

Chapter Twenty-one

Web Sites on Education from Around the World

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The WorldED Librarian Cohort¹*

What motivates librarians to gather and categorize Web resources on education topical areas of mutual interest? Reasons often include a need for a comparative education subject guide, a topic needing amplification in the library's digital collection, or a collaborative effort between faculty and librarians. In the case of a collaborative effort among numerous librarians collecting education sites from countries other than the United States, it began with curiosity about a question: What overseas Internet sites would inform us about diverse education beliefs and practices around the world?

Libutti, formerly the cybrarian at ThinkQuest, Inc., began exploring the ThinkQuest partner links outside the United States. These partner sites often led to other links. The links were assembled and developed with the help of a summer intern who created graphics and a navigation system into a ThinkQuest Links page. The issues remained an active area of interest for Libutti when she became an education librarian at Rutgers University Libraries.

Formation of Librarian Cohort for Site Compilation

Libutti drafted a query to several discussion lists in early 2002, and a Librarian Cohort was formed by those who responded with interest in pursuing the

collection by interest area. They collaboratively designed an initial Web resource on educational materials from around the world. The cohort is now supplemented by contacts from IFLA to refine the range of information sources. The evolving WorldED Web resource is owned by the whole cohort (the entire textual content will be available to each participating member).

Evolution of the WorldED Basic WorldED Typology

The project was named WorldED to reflect the collation of sites from around the world. Librarians in the United States have previously concentrated on collecting sites in this country; this collation focuses on sites outside the United States.

Sorting out the sites became a project in which a classification schema of the sites evolved. This schema emanates from the constant question, What *type* of resource is this? The multiple answers, compiled and shared among the librarians, led to the following simple classification and format for compiling resources for the initial Web site.

Title, URL, Type of resource, Country or Geographic Area, Description, Language(s) in the site and the Publisher.

The collected sites fell into a specific type of resource noted in the initial WorldED Web site. The other fields were examined and compiled by each librarian according to country or geographic interest area.

Information Sources Used

Resources already on the Web and in print were consulted for initial collecting. Governments on the WWW published and maintained by Gunnar Anzinger (<http://gksoft.com/govt/en/>), Portals to the World (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html>), UNESCO links (<http://www.unesco.org/education>), and World Bank links (<http://www.worldbank.org/>) were important beginning points for the compilation. Also used were resources such as WorldCat (<http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org>), Librarian's Index to the Internet (LII) (<http://lii.org/search/file/education?>), and the WWW Library: Education (<http://www.vlib.org/Education.html>).

Selection Criteria for the WorldED Collection of Sites

Authority

The initial collation brought together government and legal information on education arranged by country, continent, and topic. Government and professional

organizations whose responsibility is the collection of statistics and monitoring and assessing the education systems of countries were deemed authoritative by the cohort.

URL Stability

Because a brief sampling of the resources available by continent indicated that site URL stability varied significantly, the cohort decided to collect when a resource became available and monitor its URL.

Fee or free

The sites gathered are, with few exceptions, free for use on the Internet. A few examples of commercial sites from countries other than the United States were included for browsing.

Resource type

The type of resource that provided information about diverse education systems was avidly pursued. Numerous sites were collected that showed different approaches to a particular topic or subject. The initial interests were to find education sites in other countries that could be used for either comparison or information about international education. Ministry of Education sites first often had links to in-country education sites that had materials of interest. Another area of interest was followed when sites detailing a nation's history of education were discovered. Commercial sites that contained educational information and resources derived from teachers, students, and special-interest groups also were included in the evolving classification. The librarians found specific examples of cross-cultural influence; WebQuests were found in Brazil, Israel, and Australia. The WebQuest approach originated in the United States. (See Bushong's WebQuests chapter elsewhere in this volume for details and a Webliography.)

Language

Some of the cohort members were able to translate some of the sites in the first WorldED Web site. It is hoped that the cohort will be joined by other multilingual members to make the collection richer and more diverse. The sites collected were not confined to those that were solely or partially in English.

