
A new addition to Institute of Physics Publishing’s (IOPP) open-access community Web sites, Environmental Research Web was unveiled in January of this year. Created to provide an international forum for scholarly discussion and analysis of environmental issues and policy, the site stands out from other similar resources because of the reputation of the publisher and the attempt to create a real community. Although a recent media packet suggests the intended audience to be researchers and practitioners, there is value for students, as well. The community consists of several areas, all designed to encourage discussion and highlight current research.

“Opinion” includes a regular column from the editor and “Talking Points,” signed pieces on controversial topics written by specialists. “Research Highlights” and “Sustainable Futures” include news articles that are either prepared by the editorial board or gleaned from other sources. All articles in these four sections include links to related Web sources and open-access articles. Where relevant, there are “Restricted Links” to original articles in other subscription-based journals. These sections also provide the opportunity for registered users to comment on the articles.

The news and editorial content is complemented by the research articles in IOPP’s new open-access journal, Environmental Research Letters. Complete access to Environmental Research Letters, as well as other environmentally related articles published in other IOPP journals, is also available in the “Journals” section. Abstracts for each article are provided, and most citations contain a link to the full article.

The last three sections are useful collections of links. “Research Resources” is comprised of lists of various research centers, societies, data sources, and funding bodies. Users can browse “Events” by type of event and date. Each entry includes a link to the event’s Web site and a description of the event. Finally, “Companies” includes both the corporate partners and other companies that are supporting the site. According to the Web site, corporate partners can brand editorial that are relevant to their business. Other companies can choose to have “Sponsored Search Terms,” where their logo would appear every time that term was searched. The companies listed in this section are browsable by category, but it is unclear if they are all sponsors or selected because of their relevance.

Since the site has not been active very long, it is too early to tell if the community/discussion aspect will be successful. Although the environmental information available is valuable, more explanation as to how the community was put together and what sort of editorial procedures is needed. Free registration is required before users can comment and access much of the information.—Linda Maddux, Reed College, madduxl@reed.edu.


The International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) is the “leading academic institute for counter-terrorism in the world.” Founded in 1996, the organization is an “independent think tank providing expertise in terrorism, counter-terrorism, homeland security, threat vulnerability and risk assessment, intelligence analysis, and internal security and defense policy.” The sole focus of ICT is directed toward counter-terrorism issues. The expert faculty involved with ICT range from the former director of Mossad, the Israeli Intelligence Service, to a member of the...
International Advisory Board of the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies.

The site provides a wealth of information, from “Activities” to “Annual Conference.” The information is easily accessible from the homepage via labeled tabs. “Activities” provides information on courses, seminars, and events available to participants. Courses include Arab Culture, Medicine (response to terrorist events and emergency preparedness), and an Executive Certificate Program in Counter-Terrorism Studies.

“Research and Publications” provides access to research articles, publications (books), and recommended sources on terrorism. “Articles” and “News and Commentaries” provide information on a wealth of current issues involving terrorism. ICT also provides a selection of services, including “Consulting and Training,” “Legal Assistance,” and “Lectures, Courses, and Workshops.” Some of the courses offered include modern and post-modern terrorism strategies, hostages and extortion, state-sponsored terrorism, and terrorism and technology.

The “Spotlight” section (available on the homepage) highlights a particular topic. Past topics include “Defining Terrorism,” “Radicalization of the Sunni-Shi’a Divide,” and “Franchising Jihad.”

Prior Spotlight articles can easily be located by typing “spotlight” into the search bar on the homepage. Other informative links on the homepage include “News” (current news on terrorism-related items), “Featured Publication,” and “ICT in the Media” (articles, interviews, etc. involving ICT).

Navigation within the Web site is straightforward. The search bar provides quick access to information on a particular topic. A search for “suicide bombers” returned 66 items. The ICT database is currently being redesigned and not available for view. Hopefully, the newly designed database will continue to provide information on terrorist organizations and incidents.

The International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism is an excellent source of information, centered on counter-terrorism issues. Easily navigated by novice or experienced researchers, the site provides outstanding information and services.—Karen Evans, Indiana State University, kevans4@isugw.indstate.edu/


Through the joint efforts of ten United Nations (UN) organizations, UNAIDS was launched in 1996 to become the “chief advocate for worldwide action against AIDS.” It engages many government sectors, nongovernmental organizations, and associations. This Web site provides an extensive overview of its activities, goals, policies, regions, and cosponsors.

The homepage opens with daily feature stories about how countries are uniting to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. It offers links to news highlights, recent events, executive speeches, media information, and the UNAIDS newsletter.

Because of the crowded layout, navigating the Web site may be a challenge for new users. Students and researchers will want to click on the links along the left side of the screen for valuable information on businesses, workers, society, donors, media, persons living with HIV, policy makers, researchers, U.N. organizations, women and young people.

These links provide information on global responses and efforts to combat AIDS. Also, the “Issues,” “HIV Data,” “Policies,” and “Publications” links at the top of the page have a wealth of information for students and researchers.

“Issues” includes links to specific issues related to combating the AIDS epidemic. They are listed under broad headings such as “prevention, treatment and care,” “affected communities,” “research,” and “the impact of HIV.” For each topic, an introductory statement, a photo, and usually a link to the UNAIDS policy that guides the issue are included.

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Loyd Mbabi has joined the staff of the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan as the African Studies librarian.

Pamela McLaughlin has been appointed director of communications and external relations at Syracuse University Library.

Susan Metcalf has been appointed reference librarian/social sciences liaison at Western Carolina University’s Hunter Library.

John Osinski has been appointed public services librarian at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Janet Pease has been named head of Syracuse University Library’s Science and Technology Services.

Rachel Radom is now instructional services librarian at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Angela Ramnarine-Rieks has been named Web administrator at Syracuse University Library.

Kevin Ross is now associate dean of Chapman University’s Leatherby Libraries.

Katherine Silton is now outreach services librarian in the Scarborough-Phillips Library at St. Edward’s University.

Gayatri Singh is now temp reference and instruction librarian in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library at the University of California-San Diego.

Annelise Sklar is now political science/government librarian in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library at the University of California-San Diego.

Michael Smith is map librarian in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library at the University of California-San Diego.

Ken Varnum has joined the University Library at the University of Michigan as Web systems manager.

Lauren Wahman is the new reference/instruction services librarian in charge of collection development at the University of Cincinnati’s Raymond Walters College Library.

Margaret Warner is now head of public services librarian in the Scarborough-Phillips Library at St. Edward’s University.

Margaret Westbury is now temp reference and instruction librarian in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library at the University of California-San Diego.

Mary Wickline is now instruction and outreach librarian in the Medical Center Library at the University of California-San Diego.

Retirements

Karen I. Junker, director of Lavery Library at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, retired in 2006 after 12 years of service.

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“HIV Data” contains the UNAIDS and World Health Organization’s (WHO) collection of information on the estimation of HIV prevalence and projections. Also, the current “Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic” is found here.

“Policies” provides a compilation of policy documents related to HIV issues. “Publications” contains a list of UNAIDS publications that are available for downloading in English, Spanish, French, and Russian languages. Also, an ordering form for printed copies is accessible.

An extremely helpful feature of the Web site is the keyword search box. The search results screen allows options for displaying by date, relevance, and language. Results from a search will yield UNAIDS Web pages, press releases, and publications.

Overall, UNAIDS is a valuable resource for students and researchers around the world who are interested in the latest developments in the HIV/AIDS epidemic.—Nancy Allen, University of South Florida-Sarasota/New College, nallen@banshee.sar.usf.edu