

Good Places to go on the WWW



Professional Organizations

How to Identify/Find Them

- To what organization(s) do you belong? In your profession, are you required to belong to one or more? If so, check out their websites for electronic scholarly publications, or a section featuring facts and statistics regarding issues pertinent to the profession.
- Ask your colleagues and professors!
- Still at a loss? **Google!**
 - Try a Google search for: professional organizations for _____

The 'blank' could be.....

teachers, educators, elementary teachers, high school teachers, etc. etc.

In fact, before you even finish typing, Google will give suggestions based on past users' searches. How cool is **THAT?!**



U.S. Government (State and Federal)

A great place to go for national and state statistics, public policy information and more!
Here are a few suggestions!

South Carolina Department of Education	http://ed.sc.gov/
U.S. Department of Education	http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml
National Center for Education Statistics	http://nces.ed.gov/
FedStats (plethora of governments statistics!)	http://www.fedstats.gov/
South Carolina Statistical Abstract	http://www.ors2.state.sc.us/abstract/index.asp
Statistical Abstract of the United States	http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/



Edens Library Divergent Learning Resource Guide!

Still looking for more Web goodies? Try our Divergent Learning Resource Guide!
<http://lits.columbiasc.edu/edenslibrary/divergentguide.htm>

Research Guide:

Evaluating Information from the World Wide Web

Characteristics that make the Internet different from other familiar sources of information, such as books, newspapers, and television:

Quantity
Changeability

Lack of Editorial Authority
Lack of Organization

Variety and Complexity
Ownership

Criteria for evaluating Web sites:

- 1) **Purpose and Audience** – Who is the information designed to reach? Why is it on the Web?
- 2) **Authority** – Who is responsible? What are their credentials? Do they provide biographies or references? Do they credit other information sources? Is there contact information for the author or producer?
- 3) **Scope** – What is the time period covered? Is the coverage general or detailed? Are there relevant and helpful links to other Web sites?
- 4) **Accuracy** – Are the facts reliable given what you already know about the subject? Is the information objective or does it have a clearly stated bias? How does it compare to other sources (print and non-print)?
- 5) **Currency** – Is there a date of creation on the Web site? How frequently is it updated? Is there obviously out-of-date information? Do the links still work?
- 6) **Design** – Is it easy and quick (less than three clicks) to navigate? Is it easy to locate pertinent information? Is it cluttered? Does it have distracting backgrounds or too many graphics that slow it down? Can you search it? Does it require plug-ins or players?
- 7) **Commercialism** – Is it trying to sell something? Are there hidden costs? Do you have to supply personal information? Is the site secure?
- 8) **Evaluation by Others** – Do reputable Web sites link to it?