beings, and legendary creatures and monsters from all over the world.
  http://www.pantheon.org/mythica/

- POTUS
  (Presidents of the United States)
  The Internet Public Library’s collection of information about United States presidents. Includes election results, cabinet members, and other presidential facts.
  http://www.pl.org/ref/POTUS/

- AnyDay-in-History
  Find out what happened on a particular day in history.
  http://www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS/

- White House for Kids
  Biographies of U. S. presidents and first families, press releases, and hot topics.
  http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/

- 50 States of the United States
  Facts about all U. S. states including mottos, flags, and songs.
  http://www.50states.com/

Literature

- Children’s Literature Web Guide
  Information about book awards, authors, and illustrators.
  http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/

- Vandergrift’s Children’s Literature Page
  One-stop shopping for information about authors and illustrators.
  http://www.scls.rutgers.edu/special/kay/ChildrenLit/childdt.html
Math

Math Forum
The best collection of online math-related materials. Check for math resources by subject for your special interest. Search the archives to see if your question has already been answered. Special sections for students and for teachers.
http://forum.swarthmore.edu/

Science

Ask-a-Scientist Archive
The information found in this archive is outstanding. Covers many science topics, including astronomy, biology and chemistry.
http://newton.dep.anl.gov/archive.htm

Encyclopedia Smithsonia
Images and information about the solar system, planets and their moons, and other celestial systems.
http://seeds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/

How Things Work
A physics professor’s compilation of his students’ frequently asked questions. A rich resource for students explaining why and how things work.
http://rabi.phys.virginia.edu/HTW/

MAD Scientist Network
Great “library” collections. Search the archives for previously asked questions. Try the labs!
http://www.madsci.org/

NASA
Visit this site when you have a question or research topic about space. Link to pages about Mars, the space shuttle, and the MIR space station. Search NASA’s hot topics.
http://www.nasa.gov/

Neuroscience for Kids
Resources about the brain and spinal cord. Written with kids in mind.
http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html

Periodic Table of the Elements
Los Alamos National Lab provides chemical information including uses, sources, and history of elements.
http://pear1.lanl.gov/periodic/

Science Fair Project Guide
A collection of sites, resources, and project ideas for science fairs from the Internet Public Library.
http://www.ipl.org/youth/projectguide/

Sea World/Busch Gardens Animal Resources
Animal Information Database. Presents reliable information about marine and land animals and conservation.
http://www.seaworld.org/infobrook.html

Smithsonian Institution Frequently-Asked Questions
Provides the answers to students’ questions about common research topics, including science and social science.
http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/start.htm

United States Geological Survey News, fact sheets, and other resources about biology, geology, mapping and water.
http://info.er.usgs.gov/

Volcano World
The best resource for volcano information on the Web. Images, answers to questions, and factual data from real volcanologists. Written for students and teachers.
http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/

Reference

AskA+ Locator
Need to find an expert on a particular subject? The AskA+ Locator will allow you to search for experts by subject area and grade level.
http://www.vrd.org/locator/subject.shtml

Atlapedia Online
Contains full-color physical and political maps as well as key facts and statistics about countries of the world.
http://www.atlapedia.com/index.html

Biography
Provides biographies of over 20,000 notable people. Uses the Cambridge Encyclopedia Database and the Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography.
http://www.biography.com/

Britannica Online
Online encyclopedia information as well as links to selected Web sites.
http://www.eb.com:180/

“Do We Really Know Dewey?”
This ThinkQuest winning site assists with learning the Dewey Decimal System and includes quizzes. Made for kids, by kids.
http://htgjrnl.thinkquest.org/5002/

Encarta Online
A concise version of Encarta’s CD-ROM. Includes short encyclopedia articles and hot topics.
http://encarta.msn.com/
EncartaHome.asp

Fact Monster
http://www.factmonster.com/

Occupational Outlook Handbook
Includes the education requirements, job outlook, working conditions, and earnings for hundreds of careers.
http://www.umsal.edu/services/govdocs/ooh/20002001/1.htm

Research and Web Citations from Nueva School
Helps students with the research process, learn how to create bibliographies and how to use search engines effectively.
http://www.nueva.pvt.k12.ca.us/~debbie/library/research/research.html

Search Directories for Kids

CyberBee
Information on new sites for kids from MultiMedia Schools.
http://www.infotoday.com/MMSchools/MMStocs/MMCabby.html

CyberDewey
A hotlist of Internet sites organized using Dewey Decimal Classification codes.

KidsClick!
Web search for kids by librarians.
http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick/

School Library Journal: Surf For A thematic guide to Internet sites.
http://www.slj.com/articles/surffor/surfforarchive.asp

Yahoo!Kids!
http://www.yahoo.com/kids!

Electronic Postings of New Sites for Kids

Blue Web’n
http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn

Internet Detectives
http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/trl/detectives/

Books with Web Sites for Kids


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*Please note that the resources and their Internet addresses above are subject to change.

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