

# → **Fast Facts**

## → **Browser wars**

According to NetApplications.com, Microsoft Internet Explorer has almost 75 percent of Web browser market share, followed by Firefox at about 18 percent. Safari, Opera, Netscape, and Mozilla combined make up only about 7 percent of the browser market. Current trends indicate Firefox on the rise and Internet Explorer on the decline.

Browser Market Share, [marketshare.hitslink.com/](http://marketshare.hitslink.com/). April, 2008. Accessed April 15, 2008

## → **Public Access to Science**

Authors of research reports that describe work supported by National Institutes of Health (NIH) are now required to deposit accepted manuscripts into PubMed Central, NIH's public digital library of full-text articles, with the understanding that the articles will be freely available for all to view no later than 12 months after publication. NIH-supported investigators publish about 80,000 papers each year.

H. Varmus (2008). Progress toward Public Access to Science. *PLoS Biol* 6(4): e101 dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0060101, April 8, 2008. Accessed April 9, 2008

## → **Spring commencement speakers**

Here is a selection of speakers scheduled for commencement exercises this spring: Oliver Sacks, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Will Shortz, Indiana University-Bloomington; John Kerry, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Bianca Jagger, Simmons College; Allen Weinstein, Southern Methodist University; James Fallows, Ursinus College.

*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Commencement Speaker Database, April 15, 2008. [chronicle.com/free/speakers/](http://chronicle.com/free/speakers/) Accessed April 15, 2008

## → **Writing skills**

The writing skills of eighth- and twelfth-graders improved in 2007 compared to earlier assessment years. On the National Assessment of Educational Progress, eighth-graders scored 3 points higher than in 2002 and 6 points higher than in 1998. For 12th-graders, the percentage of students performing at or above the basic level increased from 74 percent in 2002 to 82 percent and was also higher than in 1998.

D. Salahu-Din, H. Persky, and J. Miller (2008). The Nation's Report Card: Writing 2007 (NCES 2008-468). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. [nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008468](http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008468). Accessed April 15, 2008

## → **BlogPulse**

BlogPulse is an automated trend discovery system for blogs. It includes a blog search engine that also analyzes and reports on daily activity. The site has a number of tools for analyzing trends and conversations. One popular feature is the ability to instantly create graphs that plot "buzz" about specific search terms over time.

[www.blogpulse.com](http://www.blogpulse.com). Accessed April 13, 2008

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