Samples from the WorldED Collection: Representative Sites by Type of Resource

Global Portals

A portal or gateway site that was considered truly global was one that examined all countries in the world, gathering and publishing a variety of topics. Several examples are listed below. Other portals considered were limited by the scope of

countries covered: Regional Portals (countries from a continent), Country Portals (sites from a single country), and Local Portals (sites that were from a limited geographic area within a country, state, province, or even town). Several examples for each type of portal are listed.

Title: Governments on the Web

URL: <http://gksoft.com/govt.en/>

Country or Geographic Area: Global

Description: All countries are arrayed by continent, and each country's ministries are listed. The Ministries of Education were extracted from government agency listings. They are termed differently across the world. Not every country listed had such a ministry, but most did.

Language(s): English, others

Publisher: Gunnar Anzinger

Title: Global Law Information Network (GLIN)

URL: <http://www.loc.gov/law/glin>

Country or Geographic Area: Global

Description: The network is sponsored by the Library of Congress and contains statutes from countries on many topics, education being one of them.

Language(s): English, and language of country contributing information

Publisher: Library of Congress

Title: WorLD Countries

URL: <http://www.worldbank.org/worldlinks/english/html/countries.html>

Country or Geographic Area: Global

Description: The World Bank is developing projects in countries around the globe. World Links is a global learning network linking students and teachers around the world via the Internet for collaborative projects and integration of technology into learning. World Links includes a training program designed to help teachers and students learn to use information and communication technologies (particularly the Internet) to improve teaching and learning. Check this listing to see the varied educational projects. Also on the World Bank Web site is a School link URL: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/schools/wlinks.htm>.

Language(s): English and others

Publisher: World Bank

Title: SchoolNet Africa

URL: <http://www.schoolnet africa.net/>

Country or Geographic Area: Africa

Description: A multinational site, primarily news stories

Language(s): English, French, Portuguese, Kiswahili, Arabic

Publisher: schoolnetafrika.com

Regional Portals (Continental/Regional)

Title: Education Portal of the Americas

URL: <http://www.educoas.org/>

Country or Geographic Area: The Americas (North, Central, and South America)

Description: This portal links current educational events, presents a database of distance learning opportunities in the Americas, a multimedia laboratory, and links to the individual countries in the group. For instance, a search for Education Portals will bring one to Guyana's National Centre for Educational Resource Development. It has course syllabi for subjects available in Word documents.

Language(s): English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French

Publisher: Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development

Title: ICT for Education in Asia and the Pacific Website

URL: <http://www.unesco.org/bangkok/education/ict>

Country or Geographic Area: Asia

Description: This continental portal for initiatives and experiences is generated by the UNESCO-Japanese-Funds-in-Trust and the Asia – Pacific Board of Education. ICT for Education in Asia and the Pacific Project is a clearinghouse of information and resources, latest news, organizations, projects, and discussions on various dimensions of the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) in education.

Language(s): English

Publisher: UNESCO

Title: Internet Resources for Latin America and the Caribbean

URL: <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/internet/subjects/caribbean.html>

Country or Geographic Area: Latin America and the Caribbean

Description: This comprehensive site, maintained by Marian Goslinga, divides up resources according to format: Latin American/Caribbean Subscription Databases, Public Domain Databases, News Publications, Organizational Sites, and Major Gateways.

Language(s): English, Spanish, and Portuguese

Publisher: Florida International University Libraries

Title: Education in South America

URL: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/subject/education/>

Country or Geographic Area: Latin and South America

Description: This page covers both Latin and South America. It is divided by topics such as distance education, higher education, language programs, primary and secondary education, scholarships, grants, and loans. Each topic is then divided by subtopic and by country.

Language(s): English, Spanish, Portuguese

Publisher: University of Texas

Title: European SchoolNet

URL: http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_eun.html

Country or Geographic Area: Europe

Description: This site includes the many schoolnets from each European Union country.

Language(s): English, German, French, Spanish and Dutch

Publisher: European Union Commission

Title: Eurybase Information on Education Systems

URL: <http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/eurybase.htm>

Country or Geographic Area: Europe (26 nations)

Description: This site includes descriptions of education systems of all the countries of Europe.

