



Film collections

The Research and Information section of the Australian Film Institute (AFI) has launched a new online research facility at <http://www.afi.org.au/>. The new service is a searchable online catalogue of the AFI's unique collection of film industry information, including 600 000 news-clippings on Australian and international film and television, journals, annual reports, cast and crew directories, 5000 books, film festival programs, press kits, scripts, film stills, CD-ROMs and databases. Material located on the online catalogue can be requested via inter-library loan. E-mail to info@afi.org.au or snail mail to 49 Eastern Road, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205.

Weavers web



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Out of the waiting room

Education librarians and researchers can now get quicker access to new journal information via the ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation's new Draft Abstracts section at <http://ericae.net/sinprog.htm>. Formerly, there was a six- to nine-month wait for material to appear in ERIC/AE's two databases, *Resources in education*, and *Current index to journals in education*. No longer — the new database, updated weekly, contains very current abstracts, from over thirty education journals, of new articles and conference papers on assessment, evaluation, research methods and learning theory. Users can search the database by keyword or use some of the existing search strategies supplied by ERIC/AE.

And if that isn't enough...

The United States Center Research Site [<http://research.cse.ucla.edu/>] is a starting point for identifying reports and publications from the National Research and Development Centers of the American Department of Education. There are twelve Centers, located at different universities across the United States, and each focuses on a different aspect of education, from second language learning to education policy to gifted children. The Portable Document Format is the preferred format for most of these publications, so you will need to have the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your PC or Mac to open, read or print this research.

Giving it away

In the future, will everything on the web be free? First, free bibliographic databases appeared, funded by the fees paid for articles (the UnCoverWeb model). Then articles began to be issued for free (the PubSCIENCE and PubMedCentral models). Who is paying for it? Is it sustainable? It is certainly a trend. Stanford University's HighWire Press is the latest (but probably not the last) to announce free online access, and not just to selected

this or that, but to the full-text of more than 137 000 articles in the science, medicine and technology fields [<http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>]. The available material comprises three entirely free journals, the back issues of fifty-one journals, and trial access to thirty-two more titles. Subscribers of even one HighWire title, whether personal or institutional, may be able to get access to related articles in journals to which they do not subscribe. To check out what is on offer to whom, you should check each journal title individually, as trial access dates and back files vary from title to title.

Everybody's doing it

So many digital collections are popping up that it is high time there was a finding tool just for them. *The directory of digitized collections* [<http://thoth.bl.uk/>] answers the need. A very simple-looking site, this, but it offers a search facility for locating existing collections. Hosted on the British Library site, it bears the IFLA and UNESCO badges as well. You can submit your own collection for inclusion.

Gallic supremacy?

The Gallica Classique digitisation project by France's Bibliotheque Nationale is still in its early stages, as yet containing only a few texts, (Balzac's complete works and some works by Rousseau, Stendhal and Zola among others). However, with ambitious plans to digitise a large body of French literature, Gallica may end up as one of the largest electronic projects in the world. The site plans to offer the complete texts (in French only — it will not provide English translations) of a number of French literary masterpieces, arranged by period [<http://gallica.bnf.fr/Classique/>].

Diagnosis — workaholic

They must be wearing themselves out at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in the United States. Hot on the heels of PubMedCentral comes MEDLINEplus, an authoritative health information site. Look no further for information on health, diseases and medical conditions — it is all here — the NLM's answer to all those crank health advice sites that the net has spawned. The NLM aim to provide people everywhere — doctors, patients, researchers — with the latest medical information. The site also links to databases such as MEDLINE and the recently-revamped ClinicalTrials.gov.

Marx's museum

Political scientists and historians alike will find something of interest in the Marxists Internet Archive [<http://www.marxists.org/>]. This new archive, compiled by volunteers,

comprises four sections — writers, non-English material, history, and reference. The writers' archive provides information, including their personal writings, of prominent Marxists such as Trotsky, Lenin, and Marx himself, as well as the American James P Cannon, the Bolivian revolutionary Che Guevara, and the English socialist, William Morris.

Dictionaries galore

The Academic Press *Dictionary of science and technology* has gone down the free and online road with this new service at <http://www.harcourt.com/dictionary/>. You can search for a specific term or browse through a list of broad topics such as computer science, maths or life sciences (which you can then narrow down). The site also offers you the option of hearing all kinds of tongue-twisting terms pronounced via .wav recordings of words or phrases.

Despite the sound option, this cyberspace arrival has probably been overshadowed by that of the *Oxford English dictionary online* <http://www.oed.com/>. This is heavyweight scholarship, with a hefty price tag to match (US\$550 pa for individuals; US\$795 pa for institutions). Only subscribers can use the OED online; non-subscribers can check out the 'Word of the day' at the site, but not much more. (The free tour only highlights what you are missing.) The online version will be updated quarterly: new words will be added and revisions made to the many thousands of existing entries.

Book lovers

Antiquarians should bookmark a new resource, Books and Book Collecting, at http://www.trussel.com/f_books.htm. This is the spot for rare or out-of-print books, including missing volumes of sets. The site's search form allows you to query multiple, linked sites in one step. Hopeful buyers can post requests here too. The site is also handy for the seeker after dust jackets, author signatures and other arcana.

More virtual reference

Project Bartleby now includes the searchable online version of the third edition of *Roget's thesaurus*, rather grandly called *Roget II — the new thesaurus*. It is at <http://www.bartleby.com/62>.

Bibliomania [<http://www.bibliomania.com/>] is the place for fully searchable full-text editions of classic works of fiction (Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, among others), non-fiction (Freud, Gibbon, Clausewitz, Adam Smith), poetry, and even a few reference titles, such as *Brewer's dictionary of phrase and fable* [<http://www.bibliomania.com/Reference/PhraseAndFable/>]. This is the 1895 edition of this reference collection staple, but much of the material is still relevant and useful. The main site also includes the complete plays of Shakespeare, and new titles in all categories are constantly being added.

Female figures
The World Bank now hosts a database of gender statistics, *Genderstats*, at <http://genderstats.worldbank.org/menu.asp>. You can search for statistics by country or browse categories such as population, labour force and maternal mortality. The tables can be downloaded into Microsoft Excel for those who want to crunch the numbers themselves. Selected reference tables from the Bank's World Development Indicators can also be viewed in Portable Document Format. These include gender differences, reproductive health and gender and education.

Online almanac

The Almanac of American Politics 2000 is now available online at http://www.freedomchannel.com/almanac/almanac_of_amer_pol.cfm. The almanac provides profiles of each member of the United States Congress; essays; and information on presidential politics, campaign finance, state and congressional districts and congressional committees. The almanac is browseable by state, district or name, or searchable by keyword.

High impact

Librarians in academia will probably enjoy the ISI's new Hot Papers database. The service identifies the most cited research articles from more than 8000 international journals. It tracks journal articles (published within the latest two years) that have attracted more attention than others in the same field. Certain to get the competitive juices flowing... [<http://www.sciencewise.com/swresearch/hotmember.htm>].

British law

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute at <http://www.bailii.org/> offers free access to British and Irish legal materials, and currently contains over 75 000 searchable documents. These come from fourteen databases from five jurisdictions, which may be searched individually or jointly. These include United Kingdom House of Lords Decisions, England and Wales High Court and Court of Appeal Decisions, Scottish High Court Decisions, Northern Ireland High Court and Court of Appeal Decisions, and Irish High Court and Court of Appeal Decisions, among others. ■

**This column
[with URL links]
can be found at:**



<http://www.alia.org.au/incite>

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Belinda Weaver via e-mail.

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