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Fashion and costume

by Monica Fusich

A wealth of information on fashion and costume resources exists on the Internet. Both the contemporary nature of fashion as well as the historical aspect of costume are extremely well served by the visual and hypertext medium of the Internet.

The fashion industry and fashion devotees have created sites that provide access to runway shows, designers, models, trade information, and current events. Costume historians have designed sites that can be used to research costumes, locate visuals, and document the creation of accurate historical garments.

Richard Martin, curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, notes in his introduction to *Contemporary Fashion*, "We could not avoid fashion today if we tried: fashion constitutes the pervasive and persuasive culture of our time."[1]

The culture of fashion, costume, and the Internet has successfully converged to offer unique, innovative, and informative Web sites. Individuals first used the Internet as a vehicle for disseminating opinions and images on fashion and costume and created personal homepages on topics such as punk style, makeup, and designers.

The fashion industry and professional organizations then saw the value of the Internet as an advertising and informational medium and began to develop commercial sites. Currently, serious researchers and those interested in cutting-edge fashion trends will be able to locate information on the Internet.

This selected list of Internet sites covers many aspects of fashion and costume history that will be of interest to both the serious scholar and those interested in fashion for fun.

FASHION
Meta Sites

• **Angel of Fashion.** An evaluative directory of fashion sites that are awarded the

"angel of fashion" for innovation and creativity. The site links to alternative fashion sites, e-zines, designers, modeling, and much more. Starting at this site gives an excellent overview of the richness of fashion information available. Created by Rodney Dunetz. *Access:* http://www.fashionangel.com/angel.html.

• **FashionWorld.net.** An excellent and comprehensive index of international fashion sites. This site links to sites of interest to fashion retailers, manufacturers, shoppers, and those just interested in fashion. Provides a search engine of fashion sites. *Access:* http://cgi.softlantis.com/fashionworld/cgi-bin/fwsetup.exe.

• **FashionNet.** This site sponsors live chat and bulletin boards as well as job listings, a fashion-specific search engine, and links to related beauty and modeling sites. Published by Triple International, an online publisher

About the author

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specializing in fashion. *Access:* http://www.
fashion.net/

• **World Fashion Sites.** This site links to
designers, magazines, fashion schools, col-
lections, textiles, models, and fashion muse-
ums. Produced by the Samsung Fashion In-
stitute. *Access:* http://www.sfi.co.kr/wfsites/
tsites-gnr.html.

• **FashionIndia.** FashionIndia is a com-
prehensive site including information on
designers, boutiques, reviews, models, cho-
reographers, fashion professionals, and other
fashion-related information. Includes a glos-
sary and excellent article on the history of
fashion in India. *Access:* http://www.
fashionindia.net/.

Images

• **FirstVIEW: Collections Online.** This
is the premiere Internet publication for fash-
ion show photographs from both the haute
couture and ready-to-wear collections shown
in Paris, New York, Milan, and London. The

most current shows are available only by
expensive subscription. More reasonable
hourly rates are available one month after
the collections are made available to regular
subscribers. FirstVIEW includes between 60
and 200 photographs of each designer's show
and images of the older shows (1995–98) are
free. For example, 90 images of Richard
Tyler's Spring 1998 ready-to-wear collection
are available. Until firstView came online, the
most comprehensive image collection of run-
way shows was the quarterly microfiche set,
Fashion Update. Includes an e-mail notifica-
tion service of new collections available for
viewing. *Access:* http://www.firstview.com/
home.html.

Industry information

• **Apparel.net: The Online Guide for
the Apparel Industry.** This comprehensive
clearinghouse of links to over 2,000 apparel
resources includes information on trade
events, organizations, statistics, and news.
Access: http://www.apparel.net/.

• **Fashion Beauty Internet Associa-
tion.** An Internet association and virtual fo-
rum for fashion and beauty businesses such
as retailers, manufacturers, and style-related
journalists. *Access:* http://www.fbia.com/
index.html.

