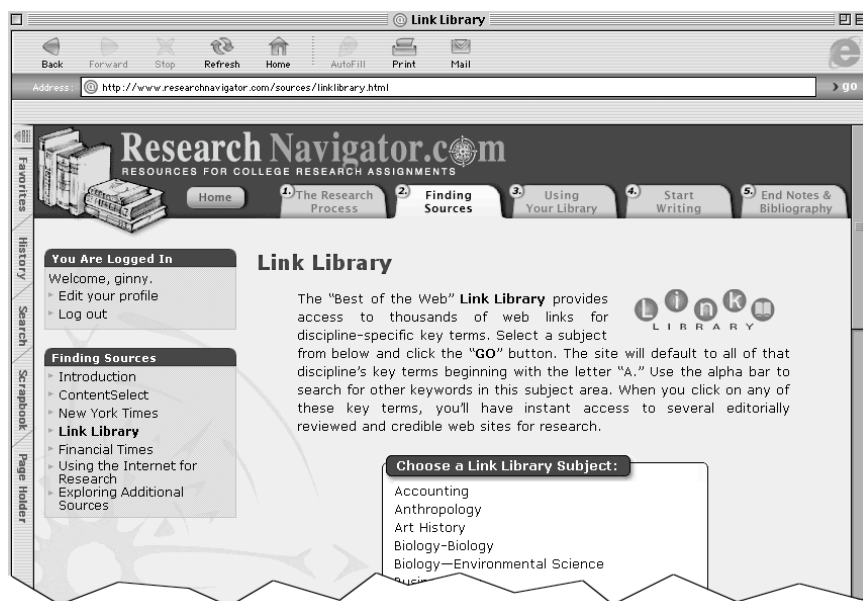


Chapter 5

Using Link Library

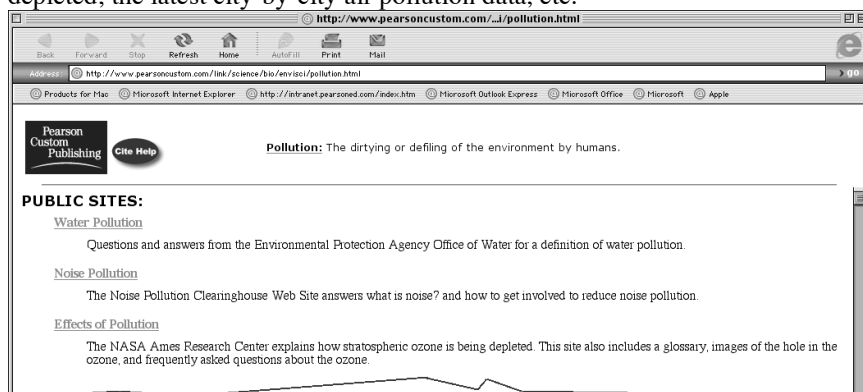
Link Library and the Web

Link Library is a collection of Web links, organized into 37 academic subjects, which are in turn divided into subcategories and lists of individual sites. The sites are editorially reviewed, which means that they have been selected because they offer credible and reliable information.



For example, if you were to select the “pollution” subcategory from the **Biology-Environmental Science** subject category, you would get a list of a dozen links. The site topics range from different types of pollution--air, noise, water--to the status of environmental legislation. How dependable are the sources? All are well-known and well-regarded government or educational institutions: the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA Ames Research Center, the University of California at Irvine. Some may quarrel with policies and enforcement efforts of government agencies, but the federal government has a long-established role in collecting data and disseminating information. The government websites listed here cover straightforward, non-controversial

subjects: a definition of water pollution, how stratospheric ozone is being depleted, the latest city-by-city air pollution data, etc.



