

# The Scout Report

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## History

### **The Geography of Slavery in Virginia**

<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/>

Created by Tom Costa on behalf of the University of Virginia, the Geography of Slavery in Virginia presents full transcriptions and images of over 4,000 runaway and captured ads for slaves and servants placed in Virginia newspapers from 1736 to 1790. Additionally, the project offers a number of documents related to slaves, servants, and slaveholders, including court records, other newspapers notices, slaveholder correspondence, and assorted literature about slavery and indentured servitude. Photos of advertisements for escaped slaves, often situated beside other ads describing missing livestock, offer a chilling reminder of a time when humans were considered property. Users of the site can browse the advertisements by month or by location, or use the full-text search. The Essays area contains a rather fine piece which places Virginia slavery into the context of the larger colonial America and Atlantic picture. [KMG]

### **Torn in Two: 150th Anniversary of the Civil War**

<http://tornintwo.org/>

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the Boston Public Library has created this new exhibition, "Torn in Two: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War". The in situ exhibit concludes at the end of December 2011, however the interactive features on their site will continue to be available beyond that date. Visitors can get started by following the "Take the Virtual Tour" link. Here visitors will hear a plaintive song, accompanied by period images and maps. After this brief introduction, visitors can click on the "People" tab to learn about citizens such as Stephen Hill, a Confederate soldier, and Elizabeth Farnsworth, a Civil War nurse. Moving along, the "Places" section offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the "state" of each state in the US during the Civil War. Finally, the "Timeline" offers an interactive chronology of key events (illustrated with maps, photographs, and other documents) before, during, and after the Civil War. Finally, the site also includes resources for teachers, including lesson plans and curriculum guides. [KMG]

## **Civil War Washington**

<http://civilwardc.org/>

What was Washington, D.C. like during the Civil War? It's an arresting and interesting question, and the people at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Digital Research in the Humanities have created this digital archive to look into it. As their introductory statement notes, this collection "examines the U.S. national capital from multiple perspectives as a case study of social, political, cultural, and medical/scientific/transitions provoked or accelerated by the Civil War." On the homepage, visitors will find six sections, including Maps, Texts, Visual Works, and Data. For those with a spatial bent, the Maps area is a real find. Visitors can use the interactive GIS-enabled map to look at the layers of history throughout the city with a grain of detail that is remarkable. Moving along, the Interpretations area includes scholarly essays, such as "Washington, the Strategic Capital." [KMG]

## **The Diary of a Civil War Nurse**

[http://americanhistory.si.edu/documentsgallery/exhibitions/nursing\\_1.html](http://americanhistory.si.edu/documentsgallery/exhibitions/nursing_1.html)

Can you imagine what it would be like to be a nurse during the Civil War? The quick amputations? The widespread infectious diseases? The days-long battles? While time machines aren't yet a viable option, we think this website is the next best thing: a first-person account of the war by nurse Amanda Akin. This talented woman spent 15 months serving injured soldiers and others at the Armory Square Hospital in Washington, DC, and her letters to her sisters and other missives are included here courtesy of the Smithsonian's American History Museum. Visitors can explore the documents via an interactive map of DC, or look through the items that have been sorted into thematic sections.

Amanda Akin lived in Quaker Hill, New York in the 1860s, though she left her home in April 1863 to serve as a nurse at Armory Square Hospital in Washington, D.C. The experience transformed her, and during her time there she wrote long letters to her sisters and also recorded her daily experience in diaries. This digital collection from the American History Museum allows visitors to learn from her first-hand experience via an interactive map that brings up the places she encountered during her travels. After looking over the interactive map, visitors can make their way through six thematic sections, which include Tokens of Remembrance, A Wartime Role for Women, and Portrait of a Nurse. Each of these sections contains photographs, letters, and other items that tell of Akin's different discoveries, her trials, and her many accomplishments.

## **Illinois Civil War Newspapers**

<http://dig.lib.niu.edu/cwnewspapers/about.html>

Created as part of an ambitious effort to digitize a wide range of documents related to the Civil War in Illinois, this site is a great resource for historians and the curious public. It's quite a trove, as it offers visitors access to over 1,900 documents including commentaries from Senator Stephen Douglas, letters from soldiers back home, the draft, and much more. The site also has a nice search engine that gives visitors the ability to perform a full-text search across all of the articles. Accounts of well known battles in places such as Richmond and Gettysburg can be read through the lenses of small town newspapers in Illinois. Finally, the site also has great links to the rest of the digitization projects at Northern Illinois University. [KMG]

## **Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War: A Collection of Digitized Books**

<http://illinoisharvest.grainger.uiuc.edu/results.asp?searchtype=collectioncontent&collID=70928&collname=Abraham%20Lincoln,%20Slavery,%20and%20the%20Civil%20War:%20A%20Collection%20of%20Digitized%20Books>

The Illinois Harvest Digital Collection presents a wide variety of cultural and historical materials related to the state of Illinois. The project began in 2006 and has resulted in many thousands of works being added to its rolls. This rather compelling corner of the collection presents over 1,400 publications related to Abraham Lincoln, with a discrete focus on biographies of the man, slavery, and the American Civil War. One particularly noteworthy title is the 1945 work, "Intimate Memories of Lincoln." This piece, a compilation of anecdotes from people who knew Lincoln well, is quite an intriguing read. Visitors, particularly those who love American history and related subjects, will find they can easily wander around this collection for hours. [KMG]

## **The Irish in the American Civil War**

<http://irishamericancivilwar.com/>

What was the role of the Irish in the American Civil War? Many served on both sides of the conflict, and for young and old it was a formative experience. During the war, over 150,000 Irish-born fought for the Union and 20,000 fought for the Confederacy. This site provides topical articles on matters that include slave ownership among Irish Confederate officers and a curious piece titled, "How 'Irish' was Phil Sheridan?" Visitors can look through the Spotlight posts to get a sense of the different offerings on the site and really shouldn't miss the Resources area. Here, a number of helpful resources are divided into sections that include Books, Generals, and Regimental Losses. An accompanying book is available for purchase and site visitors can sign up to receive periodic updates, including relevant events and new additions. [KMG]

## **Underground Railroad: The Struggle Against Slavery**

<http://ugronline.com>

While Detroit is commonly known for its contributions to the automobile industry, the city is perhaps lesser known for its central roles in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad. Yet, more than 5,000 enslaved people passed through Detroit's Second Baptist Church alone on their way to freedom. Covering a broad range of topics, this exciting digital history project presents the Underground Railroad as a living entity composed of communities, organizations, events, and places, focusing primarily on Detroit and the Midwest. Based out of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the project is designed "to help students and the general public learn more about this important aspect of U.S. history." A great place to start is the Online Course which provides 12 modules featuring video lectures of various lengths and documenting the Underground Railroad and the history of slavery in America. The lectures can be viewed all at once or viewed in installments if so desired. The site also features a great collection of interviews with historians and descendants, searchable Encyclopedias of people and places, and links to numerous external websites discussing the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and the long struggle for civil rights. Lesson plans can be found within Education Resources. Truly, this is a great find for educators, students, and the general public hoping to learn more about these incredible collaborative and covert activities. [CD]

## **"Comfortable Camps?" Archaeology of the Confederate Guard Camp at the Florence Stockade**

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twHP/WWW/IPS/Lessons/142Florence/142FlorenceStockade.htm>

How can we best learn about the world around us? The talented individuals at the National Park Service have continued to answer this question by carefully creating the Teaching with Historic Places Lessons over the past few years. Each lesson plan contains teaching guides, activities, and helpful primary documents. This plan looks at the Confederate Guard Camp at the Florence Stockade in South Carolina, and offers some tremendous insights into what life was like for the guards there. The lesson includes a thematic essay about the historical context of the lesson, along with maps, visual evidence in the form of site plans and artifacts, and helpful first-person narratives by those who were there. The activities here are a real pip, as they include a template for students seeking to build their own campground. [KMG]

### **Civil War Collection at Gettysburg College**

[http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital/civil\\_war/civilwar.htm](http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital/civil_war/civilwar.htm)

It is fitting that Gettysburg College has such a wonderful collection of historic images related to the Civil War era. This particular trove brings together hundreds of letters, lithographs, maps, paintings, pamphlets, political cartoons, and sheet music. The Artifacts area is a great place to start, as it contains a wonderful small pocket bible that belonged to Lewis Tway, a soldier who was in the conflict from 1863 to 1865. There are also a number of personal effects belonging to Frederick Kronenberger, a member of the 2nd New Jersey Volunteers. Additionally, the Photographs area contains dramatic scenes from the Gettysburg battlefield and environs. Finally, the site also has a diverse set of publications from the New England Loyal Publication Society in Boston, which was dedicated to bolstering public support for the Union. [KMG]

### **Britain and the American Civil War**

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/uscivilwar/index.html>

During the Civil War, both the Confederacy and the Union tried to curry favor with Britain in order to support their respective causes. This online exhibition explores these relationships through original period maps, photographs, diplomatic documents, and much more. The Highlights area is a great place to start, as it showcases great finds from the collection including Civil War songs, silk cords from Abraham Lincoln's cortege, and Confederate banknotes. The Anglo-American Relations area provides a brief summary of the relationship and mentions various activities that took place between the United States and Britain during this conflict. Mapping the Civil War is another great feature on the site. Selected by curator, Matthew Shaw, the collection illustrates the terrain, history, and progress of the war. These items include a "Bird's-eye view of the Seat of War" and a fascinating composite portrait of Union Army generals titled, "The Field of Battle." [KMG]

### **Thomas Addis Emmet Collection**

<http://archives.nypl.org/mss/927>

Housed at the New York Public Library, the Thomas Addis Emmet Collection contains over 10,000 historical manuscripts relating chiefly to the periods prior to, during, and following the American Revolution. Over the past few years, a number of key documents have been digitized and are now available here. The materials are organized into 28 series, including "The Siege of Savannah, 1779," "The Articles of Confederation," and "Howe's Virginia." Each section contains a brief summary of each document, along with particulars on their provenance and related matters. Additionally, visitors can filter their search by keyword or year and they can also create their own collection of documents for future consultation. [KMG]

## **Today in History**

<http://www.stevenberg.info/today/>

In the Scout Report, we often have occasion to feature work by experts in the sciences and humanities. Less frequently, we happen across a gem like this long-term, experience-building project for undergraduate students who wish to research, write, and publish short pieces online. The model is an ingenious one: students from Schoolcraft College in Michigan post to this blog several times per week to describe "memorable moments set in a socio-cultural context." The blog entries are intended to pique readers' interest, and certainly captured ours. Other teachers and students may wish to browse through past entries to find inspiration for similar informal but innovative projects.