• **Fashion Windows: The Internet's
Database on Fashion Designers, Visual
Merchandising, and Mannequins.** This
site was created by a Dallas-based freelance
visual merchandiser and is divided into four
main areas: mannequins, visual merchandis-
ing, windows, and fashion designers. Each
section has a selection of articles on various
topics such as selecting a mannequin or po-
sitioning a mannequin. Of special interest is
the windows section, which include examples
of successful window displays. This site also
includes a discussion forum and newsletter
that can be subscribed to via e-mail. *Access:*
http://www.fashionwindows.com/
default.asp.

• **TIMS: The Textile Industry's Busi-
ness Center.** Provides access, on a mem-
bership basis, to textile and apparel industry
companies. Services include company and
product searches, a client show-
case, classified ads, employment
listings, trade shows listings, and
links to further resources. Provided
by Unicate Inc., a company working with
the textile, apparel, and fashion industries.
Access: http://www.unicate.com/.

• **Virtual Garment Center.** The mission
of this site is "to provide a virtual commu-
nity dedicated to servicing the apparel in-
dustry by providing information and
interactivity." This site has two sections: mar-
kets where companies can list garments or
textiles needed and a searchable database of
companies such as manufacturers, jobbers,
supplies, or retailers. *Access:* http://www.
garment.com.

• **Pret a Porter.** This site provides infor-
mation on an international trade show for
retail buyers and sellers of ready-to-wear and
accessories. This site is divided into 15 "sec-
tors" representing the different areas of re-
tail such as professional or sportswear. Buy-
ers can use this site in preparation for travel-
ing to Paris for the live event. *Access:* http://
www.pretparis.com/.

• **Fashion*web*.** This site focuses on fash-
ion in the United Kingdom and provides
chatrooms, job listings, showrooms, and links
to additional resources. An interesting aspect
of the showroom section is Fashion-I, a timed

slide show of current fashion trends. *Access:* http://www2.fashionweb.co.uk/fashionweb/.

Designers

Yahoo has an excellent list of links to designer homepages. *Access:* http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Design_Arts/Fashion/Designers/. Many of the e-zines discussed in a later section will also provide links to designer information.

• **7ᵗʰ On Sixth.** This hybrid site provides access to cutting-edge men and women's designers such as Girlsrule, Hang Feng, Patrick Robinson, Vera Wang, and Xuly Bet. A brief biography is provided for each designer as well as a link to a homepage, if available. A calendar of both physical and virtual fashion shows is provided. The digital photographs are by ImageInfo and the Internet shows are Webcast by the Globix Streaming Media Group and require video software to be accessed. *Access:* http://www.7thonsixth.com/html/home.html.

Schools

Yahoo offers a partial list of programs offering degrees in fashion design. *Access:* http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Design_Arts/Fashion/Education/Schools/. Some noted schools follow.

• **Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).** For over 50 years FIT has offered degrees for those interested in careers in the apparel industry. In addition, FIT currently offers AA and BA degrees in textile and surface design, restoration, fashion merchandising management, and much more. *Access:* http://www.fitnyc.suny.edu.

• **Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising.** This California private college offers degrees in fashion design, fashion merchandise marketing, textile design, cosmetics and fragrance merchandising, and apparel

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Authors sought

If you'd like to submit a topic for the "Internet Resources" column, please send your topic and a brief description of your expertise by May 21 to Mary Ellen Davis, editor-in-chief, at medavis@ala.org.

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manufacturing management. *Access:* http://www.fidm.com/.

• **Parsons School of Design.** This famous school of design also offers a degree in fashion design. Parson graduates include such designers as Donna Karan, Louis Dell'Olio, and James Mischka. *Access:* http://www.parsons.edu.

• **London College of Fashion.** Offers degree programs in fashion promotion and management and fashion design and technology. *Access:* http://www.lcf.linst.ac.uk/mainmenu.htm.

