

# Humanities Web Portals

This chapter, first, identifies many of the innovative “general” humanities portals. Following the general listing is a listing of “specific” portals.

## General

### *Starting Points on the Internet*

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~ctitext2/resguide2000/contents.shtml>

“**Starting Points on the Internet**” is a Webliographic essay on digital resources in the humanities. It covers major digital libraries and archives, gateways, search engines, guides and tools, discussion lists and email, and computing organizations pertinent to research in the humanities.

### *Selective Bibliography for Humanities Computing*

[www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/bib](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/bib)

The **Selective Bibliography for Humanities Computing** is somewhat dated (the last revision was in 1996), but it still offers an important historical bibliography of humanities computing resources.

### *Rossetti Archives Related Resources*

[www.rossettiarchive.org/resources.html](http://www.rossettiarchive.org/resources.html)

The **Rossetti Archives Related Resources** is a collection of important essays and resources in humanities computing.

### *Major Online Text Collections*

[www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/ets/offsite.language.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/ets/offsite.language.html)

**Major Online Text Collections** is Columbia University’s well-organized and fairly comprehensive listing of online text collections freely available on the Internet.

*The British Columbia International Digital Library*  
<http://bcdlib.tc.ca>

**The British Columbia International Digital Library** is a very large Web portal listing digital library collections—by place, subject, and institution—around the world. It also provides a very useful collection of general resources on digital libraries, including information about portals, search engines, readings, and tools.

### *National Endowment for the Arts*

[www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov)

### *National Endowment for the Arts Projects*

[www.neh.gov/projects](http://www.neh.gov/projects)

### *NEH Online Humanities Projects*

[www.neh.gov/projects/online.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/online.html)

The **National Endowment for the Arts** provides many types of grants for humanities-related projects in the United States. The government entity’s Web portal includes a listing of many of its grant projects.

The NEH Online Humanities Projects Web site provides a listing and access to many of the digital humanities projects funded by NEH grants. (Some of these will be featured in Chapter III.)

### *EDSITEment “Best of the Humanities” 2003–2004 Selections*

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/spotlight.asp?id=71>

Of particular interest for this report is **EDSITEment**, a NEH-sponsored Web portal that features the “Best of the Humanities on the Web.” Projects are divided up into Art & Culture, Literature & Language Arts, Foreign Language, and History & Social Studies. All subject categories, lesson

plans, and Web site links (URLs) are available as well. (Many of these projects also will be featured in the next chapter.)

These projects feature not only innovative technologies, but are also educational in nature (geared toward K-12 students) and therefore, lesson plans, guides for teachers, and other aids add to the exploratory fun. EDSITEment also sponsors an annual selection of the “Best of the Humanities on the Web.”

### *Public Broadcasting Service*

[www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

The **Public Broadcasting Service**, better known as **PBS**, offers an exploratory, innovative Web site, which features content, technology, teaching aids, and learning objects for many of the PBS television shows. For instance, the *Lewis & Clark into the Unknown* series allows the user to make decisions regarding going forward or backward on the trip up the Missouri River; the content is based on the actual Lewis & Clark expedition diaries. An interactive map allows the user to see what decisions he or she has made, and the expedition often ends in disaster for the user.

These types of experiences are plentiful on this Web site, which encourages the user to explore, adapt, analyze, make decisions, and interact not only with the content but also with the technology. Other interesting interactive programs (I’ll list just a few here) are the *Secrets of Lost Empires: Medieval Siege* (for which the user downloads a Shockwave program that assists them in using a trebuchet to destroy a castle); *Secrets of Lost Empires: Pharaoh’s Obelisk* (for which the user downloads a Shockwave program that assists them in levering an obelisk into place); and *Secrets of Lost Empires: Roman Bath* (for which the user downloads a Java applet in order to build an ancient aqueduct). There are many, many more of these experiences available at this Web site.

### *National Geographic*

[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

### *National Geographic Interactives*

[www.nationalgeographic.com/channel/interactives.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/channel/interactives.html)

The **National Geographic** Web site is similar to the PBS site, in that it is geared toward education and that it uses cutting-edge technology that both informs and engages users interactively. There is a Lewis & Clark expedition super site here as well, in which an interactive map showing the route taken by the explorers provides the user with content related to the daily trek, including diary entries, photos, and other interesting tangents.

