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The Top Fives: An Internet Pathfinder for Law Librarians

Yolanda Patrice Jones

ABSTRACT. Many law librarians are currently beginning to explore the Internet as a source of legal information. One of the most frequently asked questions after one gets an Internet connection is "Where do I go from here?" The following pathfinder is a list of what I consider to be the most important resources which will lead the legal researcher to the widest possible amount of legal information on the Internet.

This list is purely subjective, and certainly not complete. I tried to stick to the 'top five' format as much as possible, but every so often I couldn't help myself from cheating a bit. Information about Internet tools and commands mentioned in this handout can be found in the sources listed under "Five Best Guides," and "Five Best Online Guides." Please note that due to the ever changing nature of the Internet, the access instructions could change at any time.

FIVE GUIDES TO CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET

1. Mary E. Engle, *INTERNET CONNECTIONS: A LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO DIAL-UP ACCESS AND USE* (1993).
2. Susan Estrada, *CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET* (1993).
3. Joe Abernathy, *The Internet: How to Get There From Here*, 13 *PC WORLD* 130 (January 1995).

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4. Frederick D. King, *Choosing an Internet Service Provider*, 8 BOTTOM LINE 10 (Summer 1994).
5. Greg Notess, *Internet Connections: Understanding Your Access Options*, 18 ONLINE 41 (September/October 1994).

Runner Up: Magazines such as INTERNET WORLD (see Andrew Kantor, *Jack In and Geek Out*, 6 INTERNET WORLD 26, July 1995), PC MAGAZINE (see the special issue in vol. 13, no. 17, October 11, 1994, *Make the Internet Connection*), and PC NOVICE (see the special issue in vol. 3, no. 5 of PC NOVICE, *Guide to Going Online*) are publishing an increasing number of articles on the Internet in general and how to connect in particular. Check your local newsstand. Chances are, there will be at least one magazine with an article about connecting to the net.

FIVE INTERNET DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL TOOLS

1. **World Wide Web**—World Wide Web (WWW) programs provide hypertext “links” between the words on the WWW screen (“web page”) and information resources on the Internet. Users can access information by using computer programs called “Web Browsers” to follow the “links” provided or by going directly to a resource using Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). URLs were developed to allow the WWW program, or browser, to quickly access a variety of Internet resources. A sample URL is <http://www.whitehouse.gov>. “Http://” stands for *hypertext transfer protocol*, which is the method Web browsers use to transport data. The remainder of the entry is the Internet address. The Web has become so popular that URLs are often used as a short-hand way of indicating the type of Internet resource (such as **ftp://**=file transfer protocol, **telnet://**=remote login command, and **gopher://**=gopher site), the Internet address of the resource, and the exact location of the resource in the remote computer’s directory structure. I will give the address of most Internet sites in URL format in the remainder of this paper.
2. **Gopher**—An Internet Gopher is a computer program which allows the user to browse databases or full text documents according to a menu format. One of the first easy ways to retrieve documents via the Internet, Gophers are being eclipsed by the multimedia capabilities of the World Wide Web. Many Gopher sites still exist though, and can be accessed through both Gopher clients and Web browsers. Keyword searching of Gopher items is available through *Veronica*, a database which allows the user to do keyword searches of the titles

of Gopher documents in archive all around the world. One good collection of Veronica databases can be found at gopher://honor.uc.wlu.edu:1020.

3. **FTP**—File Transfer Protocol allows users to transfer files from remote computers connected to the Internet to a local computer. Before the more advanced document retrieval systems of gopher and World Wide Web, FTP was the primary way people transported computer files to their local machines. In its original form, users could not view documents on the remote computer. They had to transfer the document and view it locally. Most FTP programs still operate in this manner. Now however, FTP documents can be viewed and retrieved using World Wide Web browsers.
4. **Telnet**—Telnet is the Internet remote login command. It allows users to access remote computers and operate them from the user's local keyboard. Telnet is one of the oldest and most basic Internet functions. It is the way that many online card catalogs can be accessed on the Internet.
5. **Wide Area Information Servers (WAIS)**. An Internet document retrieval system which allows users to search many different databases (or "servers") at the same time using one search language. This system is not as popular as WWW or Gophers. However, the Government Printing office is using WAIS to provide access to its GPO ACCESS databases (see "U.S. Law and Government agency documents" under *Five Most Useful Types of Information on the Internet for Legal Researchers*).