Language(s): English and each country's native language

Publisher: European Union Commission

Country Portals

Title: China Education and Research Network

URL: <http://www.edu.cn/HomePage/english/index.shtml>

Country or Geographic Area: China, all provinces

Description: Topical links to basic education, higher education, education of ethnic minorities, teacher education, and more will provide an overview of current Chinese education practice. Each province has a schoolnet, but the sections are in Chinese only, with the exception of Beijing. Schools are featured; one in English shows the buildings and art of the children.

Languages: Chinese, English

Publisher: CERN

Title: Peru: A Country Study

URL: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/petoc.html>

Country or Geographic Area: Peru

Description: Overview of the country by the Library of Congress. See the heading for "Education" in chapter 2. (English page).

Language(s): English

Publisher: Library of Congress

Title: K-12 from Japan

URL: <http://www.osaka-kyoiku.ac.jp/educ/index-e.html>

Country or Geographic Area: Japan

Description: The home page choices are as follows: Calendar (past, present, future), Research (organizations, university, tech, college, education center), Schools (senior high, junior high, elementary, special and kindergarten), Resources (books, art museum resource report, activity for children in an health international society project, World children teacher project), and an Index [Japan -world].

Language(s): Japanese, English

Publisher: Osaka-Kyoiku University

Title: Korean Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation

URL: <http://www.kice.re.kr/english/eindex.htm>

Country or Geographic Area: Korea

Description: The home page is a large graphic depicting two children against a blue sky. Upon entering the site, one can access research abstracts on many curriculum projects (organized into four areas: Instruction and Learning, Educational Evaluation, Information and Communication, and Technology in Education). One can find out about textbook development, evaluation, and teaching and learning.

Language(s): Korean, English (some)

Publisher: KICE

Title: PlanetBangladesh.net

URL: <http://www.planetbangladesh.net/html/education.htm>

Country or Geographic Area: Bangladesh

Description: Provides links to colleges and universities in Bangladesh

Languages: English

Publisher: planetbangladesh

Ministries of Education

These Ministries are usually a division of a government sites from a country. The site may contain many links to education sites within the country.

Title: Department of Education, Northern Ireland

URL: <http://www.deni.gov.uk/index.htm>

Country or Geographic Area: United Kingdom

Description: This site provides current information about education in Northern Ireland. The site includes pages for parents, schools, teachers, and students, and about youth services and school inspection services. It also includes information about the structure, functions and policies of the department, a regional history of education, information on educational legislation, and access to selected documents. Contact information and FAQs are prominently displayed, and the site includes a site map, search engine, feedback mechanism, and help feature.

Language(s): English

Publisher: Department of Education, Northern Ireland

Related to the above site is:

Title: Department for Education and Skills

URL: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/index.htm>

Country or Geographic Area: Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Description: A portal for information on educational policy, programs, and resources in the U.K. The site includes a news center, a popular questions section, a publications catalog, statistical data, budget information, information on research and programs, education policy and legislation, and information about the department. Separate sections are available for adult learners, employers, higher education students, job seekers, parents, school governors, teachers, and young people. The site includes a site map, search engine, feedback mechanism, and a help feature.

Language(s): English

Publisher: United Kingdom. Department for Education and Skills

Title: Department of Education. Isle of Man

URL: <http://www.gov.im/education>

Country or Geographic Area: Isle of Man

Description: This site provides information about department functions and services, information about the Isle of Man schools and contact information.

Language(s): English

Publisher: Isle of Man Department of Education

Title: Ministry of Education

URL: <http://www.meducation.edu.dz/>

Country or Geographic Area: Algeria

Description: The site offers an explanation of the Algerian school system; it contains a search engine and news about educational events in Algeria.

Language(s): French, Arabic

Publisher: Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale

Title: Canadian Education on the Web

URL: <http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/~mpress/eduweb/eduweb.html>

Country or Geographic Area: Canada

Description: This site collects everything on Canada and education. Sponsored by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Links are organized into twenty-two categories.

