On the Internet, one can not only buy books but also obtain information about publishers and vendors, book reviews, authors, and other book-related information. Even electronic texts are available for downloading or browsing online. The paper discusses World Wide Web sites for many book-related information needs, whether a person is searching for nonfiction and reference, various fiction genres, a bookseller specializing in rare books, or the newest book about the Internet itself. The paper describes InfoTrac and FirstSearch, and many of the other services available on the Internet for researching, browsing, purchasing, and downloading books. It also discusses the fact that the diverse book-related activity on the Internet contradicts the oft-heard notion that printed books might be on the verge of extinction. Also included is a topically subdivided list of 36 Web addresses: General Sites (6); Academic Book Sites (9); Book Reviews (7); Rare and OP (out-of-print) Books (3); Book Stores (2); Texts Online (5); Online Magazines and Books (3); and Book Arts (1). (Author/SWC)
Diane Baird  
User Services Librarian  
Virginia Vesper  
Collection Management Librarian  
Todd Library  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  

Book It!  

Abstract  

On the Internet, you can not only buy books but also obtain information about publishers, and vendors, book reviews, authors, and any other book-related information. Even complete electronic texts are available for downloading or browsing online. This session will demonstrate Web sites where the book is still alive and well, whether you are searching for books on entomology, a genre related site for mystery fans, a bookseller specializing in rare books, or the newest books about the Internet.
It is the intention of this presentation to utilize Internet access to gain information about
books. This will provide you with purchasing options and save you valuable time and effort.
From your workstation, the Internet will place at your disposal the information necessary to
reach a knowledgeable decision regarding print material. The best way to familiarize yourself
with the available net sites is to get in there and surf, "hang ten"!

Commercial net addresses demonstrate some of the best, most current, and retrospective
sources. Commercial indexes provide book information; facts for ordering, reviews, abstracts,
and evaluations. Commercial sites also supply document delivery, downloading, e-mail, and
printing services to their customers. Two popular and easily accessed sites are Infotrac and
FirstSearch.

Infotrac is a product of the Information Access Company and can be integrated
into your local library system. Copyrighted full text is available from numerous
periodical sources. The text can be viewed, downloaded, or printed at a workstation. Book
reviews are present with full citations, availability status, and material evaluation. Infotrac is a
general index, covering many journals, popular magazines, and some newspapers. It is a product
used by many libraries because it is easily searched and has complete help screens. Infotrac is a
good basic book review resource available through your library and campus network system.

FirstSearch is a product of OCLC, Online Computer Library Center, Inc. It is an
interactive online information system that is accessible by subscription or password, which must
be purchased for local use. FirstSearch is a comprehensive index providing citations from
research and academic periodical. This index is very large. Reviews are available as full text, abstracts, and notes. FirstSearch has an easy search strategy for users and provides excellent help screens. This database gives the options for document or e-mail delivery at a charge. Citations may be e-mailed without charge. FirstSearch Internet can connect through a campus net (Ethernet or Token Ring), a Web Page address, or a web browser. Before searching you will need a valid FirstSearch service authorization number and a password. The net addresses for FirstSearch are:

Telnet:fscat.oclc.org


OCLC web browser word search.

By working closely with the technology center and the library on your local campus, many things are possible. Commercial indexes will not solve all of your problems, but they can significantly reduce them. It is important to remember however, that the best way to learn the net, and its potential, is to just jump in and test the water. You won't sink and you just might swim.


Although predications abound concerning the end of the printed word, it certainly has not arrived. In fact, bookstores are doing more business than ever with new and larger stores that carry not only books, but software, tapes, CD's and other media. And ironically, if a book is not available at one of these megastores, it can probably be ordered from an online bookstore on the
World Wide Web. The Web has an abundance of book related sites, which fall into several categories such as discussion groups and reviews of current titles; book stores or sites that search for books; publishers pages with new titles and other services; sites devoted to a genre; and sites with the complete text. Of course there are other book related sites that do not fit into these categories exactly, and some sites contain so much information that they could only be classified as general or comprehensive sites.

One of these general sites is Bookwire which lists itself the first place to look for book information and the most comprehensive book site on the Web. The Navigator page is an index to all of the resources at this site which include, but is not limited to, book reviews, links to publishers, and the Publisher’s Weekly list of best-sellers. Don’t leave this site without looking at Bookwire’s Best Bets for interesting and unusual book sites. Another comprehensive site is IBS or the Internet Book Shop. This site claims to be the largest bookshop online in the world. Along with many book titles and links to publishers, it includes excerpts from books, author profiles, and the ability to search Whitaker’s British Books in Print. Especially helpful are the links to British publishers, if you are searching for a United Kingdom publication. Other comprehensive or general sites include one of the oldest and best book-related sites on the Web, the Internet Book Information Homepage. Other Web sites to explore are the Internet Road Map to Books, Bookzone, the ReadersNdex, and the Bibliophile Homepage. Although each of these sites is unique, they all have a variety of book-related information. Bookzone has over one thousand links to other book-related sites and ReadersNdex is a more literary site.