Runner Up—Electronic Mail—E-mail can be used to subscribe to electronic discussion groups and to electronic journals.

FIVE BEST ONLINE GUIDES

1. **The Legal List** (<http://www.lcp.com/The-Legal-List/TLL-home.html>)—By Erik Heels. Published in print by Lawyer's Coop as *The Legal List, Internet Desk Reference, Law-Related Resources on the Internet and Elsewhere*.
2. **NOCALL/SCALL Internet Buddies Web Server** (<http://law.wuacc.edu/nocall/buddies/home.html>)—A repository of many excellent online Internet guides.
3. **A Clearinghouse of Internet Training Guides for Law** (<http://law-lib.slu.edu/training/train.html>)—Not as large as the NOCALL site, this archive at Saint Louis University Law Library is the primary ar-

- chive for the excellent *An Introduction to Using the Internet at Saint Louis University School of Law*, by James Milles.
4. **University of Michigan Clearinghouse of Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides** (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/chhome.html>)—Includes many guides on subjects such as law, politics, government, etc.
 5. **TIE! BETWEEN Library of Congress "Internet Resources" page** (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/internet/internet.html>) *and* **Library of Congress World Wide Web "How-To's" page** (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/www.html>)—Whether you want to learn how to use the Internet or how to publish a World Wide Web page, the Library of Congress has great collections of guides and tutorials.

Runner Up: **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS LISTS (FAQS)** (<http://www.cis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/top.html>)—These lists were created by participants of Usenet News electronic discussion groups. They often provide a combination of substantive information on a subject, Internet resources, and fun trivia. Some FAQs, such as the Copyright FAQ, come close to being self-help legal publications (but who is liable for inaccurate FAQs?). If your institution subscribes to Usenet News, FAQs are in the newsgroups: news.answers, rec.answers, etc. If not, go to <http://www.cis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/top.html>.

FIVE BEST GUIDES—PRINTED BOOKS

1. Ed Krol, **THE WHOLE INTERNET USER'S GUIDE AND CATALOG 2ed** (1994). An updated version of the Whole Internet Catalog in the back of the book can be found on the Internet at <http://gnn.digital.com/gnn/wic/newrescat.toc.html>.
2. Allison Burgess, **THE LAWYER'S GUIDE TO THE INTERNET** (1995).
3. Erik Heels, **THE LEGAL LIST: INTERNET DESK REFERENCE: LAW-RELATED RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET AND ELSEWHERE** (1995). An online version is available at <http://www.lcp.com/The-Legal-List/TLL-home.html>.
4. Don MacLeod, **THE INTERNET GUIDE FOR THE LEGAL RESEARCHER: A HOW-TO GUIDE TO LOCATING AND RETRIEVING FREE AND FEE-BASED INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET** (1995).
5. John December, **THE WORLD WIDE WEB UNLEASHED** (1994). An update Web page is available at <http://www.rpi.edu/~decemj/works/wwu.html>. Several other great Internet guides are available at his Web site (<http://www.rpi.edu/~decemj/index.html>).

Runners Up: See also INTERNET FOR DUMMIES and MORE INTERNET FOR DUMMIES by John R. Levine. Worth a look are Jim Milles' INTERNET HANDBOOK FOR LAW LIBRARIANS (1994), and Josh Blackman's THE LEGAL RESEARCHER'S INTERNET DIRECTORY (1994). Since 1992, there has been explosive growth in the number of printed Internet guides. A listing to some of the better ones can be found in the regularly updated *Unofficial Internet Book List* (<ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet-by-group/news.answers/internet-services/book-list>).

