



Overview

Internet Library

Library Webs provide an online educational research tool providing an Internet Library with thousands of carefully selected links for secondary schools. The collection is arranged similarly to Dewey order like a regular library. The topics are divided into sections which help students to grasp the topic as a whole while being able to investigate aspects of it in depth. Users can search the database on a keyword search basis, or go straight into the topics. The resource has been designed and developed with Australian students in mind.

Benefits

Teacher Librarians

Teacher- Librarians using *Library Webs* will not have to spend hours searching for sites, developing resources or creating webpages. They will also not have to worry about dead links. Given a reasonable deadline, *Library Webs* will create hotlists on topics if they are not already available, and will create new sections in existing topics as required. Teacher-Librarians using *Library Webs* will have more time to do what they do best ó assisting students and teachers to find the right information at the right time.

Teachers

Teachers using *Library Webs* know that an extensive Internet library is immediately available and that they do not need to spend their own time finding resources for their students. During research lessons, teachers are assured that their students are accessing only the best quality sites on the Web and that time is not being wasted on futile or misdirected searches. Teachers can also make requests to *Library Webs* to create new hotlists for upcoming assignments. Most topics contain a section just for teachers containing ideas for lessons plans and online activities which can be used *as is* or adapted for classroom use.

Library Webs resources can be used as a support to study units or as the central focus to a unit of work. Because of the division of each topic into sections, *Library Webs* provide a unique set of resources for group work, and offers a scaffolding tool for indepth study.

Students

Students using *Library Webs* have immediate access to authoritative Internet resources and are able to stay focused on their learning outcomes, without the distraction of all the extraneous material which clutters up the Internet.

Library Webs assist students to learn independently. Students are guided to sites which have been selected for their quality, accuracy, reliability and relevance. Students have room to explore topics broadly or to study in depth. The sites presented by *Library Webs* are always in context, so students are aware of how their facet of study fits into the broader framework of the subject.

Special features

Australian Topics: As *Library Webs* are developed in Australia, the resources contain substantial Australian content throughout most categories, as well as two special categories while deal solely with Australia Social Sciences and Australian History.

Illustrations: Each topic is illustrated with relevant graphics which enhances the learning experience.

Descriptors: Websites which have a special attribute, e.g. newspaper article, map, interactive have a descriptor in square brackets after the title.

Dates: Some websites such as newspaper and magazine articles are dated to indicate the time of their publication. Others are not dated as they are generally updated regularly by their web publishers.

Link acknowledgement: the source of each link is acknowledged so that teachers and students are aware of the origin and authenticity of the resources.

Finding what you want

There are various ways in which subscribers are able to find the information they require. In every case, *Library Webs* are simple to use. No complex strategies or sophisticated research skills are required to access the information.

Topic listing

A full listing of the topics within each category can be found under the Topics tab.

Browsing through the Subject categories

As you can see from the home page, the resources are arranged under fifteen broad headings. Checking out the contents of each heading will give you an overall view of what is available. For instance, if you click on **Life Sciences**, you will discover the list of topics currently available, e.g.

Biologists, World Biomes, Endangered species in Australia, Introduced species in Australia, Rainforests, Human body, Nutritional disorders and many more

If you choose *Rainforests*, you will not find a long list of sites on rainforests; you will find a carefully organised set of sections dealing with rainforests in various regions e.g. Africa, Amazon Region, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea as well as two Australian case studies ó North Queensland and the Tarkine in Tasmania. A **general section covers any gaps**. Some of the other specific sections include rainforest plants and animals, threats to rainforests, maps and the special section for teachers which contains lesson plans, webquests and worksheets. You will then be able to focus on the aspect in which you are particularly interested. There is **no longer any need to bother with the frustration of sorting through the plethora of material delivered by the average search engine**. The best material is right here at your fingertips ó in context.

Keyword search and Advanced search [Always click on Submit. Do not hit Return]

As well as the Topic listing and Subject categories, *Library Webs* offer a keyword and advanced search facility to enhance access to resources.