E-Zines

Yahoo has an excellent index of links to fashion magazines. *Access:* http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Design_Arts/Fashion/News_and_Media/Magazines/. In addition to print magazines with a Web supplement, the fashion industry has excelled in producing innovative, high-quality, and contemporary e-zines. A sample list of titles follows.

• **Fashion Click: The Online Fashion and Style Magazine.** Covers fashion and collections as well as standard fashion magazine fare. In addition to the current issue, maintains highlights of past issues. *Access:* http://www.fashionclick.com/.

• **Fashion Planet.** This online magazine includes daily updated news items relating to the fashion industry. Each issue includes feature articles and columns on such topics as accessories, beauty, travel, and the arts. An interesting feature is "Windows on New York," which is a map of 5ᵗʰ, Madison, and 57ᵗʰ Street, with images of and links to the various stores located in this area. *Access:* http://www.fashion-planet.com/.

• **Fashion Icon.** One of the first fashion e-zines, created by Mila Radulovic, a fashion and beauty consultant. It offers analysis and opinion about current fashion trends. *Access:* http://www.fashion-icon.com/.

• **Fashion Navigator.** Includes articles on beauty, collections, films, culture, and music in English and German. *Access:* http://www.fashion.at.

• **The Look Online.** Sponsored by Smashbox Cosmetics, provides fashion industry information for visitors and subscribers. *Access:* http://www.lookonline.com/.

• **Lumiere.** Begun in 1995, Lumiere provides in-depth and up-to-the-minute infor-

mation on fashion, beauty, and contemporary culture. Lumiere provides a free, daily e-mail notification service of the most current fashion news. *Access:* http://www.lumiere.com/.

• **Fashion Live.** Produced by World Media, provides access to fashion trends in Paris, Milan, and London in both English and French. Includes catwalk coverage, a designer database, and an e-mail updating service. *Access:* http://www.worldmedia.fr/fashion/.

• **Hypermode.** A product of Spiral Media Inc., includes articles on current trends in fashion and a message board. *Access:* http://www.hypermode.com.

Newsgroups, mail lists, chatrooms
Tile.net (*Access:* http://tile.net/lists/) and *Vivian Neou's List of Lists* (*Access:* http://catalog.com/vivian/interest-group-search.html) provide information on several fashion discussion groups. The following lists would be useful to those interested in fashion:

• **alt.gothic.fashion.** Provides discussion of gothic fashions and styles.

• **alt.fashion.** Provides discussion of anything to do with fashion and makeup.

• **fashionbiz.** Provides discussion of the fashion industry.

COSTUME
Meta sites
The following sites are all labors of love, created by individuals with a strong interest in costume history.

• **www.costumes. org.** This comprehensive and excellent site provides access to textual information, historical images from classic costume texts, and includes a timeline of costume history. Chronological links to related costume sites are provided as well as links to costume museums, military costumes, masks and makeup, fabric dyeing, and much more. Especially useful is the

Costume Manifesto, a how-to-manual for costume designers, written by the creator of the Web site. Access to a newsletter and discussion forum is also provided. Created by Tara Maginnis, costume designer for Theatre UAF, the Theatre Department of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. *Access:* http://www.costumes.org/.

• **The Costume Page: Costuming Resources Online.** This well-developed site, created by Julie Zetterberg, indexes over 2,000 costume and costume-related links such as museums and exhibits, costume history, ethnic and folk costume, theatrical costume, making and wearing costumes, and related sites. *Access:* http://members.aol.com/nebula5/costume.html.

• **The Costume Site.** An excellent site, created by Lauren Podolak, an amateur costumer, provides access to costume, ethnic,

The Costume Site

and theatrical images, museums and history, organizations, and links to miscellaneous sites such as those covering corsets and underpinnings. This site is especially strong in its access to ethnic costume. *Access:* http://www.milieux.com/costume/.

• **The Costume Gallery.** Provides over 400 links to costume designers, goods and services, costume history, and recreational sites such as an online costume ball and online costume postcards. Created by Penny E. Dunlap Ladnier. *Access:* http://www.costumegallery.com/.

