

Your Library Today



Mr. Breitsprecher's Edition

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The 'Net is a vast collection of resources, literally BILLIONS AND BILLIONS of Web pages. More is coming online everyday. Sure, search technology makes the process of locating sites easier. But for busy teachers, parents, and students, it is not enough to find many sites.

When we are looking for information or sharing resources, we want to know that Websites are reasonably accurate, useful, and are being maintained and updated.

The proper noun GOOGLE is now also used as a verb, meaning to use the Google search engine to obtain information on the Web. Yes, we can all google whatever we want. But do we have time to evaluate the usefulness of the tens of thousands, millions, or billions of "hits" we locate?

Looking for helpful, interactive, fun resources? It may be quicker and easier to locate sets of links that others have put together.

Remember, most search engines rank websites by how many people "click through" and use them. When looking at large sets of Internet user-patterns, it is clear that people tend to link to or click on and spend more time using helpful sites. This is what makes it possible to index billions of Web pages.

Rankings consider content, usage, and how other sites link together. Sound complex? It is. The good news is that others monitor the 'Net, providing links to useful sites. Looking for Websites to support teaching, learning, and online fun? (K-6) Please check out:

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Creating & Maintaining Web-Based Resources

To a person interested in information science, perhaps a librarian, it is fun to look at information and resources in different formats. The Web can be a blast! However, librarians and Webmasters know that content has to be king. Locating links is no different than selecting great books, because librarians share selections and recommendations online. Modern software means we don't have to become HTML experts, creating Webpages by "hard-coding."



Having wider audiences to share resources with helps too. No one would bother creating a Website for one viewer. For classroom teachers, it can be difficult to justify time, energy, and expenses making and maintaining web-based resources that may only be used by one class, perhaps once a year. Most of us have written academic-term papers; sharing research, content knowledge, and writing skills with a teacher – an audience of one.

Some enjoy this process, others are more motivated when information is shared with a broader audience, perhaps a newsletter, newspaper, book, or via the World-Wide-Web. It is difficult to maintain a Web site that is used by a limited group because the Web is dynamic. Things constantly change. When a person posts online resources, there is an implied commitment to keep those resources up-to-date. This is especially true when linking to other sites.

Anyone can now "publish" information without concern for the costs of printing, distribution, or using colors and graphics – a remarkable advantage! Web publishing costs less than most people think and can be a lot of fun too.

Getting Started Online:

This writer started creating online resources when the Web was beginning to explode in popularity and worked out special agreements on Web hosting space and bandwidth. Even today, when purchased as packages, it is amazing how little it costs to keep Websites online.

Folks that got on the Internet early were also able to buy domain names that are easy to remember and share verbally or in print, which is important. This is becoming more difficult, so many domain names are already taken.

This writer maintains more than

one thousand documents and files online for different purposes and audiences. It's been fun. It has never been dull. It's what 21st Century librarians do.

If you want to create an online portfolio to support students, your career, your family, or personal life, "take the plunge!" This writer will be happy to share experience, strength and hope because he remembers how difficult and frustrating it can be to get started. You can reach me via the CONTACT link at:

www.mylmcweb.com