

SELECTIVE FREE WEB RESOURCES FOR HUMANITIES SCHOLARS: A VALUE BASED STUDY

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Abstract *The Internet is one of the most important and complex innovations in human history, the largest and most complete tool for information exchange ever made available to the global population. The URLs of selected web resources mentioned in this paper will help in location in free accessible e-books for students, faculty members. This paper makes an effort to identify & list the selective free accessible web resources for humanities which are helpful in learning, teaching and research activities.*

Keywords: *Research Activities, Free Accessible Resources*

INTRODUCTION

For hundreds of years printed information sources have been used-either by purchasing them or by using them through libraries. The situation began to alter about four decades ago with the introduction of computers in information handling and there has been a dramatic change over the past few years. Recent developments in information and communication technologies, especially the Internet and the web, have transformed the way information is generated, disseminated, preserved, archived and made accessible. The Internet is one of the most important and complex innovations in human history, the largest and most complete tool for information exchange ever made available to the global population. Since the quasi-miraculous emergence of the WEB in 1990s. Web sites¹ “a set of web pages with a particular focus” have been developed by all forms of Internet users – commercial (.com), organizations (.org), government (.gov), and education (.edu). Information has been a continuous increase in the volume of scholarly resources in electronic form, such as e-books, e-journals, e-databases, e-theses and dissertations, e-prints of research papers, and the like.

THE HUMANITIES SCHOLARS AND INFORMATION NEEDS

Basic research in the humanities is conducted by using primary and secondary resources. Humanities scholars rely heavily on primary sources that vary widely in content, format and date of creation. These primary resources are found in several type repositories including archives, museums and libraries and other information centers. Research methods in the humanities are individualistic and multiple authorship,

unlike in many other fields is not common. Humanities scholars are using variety of research methods.

OBJECTIVE

The key objectives of the present study are –

1. To provide selective web resources available on humanities which are useful for students, research scholars, faculty members.
2. To identify and list the open access website

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this study is review of literature to know the various web resources available on humanities. Review of databases helped to identify & list the imperative web resources which may be beneficial for humanities students, research scholars and faculty members of faculty of humanities & social science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi as well as review of available databases on internet helped in selecting the web resources on humanities.

WHAT IS WEB RESOURCE?

Web resource is also known as Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that describes the protocols needed to access a particular resource or site on the Web, and then point to the resource's Internet location.

Normally the web resource or URL is composed of six components²:

1. The protocol or data source (i.e., ftp://, gopher://, news://, telnet://, WAIS://, http://)

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6.1 Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
To provide access to books in electronic text format a short time after they entered the public domain. Project Gutenberg is the first and largest single collect of free electronic books. Texts include light literature (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Rice Burroughs); heavy literature (such as the works of Shakespeare); and reference sources such as almanacs, encyclopedias, and dictionaries. The 32,000 e-books to download to your PC, Kindle, Android, iOS or other portable device. Over 100,000 free e-books are available through their partners, affiliates and resources.	Primary sources; Secondary sources; Answer questions	Students, professors, scholars and general audiences	Easy. The site can be searched by author or title.	Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation (a 501 (c) (3) organization. Gregory B Newby is the volunteer CEO. Michael Hart, Founder and Executive Director in 1971 at the University of Illinois

6.2. The Encyclopedia Mythica (www.pantheon.org)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
"an encyclopedia on mythology, folklore, legends, and more." It contains 6,100+ articles on gods and goddesses, heroes, legendary creatures and beings from all over the world. Areas include Mythology, Folklore, Bestiary, Heroes, Featured Items, Image Gallery, and Genealogy Tables. The site contains hyperlinks and images, tables of major mythical families as well as a pronunciation aid. Contributing editors verify and edit information accepted for the site.	Secondary sources; Answer questions	Researchers, students studying mythology at all levels.	Easy.	M. F. Lindemans, founder and chief editor. Sponsor: by Ultimium-I

6.3 Bartleby.com (www.bartleby.com)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
"publisher of literature, reference and verse providing students, researchers and the intellectually curious with unlimited access to books and information on the Web, free of charge." Features <i>Columbia Encyclopedia</i> , 6th ed., <i>American Heritage Dictionary</i> , 4th ed., <i>Roget's II: The New Thesaurus</i> , <i>American Heritage Book of English Usage</i> , <i>Columbia World of Quotations</i> , <i>Simpson's Contemporary Quotations</i> , <i>Bartlett's Familiar Quotations</i> , <i>King James Bible</i> , <i>Oxford Shakespeare</i> , <i>Gray's Anatomy</i> , <i>Shrunk's Elements of Style</i> , <i>World Factbook</i> , <i>Columbia Gazetteer</i> .	Secondary sources; Answer questions	Researchers, students studying mythology at all levels.	Easy. Can search by author, subject, or title.	Bartleby.com, an Internet publisher.

