

ONLINE CURRENTS

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ARTICLES

Readers' advisory information sources: Part 1 – Sherrey Quinn

This article outlines the importance of fiction and non-fiction lending in Australian public libraries, and provides background on print and online reference sources that help readers and library staff identify what's a good book to read. It presents some details on the features of two readers' advisory databases, NoveList from EBSCO and Books & Authors from Gale Cengage Learning, which are widely available via public libraries. 225

The internet abroad: A Gen Y traveller's tale – Bill Browne

The internet is universal. The same sites, with rare exceptions, that you access at home are also accessible abroad. However, when you travel, the use and value of, and access to, the sites change. This article discusses useful sites for travellers as well as the hazards of using the internet overseas. 235

Polls, surveys and petitions online – Jon Jermey

Many blogs and websites now include polls or surveys for user feedback, and an increasing number of activists and lobby groups are taking advantage of the web to collect signatures for online petitions, including through regular email campaigns. This article looks at the options for website designers who want to take advantage of online technology to collect information or elicit commitments from their users. 240

Meteorology and natural disaster websites – Glenda Browne

This article discusses websites about meteorology and natural disasters, starting with definitions and general information sites, then examining sites that provide weather forecasts and widgets to put on your own website. Two specialised services that monitor risk from tsunamis and volcanic ash, and some of the many excellent educational resources for children are discussed. Finally, the article looks at websites that provide information to the community after a disaster, especially regarding financial support and insurance. 243

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