



Belinda Weaver

Do you want to make your own site more accessible to people with disabilities, or even just to people with slow machines working in bright, crowded, noisy rooms?

Welcome to Weaver's web. Kerry Webb will be a hard act to follow but I aim to do my best to bring you useful websites, tools and news each month. Please feel free to e-mail me (weaver@alia.org.au) if you have news or views for this column.

AusWeb99

If you missed the AusWeb99 conference held in Ballina, NSW, from 17–20 April this year, don't worry, the full proceedings are online at <http://ausweb.scu.edu.au/aw99/papers/>. Abstracts are available, and from there, you can link to full papers (fifty-six short and full papers grouped into four separate streams: technical; e-commerce; social, usability, library; and education). E-mail addresses for the presenters are also supplied.

Open for business

HMSO inforoute at <http://www.hmso.gov.uk/inforoute/index.htm> is a new gateway to United Kingdom official government information and materials. It includes links to bibliographic databases such as UK-OP, the Daily List of Official Publications, BOPCAS, and other publications. It also provides links to other sources such as the CCTA Government Information Service and StatBase.

Fee or free?

The United States Government has not been so lucky with its new Gov.search service. This new fee-based service (in partnership with Northern Light Technology Inc) <http://usgovsearch.northernlight.com/> aims to provide users with a one-stop search of Federal Government websites and documents. However, the site was taken down on the day it was announced, as it seemed to contradict the Clinton Administration's policy of unrestricted access to government information. The service was then restored with a free search capability, but only for a limited period. Use the site to search the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) archive, Northern Light's Special Collection of more than 5000 publications, and other Government-related websites.

infog99

A conference on digital developments in screen culture and research, *infog99* will take place on 14–16 July 1999 at the Treasury Theatre (formerly the State Film Theatre of Victoria), in East Melbourne. The program and registration details are available at <http://www.cinemedia.net/AFI/infog99/>. The first *infog* in 1995 aimed to facilitate information sharing between colleagues working in the film and broadcasting industries. This year's conference will concentrate on the latest digital developments in screen culture and research and will feature three international guests: Dr Steve Ricci, UCLA Film & Televi-

sion Archive; Tony Pearson, Glasgow University; and Richard Paterson from the British Film Institute.

Accessible to all?

If you want to make your own site more accessible to people with disabilities, or even just to people with slow machines working in bright, crowded, noisy rooms, then check out the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines from the World Wide Web Consortium at <http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/WAI-WEBCONTENT-19990505/>. If you want to check how well you have done after using the guidelines, run your page through Bobby <http://www.cast.org/bobby/> [Ed: ALIANet scores a 5-hat rating]. You will get a report and rating on how your page stacks up in the accessibility stakes, and also in different browsers.

Catch an article

CatchWord <http://www.catchword.co.uk/> hosts over 350 online journals from twenty-seven publishers. All articles are available in PDF and RealPage format. You can get full text via subscription or by pay-per-view. Over eighty per cent of titles are free to institutions with print subscriptions. The search service is free. Additional features are TOC alerting services and links from major subscription agent gateways.

Family Search is now online

Genealogists everywhere must be rejoicing. The search engine at <http://www.familysearch.org/> covers not only the thirty-five million names in the Ancestral file of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and 285 million names in the International Genealogical Index, but also lists websites that cover genealogy. You may enter a single name, or the name of an ancestor and their parents for very targeted searching.

What's special in Canada

The National Library of Canada has recently republished and updated its *Directory of special collections*. The site at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/collectionsp/spcol_e.htm is designed to help researchers and librarians track down specialised resources in Canadian libraries. You can search by keyword, title, or subject.

Find a medical book

The United States National Library of Medicine has made available its web catalogue of more than 5.3 million books, journals, audiovisual materials and access points to other medical research. LOCATORplus <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/locatorplus/> provides standard library catalogue information, and links are provided to electronic resources.

Looking for libraries

If you are searching for libraries, their web-based catalogues, or information about library systems at a particular institution, try

searching lib-web-cats. The site <http://staffweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/breeding/libwebcats.html> has information on more than 4000 online library catalogues. You can search by institution name, library type, or geographic location. Results provide a link to the library's web page, as well as a direct link to its online catalogue.

