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LI813, Summer 2008

Resources for Non-traditional Students at Cloud County Community College

Bibliographies:

Adult Student Links

Siebert, Al & Karr, Mary (2008). *Adult student links*. Retrieved July 17, 2008 from:

<http://www.adultstudent.com/student/slinks.html>

Authority: AdultStudent.com is the web companion to the book *The Adult Student's Guide to Survival and Success, 6th Edition*, by Al Siebert, PhD, and Mary Karr, MS. The bibliography list provided on the website is in part the list offered in the book – with active hyperlinks on the webpage – and updated and new entries only on the webpage. Dr. Siebert is the author of several self-help books, and *The Adult Student's Guide* is considered to be one of the best and easiest-to-read guides of its kind.

Scope: This bibliography covers only web links to outside sites. The bibliography is focused to adult learners, but within this audience covers a wide variety of subjects ranging from learning and physical disabilities, distance courses, career support, family support, and financial aid. Each entry has a short annotation.

Arrangement: The links contained in this bibliography are arranged into broad categories such as adult student links, general links, financial aid, reference, consumer, and miscellaneous. There is a table of contents/categories at the beginning of the list. Within these categories, entries are alphabetized by title.

Currency: This list was created for the book published in 2008, and was last update in April of 2008.

Returning Adult Students and Writing

CompFAQs (2008). *Returning adult students and writing*. Retrieved July 17, 2008 from:

<http://comppile.tamucc.edu/wiki/AdultLearners/Bibliography>

Authority: The CompFAQ wiki is produced and managed by CompPile, “an inventory of publications in post-secondary composition, rhetoric, technical writing, ESL, and discourse studies,” collected by Rich Hasswell and Glen Blalock. CompPile covers materials published after 1939, and is made up of lists of bibliographies. CompFAQ, an extension of CompPile, is meant to help composition writers further their research by providing wiki-written bibliographies of previous research.

Scope: This bibliography is very focused for the writing and composition instructors of non-traditional students and adult learners. However, within this focus, CompFAQ offers over 70 entries touching on the specific characteristics and challenges of teaching non-traditional students and adult learners

composition, as well as general challenges faced by this audience. The list covers both articles and books.

Arrangement: This list is divided into two sections: non-traditional students, and adult learners, and alphabetized within each section by author. The list is too short to warrant an index.

Currency: As a wiki, this list has the possibility of being very up-to-date. The site only lists the last time the list was edited. At time of review, the list had last been edited in April of 2008.

Indexes and Abstracts:

The College Board Index of Majors and Graduate Degrees 2009.

College Entrance Examination Board (2008). *The College Board Index of Majors and Graduate Degrees 2009*. New York: The College Board.

Format: The index is in print and online. The typeface in the book is very small, but abbreviations are kept to a minimum. There is an accompanying website that contains updated information and is searchable in electronic database format.

Scope: The print edition of the index is published yearly, and covers all levels of credited post-secondary education including certificates and diplomas, associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees. The book also includes a list of major areas of study organized by discipline, and a brief dictionary of descriptions of majors. Indices are arranged by major, special academic programs, and college or university.

Authority: The College Entrance Examination Board is a non-profit organization that runs such widely known and used programs and entrance exams as the PSAT, SAT, and AP. The group also publishes the *Official SAT Study Guide*.

Accuracy: This book contains a high amount of cross referencing. While it is impossible to check every cross reference, this book is widely regarded as an authority in college major guides.

Arrangement: There are several indices in the book. Indices are arranged by major, which are further divided by state, then by individual college, and an abbreviation indicating whether the course of study is a certificate, associate degree, bachelor degree, or masters degree. At the website, you can begin your search by college or by major of study.

Special Features: This index has a companion website where information is updated. The book contains a dictionary of descriptions of majors.

Encyclopedia

Wikipedia

Wikipedia (2008). *Wikipedia*. Retrieved July 17, 2008 from: www.wikipedia.org

Scope:

Focus: the focus is very broad. Wikipedia aims to have articles on every subject of any interest to any of its users

Subject Coverage: varies by article. Overall there is no way to track bias of subject coverage because there are thousands of contributors

Audience: Wikipedia boasts that it is for everyone, and by everyone.

Arrangement and Style: Articles can be searched alphabetically, although a vast majority of casual Wikipedia users use the search box function. Once term is searched, the user can look at exact matches, or explore results that contain the term frequently. While looking at an article, Wikipedia offers cross reference hyperlinks within the article to further explain terminology, concepts, or related articles of interest.

Format: Wikipedia is in the form of an online wiki. No print version exists.

