

**Economic Policy Institute.** Access: <http://www.epi.org>.

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a nonprofit think tank, produces and collects research focusing on economic issues of low- and middle-income Americans. Students will find a sizable collection of data and reports on policies related to low- and middle-income workers, including an equitable distribution of wealth and economic development.

EPI, founded in 1986, conducts research and analysis on the above issues as well as carries out outreach and education.

The Web site is organized around the major research areas of EPI: Living Standards and Labor Markets, Government and the Economy, Trade and Globalization, and Education. Researchers can also browse by a variety of topics under Issue Guides. These topics include Living wage, Minimum wage, Offshoring, Retirement security, Social Security, Unemployment, and Welfare.

Under Publications Archive, students will find reports and data in such categories as Economic Indicators, Issue Briefs, Economic Snapshots, Viewpoints, and Briefing Papers. The reports and briefing papers are lengthy documents that include a summary of the issues, key points, and charts with detailed data, which are written from a left-of-center political viewpoint. Issue briefs are succinct summaries, highlighted with charts and other data. Guides pull together all relevant EPI publications on a specific topic. Datazone provides national-level data from EPI's *The State of Working America 2006/2007*, as well as state and regional data related to earnings, unemployment, unions, and income trends, among others.

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Users can search or browse the Web site by topic or format, or browse a list of EPI publications by topic or author. Many publications are available free on the site, while selections of books are offered for sale. Additional options include the ability to e-mail Web pages and sign up for an RSS feed.

For students preparing a persuasive research paper, this site would be useful for augmenting other perspectives and voices. The information, while from a specific viewpoint, is easily digestible and provides a good overview as well as more in-depth analysis of many economic issues. *Britt Fagerheim, Utah State University, [britt.fagerheim@usu.edu](mailto:britt.fagerheim@usu.edu)*

**Internet Archive.** Access: <http://www.archive.org/>.

The Internet Archive (IA) is a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form with the goal of providing free access to researchers, historians, scholars, and the general public. IA's collections are grouped into five categories: Texts (an open-access text archive), Moving Images, Audio, Web, and Live Music Archive.

The open-access text archive currently consists of more than 368,000 items from a number of different collections, including materials from the Library of Congress, Project Gutenberg, and several dozen major public and university libraries. Access to documents is available in various formats, including scanned PDF files as well as several different viewing programs that allow virtual page turning of completed books.

The Moving Images Archive has more than 110,000 items, and contains a wealth of material, including classic films in the public domain such as *Nosferatu*, television programs, documentaries, cartoons, and U.S. government films such as the World War II-era *Why We Fight* series.

Many are available as streaming content, and most can be downloaded as MPEGs.

The Web archive, or the WayBack Machine (remember *Rocky & Bullwinkle's* Mr. Peabody and his boy Sherman?), is perhaps the most impressive feature of this site, archiving 85 billion Web pages dating back to 1996. It's a remarkable effort to document the ephemeral nature of the Web, and IA does a great job in capturing and recording snapshots of active Web sites.

Live Music Archive documents recordings of more than 47,000 concerts from nearly 2,800 bands, such as the Grateful Dead (there are more than 4,000 Dead shows in the archive). Live Music Archive is part of the larger Audio Archive, which also includes audio books, podcasts, radio programs, sermons, lectures, digitized wax cylinder and 78 rpm recordings, and news items.

Given the enormity of this archive, it's not surprising that some features work better than others. Metadata and subject indexing are inconsistent, making searching the collections difficult at times. Users can register for free and can then join discussion forums and submit content. Sometimes this user-generated content can clutter up search results. But given the depth and richness of cultural content collected here, it's well worth these minor inconveniences.

Overall, this is an excellent resource, and a valuable and important effort to document the Web and digitize and make accessible cultural content of all kinds. *Gene Hyde, Radford University, wehyde@radford.edu*

**TimeSpaceMap.** Access: <http://www.timespacemap.com/>.

TimeSpaceMap presents historical events in a geographic context by combining a community-driven encyclopedia (wiki) with Google maps. This project describes events based on their when and where, rather than a lengthy historical description. The site contains no advertising, but mentions that it is a for-profit organization and may introduce search-based ads in the future. All content

is freely available based on a Creative Commons License.

TimeSpaceMap allows searches by location, date, and keyword. Users can search using these fields, or click the search button to browse all available events. Search results are displayed in chronological order, with a map and marker for each event. Links to information about TimeSpaceMap, recently added events, and a featured map of an event can also be found on the main page. Each event displays a date, location, description, source, and keywords associated with the events.

Unfortunately, tags are not linked, preventing any sort of browsing, but perhaps that functionality will be added as the site grows.

When adding an entry, the editing screen consists of a map on the right and a panel on the left with eight categories: marker shape, summary, when, where, accuracy of the position, description, tags, and source.

Users can use lines and shapes to describe an event, such as the path of a ship's voyage or to show the actual space a building once occupied. For example, some users have illustrated tactical maneuvers of a battle using a combination of shapes, points, and lines, and have mapped out the battle based on a historical timeline. In a wiki-based system, all versions of an event are recorded, are open to other users of TimeSpaceMap to be refined, and can revert to a previous version if needed. These maps can also be conveniently embedded into other Web pages, blogs, or online systems that use HTML.

As of March 10, 2008, TimeSpaceMap contains 386 events, far from a comprehensive historical atlas. However, the project has the potential to become a rich resource based on the innovative, visual presentation of historical events and the use of collaborative intelligence. This project presents an inviting opportunity for librarians, who can both use and contribute their own wealth of knowledge to the effort. *Ken Fujiuchi, Buffalo State College, fujiuck@buffalostate.edu* ❧