Looking for standards

Find information on international, regional and national standardisation and related activities and services at the World Standards Services Network <http://www.wssn.net/WSSN/index.html>. Direct links are provided to international and regional standards institutions.

Net Law Library moves to Australia

The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) is now hosting the United States House of Representatives Internet Law Library. The Library is located at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/links/hrill/> and provides access to worldwide legal information via the Internet.

Keeping up with trends

Sound knowledgeable about what is happening in library and information technology by reading up on the Library and Information Technology Association's top technology trends. The list, compiled by experts in library technology, is at <http://www.lita.org/committe/topotech/trendsmw99.htm>.

Pinakes down under

I have long been a great fan of Pinakes: a subject launchpad, as it is a good way of finding the best subject site for new topics. Pinakes <http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/irn/pinakes/pinakes.html> currently links to over thirty subject-specific sites in a range of areas — philosophy, arts, physics, law, and engineering.

Now the National Library of Australia has done something similar with its Subject gateways to the disciplines at <http://www.nla.gov.au/libraries/resource/gateways.html>. This page provides access to some of the best Australian resources available on the Web. Links include AGRIGATE (agriculture), AVEL (engineering), the Business Entry Point, the Commonwealth Government Entry Point and others.

Reference services via e-mail

E-mail reference services have been a hot topic on library discussion lists recently. If you are thinking of taking the plunge, see how the competition is doing it. Bernie Sloan at the University of Illinois has compiled a page of links to e-mail reference sites at more than ninety libraries. The sites provide examples of the different ways libraries promote remote reference services, and

many give details of policies and procedures. The bulk of the entries are American, but other countries are represented. The links are available via <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~sloan/e-mail.html>.

Research projects

Lots of projects are making their way on to the Web. The latest is the European Research Gateways On-line project, known as ERGO, at <http://www.cordis.lu/ergo/>. This intends to be a one-stop shop for European research and development project information. The pilot catalogue currently holds more than 86 000 project records from different information providers.

Another project which may be of interest to librarians is LIBERATION (LIBraries: Electronic Remote Access To Information Over Networks) at <http://www.lib-online.com/>. The project focuses on academic and research libraries, and investigates the problems of how to cope with shrinking budgets when print publications are becoming ever more expensive.

The project is based on the belief that modern libraries have to provide a dynamic, easily searchable information space unrestricted by physical boundaries; they have to exploit the interactivity and multimedia capabilities of modern computers and ideally be accessible at users' workplaces. The needs of three kinds of users are addressed: libraries, publisher and end-users.

Keep your Net access safe

Net fraud does not begin and end with credit card theft. Passwords are also a target, particularly Internet Service Provider passwords. Even if you never give your password out to anybody, it can still be stolen if you are not careful enough online when downloading software or opening e-mail attachments. Recent discussions on the NETTRAIN mailing list (archived at <http://listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu/archives/nettrain.html>) covered real cases of internet access time stealing.

Name changes and moves

The MiningCo.com, a website of personal guides to the Web, has changed its name to About.com and moved to <http://home.about.com/index.htm>. DejaNews, the search engine for online discussions and newsgroups, has shortened its name to Deja. The new URL is <http://www.deja.com/>.

Australian Internet Awards

The Annual Internet Awards contest is on again. Details are at <http://www.webawards.com.au/>. Voting closes at the end of July — note that the categories are a little different from last year. [Ed: Please do not forget to vote for AlIAnet as the best Professional/Industry web site!]. ■

Even if you never give your password out to anybody, it can still be stolen if you are not careful enough online when downloading software or opening e-mail attachments...

SAVE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE OF TYPING THESE URLS!

This column (with associated hyperlinks) can be found on the Association's website, ALIANet, at <http://www.alia.org.au/incite/>

[Please note that full-stops at the end of any URL or e-mail address appearing in *inCite* should NOT be used]

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please e-mail Belinda Weaver at weaver@alia.org.au or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au