

Winners Circle of Web Sites

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Reported by Mary Ann Mahoney

Robert Cagna, Clara R. Williams and A. Ben Wagner were the three speakers at this informative and lively presentation on some of the best web resources in gerontology/geriatrics, environmental science databases and chemistry. So many winning web sites were presented that this article will concentrate on just a selection from each speaker.

Rob Cagna is with the AARP Research Information Center in Washington DC and presented web sites on geriatrics and gerontology. Through some very interesting questions posed to the audience Rob demonstrated how difficult it can be to answer many age-related questions because either no one is keeping track of the specific information or there are no standard definition of terms. These are a few of the web sites Rob presented:

AARP Research Center <http://research.aarp.org/>

Information on a variety of subjects related to aging. Also links to AARP's AgeSource Worldwide, an index for finding information about aging in more than 20 countries, free access to AgeLine, AARP's database of books and journal articles on older adults and AARP's *Acronyms in Aging* (research.aarp.org/general/acronyms_2002.pdf).

US Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov>

Start here for demographic information. Also a good site for intergenerational issues.

The American Geriatrics Society <http://www.americangeriatrics.org>

The 2003 online version of AGS's *Geriatrics at Your Fingertips* is available free of charge, but you must register (www.geriatricsatyourfingertips.org)

Administration on Aging <http://www.aoa.gov>

Wonderful site for social service resources such as ElderLocator (www.eldercare.gov) to find services for an older person in his or her geographic area.

FirstGov for Seniors <http://www.seniors.gov>

Maintained by the Social Security Administration. Fact-filled resource for consumer information.

GovBenefits.gov <http://www.govbenefits.gov>

Official US government benefits website to find government benefits you may be eligible to receive.

National Center on Elder Abuse <http://www.elderabusecenter.org>

NCEA has resources about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

GeroWeb <http://geroserver.iog.wayne.edu/GeroWebd/GeroWeb.html>

GeroWeb has a Virtual Library on Aging that is a database of resources for those interested in gerontology, geriatrics, the process of aging, services for the elderly, or the concerns of senior citizens in general

Merck Manual of Geriatrics Third Edition http://www.merck.com/pubs/mm_geriatrics
Full-text online.

National Institute on Aging <http://www.nia.nih.gov>
Access to *Resource Directory for Older People* and free publications.

HealthandAge <http://www.healthandage.com>
Good source for health information related to aging. Novartis Foundation for Gerontology.

Clara R. Williams is manager and information consultant of the Haselton Library and Knowledge Center at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology in Atlanta, Ga. Many of the websites she presented have been annotated in an article she co-authored with Robbie King, former director of information services for NewFields in Atlanta, entitled *Environmental Science Databases* published in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, vol. 2, May 2003, by Marcel Dekker, New York. Clara presented these notable websites:

Envirofacts Data Warehouse <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html>
Envirofacts provides public access to a range of environmental information from EPA-maintained databases.

Aerometric Information Retrieval System <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/airs>
AIRS is a repository of information about air pollution in the United States

Safe Drinking Water Information System <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis>
SDWIS contains information about public water systems and their violations of EPA's drinking water regulations.

Information Collection Rule <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/icr>
ICR provides summary reports on microbial and disinfection byproduct data at national, state and water system levels.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm>
Contains general information on sites current on the National Priority List (NPL).

The Records of Decision System (RODS) <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/rods/index.htm>
RODS contains site history, site characteristics, community participation, enforcement activities, past and present activities, contaminated media, the contaminants present, response action, and the remedial action justification.

ECOTOX <http://www.epa.gov/ecotox>
Three toxicology effects databases, under ECOTOX, have been fully integrated to provide chemical-specific toxicity values (AQUIRE, PHYTOTOX, and TERRETOX).

EnviroMapper <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/em>
Users can locate federal, state and local information about environmental conditions and features in any U.S. area.

