

**WebJunction.** Access: <http://webjunction.org/>.

OCLC's WebJunction is an online community focused on technology for libraries



Where minds meet.”

and librarians. It offers articles with technology tips and how-to's, as well as online courses for hands-on training. OCLC received a three-year grant

from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create the site in 2002, and several organizations are partnering with OCLC to maintain the site. .

The site is broken down into six major areas. “Policies and Practices” provides tools for creating policies, promoting library services, and long-term planning. “Technology Resources” includes information on the nitty-gritty of computer hardware setup to more ephemeral Internet applications. “Buying and Funding” goes to the base of everything: getting the cash to implement library technology projects. “Services to Libraries” lists resources for patrons of specific types of libraries such as rural libraries or those that serve non-English-speaking populations. “Learning Center” houses the training documents and courses, and, finally, “Community Center” is the place where librarians can pool resources with their colleagues from around the world.

Each month, WebJunction has a focus topic, much like a serial publication. Upcoming topics, such as sustainability for rural libraries, information literacy, and technology planning, are listed on the Web site, as well as recent past topics, such as buying hardware and software, open source, CIPA, and wireless Internet access in public libraries.

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WebJunction published the first issue of its online peer-reviewed LIS student journal, *Post-Tracks* in June 2005 and continues to publish its online newsletter *Crossroads*. In addition to resources created by the WebJunction producers, other established resources have been added to the WebJunction suite. In May, three popular library e-mail lists (Web4Lib, XML4Lib, and PubLib) moved from University of California-Berkeley's SunSITE server to WebJunction. The annotated bibliography *Current Cites* and the directory LibWeb also moved to the site this year.

The volume of information available on WebJunction may intimidate new users, but it is easy to navigate and is structured in a way that allows users to focus on particular areas without having to dig through material not relevant to their needs. Overall, WebJunction is a solid supplement to existing professional resources, particularly in the areas of technology, collaboration, and innovative public services.—*Anna Creech, Central Washington University, CreechA@cwu.edu*

**National Science Digital Library.** Access: <http://nsdl.org/>.

The National Science Foundation's National Science Digital Library (NSDL) is a huge and potentially very useful aggregate of high-quality authoritative resource collections and services that support science education for students and teachers at all levels. All areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are represented. NSDL's objective is to develop digitalized libraries of science resources in an effort to improve science education in the United States.

At this time in its development, the NSDL site is most useful for librarians, educators, or education majors looking for links to credible resources in science and science education. The homepage is not very intuitive and it takes time to decide how to navigate through the information available here. There are links inviting users to explore a few selected



topics, recent collections or activities, and educational resources, but these links only scratch the surface of what is available. Many of the other links go to reports and to the organizational makeup of the committees behind the site. There is a biweekly newsletter, the "Whiteboard Report," to keep readers apprised of NSDL activities. A free login is required for viewing some resources.

The focus of NSDL is on the collections that provide links to resources. Some of these resources are available only by subscription, however. There is a very basic keyword and phrase search capability, but specific searches work best. The link results are annotated and identified by the collection from which they come. Clicking on the collection icon provides information about the collection itself.

Currently collections are being added to NSDL based on their relevance to science as well as their technical functionality. "Recommend a Resource" allows users to make suggestions for additions. All the resources in NSDL at this time come from other collections, and currency is maintained by each resource.

The creators of NSDL are interested in its improvement. There is a survey available on the homepage with a space for comments. The goal of making NSDL a one-stop shopping place for science and science education resources for all is admirable, and many of the resources are excellent. It would be much more useful, however, for NSDL to provide better navigational tools.—*Carol McCulley, Lin eld College, cmccull@lin eld.edu*

**Cato Institute.** Access: <http://www.cato.org/>.

Cato Institute, "a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C.," provides access to news commentary on political issues and research on public policies via its Web site. Cato Institute describes its viewpoint as libertarian or "market liberal," which is defined as "an appreciation for entrepreneurship, the market process, and lower taxes with strict respect for civil liberties and skepticism about the

benefits of both the welfare state and foreign military adventurism."

Multiple paths are available to find resources on current topics through browsing and search options. "What's New" highlights new research and publications sponsored by the institute and links to other news stories involving institute personnel. "Daily Dispatch" provides links to news items that quote Cato researchers or refer to Cato publications. "Daily Commentary" offers opinion pieces on a current issues. "Hot Topics" provides links to a collection of researched position papers, news articles, and commentary by Cato researchers. This page is updated on a daily basis and reflects the Cato Institute's viewpoint on current issues in the news.

Of particular interest to librarians and researchers are "Experts," "Publications," and "Research Areas." "Experts" provides biographical information and bibliographies on Cato personnel arranged both alphabetically and by topic. "Publications" provide information on various print and audio items produced by the institute. A number of these items, such as *Regulation* and *Cato Journal*, are available in full text.

"Research Areas" provides a lengthy list of current issues, divided into subtopics, that the Cato Institute has researched. Each subtopic contains a lengthy bibliography of resources published or written by Cato affiliates, such as articles from their publications, excerpted chapters from books, and previous "Daily Dispatch" and "Daily Commentary" pieces. Most of the resources listed are available in full text via the Web site.

The site may be searched via a simple keyword search or an advanced search page. The advanced search allows Boolean searching of the article text, title, URL, or description. In addition, searches may be limited to specific Cato collection or by date.

Cato Institute is a worthwhile site for individuals interested in varying points of view on current topics and public policy issues for research or personal interest.—*Leslie Starasta, Lincoln Christian College and Seminary, lstarasta@lccs.edu* ✍