

# AusSI Web indexing prizewinners

Dwight Walker

In 1996, AusSI had 26 entrants to the Prize, which include back-of-book style indexes, annotated bibliographies, elaborate and beautiful castles with rooms full of links and hierarchical sites like Yahoo. They are all available on the Web at: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/auswebpr.html>.

As you will see the entries were of a high standard and it often came down to a road test of the sites to choose between them. It amazed me how many views on a Web index there were:

1. back of book style — linear
2. YAHOO-style with search engines and evaluation boxes — hierarchical
3. annotated Web bibliographies
4. annotated bibliographies on the Web (no links)
5. clever little frame versions with alpha jump tables and fuller indexes
6. beautiful wallpapered versions which gave the illusion of being on a main site but actually you were darting all over the Web
7. Site indexes
8. electronic book table of contents
9. meta-indexes of other sites' indexes

The proof overall was the ease of use of the index under a novice user (me) which showed up the workmanship and design of the index. As well the content of the index and breadth of the coverage gave me a feel for its usefulness at getting information that could answer questions. Good work. Luckily the Web is a very easy medium to edit and improve without great expense. Why not learn from the other's styles?

The inaugural winner was Alan Wilson from the Australian Parliamentary Library. His index was of the Parliamentary Library's Web site. He said, 'I feel very honoured, and for something which I view as simple and straightforward, which is one of the bread and butter tasks of a librarian. I think there is a message there!' Second was AustLII with its hierarchical Yahoo-like site of Australian legal sites. Equal third were Jeffrey Lee's annotated bibliography of English News Services in East Asia including maps, and Nancy Nugent's clever three-windowed site with several levels of indexing — alphabetic table, back-of-book and annotated index — all interlinked.

## 1. Winner: Australian Parliamentary Library Index by Alan Wilson ([Alan.Wilson@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alan.Wilson@aph.gov.au)), Webmaster, Parliamentary Library, Canberra, Australia

URL: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/parlindx.html>

"I put this page together as a simple index to the information available from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library's site and from other departments of the Australian Parliament. It also includes some related information available elsewhere."

This was a site index with some links to related sites such as Hansard at ANU (Australian National University) giving full text access. It was back-of-book style with see/see also structure. The content was about acts of parliament, politicians, the Parliamentary Research Services (statistics). It covered economics, politics, parliamentary committees, reference material and publications. Some external sites included search engines to legal material. It

was aimed at parliamentarians — explaining the emphasis on quickly accessible information about the law.

## 2. AustLII by Graham Greenleaf\*, Geoff King and Andrew Mowbray ([graham@austrlii.edu.au](mailto:graham@austrlii.edu.au))

\*Associate Professor, Faculty of Law/ Co-Director, Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052 Australia

URL: <http://www.austrlii.edu.au/links/Australia>

AustLII is a hierarchical index of all Australian legal Web sites, going down to three levels. It was a complex index of bibliographies, books, search engines and legislation. It also has an extensive subject index e.g. migration and building. There are 'indices' organised by source — a meta-index. Graham Greenleaf writes: "The Australasian Legal Information Institute's (AustLII's) 'Australian Links' index of Australian law on the Net can be used in 3 principal ways:

- as a Source index, which categorises about 900 Australian web sites related to law according to their source or 'author';
- as a Subject index, which categorises the same sites according to over 50 heads of legal subject matter; or
- by Searching all or part of the index, from a search window at the top of each page, which allows boolean searching over both the index categories and individual index entries.

"Users may submit links to be added to the index after checking and approval. The index started as a conventional hypertext index based around a source/author index approach. It was maintained periodically until it reached about 500 entries, beyond which it was not easily maintainable.

"Lack of search capacity or subject index were particular problems. Geoff King then wrote indexing software for a user interface for hierarchical browsing, for editing and maintenance of index entries, and for an interface to Andrew Mowbray's SINO search engine. We then developed a hierarchical source/author index structure, and a subject index based on the top level of a conventional legal subject index, which we are modifying to make it suitable for web materials. All entries in the existing index were added as both source and subject entries in the new structure. We add about 30 new entries per week. AustLII receives about 200,000 hits per week, and the index accounts for a few percentage points of those hits."