Professor Steven Berg of Schoolcraft College has been working with his students to create this well-thought-out and interesting website. The purpose of the site is to focus on "only one event each day which is put in a socio-cultural context." Each day, the site features a new brief on a notable historical event such as the feast of Saint Pope Mark or the opening of the celebrated Moulin Rouge cabaret in Paris. While the quality of the student contributions varies (it is, after all, a blog rather than scholarly writing), the mission of the site makes it inspiring for others looking to enlist students in contextualizing and writing about history. In addition, Berg welcomes contributions from outside parties, so those in college settings may wish to inquire further. It's fun to look through the entries and see what students have profiled so far, and it's a nice way to learn about various intriguing events in human history.

E-mail Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Google+

## **Centenary of the First World War, 1914-1918**

<http://www.awm.gov.au/1914-1918/>

The Australian War Memorial is commemorating the centenary of the First World War by engaging in a sophisticated and nuanced redevelopment of its First World War galleries and related exhibits. Users of this site will get a great peek into these new galleries, along with access to the Memorial's YouTube video channels and blogs. Visitors should click on over to the ANZAC Voices to learn about the experiences of different soldiers who were engaged in this Great War, including Lieutenant John Raws and Private Reginald Donkin. The First World War Research area is a great place to learn about doing family history research, check out a summary of the First World War, or look at the Australians at War area. This contains additional military history overviews, and links to This Month in Australian Military History. Finally, visitors shouldn't miss the Centenary Board, which features answers to the question "What does the centenary of the First World War mean to you?" [KMG]

## **World War One: The British Library**

<http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one>

The British Library has gone above and beyond with this multimedia collection of materials related to World War One. Offered as a form of scholarly rumination and educational resource, the site examines key themes in the history of the Great War, along with 50 newly commissioned historical articles, teachers' notes, and much more. First-time visitors might look over the Explore area to find manuscripts, illustrations, letters, maps, and other items contributed by several dozen European institutions. The Teaching Resources includes 40 different items that cover topics such as aerial warfare, propaganda, and bombing raids. The Articles section is a masterstroke and it covers the lives of soldiers, civilians, and colonial troops. [KMG]

## **United States Holocaust Museum: Some Were Neighbors**

<http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/friends/un2649>

How were so many people murdered in the Holocaust? It is a grim question, and it is explored with great sensitivity and insight in this digital exhibition created by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Designed to complement an in situ exhibit, the materials here include photographs, oral histories, and other documents that look at the different roles played by teachers, workers, policemen, and teenagers during this period in world history. The Religious Leaders area contains moving newsreel footage about the role played by Ukrainian Orthodox bishops during this period. The site also includes a For Educators area, complete with lesson plans and resources, such as links to the Holocaust encyclopedia and bibliographies. Additionally, the site contains a glossary and a detailed timeline. [KMG]

## **NOVA: Bombing Hitler's Dams**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/military/bombing-hitler-dams.html>

NOVA is well-known for its engaging documentaries and the team delivers once more with "Bombing Hitler's Dams." Located within the Military + Espionage section of the NOVA site, this episode follows experts as they recreate the 1943 efforts of the "dam buster" pilots and their one-of-a-kind bouncing bomb. A revolutionary secret weapon, the bomb was used to destroy two German dams, effectively cutting off the water supply to vital arms factories during WWII. The entire episode (nearly 2 hours in length) can be viewed here, accompanied by a complete Transcript of the program and Related Links, such as "D-Day's Sunken Secrets" and "Escaping a Nazi Prison Camp." Visitors can also read through the TV Schedule to view Upcoming Broadcasts or Recent Broadcasts that can all be viewed online and are accompanied by related websites, articles, interviews, slideshows, and other great features. [CBD]

## **Before and After the Fire: Chicago in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s**

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chifire/>

Do you ever wonder what Chicago looked like before the Great Fire of 1871? The University of Chicago's Map Library has digitized an entire slew of wonderful maps that document Chicago's urban landscape before and after that traumatic conflagration. The growth of the city during that time was great indeed, transforming the small city from a population of 109,000 to more than one million by the 1880s. Expansion rapidly took hold as the Union Stockyards opened, George Pullman crafted his model city and railroad sleeping car plant, and the South Works steel mill came alive. All told, the collection here contains over a dozen richly detailed maps, including a guide map of Chicago from 1868, a plan for Lincoln Park from the 1880s, and a map of the Union Stockyards from 1887. [KMG]

## **The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures**

<http://www.loc.gov/collection/spanish-american-war-in-motion-pictures/about-this-collection/#overview>

This collection from the American Memory Project at the Library of Congress brings together 68 motion pictures, produced between 1898 and 1901, of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Revolution. In a very real way, the Spanish-American War was the first United States war in which the motion picture camera played a role. Visitors can look over the "Featured Items" to get a flavor of the works here, which include *Roosevelt's Rough Riders* and *Pack mules with ammunition on the Santiago Trail, Cuba*. In Articles and Essays, visitors can read though thoughtful meditations such as, "The War in Cuba" and "Remember the Maine": The Beginnings of War."

## **Railroads and the Making of Modern America**

<http://railroads.unl.edu/>

In the 19th century, the widespread expansion of railroads across the American landscape transformed the lives of millions of people from Maine to California. This digital collection from the University of Nebraska seeks "to document and represent the rapid and far-reaching social effects of railroads and to explore the transformation of the United States to modern ideas, institutions, and practices in the nineteenth century." The site is a tremendous trove of maps, letters, ephemera that help to tell this story in fine detail. On the homepage, visitors can look over sections that include Topics, Views, Data, and Teaching Materials. In the Topics area, visitors can look over thematic collections like Slavery and Southern Railroads and Railroad Work and Workers. The Data area is a real gem, as it features historical railroad systems' GIS files from the 1860s and 1870s, and data visualizations such as some rather elaborate representations of data from historical volumes on railroads. Finally, the Teaching Materials area includes interviews with teachers, an educators' blog, and ideas for teaching with the site. [KMG]

### **Theodore Roosevelt: His Life and Times on Film**

[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/troosevelt\\_film/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/troosevelt_film/)

When you think of President Theodore Roosevelt, you might not think of many major film appearances. He certainly wasn't in any dramatic motion pictures, but his everyday life was chronicled on a large scale by several motion picture companies. From the Spanish-American War in 1898 to his death in 1919, this collection from the American Memory project at the Library of Congress offers up 87 films from the Theodore Roosevelt Association Collection. These include views of contemporary world figures, politicians, monarchs, and friends. First-time visitors should check out the two featured essays: "T.R. On Film" and "Sound Recordings of T.R.'s Voice." The Timeline is a great way to navigate all of the films, and visitors can also browse the collection by title or subject. Two films that shouldn't be missed are "Terrible Teddy, the Grizzly King" from 1901 and "TR with Rough Rider Friends." [KMG]

### **Aaron Thomas: The Caribbean Journal of a Royal Navy Seaman**

<http://scholar.library.miami.edu/thomas/>

Setting out on the Caribbean today on a large vessel might involve boarding a massive cruise ship in Fort Lauderdale or Nassau in the Bahamas. Things were a bit different when Aaron Thomas set off on those same waters back in 1798. Thomas served on the HMS Lapwing during the French Revolutionary wars and his journal contains first-hand accounts of naval operations, customs of the day, and humorous anecdotes involving shipmates and superiors. This wonderful volume is physically located at the University of Miami Libraries Special Collections Division, but visitors can read the document on this site. One sample contains this chestnut of an observation: "Never stop at an Inn, nor go into a Shop to buy goods, if you see the Master has a Superfine Coat on." The document includes pen sketches, financial records, and graveyard epitaphs collected during Thomas's forays ashore. Visitors can click on the Biography area to learn more about Thomas and also use the Excerpts area to get a flavor for his prose style. [KMG]

### **40 maps that explain the Roman Empire**

<http://www.vox.com/2014/8/19/5942585/40-maps-that-explain-the-roman-empire>

If you like your history presented visually and in a popular, Internet style, this site is for you. The set of 40 maps begins with an animated map, that depicts the rise and fall of the Roman Empire by landmass, from 500 BC to 476 AD. Map #3 provides an interesting insight into the size of the Roman Empire, relative to the transportation technologies of the day. Plotted by researchers at Stanford University, readers can use this map to determine travel time from London to Rome - about 3 weeks. There's also a map on the route of Hannibal's famous invasion of Rome with elephants. Compiled by editorial staff and artists at Vox Media, this map collection includes a few errata listed at the end. Many of the maps and sources are linked to Wikipedia articles, which in turn cite published histories – so it appears that Vox has done due diligence. [DS]

## **1637 Tulipmania**

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/explore-the-collection/timeline-dutch-history/1637-tulipmania>

These days no one trades tulips on the stockmarket. But when the tulip was first introduced to Europe in the early 17th century, speculation by Dutch commodities traders led to wildly inflated prices for this most beautiful of spring flowers. In fact, at the peak of the mania, some historians claim that a single tulip bulb could have sold for 10 times the annual salary of a skilled craftsman. The bubble subsequently popped, contributing in part to the decline of the Dutch Republic's Golden Age. Holland's Rijks Museum presents this site as one facet of its Timeline of Dutch History. The site features a number of beautiful illustrations, including a 1639 floral still life by Hans Bollongier, descriptions of the Dutch love for tulips, and images and annotations of the pamphlets that ridiculed the tulip craze. While some of the detailed information accompanying each item in the collection is in Dutch, the majority of the site is navigable in English. [CNH]

## **The Whitney Plantation**

<http://whitneyplantation.com/>

The Whitney Plantation website may be the most informative - and the most disturbing - website about slavery on the Internet. Opened to the public in 2014, the Whitney Plantation is the only plantation museum in the state of Louisiana dedicated to telling the story of slavery. Readers may wish to start with the History tab, which describes the founding and expansion of the plantation, from 1721 onward. The gorgeous Photo Gallery offers readers a visual representation of the plantation's many buildings, including a Spanish Creole mansion, a church, and various shacks and outbuildings. The meat of the site, however, lies in the tab titled Learn. Here, readers are confronted with the hard truth of slavery, told through short articles sorted into three categories: the Slave Population, the Owners, and Historic Buildings and Memorials. From there, the content covers such topics as Resistance, Slavery in Louisiana, the Atlantic Slave Trade, and the Big House and Outbuildings. [CNH]

## **Story of the Week**

<http://storyoftheweek.loa.org/>

Chronicling World War II, the African American experience, nature writing, and dozens of other areas is all in a day's work for the Library of America. Its volumes have received critical acclaim from readers and critics. For the past few years, the organization has been offering up selected stories and features from its pages on this site. Each story here is available in pdf format and contains links to other compelling content, including video clips, interviews, and image databases. Currently there are over 100 stories online, including P.T. Barnum's "In France" and H.P. Lovecraft's haunting "The Music of Erich Zann." Visitors can sign up to receive a new story each week or suggest stories for possible inclusion. [KMG]

