Technology Times

Goochland County Public Schools

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Is there such a thing as a "treasure chest" on the Internet?

What is this "treasure chest?"

It's a website (of course, this is the Internet) called the New York Times Navigator. It's the baby of Rich Meislin who has worked for the New York Times for over 20 years.

How much does it cost?

When you find treasure, it's for the taking. So, be a pirate and check it out. It's free for the using.

Where can I find this site?

http://www.nytimes.com/library/tech/reference/cynavi.html

What is it?

In my own words, "a place to start." It is a selective list of links for doing research on the web. It's great for teachers, and it's not too shabby for students in grades 6-12.

In Mr. Meislin's words:

"Navigator is the home page used by the newsroom of The New York Times for forays into the Web. Its primary intent is to give reporters and editors new to the Web a solid starting point for a wide range of journalistic functions without forcing all of them to spend time wandering around blindly to find a useful set of links of their own. Its secondary purpose is to show people that there's still a lot of fun and useful stuff going on out there."

When should I check this out?

When you have time. Really, you could spend hours looking things up. And really, if you want to use these tools effectively, it will take some practice. So set aside some time to explore. Search for obscure things that interest you. Pick a site off the list and have your students search for a topic you're talking about in class. Build a database of resources. Plan an activity around them.

When I looked around, I found some sites better than others. Of course, I'll share those below. But as you clown around the different links, you think of things to search for that you might not have thought of on your own…

Google

You didn't need to find a treasure-chest to find out that Google was a great website.

Oct. - Nov. 2002

Finding the Online Treasure Chest

Staff Development Classes

AASL's 10 Top Internet Sites for Families

www.primarygames.com

www.berenstainbears.com

www.lil-fingers.com

www.carolhurst.com

www.abctooncenter.com

chandra.harvard.edu

netvet.wustl.edu/e-zoo.htm

www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/

www.bygpub.com/books/tg2rw/volunteer.htm

www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/stdyhlp.html

What are these about? Check out the list online yourself:

www.ala.org/ICONN/toptenarchive.html

Plus:

http://4teachers.org/projectbased/checklist.shtml

http://landmark-project.com/classweb/tools/rubric_builder.php3

Published by John Hendron

Lead Teacher in Technology

You can use it to look up images, websites, newsgroups, and more. It quite simply is the best single search engine out there. It's fast and comprehensive.

ProFusion

ProFusion is a new player in the meta-search engine market. Its clean interface makes it easy to navigate. If offers both a directory-style search and a search tool. It's not as fast as Google, but I'd recommend using it if you want to use a meta search engine.

Topica

Like to get useful information delivered in your mailbox? Try a search for an e-mail discussion list at Topica. Just be sure you know how to unsubscribe if it's not your cup of tea.

The WayBack Machine

Go "back in time" and see snapshots of webpages as they were on the web. Only, not now, but back in time. That's right, see snapshots of your favorite site (say Yahoo!) in 1996. Great for a history of the Internet lesson.

Freedom Forum

A great resource for those wishing to write. Geared for journalists concerned with the First Amendment, it offers great links, news, and issues.

ResearchIt (iTools)

This could be your next start (home) page. Use this site to start your searches on the net. Translate text and webpages into other languages, use their dictionary, web search tools, and look for biographies of famous people. Even grab a map of a location in the US, or another country.

NewYork Public Library

They offer an interesting site for teens, with links at http://www2.nypl.org/home/branch/teen/. We may not be in NYC, but their site is appealing and offers links across the net for finding relevant information.

LawGuru

Interested in teaching your students about laws? This is the place to start! They offer their own information as well as over 500 search engines for searching information about laws. Compare state laws, or explore federal laws in detail.

Staff Development Opportunities

QuickMail Pro and Mac School Questions—October 31 (GHS Room M127)

Turning Your Word Processor into a Publishing Machine—November 26 (GHS Technology Center)

Exploring Microsoft Office: Word, Powerpoint, Excel—November 7 (GMS Library)

The Ethics of Cyberspace and Copyright—October 29 (GES Library)

Introduction to Publishing with PageMaker—October 17 (GHS F180)

Inspiration & Kidspiration, an Advanced Survey—October 30 (GMS Library) and November 21 (BES Library)

Getting Your Students to Publish—November 11 (Gifted Lab-GCCG)

Multimedia Presentations with PowerPoint—October 30 (GHS Media Center)

All classes will meet from 4-6 PM at the locations specified above. Integration classes meet veteran teacher's requirement; Ethics is required for every new teacher to GCPS. 8 participants are needed to offer a class. Sign-up with John Hendron via e-mail for classes.

ConvertIt.com

Currencies, finance calculators, current times in different places, and of course feet, miles, and centimeters. It's all here.

Newspapers

Read what's going on in Los Angeles, London, Washington, D.C., and more.

Commerce

Teach your students about capitalism and the American marketplace. Plenty of sites are listed to perform comparison shopping. Have students compose an "Epinion" on a product they own.

PBS

Play games, learn, read, and search this excellent site from the Public Broadcasting Service. They even offer a link to stream NPR news to your desktop.