FIVE BEST GUIDES—JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Corrinne Jacox and Brian Striman, *Internet Resources for Law*, 56 COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES NEWS 18 (January 1995).
2. Jackie Shieh, *Selective Bibliography and Network Resources for the Institute on "Networking in Law Libraries."* 13 LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES QUARTERLY 81 (1994).
3. Suzanne Devlin, *Internet Use in the Private Law Library*. In: MANAGING THE PRIVATE LAW LIBRARY 1993, 445 (Curci-Gonzalez, chair, 1993). See also *Internet Use in the Private Law Library: a Summary and Update*. 5 PLL PERSPECTIVES 14 (Spring 1994).
4. Aron Weiss, *Hop, Skip, and Jump: Navigating the World Wide Web*. 6 INTERNET WORLD 41 (April 1995). An online version (you can follow the links using a web browser) can be found at <http://www.mecklerweb.com/mags/iw/v6n4/feat41.htm>.
5. Eric Lease Morgan, *The World-Wide Web and Mosaic: An Overview for Librarians*, 5 THE PUBLIC-ACCESS COMPUTER SYSTEMS REVIEW 5 (No. 6 1994). Available on the Internet at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/documents/libraries/net/wwwlibs.txt>.

FIVE WAYS TO SEARCH THE INTERNET BY SUBJECT

1. Search the Yahoo directory (<http://www.yahoo.com>). This is one of the largest subject organizations on the Web.
2. Find an area of interest in the World Wide Web Virtual Library (<http://www.w3.org/hypertext/DataSources/bySubject/Overview.html>).
3. Use the "by subject" menu of the Washington & Lee Netlink service (<gopher://honor.uc.wlu.edu:1020>). Washington & Lee links to literally thousands of Internet resources.

4. See the Library of Congress LCMARVEL gopher "Global Electronic Library" (gopher://lcweb.loc.gov/11/global).
5. Try the *Whole Internet User's Guide and Catalog* (<http://gnn.com/gnn/wic/index.html>).

FIVE WAYS TO SEARCH THE INTERNET BY KEYWORD

1. **The Netscape Internet Search Page** (<http://home.netscape.com/home/internet-search.html>)—Includes links to major Internet search engines such as LYCOS (over 3 million records), and Web Crawler.
2. **W3 Search Engines Page**—(<http://cuiwww.unige.ch/meta-index.html>).
3. **CUSI (CONFIGURABLE UNIFIED SEARCH INTERFACE)**—(<http://pubweb.nexor.co.uk/public/cusi/cusi.html>).
4. **Library of Congress Meta-Indexes Page**—(<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/metaindex.html>). Note especially the "All In One Search Page," a compilation of over 100 forms-based Internet search tools, grouped by category (<http://www.albany.net/~wcross/all1srch.html>).
5. See Veronica under "Gopher" in the category *Five Internet Document Retrieval Tools*.

FIVE GREAT RESOURCES AVAILABLE VIA WORLD WIDE WEB

1. **AALLNET** (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/aallnet/aallnet.html>)—AALLNET includes information about AALL, lists of documents available from the AALL archives, placement information, and links to other law-related resources on the Internet.
2. **Library of Congress LCWEB** (<http://lcweb.loc.gov>)—Provides access to online exhibits, the LCLOCIS online card catalog service (including bill tracking information), the THOMAS service (with the full text of bills), the LCMarvel gopher, and Internet guides. A treasure.
3. **Washburn University Law Library Washlaw Web Site** (<http://law.wuacc.edu/washlaw/washlaw.html>)—Contains lists of links to Internet resources on state law, Federal Law, foreign and international law. Also the site of the "Virtual Law Reference Desk," which comes close to being a one stop shopping point for law-related information on the Internet.

4. **World Wide Web Virtual Library: Law** (<http://www.law.indiana.edu/law/lawindex.html>).
5. **Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute** (<http://www.law.cornell.edu>).

Runners Up: The large number of great Web pages which have appeared in the last year make this an especially hard category to limit to five. See also the House of Representatives Internet Law Library (<http://www.pls.com:8001>), the Villanova University Center for Information Law and Policy at <http://ming.law.vill.edu>, Chicago-Kent's Kentweb's Guide to Substantive Legal Sources (<http://www.kentlaw.edu/lawnet/lawlinks.html>), the University of Maryland Inform Web site at <http://www.inform.umd.edu:8080> (see especially the "Educational Resources" menu), and the Emory Law Library Electronic Reference Desk (<http://law.emory.edu/LAW/refdesk/toc.html>).