Much of the interactive content available on National Geographic’s Web site is archived under the site’s “Interactives” section. One of the more interesting “interactives” is “Seconds from Disaster,” in which the user can replay the events that led to the

crash of the Concorde in France in 2000. One could spend many days exploring the interactive content of this Web portal!

### *Discovery Channel*

[www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com)

### *Dragons on Animal Planet*

<http://animal.discovery.com/convergence/dragons>

Similar in depth, scope, and interactivity as the previous two Web sites listed, the **Discovery Channel’s** portal is based and built on television programs from the Discovery Channel and its related stations (i.e., Animal Planet, BBC America, the Travel Channel, etc.)

Being a dragon lover, I recently watched *Dragons* on Animal Planet. On the company’s Web portal *Dragons* (URL listed under *Dragons* on Animal Planet), the user can play around with interactive, 360-degree models of various types of dragons created for the show, including a prehistoric dragon, a marine dragon, a forest dragon, and a mountain dragon. This is another wonderful Web site for exploration and discovery.

### *History Channel*

[www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

The **History Channel** offers another Web portal that complements a humanities-driven channel and its programs. It contains a large video/audio Web page, which features many famous and historic speeches, debates, and other events. It also includes a “This Day in History” page.

Although there is very little interactive content, there is a classroom section that has digital exhibits. One can buy DVD copies of programs that do feature interactive content, such as the very interesting *Lost Worlds: Palenque, Metropolis of the Mayas*.

### *NYPL Digital Gallery*

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital>

The **New York Public Library (NYPL) Digital Gallery** provides free and open access to thousands of digital images in the New York Public Library’s collections.

Arranged into various topics, i.e., Arts & Literature and Culture & Society, the NYPL Digital Gallery features numerous exhibits that showcase the institution’s content. The portal also includes a browse section and a “My Digital” feature.

### *European Cultural Heritage Online (Echo)*

<http://echo.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de>

The **European Cultural Heritage Online (ECHO)** portal links up (so far) to 20 exhibits/projects that focus on various historical and important documents and images from a wide variety of participating institutions and agencies in Europe.

This ECHO portal contains a clickable map that arranges the exhibits chronologically, too.

#### *On-line Reference Book for Medieval Studies*

[www.the-orb.net](http://www.the-orb.net)

**On-line Reference Book (ORB) for Medieval Studies** is one of the major Web portals for humanities medievalists.

#### *Perseus Digital Library*

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

#### *Perseus Digital Library Virtual Reality Section*

[www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/perseus\\_vr](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/perseus_vr)

The **Perseus Digital Library** is an evolving and dynamic Web portal featuring online content in various historical humanities collections, mainly classical antiquities. The portal's front page has an interesting world map/timeline showing the time periods and places in the world (where the content of the portal is coming from); the user has to slide the cursor over the collections on the left-hand side of the page to see the map/timeline in action.

The Perseus Digital Library contains a virtual reality collection that has three exhibits so far. For a detailed analysis and report on the content and functionality of The Perseus Digital Library, see the article "Open Archives Initiative Data Providers. Part III. Social Sciences and Humanities" in *Library Hi Tech News* v. 21 no. 7 (Sept./Oct. 2004): 30-39, or access a PDF of the article at [www.public.iastate.edu/~gerrymck/OAI-DP-III.pdf](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~gerrymck/OAI-DP-III.pdf).

#### *Overview of Online Publication*

[www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/ohc/overview.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/ohc/overview.html)

Although the Web site **Overview of Online Publication** has not been updated since 1998, it contains a vast collection of historical documents on the topic of the humanities and humanities computing.

#### *Humbul Humanities Hub*

[www.humanities.ac.uk](http://www.humanities.ac.uk)

The **Humbul Humanities Portal (Hub)** was last updated in 2003, according to the portal's main page.

#### *VoS—Voice of the Shuttle*

<http://vos.ucsb.edu>

**VoS—Voice of the Shuttle** is one of the premier Web portals in the humanities. Subdivided into twenty-eight categories of humanities research, VoS also includes guides to research in ten areas as well as instructions and directions for using the site.