## **George Washington's Acts of Congress**

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/acts-of-congress/>

George Washington's personal copy of the Laws of the United States, First Session 1789 has returned from a whirlwind tour of the Presidential Libraries and has taken up permanent residence at Mount Vernon. This historic publication, also known as the *Acts of Congress*, offers a rare glimpse into the establishment of the American government. On this site, visitors can look over a photo gallery featuring more than a dozen images of this rare item, complete with Washington's own annotations. The site offers insights into Washington's thoughts about the presidency, his own role as chief executive, and much more. A pamphlet on the traveling exhibition and Teacher Resources are also available. [KMG]

## **The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag that Inspired the National Anthem**

<http://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>

Noting its "broad stripes and bright stars," Francis Scott Key turned the Star-Spangled Banner into the principle symbol of American patriotism with his poetic account of the bombardment of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. This engaging site from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History accompanies an in situ exhibit celebrating the history and legacy of the flag behind the National Anthem. As the homepage suggests, it's a good idea to begin with the War section of the site, which sets the historical stage. On this page, interested visitors will even find links to suggested resources for classroom use. Visitors can also Explore the interactive flag feature in the Interact section of the site. Through several images, complete with informational captions, it's possible to get up close and personal with this American icon. [CBD]

## Utility

### **Muuter**

Google

If you are on Twitter for work or pleasure, you may find that some users are a bit too "noisy". Muuter can help with this problem, as it gives interested parties the ability to scan their timeline and mute everyone who uses certain keywords habitually. Visitors can set up Muuter to mute certain users and their tweets for a set amount of time as well. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **Dayboard**

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/dayboard-new-tab-page/kimodcegbhclamjcbifgfaldeengbjj>

Dayboard lets you take on five tasks a day, no more, no less. It's a great extension that works with Google Chrome to keep users focused. Visitors can insert their items at the start of each day and then keep track of them via a system of tabs. This version is compatible with all operating systems running Google Chrome. [KMG]

## **Share My Screen Pro**

[http://download.cnet.com/Share-My-Screen-Pro/3000-2064\\_4-75894849.html](http://download.cnet.com/Share-My-Screen-Pro/3000-2064_4-75894849.html)

If you work with people all over the country or the world, it can be hard to share information and visuals quickly. Share My Screen Pro allows users to do just that, complete with two way audio and instant messaging. Visitors can watch a short video here to get oriented and after that, it's rather easy to get started with the program. This version is compatible with all computers running Windows 2000 and newer as well as iOS and Android phones. [KMG]

## **Adblock Plus**

<https://adblockplus.org>

As far as the staff at Scout is concerned, ads are the bitter cup of the web surfing experience. Enter Adblock Plus, a free browser extension that 300 million users have already downloaded. This handy installation blocks ads all over the web, including YouTube and Facebook. Compatible with Safari, Chrome, Firefox, and Internet Explorer. [CNH]

## **ooVoo Video Chat**

<http://www.oovoo.com/home.aspx>

ooVoo may just be the ultimate video chat app. Besides allowing you to chat with up to twelve of your closest friends simultaneously, you can also send video messages, film and upload to YouTube, instant message, and record 1,000 minutes of conversations for playback. ooVoo requires Android 2.3+ or iOS 7.0+. [CNH]

## **World Weather**

<http://www.clicktorelease.com/code/weather/>

What's going on in the world of weather? Are there storms around Sri Lanka? What about the snows of Kilimanjaro? These can be pressing questions, indeed, and the World Weather app is a great way to stay in touch with weather patterns around the globe. Users will find that they can just type in a city name to see the current weather and also zoom around the globe as they see fit. It's a remarkable addition to the world of existing weather tracking apps and is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **YouSnap**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cyberlink.yousnap>

Looking to turn images into PDF files? It's easy to do with YouSnap and it can be a great tool for capturing notes from meetings, presentations, and other gatherings. The app helps isolate and select the important areas in these images and then instantly corrects the perspective and enhances the image quality. This version is compatible with all devices running Android 2.2 and newer. [KMG]

## **Online Dictation**

<http://ctrlq.org/dictation/>

If you are looking for an online dictation program, look no further than Online Dictation for use with Google Chrome. This dictation program allows users to convert their spoken voice into digital text with little fuss. Visitors just need to attach a microphone to their computers to allow the program to pick up their voices. This version is compatible with all computers running **Google Chrome**. [KMG]

## **Shapeshifter**

<http://flamefusion.net/Software/Shapeshifter>

If you have ever wanted a clipboard manager, this program is for you. Shapeshifter allows visitors to manage their clipboard history and customize how they use the materials on their clipboard. After installing the program, visitors just need to press CTRL+V to view a complete clipboard history for their convenience. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **Converseen**

<http://converseen.sourceforge.net/>

If you are looking for a way to convert, resize, rotate and flip an unlimited number of images, Converseen is worth a look. It's an open source program that supports over 100 image formats and the user interface is easy to use. The site for the program includes a FAQ area and this version is compatible with Windows and Linux operating systems. [KMG]

## **Streaming Audio Recorder**

<http://www.recordstreamingaudio.org/>

The Streaming Audio Recorder application allows users to record any type of streaming audio via their computers' speakers or microphone. It's a simple way to record audio from sites such as Grooveshark, YouTube, BBC and others. The program is compatible with computers running Windows 2000 and newer. [KMG]

## **Electric Slide**

<http://www.electricslide.net/>

To some the electric slide may just be a novelty dance. Astute readers of technology blogs will know that this Electric Slide happens to be an application that allows visitors to wirelessly present their PowerPoint slides, documents, and videos using just their iPhone or iPad. First-time visitors can watch an instructional video and then go ahead and get started. The Features area contains details on the operations of the program and the Help section offers up some useful suggestions. This version is compatible with all operating systems running iOS 5.1.1 and newer. [KMG]

## **QuicklyChat**

<http://www.quicklychat.com/>

Are you looking to have a quick chat with a coworker or other party? QuicklyChat can help you do that, as it features fully customizable smart status updates and other bells and whistles. The video linkup emphasizes quicker and more efficient communication; it does so by detecting if the other party is currently available or not by detecting one's current system activity. This application is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **ResumeBuilder**

<http://www.resumebuilder.org/>

Creating a new resume can be a daunting experience, but Resume Builder is a great way to ease any tensions associated with this particular activity. Visitors can view a demonstration here, and they will note that they can get started by just entering their occupation: the program will suggest the best template for finishing the task. Also, visitors can search thousands of professional phrases suggested by ResumeBuilder to enhance their unique document. Finally, visitors can share their resume via a range of social media tools, such as Facebook and Twitter. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **PDFstash**

<https://www.pdfstash.com/>

Do you ever wonder where you put that last PDF you created? It can be a vexing problem, but with PDFstash you need wonder no more. The program allows visitors to put all of their PDFs in the cloud and then create bookmarks and folders that will keep things neat and tidy. Placing the PDFs in the cloud simply requires users to drag and drop documents. The free account option allows users to store 20 different documents per month and is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

### **Air Call-Accept**

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.necta.aircall\\_accept.free](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.necta.aircall_accept.free)

We've all had our hands in the dishwasher when an important call comes in. The Air Call-Accept application gives users the ability to just wave their hand across the proximity sensor, and voila: the call is accepted. It's quite useful for people who are driving around quite a bit, though others will certainly find it efficacious. This version is compatible with devices running Android 1.6 and newer. [KMG]

### **4Sync**

<http://www.4sync.com/>

4Sync is a rather useful way to sync hundreds of files quickly and easily. The service provides users with backup copies of their files and visitors will find they can use multiple platforms to do so. This free version offers 15GB of storage at no charge and is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

### **PhotoBlab**

<http://www.photoblab.com/>

Have you ever wanted to add audio to your photos? This is now very possible via the magic of PhotoBlab. This application allows users to add, edit, and share audio and photos with their followers via Twitter and other social media outlets. This version is compatible with devices running iOS 3.2 and newer. [KMG]

### **My Study Life**

<https://www.mystudylife.com/>

Some young scholars may ask the question: "What time do I need to be at general chemistry?" or "When does my review group meet?" Keeping track of such matters is a snap with My Study Life, a free online planner. Visitors can color-code each activity for easy visual recognition and insert various tasks that might be due on any given day. Unlike more conventional calendars, this one integrates classes, tasks, and exams to give students and teachers a full picture of what remains to be done. This program is available for Chrome, Windows 8, Windows Phone, and Android, and will soon be available for iOS. [KMG]

### **PDF Mergy**

<http://pdfmerge.w69b.com/>

Merging pdf files just got much easier with PDF Mergy. This application gives users the ability to just drag and drop files that need to be merged into a handy window. Users move the documents into the desired order, click Merge, and download the single-file version. This Web app is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **Skype Recorder**

<http://im.simkl.com/>

In an increasingly connected world, it's often necessary to conduct interviews, customer support, and more over Skype. Simkl is a good way to keep track of conversations users need to reference later. The conversations can be stored on any computer or to the cloud. Additionally, visitors can use the same application to record IM conversations. The program is available in over a dozen languages and it is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **OneTab** utility

<http://www.one-tab.com>

Here at Scout we work with a lot of open tabs - sites to annotate, reviews of those sites, various searches, historical references, all while answering emails, updating social media, and looking for the latest news stories. So sometimes the proliferation of open tabs can be a little overwhelming. OneTab is designed to address this problem with an elegant trick. When the reader finds too many tabs are open, she can click the OneTab icon to convert all open tabs to a simple savable list. In addition to simplifying screen clutter, this saves up to 95% of memory by reducing the number of open tabs, which can speed up a computer that has been bogged down. The OneTab add-on is available for both Google Chrome and Firefox, and can be installed within a matter of seconds. For readers who constantly multitask on the Internet, the service offers a welcome respite from the glut of information through which most of us swim. [CNH]

## **TinyScan** utility

<http://www.appxy.com/tinyscan/>

The idea of TinyScan is simple - the app uses the camera function of iPhones to make them into portable scanners, so that users can scan documents and transform them into PDFs. The scanner automatically detects the page frame, making scanning extremely user friendly. PDFs can then be easily shared with others by uploading to Dropbox, Evernote, Google Drive, and others. TinyScan requires iOS 6.0+ or Android 3.0+. [CNH]

## **Odrive**

<http://www.odrive.com>

Odrive is a Dropbox-style interface that allows users to access online photos, documents, and social media platforms from one convenient location. It also integrates with Dropbox, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive, Gmail, Microsoft OneDrive, and other applications so that you can have access to all your data without logging in and out of various apps and services. The program is easily downloadable to your computer. [CNH]