Language(s): English, French

Publisher: University of Toronto

Also important for information about Canadian education is:

Title: education @ canada International Gateway to Education in Canada

URL: <http://www.educationcanada.cmec.ca/EN/home.stm>

Country or Geographic Area: Canada

Description: Council of Ministries Web site with Canadian education resources for the international education community and students

Language(s): English, French

Publisher: Council of Ministries

Sites by and for Students

Title: ThinkQuest International

URL: <http://www.thinkquest.org>

Country or Geographic Area: Fifty-three countries are represented by contributions from students aged 12 to 19, in the ThinkQuest Internet Competition, from 1996–2001.

Description: The Library of Internet Competition is arranged in a Yahoo-style directory, with main and secondary subjects. The indexing system was de-

signed by Jean Armour Polly and grew as the diversity of sites grew. At this point, the library is owned by Oracle; however, ThinkQuest local libraries (country and New York City) are linked on the site.

Language(s): English and many others; students translated the sites into many languages for added competitive value. The languages vary across sites.

Publisher: Oracle

Teacher Nets and/or School Nets

This category best fits the Web sites of teacher groups who donate lesson plans, join communities of teachers online, and develop resources. Schoolnets, however, are looser to describe. One, SchoolNet Africa, is a major site for a whole continent (see Portals—Regional). Others are simply a union of schools for a local area or a region.

Title: TeacherNet

Country or Geographic Area: Australia

URL: <http://rite.ed.qut.edu.au/oz-teachernet/projects/webquests/index.html>

Description: Teachers associations, schoolnets, projects, and curriculum resources are linked on this site for Australia's teachers, K–12. United States-inspired WebQuest links are maintained, and Bernie Dodge's materials are featured prominently.

Language(s): English

Publisher: Aussie Net

Title: Virtual School

URL: http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_vs.cfm

Country or Geographic Area: Europe

Description: “The site is created by teams of teachers from different countries that together create and collect different kinds of learning resources. “It is part of the European SchoolNet, which has parts scattered in many areas of description in the sample sites. There are subject communities, free primary software downloads, PowerPoints on several projects (such as an Olympic Project). Subject resources are extensive: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Civics, Culture, Economics & Business, English, Environmental Science, French, Geography, History, Library, Mathematics, Media, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Primary, Spanish, and Special Needs.

Language(s): English, German, French

Publisher: European SchoolNet

Associations

These sites demonstrate the difficulty of classification because there is a local and a global site represented in this section. This fact led toward the evolution of a many-faceted classification method, described in the conclusion.

Title: Jamaica Teachers Association

URL: <http://www.jamaicateachers.org.jm/>

Country or Geographic Area: Jamaica

Description: The association promotes professional development of Jamaican teachers and has links to economic resources. The history of the organization, important people in the development of the organization, allied groups, and links to other associations for teachers (including the Caribbean Union of Teachers [<http://www.teachersunion.org/>]) are sections of the site.

Language(s): English

Publisher: Jamaica Teachers Association

Title: Education International

URL: <http://www.ei-ie.org/>

Country or Geographic Area: Global

Description: The association represents “the world’s largest educators’ federation representing 26 million members through its 310 member organizations” [from web site]. The focus on education news from all over the world provides a current perspective on issues. The links are on the topics of: “EI member organisations, Global Unions, Education ,Human Rights Equality and the European Union.” The site urges visitors to add a site. This invitation may lead to surprises. The Equality section had an added site: A link to the Beijing+5 activities at the UN headquarters in New York in 2000.

Language(s): English, French, Spanish

Publisher: Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) of the Organization of American States

Databases

Title of Site: Foundation for Free Learning and Merit Education

URL: <http://www.flameghana.org/>

Country or Geographic Area: Ghana

Description: “FLAME is an organization made up of volunteer teachers, retired educationists, and health workers. Our main goal is to help disadvantaged students in rural areas by offering free supplementary tuition in the areas

of English, Mathematics, Science and Moral Education, and Promoting the use of technology to enhance education in Ghana” [from site page]. School Linkages, reports of rural teaching, and finances are sections on the site. ThinkQuest has a link on the site.