Users can suggest adding a link in any category on VoS. Three links are highlighted on the front Web page every day. There's a "News" bar on the right-hand side of the main page as well.

#### *Galaxy Directory: Humanities*

[www.galaxy.com/b/d?n=53899](http://www.galaxy.com/b/d?n=53899)

**Galaxy Directory: Humanities** is one of many listings of humanities-related Web sites, constructed by various search engines, on the Internet. The directory is subdivided into twenty-three categories.

#### *CCH Research and Associated Projects/Organizations*

[www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/projects.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/projects.html)

The Web portal, **CCH Research and Associated Projects/Organizations**, produced by the Centre for Computing in the Humanities (CCH), King's College, London, provides access to many digital humanities resources. In addition to an alphabetical listing, the projects are also listed by institution, computational area, and discipline. This portal's content relates mainly to work being done individually or collaboratively by King's College, London, but not necessarily exclusively by the center. Willard McCarty is on the faculty at King's College.

#### *Stanford University's Humanities and Area Studies*

[www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg](http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg)

**Stanford University's Humanities and Area Studies** Web page provides access to a broad range of online humanities resources.

#### *HUMANUM*

[www.arts.cuhk.edu.hk](http://www.arts.cuhk.edu.hk)

**HUMANUM** is maintained by the Research Centre for Humanities Computing of the Research Institute for the Humanities, Faculty of Arts, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The Web site's main page says the project's task is twofold: "1) meta-[indexing] humanities resources worldwide, and 2) develop texts, tools, and pages covering the various interests in the humanistic scholarship."

#### *University of Kentucky's Humanities Web Portal*

[www.uky.edu/Subject/humanities.html](http://www.uky.edu/Subject/humanities.html)

The **University of Kentucky's Humanities** very useful Web portal is subdivided into twenty-one categories. Online language resources for German, Japanese, Slavic, French, Italian, and Spanish are highlighted.

#### *WWW Virtual Library: Humanities and Humanistic Studies*

<http://mlib.org/Humanities>

**WWW Virtual Library: Humanities and Humanistic Studies** is a Web site that features content and maintenance by volunteer organizers; it currently provides links to ten categories of humanities information, including Anthropology, Audio, Culture, French Literature, German Resources in Philosophy, Jewish Studies, Museums,

Museums in Germany, Philosophy, and Tibetan Religious and Cultural Centers and Foundations.

### *The British Academy Portal*

[www.britac.ac.uk/portal](http://www.britac.ac.uk/portal)

**The British Academy Portal** currently features eighteen categories of information in the humanities, most focusing on areas of specialization and interest within the British Academy, the national academy in the United Kingdom for the study of the humanities and social sciences.

### *Arts & Humanities Data Service*

<http://ahds.ac.uk>

### *AHDS Visual Arts Web page*

[www.ahds.ac.uk/visualarts](http://www.ahds.ac.uk/visualarts)

**Arts & Humanities Data Service (AHDS)** is a United Kingdom-based national service that focuses on discovery, creation, and preservation of digital resources in the humanities, especially related to teaching, learning, and research activities. The portal currently covers five subject areas fairly intensively: archaeology; history; visual arts; literature, languages & linguistics; and performing arts. Each category has numerous online resources available in that topic area.

Perhaps the most interest is the **AHDS Visual Arts Web page**. Under “Guides to Good Practices” (URL listed in Introduction, page 12) is a very well constructed document on creating and using virtual reality.

### *BUBL LINK Catalogue of Internet Resources*

<http://bubl.ac.uk>

Incorporating the Dewey Decimal System as its primary organizational structure, **BUBL LINK** is a major Web portal for online humanities resources.

### *Academic Info Humanities Gateway*

[www.academicinfo.net/subhum.html](http://www.academicinfo.net/subhum.html)

**Academic Info Humanities Gateway** is divided into seventeen categories. It includes a category of Digital Libraries, which subdivides into many humanities disciplines.

### *Humanities Scholarship*

[www.wam.umd.edu/~mlhall/scholarly.html](http://www.wam.umd.edu/~mlhall/scholarly.html)

**Humanities Scholarship** is a Web portal that, besides linking to many of the major projects and paper in humanities computing, features a drop-down menu that subdivides the categories into functional areas, i.e., Teaching with Electronic Technology, Schools on the Web, and online journals and e-zines. I’m not quite sure who maintains this site, but his name is Michael and he’s associated with the University of Maryland.