TOXNET <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/index.html>

Databases in Toxnet that are of particular interest to environmentalists include: Toxline, DART/ETIC, HSDB and IRIS

AGRICOLA <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ag98>

Covers earth and environmental sciences along with numerous topics on all aspects agriculture and allied disciplines.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Databases <http://mapping.usgs.gov/nsdi>

The USGS is partnering with the National Spatial Data Infrastructure to produce and share geospatial data.

National Water Information System Web Site (NWISWeb) <http://water.usgs.gov/data.html>

The USGS investigates the occurrence, quantity, quality, distribution and movement of surface and underground waters and disseminates this information via the NWISWeb.

A. Ben Wagner is a librarian at the Science and Engineering Library at the University at Buffalo where he is the subject specialist for chemistry and physics. Ben's entire SLA presentation can be found on the web at <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/webpresentsla.html>. Ben also has an article in press titled *Finding Physical Properties of Chemicals: A Practical Guide for Scientists, Engineers, and Librarians*. The journal article will be published in *Science and Technology Libraries* **21**(3/4). Cover date 2001, to be published August 2003. Ben's more extensive annotations can be found in his online presentation and in his forthcoming journal article.

Chemsoc Timeline <http://www.chemsoc.org/timeline/>

Exploration of key history of science events, emphasis on chemistry (Royal Society of Chemistry).

What's That Stuff <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/whatstuff/stuff.html>

Chemical composition of everyday items like Silly Putty and cheese whiz (ACS)

Scientific & Technical Acronyms, Symbols, & Abbreviations

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/stasa/>

Trinity University Cheminformatics Site <http://hackberry.chem.trinity.edu/>

Formerly Hackberry. (Steven Bachrach)

Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Resource Guide

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/nanoscience/guide/index.cfm>

Guide from the University of Alberta

NDRL/NIST Solution Kinetics Database <http://kinetics.nist.gov/solution/index.php>

Rate constants for solution phase reactions

NIST Chemical Kinetics Database - <http://kinetics.nist.gov/index.php>

Rate constants for thermal gas-phase reactions

Science Education Games and Puzzles <http://education.jlab.org/indexpages/elementgames.html>
From the Virginia State Jefferson Lab. Includes Element Hangman, terrific.

Online Science Books <http://www.sc.edu/library/science/scibooks.html> (Univ. South Carolina Library)

Scores of free online books from sources such as the National Academic Press and bibliomania.com. Includes some classics like Darwin's *The Origin of Species*.

Selections from *Finding Physical Properties of Chemicals: A Practical Guide for Scientists, Engineers, and Librarians* (annotations not included because of space limitations)

A) Manufacturer/Supplier Web Sites

- ChemIndustry.Com <http://www.chemindustry.com/>
- MSDS Provider <http://www.msdsprovider.com/Site/msdsprovider.nsf/search>
- ChemExper Chemical Directory <http://www.chemexper.com/>
- DuPont-Dow elastomers <http://www.dupont-dow.com/Products/prodHome.asp>
- Acros-Fischer Companies <http://www.acros.be/>

B) MSDS Compilations

Cornell University <http://dataworks.fcs.cornell.edu/>

Vermont SIRI (mirror site) <http://siri.org/msds/>

Interactive Learning Paradigms Where to Find MSDS. <http://www.ilpi.com/msds/index.html>

MSDS-Search <http://www.msdssearch.com/>

C) The Large Players: Recommended First Stops on the Web

ChemFinder <http://chemfinder.cambridgesoft.com/>

NIST Chemistry WebBook <http://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry/>

ChemExper Chemical Directory <http://www.chemexper.com/>

Matweb <http://www.matweb.com/index.asp?ckck=1>

Physical Properties Database - PHYSPROP <http://esc.syrres.com/interkow/PhysProp.htm>

D) General, Smaller Scale Web Sites

Hazardous Substances Data Bank <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?HSDB>

NTP Chemical Health & Safety Data http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/Main_Pages/Chem-HS.html

Organic Compounds Database <http://www.colby.edu/chemistry/cmp/cmp.html>