Language(s): English

Publisher: Foundation for Free Learning and Merit Education

Title of Site: INASP/Publishing Support Initiatives/Carindex

URL: <http://www.inasp.info/iah/carindex.html>

Country or Geographic Area: English-speaking West Indies

Description: “CARINDEX is an index to the contents of some 70 journals, published in the Caribbean region. It also includes theses and papers presented at conferences. It covers publications in the social sciences and humanities from 1983 onwards. Full bibliographical details are provided. Each record contains an abstract of content. The full text of items is not available” [from the site]. Basic and advanced Boolean searches can be made with the search engine. Advanced searches may be configured in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.

Language(s): English

Publisher: University of the West Indies Libraries/INASP (International Association for the Availability of Scientific Publications)

Title of Site: INASP/ African Journals Online

URL: <http://www.inasp.info/ajol/>

Country or Geographic Area: Africa

Description: AJOL offers the tables of content and abstracts from scholarly journals published in Africa on agricultural sciences and resource management, arts, culture, language and literature, health, science and technology, and the social sciences. The site includes a fee-based document delivery service. Member countries of Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) <http://www.inasp.info/peri/countries.html> do not pay fees for document delivery.

Language(s): English and French

Publisher: INASP

Journals: See Linda Geller’s Webliography under “International” for descriptions of Comparative Education Review, Current Issues in Comparative Education (CICE), eWENR, and International Education Electronic Journal (IE-ej.)

Commercial Sites

Title: Eirecom.learning Ireland

URL: <http://www.eircomlearning.ie/>

Country/Geographic Area: Country: Republic of Ireland

Description: This is a subscription service providing education content for parents, teachers, schools, and students, similar to the Public Broadcasting service in the United States.

Language(s): English

Publisher: eircomlearning

Title: Learning Channel Campus

URL: <http://www.learn.co.za/>

Country or Geographic Area: Zambia

Description: Similar to Classroom Connect (www.classroom.com or www.classroom.com) in the United States. There are interactive laboratories, “Know it all.” study guides, and TV Guides. Past exam papers are available in the Electronic Library.

Language(s): English

Publisher: Learning Channel (Pty) Ltd. A Johnnic Learning company

Curriculum Resources

Title: Projecto Frogs

URL: <http://www.darwin.futuro.usp.br/frogs/index/htm/>

Country or Geographic Area: Brazil

Description: Frogs are studied in this curricular resource. Similar Curricular resources from this site (School of the Future in Brazil) are Projecto Sky (<http://darwin.futuro.usp.br/sky/index.htm>), The Dandelion Project (<http://darwin.futuro.usp.br/dandelions/index.html>), and a WebQuest page from School of the Future (<http://www.webquest.futuro.usp.br/>).

Language(s): Portuguese

Publisher: School of the Future

Title: Virtual School: Museum of Mathematics

URL: http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_vs.html

Country or Geographic Area: Europe

Description: This site is for mathematics teaching and learning. The Mathematical Museum considers life in math before computers. Featured is the ‘Theatrum

Machinarum', a creation of a group of Constructeur Universel d'Equations, *The Geometer Sketchpad*, and Mathplets (in the languages of the countries of origin). Links on the site take the visitor to many mathematical demonstrations with the computer. The Virtual School, in which this site is contained has resources on all subjects from art to zoology. (See TeacherNets.)

Language(s): English, German, French, Italian

Publisher: Carles Romero i Chesa (*cromero@pie.xtec.es*)

Title: Artistiques et Cultureles

URL: <http://www.artsculture.education.fr/>

Country or Geographic Area: France

Description: The arts are explored pedagogically, with examples, in a colorful, engaging site.

Language(s): French

Publisher: Ministère de la jeunesse, d'éducation nationale et de la recherche

Conclusions

It is anticipated that further international involvement will be pursued for refinement of the resource. Stage Two of the project was possible with the help of the Scholarly Communication Center, Rutgers University Libraries. Ron Janz, data librarian, developed a platform that is reusable for courseware Bell and Janz 2003). The platform was reconfigured to accommodate the existing information fields about education sites.