FIVE GOOD GOPHER SITES

1. **Washington & Lee Law Library Netlink** (<gopher://honor.uc.wlu.edu:1020>)—This site has one of the best initial screens I have ever seen for the purpose of getting a user to other useful research tools on the Internet. The "by subject" directory provides access to over 2000 items. Users can also search by keyword. Results can be limited according to type of resource (WWW, Gopher), or alphabetically.
2. **Library of Congress LCMarvel Gopher** (<gopher://marvel.loc.gov>)—Provides links to many government Internet sites. The "Global Electronic Library" points to hundreds of Internet gopher items on various topics.
3. **Gopher Jewels** (gopher://cwis.usc.edu/11/Other_Gophers_and_Information_Resources/Gophers_by_Subject/Gopher_Jewels)—This great site is not being updated as of June 1995. However, it will still have useful links for awhile. A web interface to the site is located at <http://www.mid.net:80/GJEWEL>.
4. **NYSED Gopher** (<gopher://unix5.nysed.gov>)—This large gopher is maintained by the New York State Education Department.
5. **The "Mother Gopher" at the University of Minnesota** (<gopher://gopher.tc.umn.edu>). Where it all began. "Gophers" were so named because the program was first developed at the University of Minnesota.

FIVE GOOD LISTSERVS (ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION FORUMS) FOR LAW LIBRARIANS

The addresses given below are for subscription only. Once you have subscribed, you will be sent information on how to post messages to the list. To subscribe to a list, send an e-mail message to the listserv address with the words [subscribe listname yourname] in the body of the message.

1. LAW-LIB: listproc@ucdavis.edu
2. INT-LAW (international law librarians): listserv@VM1.spcs.umn.edu
3. GOVDOC-L (government documents and depository libraries): listserv@psuvm.psu.edu
4. TEKNOIDS (computing in law schools): listserv@law.mail.cornell.edu
5. NEW-LIST (announces new discussion groups): listserv@vml.nodak.edu

FIVE BEST WAYS TO FIND A MAILING LIST

1. Look at Lyonette Louis-Jacques *Law Lists* (gopher://lawnext.u-chicago.edu:70/00/internetfiles/lawlists).
2. See *Library-Oriented Lists and Electronic Serials* (<http://info.lib.uh.edu/liblists/home.htm>).
3. Search the Listserv Web Page (<http://www.tile.net/tile/listserv/index.html>).
4. Check the association of *Research Libraries Directory of Electronic Journals, Newsletters, and Academic Discussion Lists* (gopher://arl.cni.org/11/scomm/edir). A print edition is also available.
5. Subscribe to a List. Although it sounds like a Catch-22, once you subscribe to one listserv in an area of interest, you will often be notified of other lists or new lists on the same topic. Remember that NEW-LIST distributes announcements of new discussion groups (see FIVE GOOD LISTSERVS above).

A note on listserv archives: Many listservs maintain archives of past messages. These archives can be quite useful when trying to find out information on how other libraries dealt with a certain issue. Two good law-related listserv archives are at Cornell (gopher://gopher.law.cornell.edu/11/listservs), and at Washburn (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/archive.html>). The *Legal Domain Network* at Chicago-Kent (

net.html) is another place where recent law-related listserv messages are accessible.

FIVE GOOD ELECTRONIC JOURNALS FOR LAW LIBRARIANS

1. **EFF-NEWS** (Electronic Frontier Foundation News List—Legal Issues Concerning the Internet). Send the following to listserv@eff.org: subscribe comp-org-eff-news.
2. **Public Access Computer Systems Review and Public Access Computer Systems News** (<http://info.lib.uh.edu/pacsrev.html>). Articles and news, respectively, concerning online public access catalogs, library computing, and networking. Sent automatically to subscribers of the PACS-L list (listserv@uhupvm1.uh.edu). Be cautious, as PACS-L can generate well over 100 e-mail messages per day. To get the serials alone, subscribe to PACS-P (listserv@uhupvm1.uh.edu).
3. **Current Cites** (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ISIS/current-cites>). Provides summaries of articles on the Internet, CD-ROMs, etc., in libraries. Sent automatically to PACS-L and PACS-P subscribers.
4. **Dupont Circle Reporter** (government documents news)—Sent automatically to LAW-LIB and GOVDOC-L subscribers.
5. **ALAWON/ALA-WO** (American Library Association Washington Office Newline/Update) Send the following message to listserv@uicvm.uic.edu: subscribe ala-wo Your Name.

