

FREE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES: April 2007

A wide range of free, quality, educational electronic resources are available on the internet. While they have not all been developed originally for the ACL sector, they can be freely used. We have listed some key ones below: a quick, easy and cheap way to create or add to a digital library for your website, intranet or VLE.

General Resources

Resource	URL	What it is
Intute	http://www.intute.ac.uk	Search a vast collection of web resources specially selected and evaluated for education and research. Covers most subject areas with 4 main subject hubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Technology • Arts and Humanities • Social Sciences • Health and Life Sciences
KnowUK	http://www.knowuk.co.uk/	"The ultimate online library of UK information". It is available via public libraries to anyone with a borrower's card. Contact your local public library for details of how to access it.
NewsUK	http://www.newsuk.co.uk/	It is available via public libraries to anyone with a borrower's card. Contact your local public library for details of how to access it.
BBC	http://www.bbc.co.uk http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/	The BBC website has a wealth of quality material e.g. their Webwise online course (http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/) and resources for learning Welsh (http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/)
How Stuff Works	http://www.howstuffworks.com/	The site is increasingly commercial but still has excellent articles under categories such as Auto, Science, Health, Electronics etc.
Merlot	http://www.merlot.org/Home.po	A US-sponsored site which has categorized links to online learning and teaching resources.

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Encyclopaedias

Wikipedia	Http://www.wikipedia.org	The free online encyclopedia that is freely editable by all. Quality can vary - its reliability is often debated.
Columbia Encyclopedia Online	http://www.encyclopedia.com/	A free online version of the Columbia Encyclopedia (plus a lot of adverts).
Encyclopedia Britannica	http://www.britannica.com/	The online version has (very) concise articles freely available. The full version is available on subscription .
CIA World Fact Book	https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html	The World Factbook is an annual publication by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States with basic information about the various countries of the world, such as demographics, industry, government etc.

Dictionaries

You may also wish to search for "Dictionary" within [Intute](#) which lists many free subject and language specific resources. [Wikipedia](#) also lists many more online dictionaries.

Dictionary.com	http://www.dictionary.com/	Information on what is being searched is available here: http://dictionary.reference.com/help/about.html .
Welsh Dictionary	http://www.geiriadur.net/	A free Welsh dictionary from the University of Lampeter.
BBC Website Welsh Dictionary	http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/wales/learnwelsh/welsh_dictionary.pl	A free online Welsh dictionary from the BBC site.

Information Literacy Tutorials

Internet Detective	http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective/	An online tutorial using a Film Noir theme to teach basic internet skills at college and university level. Can also be downloaded for the VLE.
TONIC	http://www.netskills.ac.uk/onlinecourses/tonic/	Another free online tutorial: "TONIC is an easy-to-understand, practical guide to using the Internet produced by Netskills."
Virtual Training Suite	http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/	Subject-specific online tutorials to teach internet and research skills. There are specific FE and Adult Education ones with support materials and teaching packs.

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Teaching and Learning Resources

NLN / LearnTrain	http://www.nln.ac.uk http://www.learntrain.net/	Access to the NLN materials = e-learning objects specially commissioned for the UK post-16 sector. The materials may be already on your VLE or access them via LearnTrain. (Your college should have a logon for LearnTrain - ask your ILT Champion or contact RSC Wales)
NGFLCymru	http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/	The Welsh portal to teaching and learning online, including many Welsh language resources.
Adult and Community Learning	http://www.aclearn.net/	Website for Adult & Community Learning which includes an E-learning Resource Exchange
Learning and Skills Web	http://www.learningandskillsweb.org.uk	Search for teaching and learning resources from a variety of sources listed elsewhere here: Intute (formerly the RDN), Ferl, ACLearn. Good for cross-searching, not good for browsing.
FERL	http://ferl.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?page=628&catID=594	The FERL site has a Teaching Resources bank of case studies, quizzes, presentations, webquests - an invaluable resource for teachers. It can be searched or browsed by subject area.

Images

TASI	http://www.tasi.ac.uk/advice/using/using.html	JISC's Technical Advisory Service for Images has a wealth of information on finding and using digital images. Explore their site for up-to-date information on where to find images online and how to use them.
Yotophoto Image Search Engine	http://yotophoto.com/	Yotophoto is a search engine for free-to-use stock photographs and images: "Our goal is to help people locate, remix and republish open and copyleft images. We aren't just about 'free stock photos' for designers, but also about helping educators, bloggers and digital artists find photos they can use without fear of "the man"." The search includes Flickr images which are suitably licenced.
UVic's Language Teaching Clipart	http://web.uvic.ca/hcmc/clipart	About 3000 images, designed for basic language teaching but could be suitable for a wide range of uses.

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Library		
Open Clip Art Library	http://www.openclipart.org/	The Open Clip Art library has a database of images that are free to use and encourages contribution.
Gathering the Jewels	http://www.gtj.org.uk/	Over 20,000 images of objects, books, letters, aerial photographs and other items from museums, libraries and record offices in Wales. Images may be downloaded and used for personal use, and for most non-commercial educational purposes - this includes use by teachers, pupils and students, for research or teaching purposes, within the classroom, the school, or on a school or college intranet.

Multimedia

Moving Image Gateway	http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/gateway/index.html	The Moving Image Gateway (MIG) collects together websites that relate to moving images and sound and their use in FE and HE. You can browse by subject.
Podcasts for Educators, Schools and Colleges	http://recap.ltd.uk/podcasting/	This is the first UK directory to find podcasts for educational use - podcasts for teaching and learning activities with children or young people at home, school or college. Includes videos too.
Google Earth	http://earth.google.com/	"Google Earth puts a planet's worth of imagery and other geographic information right on your desktop. View exotic locales like Maui and Paris as well as points of interest such as local restaurants, hospitals, schools, and more." Google Earth software is free to download and Google clarified that educational use of the free version is allowed.

Free E-Books

Project Gutenberg	http://www.gutenberg.org/	The oldest site for free e-books provided by volunteers. Contains many classic titles.
FreeBooks4Doctors	http://www.freebooks4doctors.com/	A site that promotes free medical texts.
Catalogue of Free E-Books	http://www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm	This is an Australian site but it provides a catalogue for e-books all over the world.
eScholarship Editions	http://content.cdlib.org/escholarship/index_subjects.cgi	The eScholarship Editions collection includes almost 2000 books from academic presses on a range of topics,

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		including art, science, history, music, religion, and fiction. Easy browsing by subject.
Google Book Search	http://books.google.com/	Currently in trial "beta" mode, this new development from Google will search the full text of books and you have the option to limit your search to "Full view books" which you can access online.

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Free E-Journals

Directory of Open Access Journals	http://www.doaj.org/	The comprehensive listing covers all subject areas. You can browse by subject or search for titles or articles.
PubMed	http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/	PubMed Central (PMC) is the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. May be of use to more advanced health and life science courses.
Highwire Press	http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl	HighWire Press is the largest archive of free full-text science journals on Earth.

NB You may also wish to investigate what online resources are available from your public library and encourage students or staff to register for use of these also.

If you would like more information or have any resource queries, please contact us at RSC Wales:

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