### *MERLOT—Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching*

[www.merlot.org](http://www.merlot.org)

**MERLOT—Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching** is a totally volunteer portal that contains shareable learning objects and modules from and for the higher education community. Content is freely available, and anyone can contribute content at any time.

MERLOT is subdivided into seven categories, and the site provides instructions for browsing and contributing material as well as a peer-review and assignments section. Users can also use federated searching to access collections in EdNA Online—Education Network Australia and ARIADNE—ARIADNE Foundation for the European Knowledge Pool.

## Specific

### *Luminarium*

[www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm](http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm)

**Luminarium** features access to various online texts, images, and content for English literature during the medieval (Middle English), Renaissance, and seventeenth century time periods.

### *Emily’s Humanities Page*

[www.vex.net/~emily/humanities.html](http://www.vex.net/~emily/humanities.html)

**Emily’s page for the humanities**—a portal created by a woman named (what else?) “Emily,” who, according to her “More about Me” section is an American married to a Canadian, works as a technical writer, has traveled extensively, is “almost a vegetarian,” and has two cats—features hyperlinks to various humanities portals.

### *Classics: A Guide to Library Research (Part 4: E-Resources)*

<http://hcl.harvard.edu/widener/services/research/classics/classics3.html>

**Classics: A Guide to Library Research (Part 4: E-Resources)** is a well-developed Web site on e-resources in the classics. It provides access to many of the major web portals in this topic.

### *Medieval and Renaissance Food*

[www.pbm.com/~lindahl/food.html](http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/food.html)

**Medieval and Renaissance Food** provides an interesting Web site to peruse; it features primary online digitized resources, references, and bibliographies.

### *Warburg Institute Library Digital Collections*

[www.sas.ac.uk/warburg/mnemosyne/DigitalCollections.htm](http://www.sas.ac.uk/warburg/mnemosyne/DigitalCollections.htm)

**Warburg Institute Library Digital Collections** provides access to some very specific and unique digital

collections, including festivals, game books, emblems, mnemonics, Renaissance Platonism, astrology, Italian art, and classical art. Click on the “Web Resources” links, not the “Access to Texts” links (as they go directly into Warburg’s online library catalog).

### *Rare Books Digitized in the USA*

<http://wiki.netbib.de/coma/RareUS>

**Rare Books Digitized in the USA** is a wiki collection of hyperlinks to Web sites featuring rare books in the United States that have been digitized.

### *Stoa Consortium*

[www.stoa.org](http://www.stoa.org)

**The Stoa Consortium**, states the main page the portal, “provides a venue for the exploration on innovations in scholarly communication, with a focus on classics and classical archaeology. To that end, this site hosts numerous electronic publication projects, a few guides to best practices, some discussion fora on particular topics, a CVS, and a blog.”

### *Old English Pages*

[www.georgetown.edu/faculty/ballc/oe/old\\_english.html](http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/ballc/oe/old_english.html)

### *Old English Pages: Fonts*

[www.georgetown.edu/faculty/ballc/oe/oe-fonts.html](http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/ballc/oe/oe-fonts.html)

**Old English Pages** is maintained by Cathy Ball at Georgetown University; it provides access to many online and multimedia resources in the area of Old English.

**Old English Pages: Fonts** is a very unique Web site that features fonts available for various medieval languages, (including Icelandic, Old English, Middle English, and Anglo-Saxon) based on various manuscript reproductions.

### *Medieval Unicode Font Initiative*

<http://gandalf.aksis.uib.no/mufi>

**Medieval Unicode Font Initiative** provides a Web portal for various medieval font projects, incorporating Unicode as the basic standard.

### *PANDORA: Australia’s Web Archive*

<http://pandora.nla.gov.au>

The National Library of Australia’s Web archive, **PANDORA: Australia’s Web Archive**, is subdivided into fifteen major categories, including a unique section on Indigenous Peoples.

### *EServer*

<http://tc.eserver.org>

**EServer** is a non-profit publishing venture founded in 1990 at Carnegie Mellon University. It has become a Web portal for a variety of topics primarily centered

on technical writing and is currently maintained by the English Department at Iowa State University.