• **The Costume Page.** Produced by the University of British Columbia Library, this site links to a small list of costume-related libraries, mail lists, Usenet groups, and exhibitions. *Access:* http://www.library.ubc.ca/finearts/COSTUME.html.

Images
Most of the sites mentioned above link to images and textual information. The following sites focus on visual information.

• **The Regency Fashion Page.** This site, created by Cathy Decker, links to three

The Costume Page

pages: the Real Regency Clothing Page, Regency Fashion Plates, and the Men's Page, which show costume images from fashion journals and plates and photographs of actual regency garments. *Access:* http://locutus.ucr.edu/~cathy/reg3.html.

• **The History of Costume.** C. Otis Sweezey reproduces the plates in the "History of Costume" or "Zur Geschichte der Kostume," which was printed from 1871 to 1880 in Munich. These plates reproduce 500 costume designs from antiquity to the end of the 19th century. *Access:* http://www.siue.edu/COSTUMES/history.html.

• **Godey's Lady's Book.** There are several sites that are in the process of providing access to this 19th-century periodical. This important journal included fashion plates as well as poems, fiction, and advice articles. Two locations for this journal are the University of Vermont (*Access:* http://www.uvm.edu/~hag/godey/index.html) and the University of Rochester (*Access:* http://www.history.rochester.edu/godeys/).

Associations and organizations

• **Costume Society of America.** Offers information on membership, symposia, exhibitions, and scholarships and awards. *Access:* http://www.costumesocietyamerica.com/.

• **The Costume Society (Great Britain).** *Access:* http://www.Bath.uk.com/CostumeSociety/.

• **International Costumer's Guild.** Provides information on this worldwide organization of costume professionals and amateurs. *Access:* http://www.costume.org.

Newsgroups, mail lists, chatrooms

• **F-Costume@lunch.asd.sgi.com.** Focuses on the design, motivation, and execution of fantasy clothing and costume. *Subscribe:* f-costume-request@lunch.asd.sgi.com.

• **H-Costume.** Focuses on how to accurately recreate historical costumes. *Subscribe:* h-costume-request@andrew.cmu.edu.

• **Vintage.** Vintage clothing discussion list. *Subscribe:* listserv@brownvm.brown.edu.

Note

1. Richard Martin. *Contemporary Fashion* (New York: St. James Press, 1995): vii. ■

Forms can be used in other ways to enhance library services in general. For example, libraries can provide access to commonly used library forms, such as interlibrary loan requests, requests to put library materials on reserve, or requests for extended reference assistance.

As technology becomes more sophisticated, libraries must use creative and proactive methods to maintain viability. A reference Web form is one way libraries can expand their educational and service roles and stay at the forefront of a changing world.

Sources for building a Web form

• Beverly K. Duval. "Tables and feedback forms in Web pages." *Library Software Review* 15 (1996): 31–37. Part of the "Microcomputer Applications in the Library" column looks at the design and HTML coding for tables and feedback forms.

• J. Honeycutt, and Mark R. Brown. *Using HTML 3.2.* 3rd ed. Indianapolis: Que, Inc., 1997. This comprehensive reference book for HTML 3.2 Web page creation includes chapters on creating online forms.

• WebReference.com. *Access:* http://www.webreference.com/programming/forms.html. This page gives links to some excellent sites for creating forms on the Web. ■

Web forms to check out

Here are some well-designed Web reference forms we recommend looking at:

• Central Michigan University's Ask a Librarian Web form. *Access:* http://www.lib.cmich.edu/departments/reference/askref.htm.

• Ask a Librarian at the Eden-Webster Library at Webster University and Eden Theological Seminary. *Access:* http://library.websteruniv.edu/askalibn.html.

• College of Charleston Library Ask a Librarian form. *Access:* http://www.cofc.edu/~whitt/question.html.

• Ask Zach at the Zach S. Henderson Library of Georgia Southern University. *Access:* http://www2.gasou.edu/library/form.html.