For those interested in purchasing books, several sites for online book stores will fulfill their needs and book orders. Amazon Books lists over a million titles that are searchable by
author, title, and keyword. A personal notification service exists for the benefit of their customers, which e-mails a customer when a particular title, author or edition is available. Book Stacks Unlimited, with over 400,000 titles, advertises itself as your local bookstore wherever you live. If you are interested in what book stores are located in your neighborhood, check out the site of the American Booksellers Association, Book Web. This site allows you to search a listing of booksellers aboard and in the United States geographically or by specialty. Book store sites are not limited to title output from the United States. The Internet Book Shop has books from England. Other international book sites are for Canadian, Italian, French, Scottish, Japanese, and Chinese books. Most of the book stores previously mentioned include new and mostly in-print titles. If you are unable to locate a particular title, try the OBS BookFinder Service which connects you to the professionals that will make the best efforts to identify, locate, and order from publishers worldwide any current copyright in-print book in over 246 languages. Another service from Thesis, the Times Higher Education Supplement Internet Services is a book exchange which is free and easy to use.

For those interested in out-of-print or rare books, the Antiquarian Booksellers Association maintains a site with links to over 140 book stores that deal in rare or out-of-print books. The list of book dealers is searchable geographically or by specialty. Often only the address and telephone numbers are listed for individual book stores, but in some instances, the catalogs are available online, and arrangements can be made by e-mail to purchase specific titles. The Virtual Bookshop also specializes in rare, first editions, antiquarian, collectible and fine books. When it is difficult to locate a particular title, Glyn's Books will do an international book search for out-of-print titles, or e-mail your request to ARC Booksearch for a free search.
Another source of information about book titles, especially new or forthcoming titles, is available from the many publisher sites on the Web. Although a web site can be expensive and costly to establish and maintain, several hundred publishers have already created a presence on the Web. Lists and links to publishers’ sites can be found at AcqWeb and the WWW Virtual Library: Publishers. Over 100,000 books published by University Presses can be searched by author, title, keyword, or Library of Congress subject heading at the AAUP Online Catalog and Bookstore. For those interested in instructional materials for higher education curriculum, PubWeb provides online information, and desk or review copies can be requested from participating publishers. Most publisher sites are valuable not only for current book title information, but have additional helpful resources. One example is Penguin Books USA a publisher site with resources for teachers and librarians with not only information about authors, but teaching and reader's guides for selected book titles. The Time-Warner site is an impressive example with a variety of useful and news orientated resources available online. What lies in the future for book publishing, especially on the Internet is an interesting subject. Will the cost of maintaining the web sites be worthwhile for publishers? Will they reach new markets? Some publishers have found already that offering an online version of a text has ironically resulted in more sales in the printed format.

Bibliobytes is now publishing books in many genres electronically on the Web. With the rights to over 1000 titles, Bibliobytes can provide you with a copy on demand. Does this mean that someday no book will ever really be “out-of-print”?

Book related sites on the Internet provide us with not only information about book titles and editions, but even reviews about these books. The best place to begin a search for book

6
reviews is at Bookwire’s Index to Review Sources. This site includes links to over eighty book reviewing sites in the United States, Canada, and abroad, including book reviews on almost any topic including computing, children’s books, mysteries, etc. Readers contribute the reviews at some sites, but many sites include authoritative reviews such as the online reviews from Atlantic Monthly. Another site for book lovers is Chapter One, and as the title suggests, this site includes the table of contents and first chapters of books, including those reviewed in Foreign Affairs and other reviewing sources. So, not only can you read a review of a title, but also the first chapter.

Although reading an entire book online or printing it offline may not appeal to everyone, it is certainly possible at the many Internet sites with electronic texts. The best site for online texts may be the OnLine Books Page where you can search for texts by author or title, or jump to other sites using the extraordinary number of links to other electronic text sites. One of the largest and most well-known electronic text site is Project Gutenberg where you can find your favorite literary classic online. If you are really looking for true classics, the full text of Greek and Latin classics can be found at Tech Classics Archive. Another site that has to be mentioned, if only for its name, is Project Bartleby at Columbia University. Named after Melville’s scrivener, it includes the full searchable text of reference titles. Two other sites are notable, the Library of Congress for its large number of links to electronic texts and the Electronic Texts at the University of Virginia.