Now, with a database that can be searched on any of the classification areas, the resources listed can be assigned multiple classifications. To find out more about this aspect of the project, Bell and Janz's article on a reusable platform used for a class project, and now available for others to use in database design, should be consulted. Readers of this chapter are encouraged to visit the WorldED site (http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/digital-projects/world_ed/) and contribute their own resources, which is a simple task consisting of clicking on classifications, entering a description, URL, and contributor's name. (See figure 1.) The resource will be reviewed and added to the collection by the WorldED Librarian Cohort, if appropriate. Further collection and evaluation is planned, with new members joining the cohort and contributing their expertise.

Note

1. The WorldED Librarian Cohort in 2002 consisted of Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Rutgers University; Triveni Kuchi, Rutgers University; Sheila Kirven, New Jersey University at Jersey City; Cecile Maciulis, Loyala University; Calmer

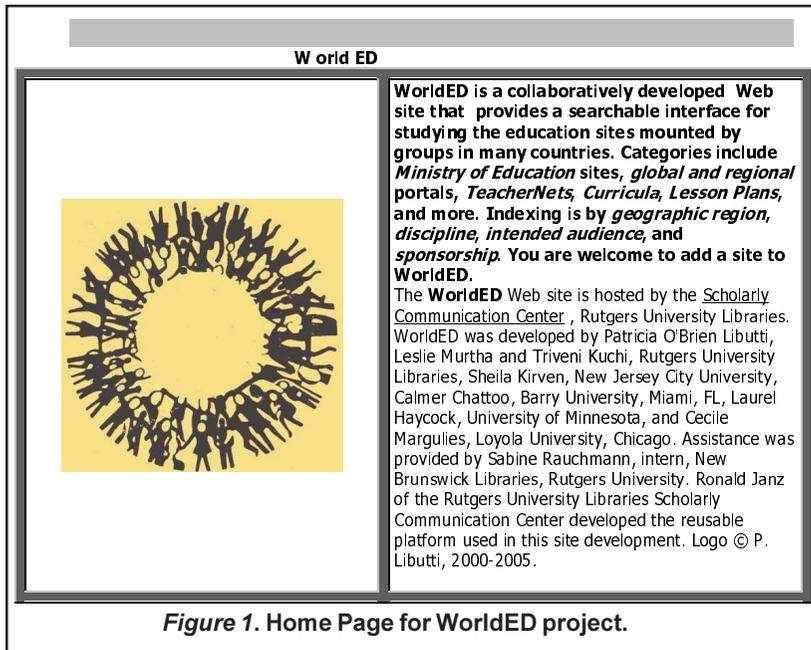


Figure 1. Home Page for WorldED project.

Chattoo, Barry University; Laurel Haycock, University of Minnesota; Leslie Murtha, Rutgers University; and Nancy Stowell, Rutgers University.

References

Bell, R., and R. Janz. 2003 (February). "Do-it-yourself Courseware. How We Built a Reusable Web Platform for Studying World Cultures." *Syllabus*. Available online from <http://www.syllabus.com>. (Retrieved 24 July 2003.)

Editor's Note:

All URLs are current as of April 15, 2004.

The following librarians contributed to the design and documentation of the initial collection of sites: Patricia O'Brien Libutti (libutti@rci.rutgers.edu), Rutgers University; Triveni Kuchi (kuchi@rci.rutgers.edu), Rutgers University; Sheila Kirven (skirven@NJCU.edu), New Jersey City University; Cecile Maciulis (cmaciul@wpo.it.luc.edu), Loyola University; Calmer Chattoo (cchattoo@mail.barry.edu), Barry University; Laurel Haycock (hayco001@tc.umn.edu), University of Minnesota; Leslie Murtha (lmurtha@andromeda.rutgers.edu), Rutgers University; and Nancy Stowell (stowell@rci.rutgers.edu), Rutgers University.