Uniqueness: Wikipedia's main claim is that it is the first encyclopedia that is completely open to user contribution.

Authority: Authority of individual articles varies. Wikipedia does not cite individual authors or contributors to their articles, and this is one of the major causes for challenges to the encyclopedia's veracity.

Accuracy:

Accuracy and Reliability: Authority is at best shaky. Wikipedia itself is diligent to post notices that . Older articles are generally more reliable, but even Wikipedia suggests that you verify information found on the site for yourself. Hyperlinked references can be found at the end of most articles, and if an article makes a claim or states a fact that is not cited in a reference, the word, phrase, or sentence is flagged.

Objectivity: overall very objective due to the wide variety of contributors. Individual articles vary, however, and their accuracy depends both on the contributors to the article, and if the article is of a controversial subject.

Currency: Currency varies from article to article, but the encyclopedia as a whole is constantly being edited and updated.

Indexing (Access): Access to articles is by common search engine access, with excellent tree and web (BT and NT) indexing formats. Wikipedia is one of the fastest ways to look up information available on an encyclopedia.

Ready-Reference (Almanacs, Yearbooks, Handbooks)

Cite Right

Lipson, Charles (2006). *Cite right*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press

Accuracy: This handbook appears to be accurate.

Indexing: This book contains an easy-to-use basic index, and includes a list of abbreviations used in the book at the beginning of the index.

Documentation: This handbook contains comprehensive citations written in Chicago style.

Comprehensiveness: This handbook contains brief but accurate overviews of 10 major citation styles.

Uniqueness: This book covers many citation styles in an easy to scan format.

Format: Printed book. The book is organized into chapters on individual styles and also contains chapters on basics and frequently asked questions for all citation styles. Within each chapter, there is a section that breaks down the most basic citation for the particular style, and then lists different resource format citation examples in easy to scan tables.

Currency: This book was published in 2006, and is current with the latest published manuals to the individual citation styles.

The Oxford Guide to Library Research: How to Find Reliable Information Online and Offline

Mann, Thomas (2005). *The Oxford guide to library research: How to find reliable information online and offline*. New York: Oxford University Press

Accuracy: Thomas Mann is a reference librarian with the Library of Congress, and has a PhD , and is the author of several papers and articles on the future of libraries in the face of the rising popularity of Google, as well as several books on researching and using research libraries.

Indexing: This book contains a basic index, with numbers in italics to indicate discussion of major themes as opposed to keyword citing. There is also an appendix on the subject of using wisdom in researching.

Documentation: The end of each chapter contains annotated citations in the footnote form.

Comprehensiveness: This book covers the major ways research libraries may be used for research. The book alternates between search strategies, and search tools, including the library catalog, browsing strategies, journal indexes, keyword searching, bibliographies, interlibrary loan, special formats of material, and more.

Uniqueness: This book is not intended as a textbook; it is written for anyone undertaking serious research who is unfamiliar with how to use the library to the fullest of its potential.

Format: This reference resource is in print only. Using the book has the feel of a combination travel guide book and how-to book. The book is small enough to take most places, and is organized by subtitled chapter.

Currency: This book was published in 2005 and is relatively up-to-date.

Biography

The Undergraduate's Companion to American Writers and Their Websites

Bracken, James K. and Hinman, Larry G. (2001). *The undergraduate's companion to American writers and their websites*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.

Scope: This book covers American authors who are regularly featured in popular literary anthologies, and who are the subject of reliable, accurate, and "good" websites.

Comprehensiveness: This list of authors and popular information sources about them is not comprehensive by any means. The authors only included those more well known American authors who had "good" websites.

Accuracy: This book doesn't contain any biographies for any of its authors; rather it has lists of other sources where biographical information about the author may be found. The book does cite well known and regarded sources in the individual biographical bibliographies.

Currency: This book was published in 2001. No editions have been published since then, so some of the web links may be inaccurate.

References: Each source (usually an article or website) that is included as containing biographical information about the particular author also has a citation to where the source may be found, such as a literary anthology, literary dictionary, journal, newspaper article, or website.

Format: This resource is in print only. Entries are listed by author's circa of publishing. Each entry is in the form of a list under an author's name, with title subsections of the list in bold. The book contains an index of authors alphabetical by last name.

Dictionaries

The Hutchinson Pocket Dictionary of Difficult Words

Research Machines, plc (2005). *The Hutchinson pocket dictionary of difficult words*. Oxford, England: Helicon Publishing.

Format: This dictionary covers "bigger" words that are frequently used (and mis-used) in the English language. This edition of the dictionary is available only as an e-book.

