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Best Free Reference Web Sites 2011 13th Annual List

RUSA Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS)

This is an annual series initiated under the auspices of the Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of ALA to recognize outstanding reference sites on the World Wide Web. [View selection criteria.](#)

"Since the Web is a changing world, readers should note that these Web sites were as annotated on the date the member reviewed the site. Reviewing previous lists is not part of the charge of the Committee (formerly the Task Force on the Best of Free Reference Web Sites). However, we will make note of updated links, or other very substantial changes (such as a conversion from free to fee-based), if they are brought to our attention." *RUSA Quarterly* Fall 2001.

[Best Free Web Committee Roster](#) | [Combined Index](#) | [Print the Complete List!](#)

BAMONA: Butterflies and Moths of North America

(<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>)

BAMONA, Montana State University

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Biodiversity Heritage Library (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>)

Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), a consortium of 12 natural history and botanical libraries

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

BlackPast.org (<http://www.blackpast.org/>)

BlackPast.org

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>)

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Current Value of Old Money

(<http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/RDavies/arian/current/howmuch.html>)

Roy Davies, former Librarian, St. Luke's Campus, University of Exeter

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Google Translate (<http://translate.google.com/#en|es|>)

Google

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

International Business Statistics Database | globalEDGE

(<http://globaledge.msu.edu/resource/desk/dibs>)

Michigan State University / Additional access with free registration

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>)

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

KIDS Count Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

The Mark Twain Project Online (<http://www.marktwainproject.org/>)

"MTPO is produced by the Mark Twain Papers and Project of The Bancroft Library in collaboration with the University of California Press; the site is hosted by UC Berkeley's Library Systems Office. During 2005-8 the California Digital Library collaborated in MTPO's creation and initial development."

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

morgueFile (<http://morguefile.com/>)

Kevin and Michael Connors, Johannes Seemann

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (<http://nccam.nih.gov/>)

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Institutes of Health

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Open CRS (<http://opencrs.com/>)

Open CRS, Center for Democracy & Technology

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Open Library (<http://openlibrary.org/>)

Internet Archive

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Plant Information Online (<http://plantinfo.umn.edu/>)

Richard T. Isaacson and Katherine Allen, University of Minnesota Libraries

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

ProCon.org – Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues (<http://www.procon.org/>)

ProCon.org

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Public Library of Science (<http://www.plos.org/>)

Public Library of Science

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu/>)

Metaphysics Research Lab, CSLI, Stanford University

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Still Tasty (<http://www.stilltasty.com/>)

StillTasty, LLC

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

TED: Ideas Worth Spreading (<http://www.ted.com/>)

TED Conferences LLC

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (<http://www.uis.unesco.org/>)

UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

UNT Libraries: CyberCemetery Home (<http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/>)

University of North Texas Libraries & U.S. Government Printing Office

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

WikiLeaks (<http://mirror.wikileaks.info>)

WikiLeaks

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Wolfram|Alpha (<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>)

WolframAlpha

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011

Worldometers (<http://www.worldometers.info>)

The Real Time Statistics Project

Reviewed: MARS Best 2011