

Web Resources for Reference

*The best **free** reference sources*

A SMRLA Workshop

September 1, 2009

The address of this page is

<http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dream/smrlaref.html>

or use the shorter....<http://tinyurl.com/28nfq6>

Online Reference Collections

[ALA's Best Free Reference Web Sites \(Combined Index, 1999-2008\)](#)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/mars/marspubs/marsbestindex.cfm>

[2009 Best Free Reference Web Sites](#)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/mars/marspubs/marsbestfreewebsites/marsbestfree2009.cfm>

[Bartleby.com: Great Books Online](#)

<http://www.bartleby.com/>

[Refdesk.com](#)

<http://www.refdesk.com/>

[New York Public Library-Best of the Web/Reference](#)

<http://www.nypl.org/links/index.cfm?Trg=1&d1=12&d3=Reference>

[Alcove 9: An Annotated List of Reference Websites](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/>

[BUBL LINK- Browse By Dewey Class](#)

<http://bubl.ac.uk/link/index.html>

[The StartSpot Network](#)

<http://www.startspot.com/network/>

[Google Answers \(no longer active, but still educational\)](#)

<http://answers.google.com/answers/>

[Answers.com](#)

<http://answers.com>

[Answers Library](#)

http://educator.answers.com/main/what_content.jsp

[Educator Toolkit](#)

<http://educator.answers.com/>

[WikiAnswers](#)

<http://wiki.answers.com/>

Geography and Maps

[U.S. Cities Gazetteer](#)

(U.S. Gazetteer of Physical Features, Cultural Features and Census 2000 Information)

<http://www.hometownlocator.com/>

[Mapsarea.com](#)

(maps, travel info, and weather sources)

<http://www.mapsarea.com/>

[Gmaps Pedometer](#)

(measure precise walking distance between any two points on a map)

<http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/>

[Zillow](http://www.zillow.com/) (valuations and data for 65,000,000+ homes)

<http://www.zillow.com/>

Travel

[Traffic.com](http://www.traffic.com/)

(traffic reports, cameras, etc searchable by zip code)

<http://www.traffic.com/index.html>

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm) (state by state)

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm>

[Roadside America](http://www.roadsideamerica.com/)

(offbeat tourist attractions)

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/>

[NextBus](http://www.nextbus.com/predictor/newUserWelcome.shtml) (using GPS to determine when the next bus will arrive)

<http://www.nextbus.com/predictor/newUserWelcome.shtml>

[Flightstats: Fly Smarter](http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do) (track flights or airports)

<http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do>

[Seat Guru](http://www.seatguru.com/)

(detailed seating charts/details for airlines)

<http://www.seatguru.com/>

[Recreation and Tourism](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Travel/Recreation.shtml)

(national and state parks, state tourism sites, beach temperatures, etc)

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Travel/Recreation.shtml>

Government, Politics, and Foreign Countries

[NationMaster](http://nationmaster.com/)

(create tables comparing countries)

<http://nationmaster.com/>

[Foreign Government Resources on the Web](http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/foreign.html)

(searchable by place or topics)

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/foreign.html>

[State & Local Government on the Net](http://www.statelocalgov.net/)

(searchable by place or topic)

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

[Project Vote Smart](http://www.vote-smart.org/)

(find your representative and study his/her record)

<http://www.vote-smart.org/>

[ProCon.org](http://www.procon.org/) (Pros and Cons of Controversial issues)

<http://www.procon.org/>

Language Tools

[OneLook Dictionary Search](http://onelook.com/)

(13,587,880 words in 1024 dictionaries indexed)

<http://onelook.com/>

[Merriam Webster OnLine](http://www.merriam-webster.com/)

(with audio pronunciation)

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

[Voice of America Name Pronunciation Guide](http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dream/smlref.html)

(requires audio software)

<http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dream/smlref.html>

<http://names.voa.gov/index.cfm>

[YourDictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com)

(comprehensive collection of foreign language dictionaries)

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/languages.html>

[Visual Dictionary Online](http://visual.merriam-webster.com/)

<http://visual.merriam-webster.com/>

[Acronym Finder](http://www.acronymfinder.com/)

(OCLC, for example-- or PLOS)

<http://www.acronymfinder.com/>

[All that JAS : Journal Abbreviation Sources](http://www.abbreviations.com/jas.asp)

<http://www.abbreviations.com/jas.asp>

[Free Online Translation Services](http://www.word2word.com/free.html)

(many more languages than Altavista or Google translators)

<http://www.word2word.com/free.html>

Arts & Entertainment

[Internet Movie Data Base \(IMDB\)](http://www.imdb.com/)

(over 15 million individual film/TV credits--database stats [here](#))

