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Web Reviews: See the Science: SciTech Image Databases

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Web Reviews

Lisa R. Johnston



Reviews of web resources of interest to *SciTech News* readers.

See the Science: SciTech Image Databases

The traditional written research paper is out. Visual communication is in! At least for many lucky students who are a part of the increasing movement toward paper alternative assignments using posters, presentations, and video to present their scitech research. Communicating science and technology concepts visually using graphics, images, artwork, and diagrams is not only an important learning tool, but also a common practice among researchers who share their breakthroughs through presentations, and also new media like blogs, websites, and Twitter.

These web resources house massive collections of science and technology photos that can be used, with proper citation, to enrich your next powerpoint presentation and revive your conference poster!

Emilio Segre Visual Archives

<http://photos.aip.org/>

The American Institute of Physics archive hosts 7,000 historical lithographs, photographs, engravings, slides and other illustrative resources of 20th century physicists and astronomers. The photos are available for purchase from \$10 for a web download to \$52 for the larger prints. Individual donations of images that "give science a human face" are also encouraged.

SpringerImages

www.springerimages.com

SpringerImages is a searchable database of scientific images that contains over 2.8 million images, including graphs, histograms, figures, and tables. Only about 300,000 images are available freely, and the bulk are available through library subscription. The images include their original captions from the articles they were stripped from, which should raise some interested conversations with library patrons about their author's rights when publishing with a journal.

NASA Image Exchange

<http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/>



NASA has several image collections that are available for public reuse and searchable in their online interfaces. The NASA Image Exchange (Space NIX) provides a single entry point to all of NASA's collections, including an Image of the Day feature. Some collection highlights include:

- **JSC Digital Image Collection:** 9,000 images from NASA's Johnson Space Center press release photos from the Apollo, Gemini, Mercury, Skylab, and Shuttle missions.
- **KSC Shuttle Photo and Video Archive (NASA):** Images and video from the Kennedy Space Center, from spacecraft launches to crew training.
- **NASA Life Sciences Data Archive (LSDA):** contains over 1000 images and data from human and non-human space flight experiments.
- **Apollo Image Atlas:** a collection of Apollo-Saturn mission photography from the Lunar and Planetary Institute, including 25,000 lunar images, both from orbit and from the moon's surface, as well as photographs of the earth, astronauts and mission hardware.
- **Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD)** has been presenting amazing celestial images and informative captions written by professional astronomers since 1995!

Hubble Gallery

<http://hubblesite.org/gallery>

View Hubble Telescope images from the Space Telescope Science Institute through this public facing site. Search for images can be searched by term or browse by categories including galaxies, solar system, nebulae, stars, the universe, and more.

Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Image Gallery

<http://eros.usgs.gov/imagegallery/>

The U.S. Geological Survey's EROS image gallery includes Landsat and Shaded relief images of U.S. States and images from their "Earth as Art" displays.

USGS Photographic Library

<http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/>



The U.S. Geological Survey has a collection of over 400,000 photos taken by geologist in the process of doing field research in the United States and U.S. territories from 1868 to the present.

NOAA Photo Library

<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov>

Includes weather and space images ranging from the Earth's shores and coastal seas to NOAA scientists in action. These collections are also part of the US government's federated image search (<http://search.usa.gov/images>) powered by Bing.

Lockheed Martin Photographs

<http://www.lockheedmartin.com/news/photo>

Hundreds of images are available for non-commercial use on Lockheed Martin's Flickr stream, including photos of aircraft, ground systems, and simulations/training.

Built in America

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/index.html

These architecture, design and engineering prints and photographs are among the most heavily used collections of the Library of Congress, and part of the American Memory program (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>). Collections include the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS).

Cool Image Search Tools

Google Image Search

<http://www.google.com/imghp>

Using an existing image, you can search Google for photos that resemble yours in both content and representations style (eg. sketch drawing). This is also an excellent way to identify the name or photographer of an existing image. Google Image Search also allows you use their advanced features to perform a web search of images that are available for public reuse (limit by "Usage Rights" in advanced search).

Creative Commons Images

<http://search.creativecommons.org/>

Some authors have indicated rights for reuse with their images by attaching Creative Commons licenses. Creative Commons has a beta web that can provide an alternative interface to Google Images.

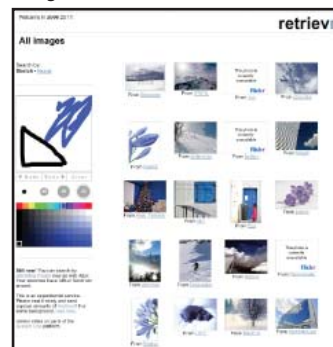
Tiny Eye

<http://www.tineye.com/>

This reverse image search allows you to give it an image and the results will tell you where the image is being used on the web.

retrivr

<http://labs.systemone.at/retrivr/>



retrievr allows you to search by sketch or search by image. The sketch search is not very practical (unless you are amazing at using "Paint" on your computer) but the flicker results that have an uncanny resemblance to your scribbles are interesting and amusing. ❖