Runners Up: **The Scout Report** (http://rs.internic.net/scout_report-index.html) contains news of new Internet resources. The computer journals directory at **Yahoo** (http://www.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Magazines/Computers_and_Technology) lists journals about computers and the Internet that exist solely online or have a print counterpart.

FIVE GREAT ARCHIVES OF ELECTRONIC BOOKS AND JOURNALS

1. **Library of Congress Newspaper and Current Periodical Room** (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/ncp/ncp.html>).
2. **World Wide Web Virtual Library: Electronic Journals** (<http://www.4mesa.com/4mesa/weblist/ejournal.html>), **World Wide Web Virtual Library: Law Journals** (<http://www.law.indiana.edu/>)

- law/journals.html), and **World Wide Web Virtual Library:Literature** (<http://sunsite.unc.edu/ibic/IBIC-homepage.html>).
3. **Yahoo Literature Directory** (<http://www.yahoo.com/Art/Literature>).
 4. **Washlaw Law Journals page** (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/law-journal/lawjournal.html>). See also their journals page from the Virtual Law Reference Desk (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/reflaw/refjournal.html>), and their Electronic Publications Page (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/reflaw/refpublications.html>).
 5. **BOOKWIRE WEB SITE** (<http://www.bookwire.com>).

Runner Up: Serials in Cyberspace web page (<http://www.uvm.edu/~bma-clenn>).

FIVE GOOD PRINT INTERNET JOURNALS

1. **INTERNET WORLD.** Also online at <http://www.mecklerweb.com/mags/iw/iwhome.htm>. See also the Meckler publication **WEBWEEK** (<http://www.mecklerweb.com/mags/ww/wwhome.htm>).
2. **INTERNET RESEARCH.**
3. **WIRED.** Also online at <http://www.hotwired.com>.
4. **NETGUIDE MAGAZINE.** Also online at <http://technweb.cmp.com/net>.
5. **COMPUTERS IN LIBRARIES.** Not dedicated solely to the Internet but contains many net-related articles.

Note: Many journals in the library literature are publishing articles related to the Internet. For example, see the ongoing series on sources of Internet information in **COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES NEWS**. Check indexes such as **LIBRARY LITERATURE** and the **LEGAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT INDEX** to find new Internet-related articles.

FIVE MOST USEFUL TYPES OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET FOR LEGAL RESEARCHERS

Although I have listed only one way to get to the items listed below, you will find as you use the Internet more, that there are often several ways to get to the same information. If you have a preferred method of accessing certain resources on the Internet, stick with it.

1. U.S. Law and Government Agency Documents

Recent primary sources of U.S. law are rapidly becoming available on the Internet. The *United States Code* (<http://www.pls.com:8001/his/>)

usc.html), and the *Code of Federal Regulations* (<http://www.pls.com:8001/his/cfr.html>) are both available at the House of Representatives Web Page (<http://www.house.gov>). The *Federal Register* is available through GPO ACCESS (<gopher://marvel.loc.gov:70/11/federal/fedinfo/byagency/general/gpo/gpo.access>), and the GPO Access web site (<http://www.access.gpo.gov>) is a place to watch in the future. The *Congressional Record*, and full text of bills from recent congresses are available through the Library of Congress THOMAS service (<http://thomas.loc.gov>). Bill tracking information is available at the Library of Congress LCLOCIS site (<telnet://locis.loc.gov>). The Federal courts web page is at <http://www.uscourts.gov>, and an excellent archive of recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions is located at (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/supct.table.html>).

Government agency press releases, newsletters, and other documents (such as EDGAR SEC filings at <http://town.hall.org/edgar/edgar.html>) are also rapidly making their way onto the Internet. Offerings vary from agency to agency, so the best course of action is to find an agency Internet site of interest and become familiar with its contents. There are several Internet archives with links to federal government agencies and information. The White House (<http://www.whitehouse.gov>), has many links to government agencies, as well as information about Presidential initiatives and full text of many Presidential documents (speeches, press releases, the current budget, etc.). FEDWORLD (<http://www.fedworld.gov>) is a large collection of links to federal government agencies. Another large collection of links to government agencies is the FEDWEB LOCATOR at the Villanova Institute for Information Law and Policy (<http://www.law.vill.edu/Fed-Agency/fedwebloc.html>).