Scope: This dictionary covers only English words, and those words common in modern English but of foreign origin, that are commonly mis-used.

Comparison with others of similar coverage: This dictionary has a distinctly British flavor. The entries are basic, with a simple definition. Unlike other print versions of “difficult words” dictionaries, there are no introductory notes.

Authority: This dictionary is an updated electronic version of a print dictionary edited by

Accuracy: Spelling takes the British form of the word. Definitions are brief, and there are no examples of the words used in a sentence.

Currency: There is a more current version of this dictionary available online through several different websites.

Indexing: This dictionary is arranged in alphabetical order, and contains no index.

Everyday American English Dictionary: A Basic Dictionary for English Language Learning

Spears, R., Schinke-Llano, L. & Kirkpatrick, B. (2001). *Everyday American English dictionary: A basic dictionary for English language learning*. Chicago, IL: NTC Publishing Group.

Format: This dictionary is in printed book form, and covers words most commonly used in the English language. Entries contain definitions in easy to understand phrases, a pronunciation guide, and sometimes an example of its use in a sentence when necessary.

Scope: This dictionary covers only common English words. It also contains a list of states and their capitals, presidents, national holidays, pronunciation guide, irregular verbs, and more.

Comparison with others of similar coverage: There are many “everyday English” dictionaries available to English language learners. This particular dictionary is considered one of the standard “everyday English” dictionaries.

Authority: This dictionary was partially based on the Chambers First Learner’s Dictionary, and is compiled and edited by two PhD’s with specialist in lexicography. It is considered a standard in the field.

Accuracy: Although of simplified language, definitions compare to other common English dictionaries.

Currency: This dictionary is updated periodically. This is the second edition of the dictionary, published in 2001, and is the latest edition available.

Indexing: There is no index in this book. Entries are listed alphabetically.

Geographical Information Sources

The Road Atlas

Rand McNally & Co. (2002). *The road atlas*. Skokie, IL: Rand McNally and Company.

Scale and Projection: This atlas' scale is specifically designed for road travel, and so is relatively small. Distance scales are given on every map, and on almost every page. Projection is standard.

Color and Symbols: Pastel shades of colors are used throughout the atlas to denote neighborhood and town boundaries, forested areas or parks, in topographical detail insets, and to denote different kinds of roads. Symbols are limited to roads and road identification, cities and capitals, rest areas beside roads, airports, dams, mountain peaks, desert, swamp, time zones, and other city and boundary names.

Publisher/Authority: Rand McNally is a widely-known and respected publisher of maps and atlases for everyday use.

Indexing/Place Names: Place names are consistently labeled, but font size is very small, even on larger maps. The atlas contains counties, cities, and towns organized by state, and then alphabetically. Also included are: a chart outlining speed limits according to state, a table and accompanying map listing mileage between major cities, trip plans, phone numbers for tourist offices by state, and phone numbers and hotlines for road construction by state,

Currency: This edition of the atlas was published in 2002. Rand McNally publishes this atlas yearly with updated information.

The Times Atlas of World History

Barraclough, Geoffery & Stone, Norman (1989). *The Times atlas of world history*. Maplewood, NJ: Hammond Incorporated.

Scale and Projection: Scale varies in this atlas, but for the most part is relatively large. Maps usually encompass $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a hemisphere. Projection also varies according to maps, although most larger scale maps maintain perspective of a round hemisphere.

Color and Symbols: Colors are very bright, and used in a wide variety of ways. Each map has a key explaining colors and symbols used. Symbols are usually limited to basic geometric shapes and names of places and things.

Publisher/Authority: Hammond Incorporated is a well-known and respected manufacturer of social history atlases.

Indexing/Place Names: This atlas contains a comprehensive index, including place names both ancient and modern, people groups, and major historical events.

Currency: This atlas was published in 1988, and covers world history and maps through the Cold War.

Government Publications

American Fact Finder

United States Census Bureau (2008). American FactFinder: Your source for population, housing, economic, and geographic data. Retrieved July 17, 2008 from:

http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

Format: This is a combination database/website. It may be searched by keyword or by format of data, including tables, charts, maps, statistics, and combination data sets. Information may be viewed on a community/city level, by state, or by whole country.

Content: As a division of the US Census Bureau, the American Fact Finder website provides easy access to the most up-to-date census information. Data sets include most common demographic information such as population numbers, housing information, cultural makeup of a community, age and sex of a population, education, employment, poverty rates, and economic statistics.

Use: This website is relatively user-friendly, and is marketed for students and/or community members seeking information for reports, proposals, profiles, and other reference.