Suppose you look for the same information from websites listed by Yahoo! It turns out that many sites listed under “pollution” are from government and educational agencies. But you will also come across sites like one in which the author describes herself as “devoted to addressing the aspects of the environmental crisis left unacknowledged or inadequately addressed by the vast majority of existing environmental groups.” The site is attractive, it doesn’t solicit contributions, and it collects articles from generally well-regarded secondary sources, like the Associated Press. But its focus is on opinion, and lists topic headings such as “prophecy” and “prayer.” It contains little of scholarly interest and no discernible research evidence. The site’s author, while enthusiastic and well-intentioned, is not well-known or well-regarded.

In addition, the Web links in Research Navigator’s Link Library are monitored and updated each week to reduce the chance of encountering “dead” links.

What’s in Link Library?

Link Library echoes the variety of the World Wide Web. It offers images, text, government and academic documents and research, databases, and search engines. As with any subject directory, you need to narrow your search to the most useful category. You can find links to websites about AIDS, for example, in a half-dozen subject categories: biology, criminal justice, U.S. and world history, philosophy-ethics, and sociology. When you have selected a subject area and found the topic you are seeking, you will find a list of sites. The character of the site you choose to consult will often depend on your topic. The sites in Link Library can be:

- **Scholarly.** If you are researching photosynthesis and you go to the **Biology** subject area, you will find such sites as “What Is Photosynthesis?” and “Photosynthesis Research,” maintained by Arizona State University. “Virtual Chloroplast,” by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, contains an image of a chloroplast that lets you click on certain regions for more information.

- **Straightforward.** What if you want information on the 2004 presidential election? Go to **Political Science – American Government > Presidential Elections**. It has sites such as “Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections,” with voting results for elections dating back to 1860; “U.S. Electoral College,” the homepage for the National Archives and Records Administration Guide to the Electoral College; and “Elections,” which provides graphs on electoral and popular votes for all U.S. presidential elections to date.
- **Controversial.** You’re researching a topic that has heated arguments on both--or many--sides, and you want to summarize the range of public opinion. Link Library subject directories on such topics will lead you to a balanced variety of voices. Under **Philosophy–Ethics**, for example, you will find a list of “partial-birth abortion” links that include a pro-choice site, the text of the *Roe vs. Wade* decision, the National Right to Life Committee homepage, a site that attempts to provide all views of the issue, and a Planned Parenthood site that describes medical procedures performed at various stages of pregnancy.
- **Practical.** Want some help in finding sources on the Web? Go to the **Information Technology** subject directory. The “search engine” heading offers tips for effective Internet searching, common questions about how search engines work, and a chart to help you choose the best search engine for a task.

Finding Information with Link Library

To use this database you choose a subject from the drop-down list, and, using the alphabetical directory, find the key term for the topic you are searching. Click on the key term and see a list of editorially reviewed websites.



Some topics with wide-ranging aspects appear under more than one subject heading. For example, a list of websites about alcoholism and alcohol abuse can be found under Criminal Justice, U.S. History, General Psychology, and Sociology.

http://www.pearsoncustom.com/_alcoholabuse.html

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home AutoFill Print Mail

Address http://www.pearsoncustom.com/link/socialscience/soc/soc/alcoholabuse.html

Products for Mac Microsoft Internet Explorer http://intranet.pearsoned.com/index.htm Microsoft Outlook Express Microsoft Office Microsoft Apple

  **Alcohol Abuse:** The habitual drinking of alcoholic beverages to excess.

PUBLIC SITES:

[National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#)
Government agency that researches the cause, treatment, and prevention of alcohol abuse

[Santa Barbara Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program](#)
Contains information and Internet resources on alcohol abuse.

[Alcoholics Anonymous](#)
Includes information on this well-known international self-help organization, general information on alcoholism, and information on treatment for alcoholism

[Alcoholism](#)
Cleaninghouse of information on alcohol abuse from About.com, formerly the Mining Company.

[National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. \(NCADD\)](#)
Site contains a wealth of information on alcoholism.

[Al-Anon and Alateen](#)
Support organization for the families and friends of alcoholics