Still another place to look for links to federal government agencies is the WWW Virtual Library:U.S. Government Agencies page (<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html>). Also noteworthy are the collection of government information at the Washburn Doclaw web site (<http://law.wuacc.edu/washlaw/doclaw>) and the legislative information at the Washburn Virtual Law Reference Desk (<http://law.wuacc.edu/washlaw/reflaw/reflegis.html>).

2. State Law

There are several archives of state law and government information on the Internet. As with government agencies, offerings vary from state to state and can include the full text of statutes, administrative codes and bills, bill status information, court decisions, etc. One good resource is the Washburn StateLaw web page (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/uslaw/statelaw.html>). Another good archive is the Library of Congress State and Government Information Page (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/state/stategov.html>).

A third place to look for state government information is the WWW Virtual Library:State Government Servers page (<http://www.law.indiana.edu/law/states.html>).

3. Foreign and International Law

There are several large archives of foreign and international information on the Internet. These archives include full text of resolutions, treaties and other international agreements, laws, as well as information about many foreign countries. One of the better ones is the Washburn For-Int Law Web page (<http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/forint>). Another good repository is the Cornell Law School Gopher (<gopher://gopher.law.cornell.edu/11/foreign>). Their web page is excellent but I like their gopher treatment of foreign materials better. An invaluable resource is the United Nations page from the World Wide Web Virtual Library (<http://www.undcp.org/unlinks.html>), which provides access to United Nations Resolutions. In addition, the page contains links to other international law and affairs sources. The World Wide Web Virtual Library also includes an International Affairs page (<http://www.pitt.edu/~ian/ianres.html>).

4. Social Statistics

Many types of statistical information can be found on the Internet. Census information is available through the Census Bureau home page (<http://www.census.gov>). The Census Bureau site also includes entries from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, and the *County and City Data Book*. Links to business and economics statistical information are available at the Internet Economics and Statistics Resources Web page (<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/bus/economic.html>), which includes links to the Bureau of Labor Statistics gopher (<gopher://stats.bls.gov>), and the University of Michigan mirror of the Department of Commerce economic bulletin board (<gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu/11/ebb>). The actual Economic Bulletin Board requires you to subscribe to get the most valuable and up to date information, while the mirror is not far behind and allows free access. Bureau of Justice Statistics information is available at (<gopher://justice2.usdoj.gov/1/ojp/bjs>).

5. General Reference

General Reference materials is one of the Internet's stronger features. Users can search *Webster's Dictionary* (<http://c.gp.cs.cmu.edu:5103/prog/>

webster), the *CIA World Factbook* (<http://www.odci.gov/94fact/fb94toc/fb94toc.html>)—for the most current, look in the CIA Web site at <http://www.odci.gov>), *Bartlett's Quotations* (<http://www.columbia.edu/~svl2/bartlett>), and entries from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* (http://www.census.gov/stat_abstract) online. A U.S. Zip Code database (<http://www.usps.gov/ZIP4Form.html#zip4form>), allows users to find a zip code if you have the rest of the address. Also online is an AT&T 800 directory (<http://att.net/dir800>). One can find foreign exchange rates on the Internet (<http://www.dna.lth.se/cgi-bin/rates> or <http://gnn.com/cgi-bin/gnn/currency>), weather information (http://www.yahoo.com/Environment_and_Nature/Weather) as well as determine the distance between any two American cities by using the "How Far Is It?" page (<http://gs213.sp.cs.cmu.edu/prog/dist>). One can access an acronyms directory (<http://curia.ucc.ie/info/net/acronyms/acro.html>) and a thesaurus (<http://odie.niaid.nih.gov/77/thesaurus/index>) on the Internet. Persons looking for lawyer addresses can find them in the *West Legal Directory* (<http://www.westpub.com>).

Good general reference archives include the Virtual Law Reference Desk (<http://law.wuacc.edu/washlaw/reflaw/reflaw.html>), the reference menu from the Yahoo directory (<http://www.yahoo.com/Reference>), and the reference page from the English Server (<http://english-server.hss.cmu.edu/Reference.html>).