# Photography

## **National Geographic: Photography**

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/>

This fine corner of their website brings together the work of their many fine staff photographers, videographers, and community members who contribute to this expansive brocade. After creating a free login, visitors can start their journey through the site by looking over the Photo of the Day or the "Best of..." slideshows that bring together highlights from past months. The "Editors' Picks" area offers thematic collections, such as "Photographing Lions," "Tel Aviv," "Patterns in Nature: Water" and "The Space Between." Shutterbugs will enjoy the online tutorials and tips contained in the "Photography Tips" area. Here they will find detailed suggestions on how to photograph details, urban landscapes, the night sky, and many other settings, times, and vistas. Finally, the site contains the "Featured Bios" area which has details on some of the fine photographers profiled here. [KMG]

## **Fotor**

<http://www.fotor.com/>

As a free program that works across many platforms, Fotor also allows visitors the opportunity to create photo effects, clip art, and use mosaic tool to truly customize the appearance of their visual offerings. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **Photozeen**

<http://www.photozeen.com>

Photozeen is an educational platform for photographers. It teaches users how to take better pictures through a process of skills tips, feedback, and community connections. The app revolves around "quests," which start with general topics and then narrow to hone basic photography skills. Photozeen is currently available for iPads and iPhones running iOS 6.0+ and Android users. [CNH]

## **PhotoChron 1.17**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.photochron>

Perhaps you'd like to create a collection of images documenting your child's growth and development? Or maybe a time-lapse collection of plants growing in your garden? PhotoChron can make all of this possible. Visitors can use the application to assemble their photos and create a slideshow to share with friends and others. It's easy to use and there's also a FAQ area which is most useful. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]  
Android operating system

# Engineering

## **Engineering is Elementary**

<http://www.eie.org/>

Boston Museum of Science's Engineering is Elementary (EIE) has created this remarkable set of resources designed for young children with an interest in engineering and technological literacy. The focus of this work is to reach young people who are underserved or underrepresented in STEM fields while also improving educators' ability to teach engineering and technology. On this site, visitors can look over sections that include Educator Resources, The EIE Curriculum, and About Us. Within Educator Resources visitors will find dozens of videos, such as "Inclined Plane Station," "Solar Oven Box," and "Designing Model Membranes." Moving on, the Engineering Adventures subset of EIE Curriculum features a range of free modules designed for after-school progress. The modules here include "Engineering Aid Drop Packages" and "Safe Removal of an Invasive Species." There is also a place where visitors can sign up to receive the EIE newsletter, a delightful source full of updates, tips, and more. [KMG]

## **American Society of Civil Engineers: Teaching Resources**

<http://www.asceville.org/resources.html>

Do you want to help train the next generation of civil engineers? This website provides a plethora of high-quality, hands-on activities for just that purpose. The site has resources for educators, parents, and engineers. The Educators section contains classroom resources that include ZOOM into Engineering and West Point Bridge Contest. The real interactive gems are in the Digital Media area. Visitors can take advantage of playful experiences like It's Cool to Be A Civil Engineer and Designing a Roller Coaster. The Parents area includes some very fun activities parents can do with their children. All told, there are seven such low-cost activities with instructions, including Paper Bridge and Newspaper Tower. All in all, it's a lovely site and one that will inspire future engineers and create new connections between educators and their students. [KMG]

## **Engineer Your Life**

<http://www.engineeryourlife.org/>

Engineer Your Life is a website designed for high school girls who are curious about a career in engineering. Resources on the site feature women who have built successful careers in engineering. For instance, one short video focuses on Tara Teich, a computer science engineer who designs Star Wars video games, while another profiles Erin Fletcher, a civil engineer who manages large scale municipal projects in Seattle. There's a list of "Ten reasons while you'll love it" – engineering that is - and profiles of over a dozen women who love their work as engineers. In addition, the Find Your Dream Job area lets readers search through categories such as aerospace, bioengineering, chemical, civil, and other engineering fields. In all, this is a wonderful resource for teachers, counselors, and other adults who are helping guide girls in their career choices. [CNH]

## **American Association of Engineering Societies**

<http://www.aaes.org/>

In 1980, the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) convened for the first time, hoping to become the voice of the engineering profession in the United States. Today, the primary goal of AAES is to advance the knowledge, understanding, and practice of engineering. On the website, visitors can make their way through six primary sections, including News, Meetings/Events, Publications, and Resources. This last area is a great place to start, as it contains instructional and professional videos from different related groups, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineering. The Working Groups/Committees area includes information on how different affinity groups (such as the K-12 Working Group) are assisting in advancing the cause of the engineering disciplines. The site is rounded out by the News area, which includes updates about the Association's latest partnerships and outreach efforts. [KMG]

## **eGFI: For Teachers**

<http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/>

While eGFI may sound like a curious acronym, it is actually quite straightforward: "Engineering, Go For It!" The site is designed for teachers and maintained by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). The materials here are divided into six primary sections, including Class Activities, Web Resources, Lesson Plans, and Features. This last area is a real pip, including updates on everything from aerospace's application in the field of yacht design to Plagiarism Education Week. The Web Resources area brings together updates about useful new sites such as Daily Science News and a clutch of links on Earth Day. Of course, visitors won't want to miss the Lesson Plans area. Here they will find over 200 plans that include "Shake It Up with Seismographs" and "Working Together To Live Together," which invites students to experience civil and environmental engineering by planning a housing development. Finally, interested parties can read the engaging eGFI magazine, read student blogs, or check out the site's in-house video channel, E-Tube. [KMG]

# Teaching

## **MathGrapher**

<http://www.mathgrapher.com/>

MathGrapher is a stand-out graphing tool designed for students, scientists and engineers. Visitors can read the Introduction to get started, as it contains information about the various functions that the tool can perform. The Picture Gallery provides interactive demonstrations that show visitors how each operation is performed. Also, the left-hand side of the homepage contains links to the different areas within the site, including Data, Curve Fitting, Iterations, and Matrices. The site offers a trial version of the program at no charge. The site is rounded out by a collection of links to helpful freeware and mathematical software from around the Internet. [KMG]

## **Smithsonian Science Education Center**

<http://www.ssec.si.edu/>

Created through a unique partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academies in 1985, the Smithsonian Science Education Center is committed to improving "the learning and teaching of science in school districts in the United States and throughout the world." The materials on the site are divided into areas that include Books & Kits, Innovation & Leadership, and Smithsonian. In the Books & Kits area, visitors can browse through a number of lesson plans, fact sheets, and other educational materials designed to help students learn about 20 different topics, including technology, geology, botany, and meteorology. The Innovation & Leadership area provides access to resources on increasing diversity in the science classroom and improving K-8 science education. The website is rounded out by a range of social media links where visitors can keep tabs on new additions to the site. [KMG]

## **Research Guides at Harvard Library**

<http://guides.library.harvard.edu/hcl>

The Harvard University Library has worked closely with a vast array of information technology specialists and others to craft this fine collection of research guides. From African Studies to Zoology, each guide contains information culled from both print resources at Harvard's libraries to a plethora of digital resources from around the Internet. There are a number of particularly rich guides here, including those for Data and Biological Sciences. Visitors can learn about each resource in detail, including when they were last updated and other salient details. One can imagine that given the breadth of these guides, they might be used in a variety of educational settings from high school to post-graduate studies. [KMG]

## **Google Scholar**

<http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en>

For scholars young and old, Google Scholar is a great way to find key academic resources from all over the world. The homepage features a basic search engine, along with the ability to look through millions of patents and legal documents. Visitors can use the My Citations area to craft their own set of resources and they are also welcome to use the Metrics area for rigorous data. The advanced search options, links to articles citing the pieces users find, and connections to pdfs and local university libraries make Google Scholar an indispensable aid in conducting literature reviews. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **Resources for Teaching Social Psychology**

<http://jfmuller.faculty.noctrl.edu/crow/>

This website was created by Professor Jon Mueller of North Central College in order to help fellow professors teach a range of social psychology topics to their students. The resources here are divided into 10 areas, including Online Lectures, Examples of Concepts, and Class Assignments. The site is updated frequently, and visitors can click through each of these sections to get a sense of the offerings. The Topics Resources area contains helpful links and activities related to conformity, aggression, and group influence. Moving on, the site also includes links to other teaching psychology sites, including Science of Relationships and the GoCognitive project, which offers an online center for teaching in cognitive psychology and neuroscience. [KMG]

## **Practical Chemistry: Nuffield Foundation**

<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/practical-chemistry>

Young people and others should know about the foundations of modern chemistry and this novel site from the Nuffield Foundation provides a nice mixture of resources to accomplish this goal. The Foundation partnered with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) to create this trove, which visitors will find easy to use and navigate. As the authors describe it, these practical activities are designed to "enable students to apply and extend their knowledge and understanding of chemistry in novel investigative situations." It's important to browse the Topics area, as this contains sections like States of Matter, Bonding, structure, properties, Analysis, Energy and entropy, and The Earth and atmosphere. The great thing about these activities is that they are self-contained, and they require only a modest investment in actual materials and educational background. Finally, the Standard Techniques area will help visitors learn some lab basics, including the heating of various substances, using thermometers properly, and the correct use of a Bunsen burner. [KMG]

### **Archaeological Institute of America: Lesson Plans**

<http://www.archaeological.org/education/lessonplans>

Archaeology is a fascinating subject and the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is committed to getting young people enthused about this area of human inquiry. This website contains useful lesson plans designed to bring the "fascinating material culture and methodological approaches of archaeology into their classrooms." The materials here are intended for use with K-12 students, but a number of them can be adapted to work with college students as well. Currently, there are over a dozen lesson plans and projects on the site. Visitors will find brief descriptions of each item and their goals. The titles covered include "Aztec Codex," "A Greco-Roman Feast: Dining and Reclining," and "Cargoes from Three Continents: Ancient Mediterranean Trade in Modern Archaeology." [KMG]

### **Teach With Movies**

<http://www.teachwithmovies.org/>

Once upon a time, it might have seemed a bit curious to screen feature films in the classroom. With today's technology, it is quite common, and the Teach With Movies site is a great resource for those looking to integrate moving pictures into their classroom environments. On this website, visitors will find Snippets & Shorts, Sciences, Movie Worksheets, and a substantial variety of other areas. The Snippets & Shorts area is a particular gem, as it offers suggestions for using a range of popular films to teach concepts in science, history, English, and other subjects. Visitors will also want to look at the Age area to review appropriate films for different ages. The Movie Worksheets area includes film study worksheets addressing several different themes, including Hero's Journey, Cinematic and Theatrical Elements, and Historical Fiction. While the site does not provide direct access to copyrighted film material, it is an excellent source of support materials for teachers who will have access to the suggested films through their local or school libraries. [KMG]

### **Teacher Resource Center: STEM Lesson Plans**

[http://tse.unl.edu/trc/lesson\\_plans.php](http://tse.unl.edu/trc/lesson_plans.php)

Created by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Mid-America Transportation Center, this resource center for teachers contains several hundred lesson plans for educators working in grades 6-12. Many of the upper level plans are even suitable for introductory college courses and visitors can filter the plans by subjects. Subjects include math, industrial technology, science, and engineering and visitors can search by keyword, category, and grade level as well. Interested parties can also submit their own lesson plans for possible inclusion in this database. [KMG]