## 3. English News Services in East Asia by Jeffrey Telk Hock Lee ([s-jthlee@melvin.silas.unsw.edu.au](mailto:s-jthlee@melvin.silas.unsw.edu.au))

Postgraduate Student, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

URL: <http://melvin.silas.unsw.edu.au/~s-jthlee/asia.htm>

This is an annotated bibliography of news services at two levels: regional and country by country. Maps of each country are included making it multimedia. The layout is very easy to browse and does not clutter or slow down retrieval time.

This site provides links to news services based in East Asia. The countries covered are China, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines.

The audience is:

- Westerners who are interested in the various spheres of life in East Asian and South East Asian countries,
- business people or people in finance who might find more pragmatic information about one of the most economically dynamic regions in the world,
- international students and Asian migrants who yearn for a slice of the old country.

"The page was designed using Netscape Gold Editor. I have attempted to observe several principles in the design of the web page. They are:

- tidiness and efficiency in regard to linked network of documents and speed of access,
- tasteful selection of attractive, but not distracting, graphics, and
- inclusion of only relevant sites — only East Asian countries on the Pacific Rim which have been termed "developed" or "fast-developing" economies — for audience outlined above.

"Instead of placing my entire web page within a single file, I have created 15 secondary files which are hypertext-linked to the primary document. The reason for this arrangement is to facilitate access by virtue of the neatness of presentation and speed of access."

#### 4. Indexer's Favorite Links by Nancy Anderman Guenther (nanguent@chesco.com), USA

URL: <http://www.chesco.com/~nanguent/>

This is an annotated index pointed to by a back-of-book style index. The innovative use of frames to enhance the central index was very useful.

"My web page 'Indexer's Favorite Links' developed gradually out of my list of bookmarks. I began annotating listings as I found it increasingly difficult to remember which web site had just the information I needed to answer a particular question, whether work- or family-related. Because my children range in age from five to fifteen and I index texts in a wide range of subjects, the listing reflects the diversity of our information needs, whether personal curiosity, school assignments or work-related projects. The indexer in me soon found that entries could be listed under multiple terms. Rather than repeat entire entries I created the index column which links only to the specific entry on the Links page.

"Topics include: Christianity, history, indexing, self-employment, health and medical information, among others.

"Layout: The page was created specifically for Netscape since it is best viewed using frames. Viewed in Netscape the page has 3 frames. It is organized so that each annotation is listed once in the primary frame on the top right under the most relevant topic. A second narrower frame at the left provides an index to the annotations providing multiple access points. A third small frame on the bottom right provides a means of quickly jumping to different segments of this index.

"While I have experimented with a variety of HTML editors, I find I do most of my work within WordPerfect and save it as an ASCII file. I have used WordPerfect's Internet Publisher as a beginning point, especially for table creation, but I prefer the control of directly editing my HTML files. As I work or browse the Web, I make note of potential sites using a WordPerfect merge data file. As time permits I perform the merge process using two formfiles which include the necessary codes. It is then a copy and paste process to insert the new listings into my existing files.

#### 5. Robert van Krieken, (robertvk@mail.usyd.edu.au)

Dept of Social Work, Social Policy & Sociology, University of Sydney, Australia 2006

- **Cyberspace Links —**  
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/social/cyber.html>

Aimed at anyone interested in the analysis of the Internet and computer-mediated social interaction from a range of perspectives.

- **Sociology Links —**  
<http://www.arts.su.edu.au/Arts/departs/social/links.html>

Aimed at all sociology students and academics looking for sociology resources and sites on the Web.

- **Norbert Elias and Process Sociology —**  
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/social/elias/elias.html>

Identifies and provides Internet resources for all social scientists working with the ideas of Norbert Elias and process sociology.

