

Beliefnet. Access: <http://www.beliefnet.com/>.

Beliefnet claims to be the largest spiritual Web site on the Internet.

It presently has 76 million subscribers and adds 15,000 new subscribers daily (as of August 1, 2008). The average reader spends 13 minutes on the site. Seventy-five percent of its visitors are female, with a median household income of \$65,000. Beliefnet's mission is to help people find a spiritual path that will bring comfort, hope, clarity, strength and happiness.

The toolbar on the homepage provides links to the religious faiths and practices of the world (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, etc.). Each page contains features of interest respective to that particular faith. For example, Hinduism describes Hindu intercultural marriage traditions and reviews movies of special interest to Hindus (such as *Prince Caspian*).

Christianity features *A Church in Crisis*, describing the issues facing the Anglican Church, particularly the ordination of gay clergy. Islam features *Obama reaches out to Muslims*, and discusses the Democratic candidate's trip to the Middle East. Buddhism contains material from the Dalai Lama. Christianity has separate pages for its Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and Latter-Day Saints branches. Other faiths, however, are not similarly divided.

Beliefnet hosts several blogs. Particularly interesting is the Blogalogue *How Would God Vote?* Two columnists debate God's priorities and discuss the pressing political issues of the day, such as abortion, same-sex marriage, and the Iraq War. Other links of interest include *Comfort and Support*, where readers will find links to *Grief and*

Loss (a grief counselor shares how to heal from longstanding grief) and *Illness and Recovery* (information on pain management and mental health). There are also several *Relationship* links, such as marriage, dating, and divorce.

Beliefnet appears very similar to an ecumenical version of the monthly magazine *Christianity Today*, but contains more advice than dispassionate analysis. The site should particularly find traction in libraries, in religious colleges, or in Religious Studies classes. Instructors in courses on the world's religion can use Beliefnet as a departure point for classroom discussion. Beliefnet is a commercial site and presents an abundance of advertising. Given its content and advertising, patrons will be more likely to consult Beliefnet for news rather than for research material. Beliefnet is part of the Fox Entertainment Group and is updated daily. *Wendell Johnson, Northern Illinois University, A134202@wpo.cso.niu.edu*

Center for History and New Media. Access: <http://www.chnm.gmu.edu/>.

The Internet portal of the Center for History and New Media (CHNM), based at George Mason University, is a collection of at least 30 freely accessible exhibits, interactive projects, and tools designed for researchers and educators in history and related fields. The portal is designed to foster the integration of Library 2.0 strategies into the display, interpretation, and management of interdisciplinary source materials.

Users of the portal will find a crisp interface offering a menu of three main choices at the homepage: *Collecting + Exhibiting*, *Research + Tools*, and *Teaching + Learning*. The first of these options contains several collections of primary sources on subjects such as September 11, the French Revolution, the Soviet Gulag, and Mexican guest workers in the United States. These are organized with the spirit of interactive blogs

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rather than static databases, with possibilities for user-generated content and tagging.

The second area, Research + Tools, offers a number of freeware applications, among them an innovative bibliographic management system known as Zotero. Available as a Firefox plugin, it has been compared in its functionality to proprietary offerings, such as RefWorks and EndNote.

The newer Omeka is a series of convenient templates for online exhibits of image and document collections.

Librarians working with instructional plans for history programs at the K-12 and college level will take special note of the third area, Teaching + Learning. Created with the collaboration of prominent historians and museums, these modules offer nuts-and-bolts suggestions for integrating technology with primary sources, planning of research projects, and for reinforcing best practices in information literacy.

If the sheer experimental dynamism and granularity of offerings at CHNM is an asset to many users, it may be a source of slight confusion to others. Librarians seeking to recommend projects to their users may need to spend extra time parsing the established initiatives from those in an earlier stage of development.

All told, this site is highly recommended for its source materials and as a laboratory for methods in faculty outreach and student instruction. *Joshua Lupkin, History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, jlupkin2@illinois.edu*

Environment Canada. Access: <http://www.ec.gc.ca>.

Environment Canada's mandate is to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment; conserve Canada's renewable resources; conserve and protect Canada's water resources; forecast weather and environmental change; enforce rules relating to boundary waters; and coordinate environmental policies and programs for the federal government. In addition to providing general contact, policy and mandate information,

the site serves as a clearing house for much of the information generated by the various sub-agencies and of sites falling within Environment Canada's portfolio. Site content is organized both by subject and the geographical region from which it originated.

Overall, the site provides a wide range of resources appropriate for elementary, high school, and college students. It devotes a large section to the provision of teaching materials and kits. Much of the content would also be of interest to the general public (e.g., information about national environmental initiatives, and tips for making environmentally sound decisions around the home). It also directs users to a wide range of original data sources that would be of interest to researchers.

Unfortunately, some of the data resource links were not working at the time this review was written. It is important to note that the number of broken links is not necessarily a flaw of this site as much as it is a statement about the stability of Canadian Government Web sites addresses in general. In terms of original data, the site also refers users to restricted access databases such as the Particulate Matter Database, which allows the user to submit requests for additional information.

No direct comparison can be made between the Environment Canada site and any single U.S. federal site. However, much of the meteorological and climate data provided through Environment Canada is similar in scope to that which is provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The information related to Canadian environmental policy, programs, and public awareness is similar to the content provided on the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency sites.

As is the case with all Canadian federal sites, content is fully bilingual (French and English). Web site designers have included an accessibility statement that indicates the site has been tested to ensure compatibility with adaptive technologies. They have also

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Manon Theroux is head of cataloging and metadata services at the George Mason University Libraries.

Carrisa Tomlinson has been appointed emerging technologies librarian at Towson University's Albert S. Cook Library.

Scott Watkins is head of educational services at the George Mason University Libraries.

Retirements

William A. Gosling has been named university librarian emeritus and curator of children's literature emeritus at the University of Michigan. He joined the university as assistant director for technical services and library systems after positions at the Library of Congress and Duke University, and served as university librarian from 1997 to 2005. Gosling became curator of children's collections in the special collections library in 2005.

Stephen Karetzky has retired after serving for two decades as library director of Felician College in New Jersey. The author of numerous books including *Reading Research and Librarianship*, *The Media's Coverage of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, and *Not Seeing Red: American Librarianship and the Soviet Union*. He also taught at schools of information and library studies in the United States and abroad.

Jeannette Sommer Ward has retired from the University of Central Florida (UCF) Libraries. Ward had been working in libraries since 1975, when she was an acquisitions searcher. Her first professional library position as head of the serials department at the Rider College (now Rider University) library in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Ward has been a driving force in three complete library management system conversions, beginning with one at Rider College and



Jeannette Sommer Ward

then two more, 20 years apart, at the UCF Libraries, where she began working in 1984 as the technical services librarian. In 1986 Ward was appointed head of the UCF Serials Department, later serving as the department head for the combined serials and acquisitions and collection development departments. In 2005 Ward was appointed the first associate director for collections and technical services. Throughout her career Ward has been an active member, presenter, and leader of several professional organizations, including ACRL, North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG), and Florida Library Association. She has also presented programs at EDUCOM and the Charleston Conference. Ward received UCF's Excellence in Librarianship award, and for her more than 20 years of service in the library profession (ten or more of which having been served at the UCF Libraries), she will also receive the UCF Libraries Lifetime Service Award. ♪

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included text only layout options and printer friendly functionality. Despite the complex nature of the content, the Environment Canada site is well organized and provides a simple yet effective search engine.

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