

Council on Foreign Relations. Access: <http://www.cfr.org/>.

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Web site provides information about the 88-year-old American nonpartisan “think tank,” assembling a comprehensive array of in-house publications, as well as external material focusing on international affairs and American foreign policy.

The vast amount of information on the site is organized and cross-referenced by region, issue, and publication type. Included are materials created by CFR, such as on-the-record meeting transcripts; audio recordings and streaming videos; summaries of global news and analysis; Congressional testimony; articles from CFR’s *Foreign Affairs* magazine; blogs; policy briefs; journal articles by the CFR’s fellows; and other useful internal sources. The site also incorporates materials from external sources, such as newspaper editorials from around the nation and world, primary source documents, and authoritative Internet sources focusing on international relations and foreign policy.

In the section “Need to Know,” CFR staff compiled a helpful guide to resources of “what international affairs policy-makers, academics, and journalists are saying, writing, and reading in newspapers, blogs, books, television talks shows, and elsewhere.”

In the section “For Educators,” the CFR staff has developed teaching and learning materials for educators and students, and opportunities for them to have discussions with CFR fellows and experts.

Of particular note, the advanced search options for the site’s search engine are

first-rate. Users can limit their search by publication type, region, or issue. This is an essential feature because of the substantial and diverse amount of information accessible to users. It is easy to get overwhelmed by the headings, images, and options available on the homepage. Another stellar feature is the “Experts’ Page” where the user can view CFR experts and their areas of expertise by topic, region, issue, or alphabetically.

The CFR Web site is an authoritative resource and highly recommended for students, educators, journalists, policy-makers, and anyone who wants to learn more about foreign affairs. It is a splendid site to explore and to bookmark for everyday reading.—*Colleen Lougen, SUNY at New Paltz, lougenc@newpaltz.edu*

Office of Minority Health. Access: <http://www.omhrc.gov>.

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) was established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1986. Its mission is “to improve and protect the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will eliminate health disparities.”

Users with varying levels of health information needs, especially as they relate to racial and minority health, will find much of this Web site to be of value. While some of the information, such as the overview of federal data on race and ethnicity or various health-related data, may be applicable to several user groups (e.g., high school or first-year college students), other content is targeted towards a specific audience. For example, the site contains health professional materials as well as consumer publications.

The OMH Web site appears to serve two purposes. First, it educates users about the activities of OMH, which includes several

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services and initiatives. Second, it educates users about health disparities by making accessible health-related information, with a focus on minority populations. The “Data/Statistics” section of the Web site provides quick facts and statistical reports produced by OMH on various minority groups. In addition, this section includes a summary of and links to census data.

While some of the content is authored by OMH, such as the daily Health News articles, additional content is accessible through external links. While most of these links are to related government agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, other sources include nonprofit organizations and academic institutions.

The content authored by OMH, for the most part, has been modified or published within the past few years. However, the currency of the content from external sources varies. The astounding volume and variety of information that is accessible from the OMH homepage could be overwhelming to its users.

All levels of users will appreciate the toolbar, search box, and site map to help navigate through the site and locate specific content.—*Jo-Anne Petropoulos, McMaster University, petroja@mcmaster.ca*

UNESCO. Access: <http://www.unesco.org>.

Created and maintained by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), this Web site is a treasure of great information, and, unlike its parent organization’s Web site, the UNESCO site is extremely well organized and easy to navigate. The main themes include “Education,” “Natural Sciences,” “Social and Human Sciences,” “Culture,” and “Communication and Information.”

Each of these themes has numerous subthemes. The site also has a “Special Themes” section, which reflects a “transdisciplinary approach.” The content is equally useful for students, teachers, researchers, and the general public.

The basic structure of the site is almost uniformly consistent throughout all the pages; “Themes,” “Worldwide” (geographic regions), and “Communities” are clearly outlined in the left navigation. The right navigation includes information about the organization and its subsidiaries as well as the “Services” provided for each of the subsidiaries. The top navigation provides several language options (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Chinese) as well as a site map and search box. The bottom navigation links to “Online Bookshop,” “Newsletter,” and a fabulous “Photobank,” as well as contact information, terms of use, and update information. The center of the homepage is used to highlight current issues, news, and recent publications.

For college research purposes the “Services” section is extremely useful. It provides, among others, links to reports, journals, and official documents. Though the various “Themes” do not use a uniform interface, they are generally very easy to use.

For example, the “Natural Sciences” section has more than 15 subsections, including topics such as “Freshwater,” “Oceans,” “Earth Sciences,” “Science Policy and Sustainable Development,” and “Women and Science.”

Within “Freshwater” you can find a glossary of hydrology terms, case studies, a portal to other Web sites on very specific water environments, a searchable database of all International Hydrological Programme publications, information on the World Water Day 2009, and, though for this topic somewhat limited, a great photo library on water themes from around the world.

The UNESCO Web portal is well worth the time to explore. Its easy interface means it does not take much time to become familiar with its wealth of resources—something that students and researchers alike may find very useful.—*Susanne Clement, Utah State University, susanne.clement@usu.edu* 