6.4 Biography.com (www.biography.com)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
"provides historical and biographical information on more than 25,000 people past and present." Links to related people, places, and organizations are provided.	Answer questions	Undergraduate students.	Easily searchable	A&E's Television Networks

- The domain name (for the Web server where the desired information resides)
- The port address
- The directory path (location of the Web page in the Web server's file system)
- The object name or (xxx.html)
- The spot (precise location within the file)

6.5 AskOxford.com (<http://www.askoxford.com>)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
“searchable access to the <i>Compact Oxford English Dictionary</i> and other helpful resources for writers and students. Features include <i>Ask the Experts</i> , <i>World of Words</i> , <i>Better Writing</i> , <i>Games</i> , <i>Global English</i> , and <i>Foreign Languages</i> . The <i>Better Writing</i> section offers spelling and grammar tips, the <i>Games</i> section includes crossword puzzles and the <i>Global English</i> provides etymology.	Answer questions	Lower-level undergraduates	Easy to use	Oxford University Press

6.6 Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations Union Catalog (<http://zippo.vtls.com/cgi-bin/ndltd/chameleon>)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
Dedicated to “improving graduate education by developing accessible digital libraries of theses and dissertations. One goal is to increase the availability of student research for scholars, empower students to convey a richer message through the use of multimedia and hypermedia technologies and advance digital library technology worldwide.”	Secondary sources; Answer questions	Scholars, students, professors.	Searching by subject, title, author, institution, year, language.	A Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD), OCLC, VTLS.

6.7 The Nobel Foundation (<http://nobelprize.org/>)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
“official site of the Nobel Foundation, which awards prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. Winners of the prizes in Physics, Chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economics as well as their acceptance speeches, biographical information and bibliography are listed.	Answer questions	Professors and students, general audience..	Easy to use and search.	the Noble Foundation

6.8 Guide to Philosophy on the Internet (www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
“a comprehensive, peer-reviewed resource of collected links to scholarly works, Websites, and texts of philosophers that are online. The site includes links to: Philosophers, Journals, Guides, Associations, Bibliographies, eTexts, Projects, Quotations, Guides, Dictionaries, Hippas, Jobs, Teaching/Learning, Newsgroups, Preprints, Topics, and Miscellany.	Answer questions	Students and professors; anyone needing background in philosophy	Easy. The table of contents and search feature help with navigation. Suber stopped updating the site in February 2003. While there are dead links, it is valuable for what is there.	Peter Suber - Professor in Philosophy Department at Earlham College until May 2003. Now, a researcher and consultant

6.9 Internet History Sourcebooks Project (www.fordham.edu/halsall)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
“A World Wide Web project designed to provide easy access to primary sources and other teaching materials in a non-commercial environment.” The materials included are collections of public domain and copy permitted historical texts. The three main sourcebooks are: <i>Internet Ancient History Sourcebook</i> , <i>Internet Medieval Sourcebook</i> and the <i>Internet Modern History Sourcebook</i> . <i>Subsidiary sourcebooks include: African History, East Asian History, Global History, Indian History, Islamic History, Jewish History, History of Science, Women’s History, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans* History Sourcebooks</i> . Historical studies links and comprehensive bibliographies are included.	Primary sources; Secondary sources; Answer questions	University professors, college students, high school teachers and their students.	Easy to use searchable site. There are graphics on each page.	Paul Halsall, PhD in History from Fordham University. MA in Classical Civilization from the University of London (Birkbeck College). Teaches history at the University of South Florida.

6.10 Best of History Web Sites (www.besthistorysites.net)

Purpose	Resource type	Audience	Navigation	Author/Creator
A portal that consists of annotated lists of 1000+ history websites. Sections include: Prehistory, Ancient/biblical, Medieval, U.S. History, Early Modern European, 20th Century, World War II, Art History, Maps, and General Resources. Also included are sites for: Lesson Plans/Activities, Multimedia, and Research.	Answer questions	: History educators, researchers, students and general history enthusiasts.	A searchable site; it is updated frequently	Thomas Daccord (B.A. Princeton University and Université de Montréal), academic technology specialist and history teacher.

SELECTIVE WEB-RESOURCES FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCHERS

The following web resources were selected for humanities research. The websites are not listed in any particular order.

CONCLUSION

Free websites of value for Humanities students, faculty and the librarians who serve these users do exist. Librarians use a rigorous evaluation process to identify the accuracy and reliability of websites. The present study found 10 websites of value to humanities students, faculty, and the librarians.

REFERENCES

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- <http://www.enotes.com/public-health-encyclopedia/information-technology>