### **Smithsonian Lesson Plans**

[http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson\\_plans/lesson\\_plans.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/lesson_plans.html)

The Smithsonian Institution is sometimes referred to as "America's attic." In true form, it offers a treasure trove of fine educational resources and lesson plans based on its vast collections. Fortunately for educators, these materials are now available online via this well-designed and useful site. Visitors to the site can browse the lesson plans by subject area, grade level, or keyword. To get started, visitors can scan the This Month's Top 10 list of plans to see what other users are enjoying. Some of the plans featured recently include "The Music in Poetry," "Abraham Lincoln, the Face of War," and "Prehistoric Climate Change And Why It Matters Today." The IdeaLabs bring history, science and art to life for young people. These stand-alone units are meant to be used by younger students to learn about the history of sculpture, geology, the Apollo 11 mission, and much more. [KMG]

### **Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning**

<http://bokcenter.harvard.edu/>

Named after a former president of Harvard University, the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning was established in 1975 to enhance the quality of undergraduate education at Harvard College. The site contains information specifically for affiliates of Harvard, much of which can be broadly applied to college instruction at other institutions. In the Resources & Advice area visitors can look over sections that include Syllabus Design, Course Assessment, Lecturing, Diversity in the Classroom, and Leading Discussions. In the materials section interested parties can look over tip-sheets and in-house videos on college teaching. Perhaps the most intriguing area is the "Harvardese" glossary. Here you will find teaching terms that provide insight into the lingua franca deployed within the ivy-covered walls of this august institution. [KMG]

### **ChemCollective**

<http://www.chemcollective.org/>

The ChemCollective is a collection of virtual labs, scenario-based learning activities, tutorials, and concept tests. On their website, interested parties can use the content for pre-labs, alternatives to textbook homework, and for in-class activities for individuals or teams. Visitors can get started by looking over the Featured Resource and then move on to explore Resources by Type or Resources by Topic. This last heading is quite well-developed and covers solubility, physical chemistry, and kinetics. On the right-hand side of the page, the Quick Links area brings together tutorials, a virtual laboratory feature, and links to What's New on the site. Additionally, users can take advantage of the search feature and can also offer feedback on their own experiences with these resources. [KMG]

### **American Biology Teacher**

<http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/index.php?p=26>

Published by a group of passionate educators, the American Biology Teacher is a professional journal for K-16 biology teachers. The journal covers a wide range of topics, and is focused on providing biology teaching strategies for both the classroom and the laboratory as well as field activities and reviews of new educational books, online sites, and applications. Visitors to the site can review articles selected by the editors each month at no charge, while the rest of each journal requires a paid membership. All told, there are over fifty free articles here dating back to 2006. Some of the more recent offerings include "Minnows as a Classroom Model for Human Environmental Health" and "A Socratic Method for Surveying Students' Readiness to Study Evolution." Visitors can also use social media options to keep track of new additions or to share articles with others. [KMG]

### **Physics Teacher Education Coalition**

<http://www.ptec.org/>

Created by staff members at the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PETC) is a network of institutions committed "to improving the education of future physics and physical science teachers." On the site, visitors can look through the Library area, which contains curricula, help for new teachers, information on teacher preparation, and ten other topics. The Latest Additions area is a great way to learn about what's been added to the site in recent days and weeks. Moving along, the Special Initiatives contains information about programs designed to create a groundswell of support for physics education across the country. Also, visitors can learn about Conferences & Workshops that the PETC sponsors for educators. [KMG]

### **Teaching History with 100 Objects**

<http://www.teachinghistory100.org>

Teaching History with 100 Objects may be funded by the United Kingdom's Department of Education, but the resources available on the website will be useful to educators the world over. The 100 objects in question consist of historically significant Irish posters, English canons, Chinese tea pots, Viking scales, and many other fascinating objects. The site can be scouted in a number of convenient ways. Readers can search by topics, dates, places, or themes, or simply select an image from the homepage to get started. Each object is accompanied by a brief annotation, as well as additional categories, such as About the object, A bigger picture, Teaching ideas, and For the Classroom. Each category is packed with information, ideas, and suggestions for bringing history to life. [CNH]

# Medical

## **Virtual Open Heart Surgery**

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/lcs/heart.htm>

How does open heart surgery work? Without taking the time to get a formal medical degree, it can be quite hard to find out first-hand. Fortunately, this site from the Australian Broadcasting Company (ABC) takes you inside a virtual operating room to try your hand at performing this procedure. Visitors can look over the interactive Menu to first learn about the anatomy of this region of the body. It's a good place to start and users can proceed to look through the ten (simplified) steps to performing such a complicated operation. Along the way, visitors are given the opportunity to learn about the science behind each step and it's all quite fascinating. It's a great resource for budding scientists, medical professionals, and those who are generally curious about the human body. [KMG]

## **Nervous System, Neurons, Nerves**

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/interactive/nerves/>

How does the nervous system work? It is a question that has engaged the minds of scientists, doctors, and others for centuries. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has created this tour of the nervous system for teachers and students. First-time visitors can start with the Explore a Nerve Cell area, which goes over the membrane, nucleus, axon, dendrites, and the synapse in exquisite detail with interactive graphics. Moving on, The Basics area provides summaries of the operation of the nervous system and a rather illustrative area named Ouch! The site is rounded out by the Nervous Systems Explorations section, which has some nice simulations covering Brainstorms and Simple Reflexes. [KMG]

## **Anatomy Arcade**

<http://www.anatomyarcade.com/>

Anatomy truly gets interactive via these collection of fun and engaging games, videos, and other multimedia excursions. The site was created by Ben Crossett, a science teacher in Australia. Several years ago, he decided to craft some new resources like "Poke a Muscle" and "Whack-A-Bone" that would be both entertaining and educational. Visitors can look at the Games By Body System to get started, or they can also look over the Games By Type area. The types of games here include jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, word searches, and the nice catch all Just For Fun. The activities are also made interesting by the mere fact that they contain catchy visuals and jaunty tunes. The site also includes a place where teachers can offer feedback and an area just for students. [KMG]

## **Get Body Smart**

<http://www.getbodysmart.com/>

The Get Body Smart site was created in 2000 by Scott Sheffield. He's been teaching human anatomy and physiology for over 20 years and the site is an important source of high-quality information on both fields. As it is an online textbook, the subject areas here on the homepage include Skeletal System, Nervous System, and Histology. Each of these areas includes an introductory tutorial, along with short quizzes designed to test the visitors on each topic. The site also includes a specific area dedicated just to quizzes, and it's quite useful for teachers seeking a way to keep students up-to-date. The site is rounded out by a social media section, along with a short selection of Related Links. [KMG]

## **Visible Body**

<http://www.visiblebody.com/>

The human body is an intricate, and often mysterious, place. With today's technology, however, many websites and apps provide entry into this fascinating world. Visible Body is one of the more compelling avenues for exploration. While there are paid products on the site, some of the content is available at no charge. Visitors can look over the Human Anatomy Atlas, which contains a range of visualizations that allow users to explore body systems in exquisite detail. For a small fee, users may access the other specific areas of the site, which include Digestive Anatomy, Respiratory Anatomy, and Reproductive & Urinary Anatomy. [KMG]

## **Frontline: Life and Death in Assisted Living**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/life-and-death-in-assisted-living/>

What can one expect in an assisted living facility? It can be hard to evaluate their seemingly bucolic surroundings based solely on their websites and promotional literature. The team at Frontline teamed up with Pro Publica to craft this well-done documentary on the assisted living industry in the United States. Visitors can watch the entire 53 minute documentary online or explore the site's wealth of extra features. Users shouldn't miss the interviews with two of the nation's largest assisted living companies or the very compelling live chat transcript with the filmmakers, titled Is Assisted Living Safe for Your Parents? Journalists, in particular, will appreciate the section How "Life and Death in Assisted Living" Was Reported. [KMG]

## **PubMed Health - National Library of Medicine**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/>

This fascinating site from the U.S. National Library of Medicine is packed with resources loosely organized around clinical effectiveness research in medicine. There are six main sections of the site: Contents, Behind Headlines, What's New, Featured Review, Understand Clinical Effectiveness, and Blog. Featured Review is a great place to start as it links to the current review as well as those previously featured. Topics range from the efficacy of powered versus manual toothbrushes to exercising with asthma. The Understand Clinical Effectiveness section offers some very educational links that describe not only what research is out there, but how to become a critical consumer of that research. [CNH]

## **State Fair Recipes**

<http://statefairrecipes.com/>

Once upon a time, the culinary fare at state fairs was somewhat predictable. You could count on some pies, BBQ, watermelon, and a range of meat-based entrees that would impress any given carnivore. Today, state fair food vendors must be innovative each and every season as they quest for the next big foodstuff offering. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that the competition is intense, adding that a number of new innovations have been unveiled as of late. Their correspondents noted that the Ohio State Fair had giant deep-fried gummy bears and the folks in Wisconsin have rolled out deep-fried taco cheesecake. It's tough going for small vendors; Pat Mancini, a food vendor at the Minnesota State Fair, noted "Is it a guessing game? Yeah. A lot of things are on a stick or deep fried. I don't have either." In other news, the Journal also remarked that the Minnesota State Fair will have wine-glazed deep-fried meatloaf for offer during their run. At the time of this writing, it could not be confirmed if said wine was red or white. [KMG]

## **Szathmary Culinary Manuscripts**

<http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cookbooks/>

The collection of cookbooks and other materials related to the culinary arts collected by Chef Louis Szathmary is quite a wonder. All told, the collection totals over 20,000 items and it is held by the University of Iowa Special Collections. This particular slice of these manuscripts includes over 100 items, including an English cookbook from 1650, an "American cookbook" from 1759, and a cookbook from a Illinois homemaker named Lydia Bauer. Visitors can browse the collection by century or by ethnic tradition, including Irish and English. Visitors are also encouraged to help out with access to these fine documents by offering to help transcribe these unique handwritten culinary chronicles. [KMG]

## **This Old House**

<http://video.pbs.org/program/old-house/>

This Old House was arguably one of the first "reality shows," as it profiled celebrated craftsman Bob Vila's renovations of numerous old homes from Seattle to Sarasota. Today, the show has a cast of hosts, and this website brings together the latest episodes for viewing by DIY-lovers and those who just like to watch people passionate about home restoration. Currently there are over 50 episodes on the site, some of which profile specific homes and others which cover certain construction and renovation projects and techniques. Some of the topics covered here include installing surge protectors, stone cutting techniques, and the installation of an anti-scald shower valve. [KMG]

## **Goodreads**

<http://www.goodreads.com/>

"If we encountered a man of rare intellect," Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "we should ask him what books he read." As a group of avid readers, educators, librarians, and computer scientists, we take those words to heart when deciding which book to dive into next. Fortunately, it's now possible to find out what people of all sorts are reading, and maybe recommend a few yourself, via the innovative interface of Goodreads. Search for a book's title to find out what others have thought of it; follow your friends to see what they're reading; keep track of the books you've finished; and contribute your own reviews and ratings to the site. A simple star rating system, easy-to-use tags, and the option to write an in-depth review make this website a fantastic way to organize your reading list and remember the key details of books of years past.

