

These publications are available from the Wisconsin Legislature's Theobald Legislative Library

Favorite Web Sites

Compiled from suggestions by Wisconsin legislators and legislative employees, June 2002

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm>

The following Web sites and comments were gathered as an activity for National Library Week 2002.

Government

American FactFinder: <http://factfinder.census.gov> – Operated by the U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder is the principal means for disseminating Census 2000 data. For other census information, as well as Census Bureau publications, see the bureau's home page: www.census.gov.

Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov – For calculating inflation, etc.

Code of Federal Regulations: www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr
Search online for Federal Regulations.

The Federal Government Web Portal: www.firstgov.com – Provides an electronic connection to all U.S. government information. Divided into 3 consumer gateways (citizens, business, & government), each with a myriad of information links. Detailed subject access helps students find information for writing school reports.

FedStat: www.fedstats.gov – The home page describes it best: "The gateway to statistics from over 100 U.S. federal agencies."

Gateway to Federal Government Publications:
www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs – Maintained by the Government Printing Office.

General Accounting Office: www.gao.gov – Easy access to GAO reports and testimony from January 1, 1975, to the present.

State of Wisconsin: www.wisconsin.gov – The portal for Wisconsin State Government.

Thomas: Legislative Information on the Internet
<http://thomas.loc.gov/> – A search engine for searching federal legislation created and maintained by the Library of Congress.

U.S. Code on-line searches: www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode or www.uscode.house.gov – A compilation of current federal laws. Search by U.S. Code title and section, or scroll down the Table of Contents to find the code title and search just within that title.

Wisconsin Libraries and Websites Directory:
www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/pld/wis_lib.html
Links to public libraries throughout Wisconsin, maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Media

ABC News: www.abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/DailyNews/TheNote.html – Daily roundup of political news.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC): www.cbc.ca and **BBC News:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk> – The web sites of two of the most respected English language broadcasters in the world.

C-SPAN Network: www.cspan.org – This site hosts three different real-time video streams, usually the House, Senate, and one other. It also keeps archives of video news conferences and the like for 15 days after the event – and has good search function for them.

CNN: www.cnn.com – An easy way to find out what's going on in the world! Seems to have a well-rounded focus on the news.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newspaper: www.jsonline.com
The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel online.

National Public Radio: www.npr.org – News and informative shows with balanced and informative insights.

NewsLibrary: <http://nl14.newsbank.com/nlsite> – An electronic archive of articles from newspapers across the country. A user can search and find an abstract on a topic of interest, but a fee is charged for the full text.

The Wheeler Report: www.thewheelerreport.com/ – The online supplement to the Wheeler Report.

Wisconsin Public Radio: <http://wpr.org> – Find information about Wisconsin Public Radio programming, and even listen to WPR online!

Project Gutenberg: <http://promo.net/pg/> – The project aims to make public domain texts available in electronic format, in order to disseminate them as widely as possible.

Associations and Advocacy Groups

The American Legislative Exchange Council: www.alec.org – A bipartisan membership organization dedicated to free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty.

Bread for the World: www.bread.org – Updates on legislation pertaining to hunger.

Common Dreams News Center: www.commondreams.org – A collection of news articles leaning towards peace. ⇒

Legislative Reference Bureau

Library Circulation Desk: (608) 266-7040
LRB.Library@legis.state.wi.us
Research Questions: (608) 266-0341
100 N. Hamilton St.
Madison, WI 53703



We bring knowledge to you

The Legislative Reference Bureau invites legislators to suggest topics for future annotated bibliographies.

Favorite Web Sites Continued

Council of State Governments: www.csg.org – A network of information designed for state sharing of issues and innovations.

Government Jobs: www.govtjobs.com – Contains links to web sites of associations, federal agency jobs, and resources state-by-state; job listings across the country by category; and a list of executive search agencies. Each listing contains detailed information for the prospective applicant.

Moving Ideas: www.movingideas.org – Formerly the Electronic Policy Network. News and ideas from the Policy Action Network.

National Conference of State Legislatures: www.ncsl.org – Access links to other state government web sites as well as NCSL publications.

National Governors Association & NGA Center for Best Practices: www.nga.org – A respected public policy organization and powerful lobbying group. The center presents state innovations and best practices on a number of important state-focused issues.

Piper Resources: www.piperinfo.com/state – Provides links to state and local government Internet resources from around the country.

SpeakOut.Com/Policy.Com: www.speakout.com – Provides information about current issues, while providing a forum for people to speak out. Also includes interactive online polls.

Washington Office on Africa: www.woafrica.org – Information and updates on government actions pertaining to and within Africa.

General Reference

BadgerLink: www.badgerlink.net – Search the ProQuest Newspapers and EBSCOhost magazines databases for full text articles from newspapers and magazines from around Wisconsin and beyond. Funded and supported by the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning.

CEOExpress: www.ceoexpress.com – A great list of links to useful web sites.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Calculator:

<http://woodrow.mpls.frb.fed.us/economy/calc/cpihome.html>
Actually fun to use – you can see how prices for goods and services have changed over the years.

Federal Web Locator: www.infoctr.edu/fwl – An easy to use site providing access to federal government information available on the web. Run by the Center for Information Law and Policy.

FindLaw: www.findlaw.com/11stategov – Offers links to legal resources from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Internet Archive: www.archive.org – Sponsored by the Internet Archive, working with Alexa Internet. Tired of not finding a web site or digital document which was once available? Paste the URL into The Wayback Machine and see things the way they once were!

Refdesk.com: www.refdesk.com – Includes links to numerous reference sites.

Sample Size Calculator: www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm – Creative Research Systems provides the Sample Size Calculator through its software, The Survey System. The calculator helps surveyors determine the necessary sample size for their surveys.

WISCAT: www.wiscat.net – This site is a quick and easy way to find if a title is located in a nearby library. This statewide bibliographic database is maintained by the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning. The database contains 7.1 million titles with local holdings statements for more than 1,274 libraries of all types throughout Wisconsin.

You Are Where You Live: <http://cluster2.claritas.com/YAWYL>
Based on the premise that “people with similar lifestyles tend to live near one another” the Claritas marketing group offers geodemographic profiles for every zip code in the nation. Such marketing data is being used increasingly often by politicians to identify voter interests and concerns.

Search Engines and Directories

Ask Jeeves: www.ask.com – This is the old “Ask Jeeves” site. Usually all you need to do is ask a simple question using the key words and several helpful sites will be suggested.

Google: www.google.com – Google is the best site for general information on just about any subject.

Google Uncle Sam: www.google.com/unclesam – Use the Google search engine to search only federal and state web sites.

Google Web Directory – Wisconsin: http://directory.google.com/Top/Regional/North_America/United_States/Wisconsin – “Google” does it again with a search engine focused only on Wisconsin. Contains a wide range of categories: “Arts and Entertainment” to “Weather”. Also links to Wisconsin.gov, as well as to larger “Regional”, “North America”, and “United States”.

Teoma: www.teoma.com – Attempts to rank the authority and quality of web sites by calculating the number of related sites link to each site in the results list.

Vivisimo: www.vivisimo.com – Has an amazing way of organizing and displaying search results. This just may be the future of web organization.