<http://www.imdb.com/>

[Movie Review Query Engine](http://www.mrqe.com/)

(765,376+ reviews of 77,757 movies)

<http://www.mrqe.com/>

[All Music](http://www.allmusic.com/)

(1,215,442 musicians, composers, groups/popular, jazz, classical, etc database stats [here](#))

<http://www.allmusic.com/>

Directories

[Libdex: The Library Index](http://www.libdex.com/)

(index to 18,000+ libraries & library-related sources)

<http://www.libdex.com/>

[Libraries 411.com](http://www.libraries411.com/)

(locate nearest library to any address/zip code)

<http://www.libraries411.com/>

[REGIONAL GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH
LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY PORTALS TO THE WORLD](http://www.academic-genealogy.com/regionalgenealogy.htm#usa)

<http://www.academic-genealogy.com/regionalgenealogy.htm#usa>

[WHOIS Search/ Network Solutions](http://www.networksolutions.com/en_US/whois/index.jhtml)

(who owns that URL?)

http://www.networksolutions.com/en_US/whois/index.jhtml

[gethuman](http://gethuman.com/)

(to get a human being in customer service at 959 companies)

<http://gethuman.com/>

Statistical Sources

[Statistical Resources on the Web](http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/statsnew.html)

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/statsnew.html>

[Bureau of Labor Statistics Home Page](http://stats.bls.gov/home.htm)

<http://stats.bls.gov/home.htm>

[American Factfinder](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en) (US Census)
http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

[Fedstats](http://www.fedstats.gov/)
<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

[City Data.com](http://www.city-data.com/)
<http://www.city-data.com/>

Resources About The World Wide Web

[Internet Archive: The Wayback Machine](http://www.archive.org/)
(see 150 billion archived web pages as they used to be)
<http://www.archive.org/>

[Google Alert Service](http://www.google.com/alerts)
(when a new page is found containing your words, you'll be notified!)
<http://www.google.com/alerts>

[Alexa](http://www.alexa.com/topsites/category)
(gives traffic rankings/measures popularity of web pages)
<http://www.alexa.com/topsites/category>

[Country-based Search Engines](http://www.philb.com/countryse.htm)
<http://www.philb.com/countryse.htm>

[WiFi FreeSpots](http://www.wififreespot.com/)(locations that offer Free Wi-Fi)
<http://www.wififreespot.com/>

Health and Medical

[AMA Physician Select](http://dbapps.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm) (select by specialty and location)
<http://dbapps.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm>

[Drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com/) (includes pill identification tool)
<http://www.drugs.com/>

[Hospital Compare](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/Hospital/Search/Welcome.asp) (A quality tool provided by Medicare)
<http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/Hospital/Search/Welcome.asp>

[Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs](http://www.consumerreports.org/health/best-buy-drugs/index.htm)
(Free Guidance for Consumers on Prescription Medicines)
<http://www.consumerreports.org/health/best-buy-drugs/index.htm>

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/)
<http://www.cdc.gov/>

[The Merck Manual- Second Home Edition](http://www.merck.com/mrkshared/mmanual_home2/home.jsp)
(Provided free of charge on the Internet by Merck & Co.
as a public service. Plus it's updated!)
http://www.merck.com/mrkshared/mmanual_home2/home.jsp

Miscellaneous

[College & University Rankings](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm)
(with excellent "[caution & controversy](#)" section)
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm>

[DocuTicker](http://www.docuticker.com/)
(Heard a report mentioned in the news? it's probably found here)
Searchable resources, reports and publications from government
agencies, NGOs, think tanks and other public interest organizations)
<http://www.docuticker.com/>

[Urban Legends Reference Pages](http://www.snopes.com/snopes.asp)
<http://www.snopes.com/snopes.asp>

[Epicurious: The World's Greatest Recipe Collection](http://eat.epicurious.com/)
<http://eat.epicurious.com/>

[Landmarks Citation Machine \(formats to APA and MLA automatically\)](http://citationmachine.net/)
<http://citationmachine.net/>

[Calendar.com calculator](http://www.calendarhome.com/daycalc.html)
(number of days between two dates, and more)
<http://www.calendarhome.com/daycalc.html>

[Search Copyright Records](http://www.copyright.gov/records/)
<http://www.copyright.gov/records/>

[The Straight Dope](http://www.straightdope.com/)
<http://www.straightdope.com/>

[NYPL Express](http://www.nypl.org/express/index.html)
(research for a fee from New York Public Library)
<http://www.nypl.org/express/index.html>

*Prepared by Dan Ream (dream@vcu.edu) for the
[Southern Maryland Regional Library Association](#)
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