Goodreads is not only a fine place to find your next "good read," but also a great way to keep track of books you've enjoyed. Visitors can log in to create their own lists of books, along with annotations, comments, and ratings. Additionally, visitors can search and browse other readers' profiles, take literary quizzes, and look over hundreds of book lists. Author pages collect writers' bibliographies for an easy way to find more books based on those already read. Finally, the Recommendations area suggests more books individual users might enjoy, drawing from their ratings, tags, and virtual "shelves."

## **Ken Burns**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ken-burns/id723854283?mt=8>

Ken Burns is a popular documentarian and, as it turns out, he is now a popular app, in a manner of speaking. This particular app gives interested parties the ability to view scenes from his documentaries (such as "Baseball" and "Jazz") in a variety of settings. The latest version allows visitors to access the Innovation playlist absolutely free while other playlists containing clips from his other programs are available for a small fee. This version is compatible with all devices running iOS 7.0 and newer. [KMG]

## **California Digital Newspaper Collection**

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>

The Golden State is well chronicled in this digital newspaper collection created by the University of California, Riverside. The offerings here include over 400,000 pages of significant California newspapers published from 1846 to 1922, including the first California newspaper, the Californian. First-time visitors can get started by looking over the Featured paper on the site's homepage. There are over two dozen titles, including the Amador Ledger, the Los Angeles Herald, and the Mariposa Gazette. Additionally, visitors can search by tags, dates, or publication using the site's search engine. Interested parties can also help out the project by adding corrections to the database. All visitors need to do is create a login and they can get started right away. [KMG]

## **MIT: Public Art**

<http://listart.mit.edu/public-art-map>

When people think of MIT, they probably don't immediately think of public art. However, the collection is quite impressive. It all started in 1961 when Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Marx commissioned MIT's first outdoor sculpture. Since then, the collection has grown to include a diverse set of pieces by artists like Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore, and Mark di Suvero. Visitors can look over an interactive map of the public art on campus, listen to podcasts featuring the artists talking about their work, or even book a guided tour of the collection. Also, visitors can download "A Brief Architectural History of MIT" and sign up to learn about new additions to the campus as they are installed. [KMG]

## **Baseball and Jackie Robinson**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/robinson/>

In 1947, Jackie Robinson stepped onto the infield grass at Ebbets Field and integrated major league baseball. This online collection, sponsored by the Citigroup Foundation, brings together dozens of items related to his time on the field, including baseball programs, photographs, and other pieces of ephemera. The site includes an interactive timeline and a wonderful essay titled "Early Baseball Pictures, 1860s-1920s." Teachers can also click on the Collection Connections area to learn how to use these materials to teach critical thinking, American history, and social history. [KMG]

### **Exploratorium: Activities**

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/activities>

Monster marshmallows? The science of sugar? And the world of microorganisms? All of these come together on the Exploratorium in San Francisco's website. The site, dedicated to creative activities appropriate for school-age students, includes apps and videos that provide fun explorations of the aforementioned topics and many more. First-time visitors can browse by type of activity, look over the staff picks, and look over the list of topics, which include Human Body, Living Things, and Seeing. The Listening area is a great place to start, as it features 12 different activities, including "Kitchen Sink-o-Pation" and "Dot Mixer." Visitors can sign up to receive notices about updates via a range of social media, including Google+, Twitter, and Facebook. [KMG]

### **Ohm Studio**

<https://www.ohmstudio.com/>

Ohm Studio is a great way to bring musicians together to work on any number of creative endeavors of the musical variety. The program has a state of the art user interface that allows musicians to work online with fine sound effects, a powerful audio engine, and a range of digital instruments. The site contains a helpful How To area that includes answers to questions such as How to add a track and How to add an effect. This version is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

### **MetMedia**

<http://www.metmuseum.org/metmedia>

The tagline on the MetMedia website is "see the Museum in new ways." To live up to this claim, the Metropolitan Museum has gathered a variety of media, presented in an easy to navigate tabbed display. There's video - 513 short and long videos, arranged in chronological order. The newest video is of TEDxMET, October 19th, a day-long ticketed program that explored "signature buildings, singular stories, modern lives, and medieval beliefs, featuring speakers and performances from a range of disciplines." Videos can be browsed by Collection or location in the Museum that they are related to, such as the American Wing. Current available audio includes a 6-minute podcast of Curator Andrew Bolton discussing "PUNK: Chaos to Couture," that closed August 11, 2013. There's also a section of apps and games, such as Faking It - view historic photographs before and after retouching. The Kids' Zone provides more games for the younger set, such as "How Van Gogh Made His Mark," demonstrating how a few squiggles made by the artist can add up to a wheat field. [DS]

### **Winterthur Digital Collection**

<http://museumcollection.winterthur.org/>

The Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware is one of the premier museums of American material culture, located in the childhood home of industrialist and collector Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969). For those unable to visit in person, the Winterthur Digital Collection includes detailed records, many accompanied by images, for the majority of the approximately 90,000 collection objects - including ceramics, furniture, glass, prints, paintings, metalwork, and textiles, most dating from about 1600 to 1860. At the main page to the online collection, artifacts are organized into searchable categories, such as Ceramics, Glass, Furniture, or Textiles and Needlework. Searchers can click a check box to limit to only those items that have images, and there is also an advanced search function, handy for known item searching. Textiles and needlework is one of the largest collection areas at over 18,000 items; limiting to items with images only reduces the number to about 8,000. [DS]

### **The Getty Iris**

<http://blogs.getty.edu/iris/>

Launched in 2010, the Iris is the Getty's online magazine, written by staff, volunteers, scholars, interns and other specialists at the Getty's Los Angeles campuses. The goal of this publication is "to offer news, stories, and discoveries about art, conservation, research, and philanthropy and to provide an entertaining and substantive behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the Getty." On the homepage, visitors can look through nine different sections, including Behind the Scenes, Art, Conservation, Publications, Research, and Voices. This last area features first-person perspectives from members of the Getty community. These posts include observations on conservation science, graffiti art, and pointed pieces like "Does Text Still Matter?" Lastly, the Philanthropy area features thoughts on the Getty's work through strategic arts education initiatives. [KMG]

### **Changing Face of the Auto Industry**

<http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?c=cfai>

Changing Face of the Auto Industry, presented by Wayne State University's Digital Collections, provides access to archival materials documenting Michigan's rich history in auto production. Selecting Browse all media brings visitors to a collection of historic photographs documenting the history of iconic companies such as Ford, Cadillac and Hudson. Users may also perform a keyword search from the collection's main page. The collection currently features 159 records and would be of equal interest to auto industry buffs, historians, or curious Michiganders. [AHT]

**Mashable**

<http://mashable.com/>

In a matter of speaking, Mashable brings together the good, interesting, strange, and "other" of the web together in one place. With its easy to use interface, Mashable brings together the top-trending new stories from the world of social media, business, technology, and entertainment. Visitors can use one of the three tabs on the top of the homepage to get started, and they can also look at the top stories from specific social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, and Google Plus. On any given moment, stories on Mashable might include pieces like "Your Smartphone May Soon Alert You When You Get Snail Mail" and "Samsung To Hold First Developer Conference." Additionally, visitors can sign up to receive updates from the site in a highly customized and personal fashion. [KMG]

**Harvard Business Review**

<http://hbr.org/magazine>

As what is arguably one of the most well-known business publications in the world, the Harvard Business Review is a key source of information for policy makers, financiers, government officials, and journalists. While not all of their content is available for free here, their website offers enough free material to make it a valuable online destination. First-time visitors can browse their Must Reads, which are prominently featured on the homepage. These offerings are divided into areas that include Leadership, Strategy, Managing Yourself, and Change Management. Moving along, visitors should also look over the Blogs area containing excellent posts with titles like "Should Barnes & Noble Turn into a Mini-Mall" and "Disengaged Employees? Do Something About it." There is more free content over at the Audio & Video area where visitors can view high-quality videos on urban sustainability, emerging markets, and the booming business of craft cocktails. [KMG]

**Lumosity**

<http://www.lumosity.com>

Lumosity is an extremely popular app for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch (iOS 6.0 and later). Developed by neuroscientists, the clean and user-friendly interface features a suite of games designed to improve cognitive processes in five areas: speed, memory, attention, flexibility, and problem solving. The games are fun and - who knows? - they might even make you smarter. One caveat: after a short free trial period, monthly subscriptions start at around \$6.70 a month. [CNH]

## **Undercover Reporting**

<http://dlib.nyu.edu/undercover/>

This rather fine website, a collaboration with New York University Libraries, complements the recent publication of "Undercover Reporting: The Truth About Deception." This work argues that "much of the valuable journalism since before the U.S. Civil War has emerged from investigations that employed subterfuge to expose wrong." The fascinating material here has been gathered into clusters, highlighting award-winning series, exemplary proponents of the practice, or recurring themes, including prison infiltrations, shadowing migrants, work, and gender, class, or ethnic impersonation, and dozens more. The stories here include the Chiquita Banana expose from the Cincinnati Enquirer, a close look into the world of nursing homes, and several classic pieces of reportage from the Depression on the plight of people thrown into poverty. Visitors can use the Browse tab to get started, and additional instruction can be found under the How to Use area. [KMG]

## **Mobento**

<http://www.mobento.com/>

Mobento is a free online video platform that cuts through the dross that can be ubiquitous across the web. On the site, visitors can search through hundreds of videos dealing with technology, energy independence, anthropology, and much more. The videos are culled from high quality sources, such as NASA, Stanford University, and TED. This helpful application is compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

## **WorldWide Telescope**

<http://www.worldwidetelescope.org>

WorldWide Telescope (WWT) is your ticket to the skies. From the comfort of a PC, WWT allows access to data from the world's best ground- and space-based telescopes, blending terabytes of images and stories into a "seamless, immersive, rich media experience." While much of the material is available on the site, the entire Windows application can also be downloaded for free. Teachers will appreciate Educator Resources (from the home page click Educators, and then WWT Ambassadors), where they can link to Getting Started in the Classroom, Classroom Resources, and WWT Tours with Lesson Plans. All readers will enjoy the boundless opportunities to tour distant galaxies, examine star explosions, and generally gawk at the majesty of the distant universe. [CNH]

### **Place My Past**

<http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2014/02/place-my-past-adds-us-cemeteries.html>