The EServer project is an experiment in community-based online libraries, where management and content consists entirely of volunteers. In addition to its specific collections and published essays from volunteers and scholars around the world, many hyperlinks to online humanities resources are available on this site.

### *The New Chaucer Society*

[www.artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/links.htm](http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/links.htm)

**The New Chaucer Society** is a major Web portal for online and multimedia resources on the study of Geoffrey Chaucer.

### *Literary Resources*

<http://web.njit.edu/~kimmelma/litsources.html>

**Literary Resources** is a well-organized and unique resource for online literary texts of every time period, from the classics through the twentieth century.

### *Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion*

[www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/front.htm](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/front.htm)

**Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion** is one of the better Web portals on the topics of theology, religion, and spirituality, although New Age religions are not covered.

### *The Heroic Age: Links Page*

<http://members.aol.com/heroicage1/halinks.htm>

**The Heroic Age: Links Page**, an Online Journal of Early Medieval Northwestern Europe, focuses on publishing research and writings on Northwestern Europe from the Late Roman Empire to the advent of the Norman empire. A well-designed portal for this specific time period, The Heroic Age: Links Page features links to several categories, including Anglo-Saxon, Arthurian, Briton, Frankish, Irish, Norse, Scots and Picts, and Manx.

### *Medieval Resources Online*

<http://ccsun7.sogang.ac.kr/~anthony/Medieval.htm>

**Medieval Resources Online** provides another substantial, well-organized Web portal for medieval studies.

### *Mediaevum*

[www.mediaevum.de](http://www.mediaevum.de); <http://english.mediaevum.de>

**Mediaevum** is a German language-designed Web portal in medieval studies; it also provides the information in an understandable and graphical English version.

### *The Athenaeum*

[www.the-athenaeum.org](http://www.the-athenaeum.org)

Contributors to **The Athenaeum** Web portal are dedicated to the building of a set of online tools for

studying the humanities—for everyone from the armchair historian to scholars. There are a number of online forums to participate in as well. Users must register before they are allowed to add content.

*ArchNet: WWW Virtual Library, Archaeology*

<http://archnet.asu.edu>

*ArchNet Virtual Tours*

[http://archnet.asu.edu/resources/Selected\\_Resources/Virtual%20Site%20Tour/general.php](http://archnet.asu.edu/resources/Selected_Resources/Virtual%20Site%20Tour/general.php)

Hosted and maintained by the staff at the Archaeological Research Institute at Arizona State University, **ArchNet: WWW Virtual Library, Archaeology** provides one of the best resources on the Internet related to digital archaeology projects. The site is divided into Regional Views, Topical Selections, Educational & Research Resources, and Institutions & Organizations. The portal's table of contents is available in English, Spanish, French, Turkish, Esperanto, and German.

Under the Topical Selections heading, there are some interesting links appropriate for exploring innovative projects in archaeology: GIS-Cartography-Mapping, Method & Theory (multimedia presentations of archaeological methods), and Remote Sensing. Under Regional Views, there's an interactive map on which one can click to move into a listing of URLs/resources for that region. Under Educational & Research Resources, there's a Virtual Site Tour link, which takes the user into a listing of a number of virtual tours.

*Romantic Circles*

[www.rc.umd.edu](http://www.rc.umd.edu)

**Romantic Circles** is devoted to the study of Romantic literature and culture. This site features quite a bit of content in a very innovative way. The front page has a number of concentric circles, each a gateway to specific content. In addition, there are a number of technologies available usually not found on many humanities computing Web sites.

Other areas of the Romantic Circles portal include: RC Moo, which provides multi-user virtual space environment for discussions, meetings, and gaming; and RC Blog, a blog for posting news and other notes of interest for Romanticists. There is also a Pedagogies category that focuses on online guides for teachers, and an Electronic Editions category that lists a number of hypertext scholarly editions of Romantic works.

*NINES: A Networked Interface for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship*

[www.nines.org](http://www.nines.org)

**NINES: A Networked Interface for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship** is a collaborative effort that attempts to bring together a growing body of digital scholarly work on nineteenth-century studies. There are a number of links to people, projects, tools, interfaces, and events for scholars and amateurs in this area of study.