Example of keyword search: Terrorism

If you type the word *terrorism* into the search bar, a list of links will appear. Under each link, in fine print, the search results reveal a breadcrumb trailö which shows the location of that

link within its context in the database collection. You will see that there is information on terrorism in

Modern World History > Afghanistan > Afghanistan: The war against terrorism

This indicates that the link is found in the subject category, *Modern World History*, under the Topic, *Afghanistan* which has a section entitled *Afghanistan: The war against terrorism*.

Similarly, other links about terrorism are found in other places:

IT, Encyclopedias and Newspapers > Computers and Society > Cyber-terrorism and Information Warfare

Modern World History > Indonesia: History > Bali Bombing 2002

Australian History > Australia: 2000s > War against Terrorism

Australian Society > Australia: Law > Australia: Law: Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 to list a few.

You are then able to either click on the link and go directly to that single link, or click on the topic or section which best serves your purpose and be taken to another list of links relating to a specific area/aspect of terrorism.

Example of advanced search

If you use the following terms in the Advanced search facility,

Exact phrase: *human cloning*

Any of the words: *ethics ethical*

you will find that the list of sites that is brought up shows links from a variety of locations within the database namely

Philosophy and Ethics > Australia: Ethical Issues > Stem-cell research

Philosophy and Ethics > Australia: Ethical Issues > Human cloning

Australian Society > Australia: Law > Australia: Law: Stem cell research

Life Sciences > Genetic Engineering > Ethical, legal and biological concerns

Users can then click immediately on the link of their choice, or click on the Topic/Section title to gain access to many more links on human cloning in that particular Topic/Section, regardless of whether the term *human cloning* actually appears in the link title or not. The Topic/Section title gives the context of the link and so assists users in their selection of resources.

Sometimes, the same topic/section is found in different categories to facilitate access by users who use the topic list or are browsing through the categories, rather than using the search engine.

Deep linking/Persistent links

Electronic Research Guides: Teacher-Librarians can readily compile Electronic Research Guides using the deep linking feature found at the bottom of each page. Creating links from an Electronic Research Guide on your Intranet Library Website which go directly to specific sections can lead students immediately to the most relevant parts of the database. (*This feature is currently network and static IP address dependent recorded on our system*)

ERG examples - <http://www.librarywebs.com/example/assignments.htm>

Selection Policy

Library Webs sites are always chosen from reliable sources

1. Personal pages are avoided unless the content is well-written, accurate and the author appears to have reasonable credentials, and other material is scarce. Personal pages with pop-ups and advertising are avoided.
2. Commercial pages are used when the information is well-written, accurate and intelligible to secondary students. Commercial sites with pop-ups and inappropriate advertising are avoided.
3. Resources are chosen to cater for various reading levels, so that students from year levels 7-12 should be able to find sites in any section which are accessible. Library Webs is currently working on grading each website under two categories, Middle School and Senior School, to give users some idea of the reading level required. Links in the *For Teachers* sections may be more specific, depending on the information available .
4. Senior School sites will contain information which has advanced vocabulary, concepts and adult issues (e.g. legal studies, some social issues etc.).
5. Middle School sites will contain information which has low-to middle level vocabulary, has generally attractive and easily navigable layout.
6. A variety of viewpoints is presented where possible so that users are aware of the multi-faceted nature of some topics and are able to detect bias and point of view.
7. Sites which have been created by students are listed on occasions. If it is a student project, the acknowledgement indicates this. Students are able to see what their peers have created and be challenged to meet or surpass these standards.

Updates and upgrades

Library Webs are constantly being updated and upgraded to ensure that users are not inconvenienced by dead links and to keep pace with global events and local changes. It is the nature of the Internet to change, so there will always be some dead links. However Library Webs policy of continuous checking, deleting and correcting keeps these dead links at a minimum.

Personal service

Library Webs staff are committed to co-operating with teachers and teacher-librarians to provide quality resources for Australian secondary students. If a particular topic is not yet covered in the Library Webs collection, send a copy of your assignment topic to the staff at Library Webs and within a reasonable period, we will create lists for you which cater for your needs. The new topic then is included in the database for other users to access. Extra sections are being added to existing topics all the time, so if you require an extra aspect of a topic to be included, that can be arranged as well.

Newsletters

Each term, subscribers are sent a newsletter via email outlining the latest offerings in new topics and additional sections.