Place My Past is a handy application designed to map a family history via historical maps made available online. After uploading family information, visitors can use the annotation tools to mark places on the map for future reference and use. It's a great way to bring a few different worlds together and it's compatible with all operating systems. [KMG]

### **Ask Me Another**

<http://www.npr.org/programs/ask-me-another/>

Hosted by Ophira Eisenberg, the Ask Me Another program is a "rambunctious hour that blends brainteasers and local pub trivia night with comedy and music." Since it began in 2012, this coproduction of NPR and WNYC has been an immediate hit. It's a true highlight of public radio programming and visitors can listen in right here. Visitors can even learn about attending a live taping or sign up to receive new episodes in podcast format. They have some rather amazing guests, including They Might Be Giants and a host of literati of all stripes. Anyone with an interest in the trivia and ephemera of our time will find much to enjoy in these 60 minutes. [KMG]

### **TrainWeb.com**

<http://www.trainweb.com/>

The TrainWeb site is the perfect thing for anyone with a penchant for any and all aspects of railroading. Visitors can check out the What's New tab to get started as it contains resources from other sites, topical updates from freight railroads, and much more. Scrolling down, visitors will find a photo gallery of Railfan trips from the Pacific Coast to the East Coast of Florida. Visitors can also click on Train Party to learn about exciting train-themed parties for the young and old. The Let's Talk Trains! area is another great feature of the site, allowing users to listen to talk radio about trains from all over the world. [KMG]

### **Football Films Collection**

<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/libraries-collections/evanston-campus/university-archives/wildcats>

The Collection at the Northwestern University Library comprises hundreds of hours of worth of cinema, dating back to 1929. Many of those have now been digitized, and are available on the Library website. Readers might like to start with the brief video introduction on the homepage, in which curators speak about the collection and its importance both to Northwestern and to football lovers everywhere. From there, readers may browse at will. For instance, one might view the 25-minute clip from the 1937 contest between Northwestern and Michigan and then view the downloadable PDF of the program cover and roster. Clips from dozens of games from nearly every year between 1929 and 1986 are available for viewing. [CNH]

## **Dinosaur News**

<http://www.dinosaurnews.org/>

Publishing the latest findings and theories in the wide world of dinosaur science since 1998, Dinosaur News will raise the eyebrows of even the least paleontologically inclined. Did you know that tyrannosaurus may have hunted in packs? Are you curious where the apocalyptic asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs came from? Want to hear about the latest dinosaur exhibits from around the country – and the world? The Dinosaur News has all this and more. Visitors can explore a variety of features, including Links We Like and What Readers Say, but may wish to start with The Dinosaurnews Daily. This newsfeed-style site is updated daily and offers exciting headlines, photos, videos, and more. Make sure to sign up for the Dinosaur News Newsletter, then tour the well-appointed bookstore and the gift shop if so desired. [CNH]

## **fruitsinfo.com**

<http://www.fruitsinfo.com>

Did you know that Roman Ruby grapes, a delicacy in Japan, can sell for upwards of \$6,000 a pound? Do you ever wonder how many varieties of apple there are in the world? Fruitsinfo.com is an abundant resource for all things fruit related, from current research on fruits and health to fruit recipes. You can search the site by category or click on Tropical fruits for a list of dozens of fruits from the tropics, including acai, breadfruit, Burmese grapes, and many others. Also, check out Exotic fruits, Accessory fruits, and Hybrid fruits. There is much to digest on this site, and the Fruits Quiz is an especially fun way to test up on dietary facts and nutritional trivia. [CNH]

## **Treasures in Full: Renaissance Festival Books**

<http://www.bl.uk/treasures/festivalbooks/homepage.html>

If you're tired of waiting in a long queue for an ebook from your local library, the British Library offers this alternative - ebooks from the 15th century! Select from 253 digitized "Renaissance festival books ... that describe the magnificent festivals and ceremonies that took place in Europe between 1475 and 1700." These festivals were events such as coronations, betrothals, performances, marriages, and funerals. The return of a monarch also warranted a book. For example, view the book that documents the meeting of Charles V and Henry VIII in Calais in July, 1520. Another book, created for the betrothal of Mary Tudor, younger sister of Henry VIII, to Charles of Castille in 1507 or 1508, lists festivities spanning several days, including the betrothal ceremony, music, Mass, banquets, and jousting. This book also has a frontispiece showing two angels holding the Tudor arms, with a Tudor rose and the arms of Castile below. [DS]

### **James Wallace Black, 1825-1896**

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/boston\\_public\\_library/collections/72157625067549743/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/boston_public_library/collections/72157625067549743/)

Born in New Hampshire in 1825, James Wallace Black came to Boston to try his hand as a painter. He soon discovered the world of photography and he became quite fascinated with taking aerial photos and experimenting with magic lanterns. One of his most notable experiments involved a photograph of downtown Boston that he took from a hot-air balloon on October 13, 1860. The Boston Public Library has created this remarkable digital archive featuring 133 of Black's unique images. Visitors shouldn't miss his iconic 1860 aerial image, along with grand shots of the Charlestown City Hall, Faneuil Hall, Washington Street during a military parade, and a number of other locales throughout the Hub. The site is rounded out by a clutch of photographs documenting the damage wrought by the Boston Fire of 1872. [KMG]

### **Los Angeles Public Library Photograph Collection**

[http://photos.lapl.org/carlweb/jsp/photosearch\\_pageADV.jsp](http://photos.lapl.org/carlweb/jsp/photosearch_pageADV.jsp)

The Los Angeles Public Library has thousands of photographs in its archives. Taken as a whole, the archives represent a thoroughly wonderful portrait of the Southland during the past century or so. First-time visitors should click on the Photo Collection Overview area to learn about the holdings here. One particularly noteworthy addition to the collection occurred back in 1981 when Security Pacific National Bank gave its collection of over 250,000 photographs to the people of Los Angeles. These images included 60,000 images from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and images from the Hollywood Citizen News publication. Also, the collection includes over 2.2 million photographs from the defunct Los Angeles Herald Examiner, which ceased publication in 1989. Visitors to the site can search many of these photos online via the search engine, which includes fields where users can enter keywords, photographer, and year. [KMG]

### **poetic.io utility**

<https://poetic.io/>

poetic.io is a simple and secure way to transfer files. Sign up just requires an email address. From there, users may drag and drop files as large as 3GB to the poetic.io page, enter destination emails, and then send. (To put this in perspective: the average full-length movie is about 1GB.) Besides speed and efficiency for large file movement, the site also provides basic security, so that readers know only their recipients will receive the data. The site is free and accessible from any computer with an Internet connection, and can be a welcome tool for teachers who need to share data with students and each other, co-workers who are working on data-heavy projects, and others who share large data files (video, graphics, photos) in their work and play. [CNH]

### **GenealogyInTime Magazine**

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/>

GenealogyInTime, an online Canadian genealogy magazine, has a lot to offer readers who are fascinated by the history of families - whether their own, those of notable figures, or others. Articles on the site cover such topics as how to scan old photos for genealogy research, the top 100 genealogy sites of 2015, and a feature on why immigrants change their names. Readers can peruse the latest genealogy records around the world in the Records area, or explore the News section for the latest in genealogy studies. The Genealogy Search Engine is another great feature on the site, allowing readers to search 3.6 billion records from thousands of sites around the web. [CNH]

### **Tween Tribune**

<http://www.tweentribune.com/>

This excellent news website from the Smithsonian Institute covers science, history, the environment, and other topics. Kids will love it for its quirky news stories. Parents and teachers will love it because they know they can trust the content coming from one of America's greatest institutions of knowledge. Stories are sorted into age appropriate levels (Grades K-4, Grades 5-8, and Grades 9-12) and are also available in Spanish. Recent articles have explained the significance of two new planets discovered by astronomers, rejoiced at the birth of a baby orca, reviewed the history of Martin Luther King, Jr., and traced a classic Atari game from its place in a trash bag in New Mexico to its new home at the video game history collection at the Smithsonian. The website is free, though readers must create a simple account to comment on articles. [CNH]

### **My Next Move**

<http://www.mynextmove.org/>

My Next Move is an excellent resource for those looking to start or change careers. The site features 900 career options, searchable by key words or by industry. For instance, when "psychologist" is typed into the key word search almost two dozen options appear, from Clinical Psychologist to Mental Health Counselor. Clicking on Clinical Psychologist links to a page that describes what clinical psychologists do, what their knowledge, skills, and abilities are, what personality styles work best in the field, what technologies they use, what education is required, their average salary, and what the opportunities will most likely be in the future. Job-seekers can also find out what their interests are and how they relate to career paths by taking the O\*NET Interest Profiler. The 60-word assessment provides scores on six personality categories: realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising, and conventional. The user then enters how much education they would like to receive and the assessment links to possible careers. [CNH]

## **Veterans' Service Records**

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has created this handy start page to serve the needs of veterans, their families, and researchers who are looking for military records. Especially for vets, there's an information box with instructions on how to request military service records online, by mail, or by fax. For researchers, there's a page listing specific records that are available online, organized by wars and conflicts from the Revolutionary War Era through Vietnam. Rather than taking a searcher directly to content, clicking two of the World War I searches (The Operation of the So-Called "Lost Battalion," October 2 to 8, 1918; American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917 - 1918) will lead to the general search box for NARA Online Public Access, which is a bit daunting. In contrast, the photographs are presented for easy browsing, and there are a lot of them, including over 6,000 Matthew Brady Civil War photographs, a photographic sketchbook of the Civil War by Alexander Gardner, and a couple of World War II collections selected for the site, "African Americans During World War II" and "Pictures of World War II". [DS]

## **Zooniverse**

<https://www.zooniverse.org>

The Zooniverse provides an extraordinarily popular venue for citizen science projects. To explore what's on offer, readers may click on projects, then select either science or laboratory. Dozens of possibilities present themselves, from programs that examine how galaxies form to projects that study the lives of the ancient Greeks. Readers may join a project and start contributing to data analysis of various kinds, from coding British World War I diaries to monitoring the wildlife of urban Chicago. Teachers will appreciate the extensive Education resources on the site, found within the Community tab. Zoo Teach, a companion website, can be explored by subjects (sciences, math, humanities, arts) as well as ages (from middle school through higher education). This is where readers will find lesson plans and activities to brighten a wide range of related topics. [CNH]

## **Lingua.ly**

<http://www.lingua.ly>

There are an abundance of language learning programs on the market. Few of them, however, take advantage of the world wide web. Lingua.ly seeks to do just that. So far it is offered in English, Spanish, French, and Hebrew with the option to learn one of nine other languages. After first creating a free account, readers can start by learning vocabulary. Once that is accomplished, the program starts to recommend websites that are at the learner's reading level. In this manner, the web becomes a language learning facility. [CNH]

## **MAKE Magazine**

<http://www.makezine.com>

For readers who love Do-It-Yourself projects, the MAKE Magazine website will constitute a welcome discovery. As the publisher notes, the magazine “celebrates your right to tweak, hack, and bend any technology to your own will.” Some of the featured projects, like Anouk Wipprecht’s 3D-printed, Edison-Powered Spider Dress 2.0, inspire awe. Many others are well within reach of a seasoned amateur engineer. Readers may want to start with Projects to scout possible ventures, each one labeled as easy, moderate, or difficult. For instance, designing your own 3D-Printed Eyeglasses is considered a moderately challenging endeavor. Also of interest, the site’s Blog often updates several times a day with DIY news, views, and interesting possibilities from around the web. [CNH]

Native people have lived on the North American continent for millennia. Only since 1990, however, has the U.S. Government recognized Native American Heritage Month (which has also been designated National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, among other things) in November. This designation prompted us to seek out the wealth of information by and about Native people available on the Internet. We found a huge variety of resources, and although they represent only a sliver of the diversity of Native peoples who lived and live in North America, we hope they will inspire readers to find out more.