FIVE GREAT PLACES OF INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS

1. **International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA)**—<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/home.html>.
2. **Library Resources on the Web**—<http://www.library.nwu.edu/resources/library>.
3. **ACQ WEB**—<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/law/acqs/acqs.html>. Started with an acquisitions orientation but now is a general resource page for Library and Information Science materials.
4. **Links Mostly For Librarians**—<http://liberty.uc.wlu.edu/~hblackme/iii.html>.
5. **LIBCAT**—<http://garnet.msen.com/0h/vendor/maven/lc/lc1.html>.

Runners Up: See also **Hytelnet** (<http://www.usask.ca/cgi-bin/hytelnet>)—A database which provides Internet addresses and login information for many library catalogs around the world. Another listing of library catalogs on the Internet can be found at <http://www.metronet.lib.mn.us/1/vendor/maven/lc>.

FIVE AREAS OF CONCERN ABOUT INTERNET RESOURCES

1. **Authority**—What are the author's qualifications? What is the source of his knowledge? Who is the publisher? What is known about its reputation? Sometimes it is hard to determine whether the information found on the Internet is trustworthy. I have seen instances where high school kids put their theme papers on the net. Also, it is sometimes questionable that the purported author is really the author of a piece. I tend to stick to information from the federal government or from institutions I trust.
2. **Scope**—What is the coverage of the source?
3. **Currency**—What is the date of issuance? When was the last revision? Since the Internet is a mostly volunteer effort at present, it is not unusual to find sources which were issued two or three years ago and were never revised.
4. **Format and ease of use**—What do the entries look like? Are screens easy to understand and use? Is there good online help? Can you search by keyword? If the source is menu driven, how many levels of information do you have to navigate before getting to the needed source? Is the source well organized? Is it easy to keep track of where you are in the system? Some sources on the net are valuable, but not very user-friendly.
5. **Bibliographic Control**—Does the source have a way for you to search by subject? Several sources for searching the Internet by subject of keyword have recently been developed, but there is still no one comprehensive index of Internet materials. Given the constantly changing nature of the Internet, such an indexing system might be a long time in coming.

Runner Up: Dependability—Can you depend on what you need being on the net? Remember Murphy's Law of the Net—the resource which seems to be precisely on point will be unavailable due to high volume or a network error!

FIVE GOOD ARTICLES ON INTERNET ISSUES

1. Mark H. Kibbey, *What Can the Internet Do for Libraries?* In *5 ADVANCES IN LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND NETWORKING* 73 (1994).
2. John Price-Wilkin, *Using the World Wide Web to Deliver Complex Electronic Documents: Implications for Libraries*, *5 PUBLIC ACCESS*

COMPUTER SYSTEMS REVIEW 5 (No. 3 1994). On the Internet at ([gopher://info.lib.uh.edu/00/articles/e-journals/uhlibrary/pacsreview/v5/n3/pricewil.5n3](http://info.lib.uh.edu/00/articles/e-journals/uhlibrary/pacsreview/v5/n3/pricewil.5n3)).

3. Roy Tennant, *The Virtual Library Foundation: Staff Training and Support*, 14 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND LIBRARIES 46 (March 1995). Online at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ISIS/ITAL.html>.
4. Kristin Jacobsen, *Time to Put the Internet in Perspective*, 56 COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES NEWS 144 (March 1995).
5. Jane Smith, *Hypatia Screamed*, 5 INTERNET WORLD 86 (January/February 1994).

FIVE BEST WAYS OF KEEPING CURRENT

1. Read the Scout Report (http://rs.internic.net/scout_report-index.html)—announcements of new Web sites.
2. Look at the Netcom What's New Page (<http://home.netscape.com/home/whats-new.html>).
3. See other sources in the What's New directory at Yahoo (http://www.yahoo.com/Reference/Indices_to_Web_Documents/What_s_New).
4. Join an electronic discussion group. See "Five Good Discussion Groups" and "Five Best Ways to Find a Discussion Group." New resources in that subject area are usually posted to the group.
5. Consult print resources, such as INTERNET WORLD, or NETGUIDE (see "Five Good Print Internet Journals"). They often have reviews of new Internet resources.

Runners Up: See also sources such as LEGAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT INDEX, CURRENT CITES (<http://library.berkeley.edu/ISIS/current-cites>), and of course LIBRARY LITERATURE, for citations to articles about the Internet and its resources.

