Against the Grain

Volume 12 | Issue 6 Article 37

December 2000

Webworthy-Anthropology, Botany, Music and Reference

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Recommended Citation

Rose, Pamela M.; Paul, Sandra K.; and Simmonds, Albert (2000) "Webworthy-Anthropology, Botany, Music and Reference," Against the Grain: Vol. 12: Iss. 6, Article 37.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3123

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by Pamela M. Rose (Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-2408)

Web sites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions welcome to Pamela M. Rose, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002 716-829-2408 pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu.

Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in Science, NetWatch column edited by Jocelyn Kaiser.

Anthropology

Neanderthals and Modern Humans: A Regional Guide allows users to "share in the quest for knowledge" of how these two groups of people were related, how they may have interacted, and what became of Neanderthals. A map pinpointing various sites where discoveries were made (many not reported in the popular media) leads to summaries of information. Books, Serials, Museums, Centers, and Links relating to this topic are also provided.

http://www.neanderthal-modern.com/

Botany

Vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories are the focus of the Plants Database maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Listings include names, checklists, automated tools, identification information, species abstracts, distributional data, crop information, plant symbols, plant growth data, plant materials information, plant links, references, and other plant information for botanists and hobbyists alike. Four major categories: Topics, Gallery, Links, and Tools provide access to searchable databases, erosion control models, downloadable plant taxonomies, and wonderful photographic images that may be used for non-commercial purposes if credit is given.

http://plants.usda.gov/plants/index.html

Music

Amino acid identities determining pitch? Protein folding patterns dictating instrumentation? Alpha-helix, beta-strands and turns represented by different instruments?

Welcome to Genetic Music! The music is composed algorithmically with Algorithmic Arts software using raw genetic data available on the Internet. Listen to excerpts of composed pieces available on CDs (three have been produced so far). John Dunn (a "hard-core genetic composer" according to Science) and biologist Dr. Mary Anne Clark collaborate on pieces ranging from Alcohol Dehydrogenase to Spidroin. The page also links to a site with full tracks.

geneticmusic.com/dnamusic

Reference

BioMed Central has competition! The Scientific World, boasting a database of over 11 million article titles and e-mail alerts to new articles from over 20,000 journals titles, also intends to publish papers for free. The venture aims to profit from full-text downloads at \$12 and up plus copyright fees. Chief Graham Lees has garnered \$8 million and prominent scientists as advisers, but only the future will determine whether scientists will send him their manuscripts.

http://www.thescientificworld.com/

This extensive on-line encyclopedia of math and science, compiled by Web encyclopedist Eric W. Weisstein, curiously includes a link to plot summaries for every single episode of the original Star Trek series! Treasure Troves is divided into broad categories: Astronomy, Biography, Chemistry, Life Cellular Automaton (which includes terms such as "Methuselah" - Any small "seed" pattern in Life that does not stabilize for a very long time), Mathematics, Music, and Physics. There's also a scientific book list, and a straight alphabetical interface for all listed terms.

www.treasure-troves.com



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gotten. I remember Ralph Hansen. Fred Lynden, Bill Allan, David Weber from Stanford, all important in my career and all but one retired. And at ALA there were such wonderful colleagues in the old RTSD who have also retired. Jean Boyer Hamlin, John Kaiser, Noreen Alldredge, Marcia Tuttle, Bill Schenck, and others who should forgive me for not naming them. And bookseller friends like Fred Gullette, Jim Cameron, and Don Coombs, to name but three, who patiently and enthusiastically explained how the book business worked.

And the best of the 21st century will be the friends and colleagues who are still around and still the main reason I attend the annual conferences and midwinter meetings of the American Library Association. The machine has not replaced the people who make the world of librarianship and books such a wonderful place to work and play in. Having said that, though, I do wonder what it would be like to retire and I wonder if I will, in turn, become part of someone else's list and remembered fondly. **

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