## **First Nations Collection**

<http://soda.sou.edu/tribal.html>

The First Nations Tribal Collection of the Southern Oregon Digital Archives contains books, articles, and documents related to the history of the native peoples of the area, including the Coos, Hupa, Karuka, Klamath, and more. Many of the items here are in the public domain, and they include tribal language dictionaries, Bureau of Indian Affairs publications, and publications from the Bureau of American Ethnology. Visitors can look through the materials via the Author List or use the Title heading to look around. Documents on the site include a wealth of treaties regarding fishing practices and limitations along with documents detailing the particulars of different religious ceremonies. The site is rounded out by the inclusion of a comprehensive search engine. [KMG]

## **2. American Indians of the Pacific Northwest Collection**

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/>

Created by the University Libraries of the University of Washington, this remarkable digital archive presents a vast collection of materials related to the Northwest Coast and Plateau Indian cultures. Along with these

primary source items, the site also contains essays written by anthropologists, historians, and teachers about particular tribes and cross-cultural topics. Additionally, the site contains bibliographies and links to related text and images and lesson plans for K-12 educators. The database contains over 2,300 original photographs, 1,500 pages from the Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior from 1851 to 1908, and six Indian treaties negotiated in 1855. Visitors can try out a Sample Search and then go ahead and get started with their own quest for knowledge and edification. Additionally, visitors can use the Browse Images and Browse Documents tabs to explore this massive collection. [KMG]

### **3. New York State Archives: Native American Digital Collection**

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/PubImageWeb/listCollections.jsp?id=337>

The New York State Archives contains a vast cornucopia of materials related to the history of Native American groups in the Empire State and surrounding areas. On this site, visitors can take advantage of maps, artifacts, photographs, and publications that document communities such as the Iroquois Six Nations, the Long Island Algonkians, the Shinnecocks, and the Poospatucks. The materials here are divided into areas that include Maps, Visual Resources, Treaties and Land Use, and Census Records. First-time visitors should take a look at the Artifacts area to explore annotated photos of items such as cradleboards, moccasins, and elaborate pouches. The Treaties and Land Use area is quite compelling, as it features thirteen documents that provide insights into the relationships between various nations and the federal and New York state governments. The Maps area should not be missed as it contains representations of various reservations in the 18th and 19th century rendered with great detail. [KMG]

### **4. Native American Manuscript Collections**

<http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/nam/>

Based at the University of Oklahoma's Western History Collection, the Native American Manuscript Collections contain over 200 documents relating to Native Americans in Oklahoma, Indian Territory, and the southwestern United States. On the homepage, visitors can browse the manuscripts, which are listed by nation. The Creek Nation area is quite fascinating, as there are over 35 documents here including handwritten journals, trading company ledgers, and letters from farmers like James M. Latty and other Creeks. After this introduction, visitors can browse around through the works of other nations, including the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. [KMG]

## **5. The Indian Sentinel, 1902-1962**

<http://cdm16280.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15072coll2>

The Indian Sentinel was published from 1902 to 1962 by the Catholic Church and it serves as a fascinating repository of information about the ways in which this organization interacted with various Native American communities during the first half of the 20th century. Over its six decades, the Sentinel featured articles about Native Americans across the United States and their evangelization by the Catholic Church. Most of the accounts in these pages contain first-hand musings by lifelong missionaries, along with a bevy of photographs. The site also has a set of Search Tips for those looking for articles that mention specific Catholic religious groups, including the Benedictine Sisters, the Grey Nuns, and others. [KMG]

## **6. Heard Museum: American Indian Art and History**

<http://www.heard.org/>

In 1929, the Heard Museum was founded by early Phoenix settlers Dwight B. and Maie Bartlett Heard. The focus of the museum then and now was "to educate people about the arts, heritage and life ways of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, with an emphasis on American Indian tribes of the Southwest." On the website, visitors can learn about the museum's collections, upcoming programs, and volunteer opportunities. The site contains a number of thematic areas, including Events, Library, and Explore Art. One area that should not be missed is the Featured Documentaries. Here visitors can learn about the museum's public art projects, archaeological efforts, and concerts. The Current Exhibitions area contains highlights from recent offerings, such as Native People in the Southwest and Chocolate, Chili & Cochineal: Changing Taste Around the World. Finally, the link to the Library is a real treat. The digital collections here cover the Heard Museum Indian Fairs and Markets, the storied Fred Harvey Company, and a wide selection of elaborate beadwork items. [KMG]

===== Native Peoples Today =====

## **7. Seminole Tribe of Florida**

<http://www.semtribe.com/>

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is the only tribe in the United States that has never signed a peace treaty and its website provides ample information about Seminole history, culture, government, business ventures, and publications. Visitors might want to look first at the Seminole Tribune, which offers excellent current news updates on the goings on throughout the community. Moving on, the Government area contains key information about

the operations of the tribal council, the board of directors, and day-to-day activities. The Culture area offers interested parties access to slideshows, fact sheets, and information about Seminole material culture. One section that should not be missed is the History area. Here, visitors can learn about the tribe's history, resistance, and storied Council Oak. [KMG]

## **8. American Indian Policy Institute**

<http://api.clas.asu.edu/>

Based at Arizona State University, the American Indian Policy Institute collaborates with tribal governments and American Indian communities on issues that affect them and also works to nurture innovation for American Indian sustainability. The site offers a wealth of reports, news articles, publications, conference programs, and other items that will be of interest to scholars. The Reports & Publications area contains thoughtful missives such as "Tribes and Energy within Arizona" and "Land Use Challenges and Choices for the 21st Century." The Award-Winning First Innovations area offers up a host of best practices designed to introduce sustainability entrepreneurship in Native American communities. Additionally, the Projects & Initiatives area offers detailed program information about tribal planning summits and financial management seminars. [KMG]

## **9. National Indian Law Library**

<http://www.narf.org/nill/>

The National Indian Law Library (NILL) has worked for over three decades to bring together key resources for Native Americans and their advocates in the field of legal scholarship and service. Today it remains the only entity that offers a comprehensive vision of past and present tribal governmental documents from across the United States. The NILL is based in Boulder, Colorado and its website provides selected documents, information on ongoing activities and the very useful Indian Law News Bulletins. These bulletins are published almost every week and offer succinct and timely information about new developments in Indian Law. Visitors can search through the archives of these bulletins back to 1998, or look through the bulletins for links to germane legal briefs. This same area contains links to digests that cover activities in state courts, federal trial courts, and law review journal articles. Users shouldn't miss the Research By Topic area, which contains links that deal with 20 different themes, including tribal education, health & human services, sacred sites, prisoners' issues, and child welfare. [KMG]

## **10. Indian Country Today**

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/>

The Indian Country Today website is a one-stop shop for people with an interest in the world of Native American culture. The site includes special sections dedicated to news updates in the areas of genealogy, sports, environment, politics, and so on. First-time visitors will want to look at the Editor's Picks to get started, as this contains the most salient news items as of late. The Around the Web area features stories related to Native Americans from a range of online media sources. People with a visual bent will appreciate the Our World In Pictures area, as it contains key links to images culled from across the country, including blogs, Flickr, and a range of other sources. Finally, the Things About area provides thoughtful opinion pieces on a range of topics that affect Native Americans, including higher education, federal policy changes, and environmental degradation. [KMG]

## **11. Alaska Native Knowledge Network**

<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/>

The Alaska Native Knowledge Network (ANKN) was established to serve as "a resource for compiling and exchanging information related to Alaska Native knowledge systems and ways of knowing." To achieve this goal, the website brings together publications, information about academic programs, curriculum resources, and a calendar of events. In the Curriculum Resources area, visitors can look over lesson plans, fact sheets, and classroom activities that weave together indigenous and Western knowledge systems. Moving on, the Publications area contains links to print publications for sale and a range of free titles, including "Guidelines for Culturally Responsible School Boards" and "Guidelines for Respecting Cultural Knowledge." Also, visitors should take a look at the Announcements area for updates about relevant training programs, workshops, and conferences. [KMG]

===== U.S. Government Sources =====

## **12. Native American Affairs: Department of Commerce**

<http://www.commerce.gov/office-secretary/native-american-affairs>

The United States Department of Commerce has an active Native American Affairs program whose work is coordinated by a team of government professionals and advisors. On the homepage, visitors can learn about the program's advising work, which includes outreach related to small businesses, intertribal relations, and reservation-based economic development programs. Visitors can look over the Policy area, as it

contains key documents like the official tribal consultation and coordination policy for the department. A valuable area of the site is the Resources section, which lists online resources from other government agencies, including NOAA, the Census Bureau, and the Patent and Trademark Office. [KMG]

### **13. Administration for Native Americans: Children & Families**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana>

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) works to promote "self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing discretionary grant funding for community based projects and training and technical assistance to eligible tribes and native organizations." Operated as an office within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the ANA provides high-quality information on its grants, training programs, and resources. First-time visitors might do well to check out the Featured Resource, which takes a look at various outreach efforts, such as the Native American Veterans "Storytelling for Healing" program. In the ANA Quick Fact area, visitors can learn about the accomplishments of the ANA in recent months and years. Also, the Resources area includes guides, videos, fact sheets, reports, and webinars organized by topic, such as best practices, economic development, project management, and tribal governance. [KMG]

### **14. American Indian Environmental Office Tribal Portal**

<http://www.epa.gov/indian/>

Based within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) works to protect human health and the environment of federally recognized tribes by supporting implementation of federal environmental laws. The materials on the site are divided into different areas, including Consultation, Indian Policies, Maps & Data, and Tribal Calendar. Visitors will enjoy the Indian Policies area, as it contains detailed links to a range of reports and special documents dating back to 2002. The Maps & Data area is a real gem, as visitors can use spatial tools to locate and learn about the various environmental problem areas and cleanup sites that affect Native Americans who live on reservations around the United States. Finally, the Consultation area contains information on the outreach services provided by the EPA to these different communities. [KMG]

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