

If you have any questions about this list, want to suggest additions, or need to report a broken link, please contact Jason Price, Director of the Library, at 806-457-4200 ext. 787 or e-mail jprice@fpctx.edu.

Reliable Online Resources

American Memory: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Part of the Library of Congress, the American Memory project provides electronic access to documents related to the American experience. Browsing by subject, date, or geographic location is provided, along with browsing by file type. Photographs, sheet music, manuscripts, and many more forms of documentation are available.

Bartleby: <http://www.bartleby.com/>

Bartleby provides links to a diverse collection of free resources, including reference works, quotes, verses, and works of both fiction and nonfiction. This is a free site which has everything from the Holy Bible to ghost stories. This is a very handy site.

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/index.html>

The CIA World Factbook, provided by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States is a guide to almost 270 world “entities”. The site provides maps of the various regions, a guide to each “entity”, a comparison tool, and a “flags of the world” section. It is a very handy tool to use and given how swiftly the world changes, this is often more reliable than many print encyclopedias.

Dictionary.com: <http://www.dictionary.com/>

One of my favorite websites, dictionary.com provides an online dictionary, along with numerous other functions, such as a thesaurus and an encyclopedia. Along with providing audio pronunciations, the site also has words of the day, crossword puzzles, a flashcard generator for vocabulary, and a translator.

Easybib: <http://easybib.com/>

I give up! If it's good enough for the OCLC it's good enough for me. Here is an online citation generator that has partnered with the OCLC to provide correct citations for works cited/bibliography pages. Although it offers more paid features, the simple citation generator is free. Just like using the library database citations, ALWAYS remember to double check the citations using a style manual.

Google Books: <http://books.google.com/>

Ruler of the search engine universe, Google has shifted their focus into digitization of literary works (among other endeavors). While this service (the paid part) is still in question in the courts, the most beneficial aspect to consumers is the vast amount of items in the public domain. Any work in Google Books that is in the public domain is free to view, print, or download. Works inside of copyright are displayed according to the wishes of the copyright holders and vary wildly from being able to read most of the work to no preview.

Government Printing Offices: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/>

The United States government is the largest producer and publisher of material in the world. The GPO access website provides electronic access to a vast amount of information. Records from all three branches of government can be accessed, along with an index of all available resources.

Infoplease: <http://www.infoplease.com/>

Run by Pearson Education, Infoplease provides reference works such as a free atlas, encyclopedia, dictionary, timelines, and much more. In addition, the site provides a homework center, fun facts, and quizzes over a wide range of topics.

Internet Classics Archive: <http://classics.mit.edu/index.html>

Hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Internet Classics Archives provides access to 441 works, mostly from Greek authors. The site also provides links to other period-centric sites.

Internet History Source Book: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/>

Created by Paul Halsall from Fordham University, the Internet History Source Book contains thousands of links to primary and secondary sources on history. In addition, there are also links regarding the study of history, how to use primary sources, and historiography.

Internet Public Library: <http://ipl.org>

Designed to supplement a regular library, the Internet Public Library was started by the University of Michigan and is currently hosted by Drexel University's School of Information. It has merged with the Librarians Internet Index and is now called the IPL2. Information about selection criteria and standards for the individual subjects are listed here: <http://ipl.org/div/about/colpol.html>

Library of Congress Newspaper & Current Periodical Reading Room:
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/lists.html>:

Part of the Library of Congress, this list is a good guide for finding information from newspapers, current news websites, and various other periodicals. Almost all of the information provided on this list is free.

New York Public Library Digital Gallery:
<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm>

The New York Public Library Digital Gallery provides public access to a number of documents and collections held by the NYPL. The collection boasts a wide array of subject areas, as one would expect from public library holdings and the digital images available range in resolution. The collections can be browsed based on topic or patrons can choose to use the search engine to seek specific items.

Nutrition.gov: <http://www.nutrition.gov/>

Run by the United States government, Nutrition.gov provides links to all relevant official information regarding nutrition. Provided for consumers, this site lists the official recommended daily intake of calories, weight management guides, physical activity guidelines, and the new “food plate”, which replaces the iconic “food pyramid”.

Old Farmer’s Almanac: <http://www.almanac.com/>

The Old Farmer’s Almanac has provided a plethora of information since 1792. The oldest continuously published periodical in the United States, the almanac provides information on items from astronomy to gardening.

Project Gutenberg: http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

A pioneering site in digitizing, Project Gutenberg provides free access to roughly 36,000 ebooks. It was the first site to begin digitizing books and the site does not require any cost or registration to use. It provides functionality with Kindles, iPads, iPhones, and Nooks, among others, including Android devices.

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

My favorite website, the OWL is run by the department of English at Purdue University and is a wonderful tool for students of all disciplines to access the major citations styles online. Guides for MLA and APA are available for virtually every type of source imaginable, along with guides on avoiding plagiarism, and general guides on effective writing.

Refdesk: <http://www.refdesk.com/>

Refdesk is an indexing site for the internet, whose vision is to review and list credible sources of information. Links to everything from government websites to movie reviews can be found here. Careful, there are an overwhelming number of topics linked here.

Smithsonian: <http://www.si.edu/>

This is the website of the world's largest museum "complex", comprised of 19 zoos and museums. Hosting a broad array of collections for all ages, the Smithsonian hosts a number of useful collections that a college student should be able to harness for research, if not for pleasure.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is essentially a Wikipedia run by philosophers about philosophy. Even better, there is a list of editors provided, so the users of the site can see the name and credentials of each author and the subjects they edit. This is a very handy site for anyone in need or simply curious about information regarding philosophers or philosophy.

THOMAS: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>

Named after Thomas Jefferson, THOMAS (not an acronym) provides the public with online information regarding the activities of the federal legislature. Maintained by the Library of Congress, the site provides access to bills and resolutions, although much more can be access. Librarians work overnight to have the previous day's activities updated by 9 AM the next morning...this site is very up-to-date. Beware; this site can be quite overwhelming.

United States Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/>

If you need statistics on anything in the United States, this is a good place to start. In addition to keeping the population count for both the US and the world, it provides other information as well. Done nationally every 10 years, the most recent census information for 2010 is in the process of being completed and some state information is already on the site.

USA.gov: <http://www.usa.gov/>

USA.gov is a one-stop catch-all for government information and searches. In addition to browsing topically, there are indexes for federal government agencies and links to state and local governments as well.

Virtual Library: <http://vlib.org/>

Created by the inventor of the internet (and html), Tim Berners-Lee, the Virtual Library is a small list of reliable sites approved by volunteer experts in their particular fields.