

Internet Law Library. Access: <http://www.lawguru.com/ilawlib/index.html>.

The Internet Law Library offered through LawGuru.com is an excellent and useful portal for legal information and resources, both American and foreign.

The site was formerly the domain of the U.S. House of Representatives Internet Law Library; the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the

U.S. House of Representatives directed that the legal information on this Web site be made available to the public.

As could be expected from a commercial Web site, some parts of the site charge for services such as downloading legal forms. However, the House Counsel has been mainly successful in providing and maintaining free material on this site, including U.S. federal law, laws of other nations (all 191 members of the United Nations), laws of all jurisdictions (from agriculture to taxation to war), attorney and legal profession directories, and law book reviews.

Unique among legal Web sites is a free Ask a Lawyer link. More in-depth legal research is also available for a nominal fee. Legal FAQ Section offers answers to questions about auto accidents, bankruptcy, copyright, and investment law to name a few of the numerous topics. Hundreds of legal links and resources are present on the Web site and are arranged in an alphabetical subject format. Also helpful and useful is a U.S. attorney directory listed by state and type of law practiced.

With this Web site, attorneys can create their own Web pages, create e-mail accounts,

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chat with other attorneys, and locate unclaimed property listed by state.

The ease of navigation across this Web site is excellent. Finding the information could not be easier or faster. In addition, there are no annoying pop-up advertisements. However, there is advertising across the top and in the lower right-hand corner of the site, which users may find distracting.

Nevertheless, LawGuru.com's Internet Law Library demonstrates how effective and useful a legal information portal can be. As a starting point for legal research, Internet Law Library provides easy access to a wealth of legal information. This site is recommended for lawyers and laymen alike. *Larry Cooperman, Florida Metropolitan University, lcooperman@cci.edu*

Shodor Education Foundation, Inc.: A National Resource for Computational Science Education. Access: <http://www.shodor.org>.

You may be asking what is computational science, and why is computational science important to the education field? Computational science can be broadly defined as the use of computers to model scientific problems.



By using software to model the impact of natural phenomena, such as global warming, the spread of disease, or the eruption behavior of volcanoes, scientists can simulate real life conditions and make accurate predictions. As the volcano example suggests, computer applications often are safer and more practical than conducting fieldwork. Computers are also becoming indispensable when modeling and solving complex problems. In the education field, computational science tools serve similar purposes, such as enabling students to visualize what they are learning.

The Shodor Foundation, a nonprofit education and research corporation, is dedicated

to the advancement of science and math education, especially through the use of modeling and simulation technologies. Approximately ten years ago, Shodor recognized that professional computational science tools, especially graphics and animations, could be adapted for classroom use. Besides Shodor developing its own interactive computer applications, it has expanded its role to include identifying free quality software on the Web that is suitable for elementary through higher education. The foundation's Web site offers access to this repertoire of software and provides value-added aids, such as curriculum materials, sorted by grade and subject. These materials are valuable, because they show how computational science software can be integrated into lessons to meet specific objectives and standards.

Educators can access the content of this site through three main links: Curriculum Materials, Faculty Development, or Student Enrichment. The second and third links provide information about Shodor's many community outreach and faculty training efforts. A clickable Navigation menu also appears on the right-hand side of most pages.

The Shodor Education Foundation has carved out a unique niche in the educational world with the creation of this easily navigable and well-organized site. In fact, Shodor has already caught the attention of the National Science Foundation (NSF). In recognition of Shodor's work advancing math and science education, NSF has given Shodor, along with North Carolina Central University, approximately \$2.8 million to establish a new portal or pathway into the National Science Digital Library.

This new portal is appropriately named The Computational Science Education Reference Desk or CSERD. The Shodor Web site is recommended for undergraduate math and science faculty as well as education students and faculty. *Caroline Geck, Kean University, cgeck@kean.edu*

National Institute on Aging. Access: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/>.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) Web site provides information geared to-

wards researchers, health professionals, and consumers and their families. The NIA is one of 27 institutes of the National Institutes of Health. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for aging Americans and to support ongoing research.

Most of the Web site appears to be designed for the medical researcher or the healthcare professional. There is information about clinical trials, research programs, research conducted by NIA, conference and workshop notes, scientific resources and databases related to aging and animals, grant applications, research and funding support, and current news articles about aging and disease.

National Institute on Aging ■ ◆ ✨

For the consumer, there is some practical information. NIA provides dozens of free publications in English or Spanish that can be obtained either through mail request or direct downloading. Topics cover a wide range, including What's Your Aging IQ, Osteoporosis: The Bone Thief, and The Exercise Guide. In addition, NIA provides public service advertisements that consumers can use free of charge.

An extremely helpful feature of the Web site is the resource directory for older people. Users can find relevant organizations and their Web sites by searching the subject directory or the state resources directory. In the subject directory, the user can search for such subjects as pet therapy, diabetes, and travel. Finally, the Web site lists related sites that may be helpful for further information.

Other features of the Web site include an in-depth site map, a simple search box with the option for advanced searching, and institutional information about NIA (budgets, strategic plan, employment opportunities, etc.).

The NIA Web site is well organized and fuses highly specialized research with

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Gwen L. Williams has been named reference librarian at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Deaths

Thelma Tate, coordinator of global outreach services and liaison for persons with disabilities for the Rutgers University Libraries, has died. Tate worked as a reference librarian in the Chicago public libraries before accepting a position at Rutgers University's Douglass Library in 1970. At various points Tate served as the library's liaison to the American studies, African studies, classics, education, English, history, psychology, religion, romance languages, sociology, and speech departments. She served as coordinator of reference services at the Douglass Library for many years. Tate was very active in national and international library organizations, serving as chair of ALA's Library Instruction Round Table and as chair of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Round Table on Continuing Professional Education. As a frequent invited exhibitor at ALA's Annual Diversity Fair, she most recently showcased the Rutgers University Libraries/SCILS resident/internship position. Tate was internationally recognized as the leading expert on the many uses of mobile libraries in developing countries. She compiled and edited well-acclaimed bibliographies on mobile libraries across the globe and personally traveled to assess the effectiveness of camel-born mobile libraries in Kenya and donkey-driven library carts in Zimbabwe. In recognition of her long, varied, and distinguished service to Rutgers University, and to the international field of librarianship, Tate was awarded the Rutgers University Human Dignity Award in April 2002.

Pamela L. Wonsek, 55, died May 3 after a brief illness. She was deputy chief librarian at the Hunter College Libraries, City University of New York. She joined the Hunter Li-

brary faculty in 1987 and served in a variety of positions until her appointment as deputy chief librarian in 1998. Prior to joining Hunter, Wonsek worked at Mercy College Libraries (1980-87), the University of Missouri-St. Louis (1978-79), and Harvard University (1977-78). *zc*

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practical consumer information. The only potential drawback is that there seems to be more information for the researcher than for other readers. Many consumers might be intimidated by the amount of specialized information within the site.

The Web site is an extremely valuable resource for the researcher who needs to stay current on geriatric research and funding opportunities.

The NIA Web site is highly recommended for the medical researcher, health care professional, and fearless consumer. *Colleen Lougen, Mount Saint Mary College, lougen@msmc.edu zc*

Focus on 50+

AARP's
**AgeLine
Database**

Social gerontology &
aging-related research,
policy, and practice

FREE searching at:
www.aarp.org/ageline

Also available on CSA,
Dialog, EBSCOhost, Ovid,
& SilverPlatter

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