If the above mentioned classics are not what you want to read, the Internet has a variety of genre related book sites for mystery, romance, fantasy, and science fiction readers. Mystery lovers can find a wealth of information at the Mysterious Homepage, or the Tangled Web, or
even the ClueLass Home Page. Anything related to crime or mystery fiction is linked to these home pages. Information on authors, chatting with fans or authors, new book titles, list of book stores, mystery magazines online, mystery games --all of this is available if you follow the smoking gun or the spider web icons. The genre of science fiction is well represented on the Internet. Visit Speculative Fiction for all kinds of information about science fiction, horror, and fantasy. Science Fiction Resources is another site with many useful links. For lovers of romance the Romance Author's Page will satisfy even the most jaded of romance readers with information about writers and publishers. Many authors also have an Internet site devoted to them and their work, so look up your favorite author on the Internet.

It has been predicted that in the future as more texts become available online and fewer books are printed, that the book will again become a valued object and an art form. Book arts exhibits are growing in number as are academic and professional programs devoted to the books arts such as binding, typography, paper-making, and printing. The Book Arts site at Syracuse University is the place to start investigating the wealth of information on this subject. The University of Idaho Book Arts also has links to artist's books and other book arts resources.

Almost any type of information relating to books is available on the Internet. In addition to the resources mentioned previously, many discussion groups and listservs are devoted to book related topics. If you can't find what you need, or are looking for a particular title, you can always check out library catalogs from all over the United States and abroad at Hytelnet. To start you on your search for book-related information on the Internet, the following selected book sites are listed with their current addresses. Links to all of the sites mentioned can be found at the following address: http://www/mtsu.edu/~vvesper.
# Book Sites on the Web

## General Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BookWire</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bookwire.com">http://www.bookwire.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Book Shop</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bookshop.co.uk">http://www.bookshop.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Road Map</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bookinfo.com/welcome/roadmap">http://www.bookinfo.com/welcome/roadmap</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookzone</td>
<td><a href="http://ttx.com:80/bookzone">http://ttx.com:80/bookzone</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReadersNdex</td>
<td><a href="http://www.readersndex.com">http://www.readersndex.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Book Information Homepage</td>
<td><a href="http://sunsite.unc.ecu/ibic/IBIC-homepage.html">http://sunsite.unc.ecu/ibic/IBIC-homepage.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Academic Book Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.baker-taylor.com/Academia/M01/Home.html">http://www.baker-taylor.com/Academia/M01/Home.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAUP Online</td>
<td><a href="http://aaup.princeton.edu">http://aaup.princeton.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACQWEB</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/law/acqs/acqs.html">http://www.vanderbilt.edu/law/acqs/acqs.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BookWeb</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ambook.org/bookweb">http://www.ambook.org/bookweb</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWW Virtual Library: Publishers</td>
<td><a href="http://comlab.ox.ac.uk/archive/publisher.html">http://comlab.ox.ac.uk/archive/publisher.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penguin Books USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.penguin.com/usa">http://www.penguin.com/usa</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Library of Congress Electronic Texts and Publishing Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library of Congress Electronic Texts and Publishing Resources</td>
<td><a href="http://www.loc.gov/global/etext/etext.html#authors">http://www.loc.gov/global/etext/etext.html#authors</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pub Web</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pubweb.com/pubweb/home.html">http://www.pubweb.com/pubweb/home.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hytelnets</td>
<td><a href="http://library.usask.ca/hytelnets">http://library.usask.ca/hytelnets</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Book Reviews

Bookwire Index to Review Sources  http://www.bookwire.com
Boston Book Review  http://www.bookwire.com
Reviews of Computer books  http://www.bookwire.com
Quarterly Black Review of Books  http://www.bookwire.com
History Reviews Online  http://www.uc.edu/www/history/reviews.htmlx
Chapter One  http://www.psi.net/chapterone
Soundview Executive Book Summaries  http://www.summary.com

Rare and OP Books

Antiquarian Booksellers Association  http://www.abaa-booknet.com
Virtual Bookshop  http://www.virtual.bookshop.com/htbin/catalog

Book Stores

Amazon Books  http://www.amazon.com
Book Stacks Unlimited  http://www.books.com

Texts Online

Online Book Page  http://www.cs.cum.edu/Web/books.html
Tech Classics Archive  http://the-tech.mit.edu:80/classics/
Electronic Texts at the University of Virginia  http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/uvaonline.html
Project Gutenberg  http://jg.cso.uiuc.edu/pg/lists/list.html
Project Bartelby  http://www.cc.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby
Online Magazines about Books

Salon http://www.salon1999.com

Against the Grain http://www.spidergraphics.com/atg/atgld.html

Book Page http://www.bookpageweb.com

Book Arts

Book Arts http://web.syr.edu/~pdverhey/links.htm
NOTICE

REPRODUCTION BASIS

☐ This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.

☐ This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").