
The International Energy Agency’s (IEA) Web site provides information about the organization, its member countries, and international energy policy and security issues. The site highlights new publications, news stories, and IEA events. Navigation tabs lead to information about the organization and information by topic or country. Both the Web site and IEA documents are fully searchable via the site’s search engine.

The site’s “Topic” page has a menu, including such broad areas as climate change, energy security, and renewable energy. Each of these topics may be explored through publications and papers, databases, statistics, and news stories. Of particular note are the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Policies databases, with their searchable access to policy information for IEA member nations. On the “Countries” page, individual OECD member and selected nonmember countries may be chosen from dropdown menus or by using rollover maps. Statistics for each country include basic economic indicators and energy statistics with additional links to graphs, publications, and related sites.

“Publications and Papers” is the doorway to both IEA publications available for purchase and those available as free downloads. For example, 2006 and forthcoming 2007 editions of IEA’s annual publication World Energy Outlook are available as sales publications with 2005 and earlier available as free downloads. IEA is creating an online archive of pre-1995 publications and making them available for free.

In addition to these publications, IEA publishes a series of monthly newsletters, which focus on energy technology, oil, gas, and electricity. Current issues may be viewed without subscription, but users may also subscribe and receive them via e-mail. Online services require subscriptions, with the exception of the Oil Market Report, IEA’s online market analysis publication; nonsubscribers may access current issues with a two-week embargo, archived issues, and the excellent Annual Statistical Supplement.

While some IEA reports and data are only available for purchase, with a bit of digging, users can access good basic statistics, policy information, and topical fact sheets relating to international energy issues. For the most current data however, users will need to have their credit cards handy.—Ann Flower, Monterey Institute of International Studies, aflower@miis.edu


The League of Women Voters Web site provides information on the nonpartisan political organization, as well as information on public policy issues. It is a site dedicated to voter education and advocacy. The league of Women Voters includes hundreds of local chapters nationwide and in Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong.

The site is geared towards the average citizen or league member. There is information about the league—the history, its mission and core values, annual reports, membership and donation, a listing of local chapters, and news and events. In addition, the section on “Projects” presents a myriad of information on different league initiatives, such as their project on judicial independence. Within this page, there are links to podcasts, events, resources, press releases, and past events—all dealing with this particular league initiative.

Another section of the Web site deals with issues, such as the league’s stance on social policies, including equal rights, education, health care, child care, and violence prevention. These pages contain the league’s position statement on each issue, the league’s history of involvement...
with this issue, and additional resources, which include the league’s letters of support or opposition addressed to members of Congress.

“Library” contains an archive of newsletters, media, photographs, and presidential debates. “Take Action” features several of the league’s priority issues and provides the citizen with the resources and information needed to advocate for these issues. The members’ section contains tools and documents to assist league leaders and members. Many of the pages in this section require a member login.

On the advanced search page, users can search by typing in keywords or selecting one of the 30 topics listed on the page. Limits include publication date and post date.

The Web site is lacking RSS feeds. The addition of RSS feeds would be helpful to members who would like to keep up with the latest news and changes to the site.

The site is organized in a logical manner. It is an attractive site displaying various kinds of information in a visually coherent interface. Not only is the site an important tool for league members and potential members, but it is also a rich resource for students and anyone interested in civic action. The League of Women Voters Web site is highly recommended for any citizen interested in the league or advocacy.—Colleen Lougen, SUNY New Paltz, lougenc@newpaltz.edu


The Olympic Peninsula, located in the northwest corner of Washington State, is a remote and isolated region of stunning beauty and abundant natural resources. Bordered by mountains and water, the area is home to rainforests and old growth cedar, salmon runs, and Orca whale feeding grounds, as well as several indigenous tribes, including the Hoh, Quinault, Quileute, Makah, and Gallam.

In an effort to document, preserve, and share the distinctive history and cultural heritage of the region, local communities and organizations partnered with the University of Washington to create a Web-based museum. Launched in October 2006, the site contains more than 12,000 photographs, maps, pamphlets, archival videos, oral history audio casts, and other artifacts. Funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant, the site is currently made up of nine online exhibits that represent different aspects of life in the region, including tourism and recreation, early residents, tribal customs, immigration, diverse populations, and natural resources. Educational material to be used in a classroom setting is also available. As a learning tool, this digital museum will be of interest to teachers and students of Pacific Northwest history, as well as area visitors and residents.

The site is unique not only for the subject matter, but also because of the collaboration between a large urban research university that provided technological expertise and the small rural groups that provided content and artifact preparation and preservation. A third partner in the project, Preston Gates & Ellis LLP, assisted with copyright and intellectual property issues.

The archive is generally well designed, organized, and easy to navigate. Built on a ContentDM platform, metadata from the collection is searchable through OCLC’s WorldCat and the Web. The entire collection and each exhibit can be browsed by category or searched by keyword. Reflecting the diversity of the contributors, each exhibit has its own look and feel. All sections contain short essays and images, but visitors will find some exhibits more fully developed and containing more content than others. Although curriculum packets are promised for all topic areas, currently only three appear. Similarly, while the audio and video clips are fast and easy to download, there seem to be a limited number currently available. It is not clear from the Web site when new materials might be added. Despite these shortcomings, the community museum contains a number of features and artifacts that make it well worth a visit.—Linda Frederiksen, Washington State University-Vancouver, frederik@vancouver.wsu.edu.

The Pacific Northwest Olympic Peninsula Community Museum.