- **NedLink —** <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/social/dutch.html>  
A collection of Internet links to places and items of interest related to society, culture, politics and everyday life in the Netherlands. These lists of links relate to specific topics and are broken into simple categories like journals and conferences. The Sociology page is hierarchical and includes a much broader group of links with the other three pages hanging off it. They vary from more popular sites like Cyberspace to academic sites like Norbert Elias and Process Sociology.

#### 6. Ecotourism by Debbie Hedger, (Debbie.Hedger@lib.monash.edu.au)

Project Officer, Monash University Library, Melbourne, Australia

URL: <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/berwick/ecotour.htm>

This is an annotated bibliography. The overall link design is a linear, alphabetical listing of sites.

"I chose to include mini-abstracts of the chosen sites. As this primarily is a resource for the students at the University I am employed by, I decided to present the information in a more meaningful way for the students than is currently produced by many search engines. Also, as the Internet can be notorious for being slow, the abstracts will help students avoid trying to link to a site which, once downloaded, is not as useful as first presented. "My index is designed for undergraduate students at The Berwick Campus of Monash University. It is part of a larger effort to list and link relevant subject resources. The subject of the page I entered is ecotourism. I chose this as it is a subject we received many questions about.

"I constructed it using Hot Dog Pro. I searched on many Australian search engines as I felt the links would be more relevant to the students and also, if they were Australian sites, the links should in theory be quicker."

#### 7. Internet Censorship by Paul F. Burton (paul@dis.strath.ac.uk)

University of Strathclyde, Scotland, UK

URL: <http://WWW.dis.strath.ac.uk/people/paul/Control.html>

"It is intended as a resource on Internet regulation, control, and censorship (and has been used as such by a number of people, judging by my e-mail).

"This is an index to WWW sites which deal with aspects of Internet regulation and control, i.e. efforts by governments, ISPs, etc. to control in some way access to controversial WWW sites (e.g., dealing with pornography, terrorism, drugs, etc.). It tries to cover the arguments for and against regulation, as reflected in available WWW sites.

"It is constructed by searching regularly for the topics of censorship, regulation and control, as well as by following links from existing sites. It is updated about once per week.

"It is mainly used, it appears, by students researching the subject and by ISPs, academics and others interested in the subject.

#### 8. AusIndex by George Bray (George.Bray@moreinfo.com.au)

MoreInfo Internet Publishing, Sydney Australia

URL: <http://www.moreinfo.com.au/ausindex/>

This is a hierarchical database index.

"Australian Indexes reviews online indexes and directories to Australian information. Our 'Index of Indexes' rates sites by usability and currency providing a top-level directory of the finest sources for Australian subjects. Just updated, we have over 200 of

the best resources reviewed.

"It is constructed in a Mac Filemaker Pro database that calculates all the HTML pages. It is used by people who are looking for meta-lists of resource discovery tools."

**9. Hartford Graduate Center Library Home Page by Paula Soares Neagus (paulasn@hgc.edu)**

Reference Librarian, Hartford, Connecticut, USA

URL: <http://www.hgc.edu/dept/library/librecom.html>

This is a University resource list — a mixture of meta-indexes and full text content. Each course has relevant links listed under it. Resource indexes cover online texts, references, databases and software libraries making use of the full capacities of the Internet to deliver data.

"This list was created as part of the library homepage. It was designed to be an aid to students doing research. The Hartford Graduate Center offers graduate (only) programs in Business, Computer Science, and Engineering. We also have an index to the web site to be used as a navigation tool."

**10. Government Special Libraries in Western Australia by Trevor Wallis (twallis@wf.com.au)**

Librarian, Ministry of Sport and Recreation Western Australia

URL: <http://www.wa.gov.au/libraries/>

This is a site index. The site holds names and address details for Western Australian special libraries — a database of information. It does not have links to other sites just to data pages on the site.

"This index has been produced to enable other librarians, students etc to find out details about government special libraries."

**12. Cowleys Jumpsite Index by Scott Williams (cowleys@cowleys.com.au)**

Managing Director, Cowley Online, Armidale 2350 Australia  
These are user evaluated database indexes.

- **Jumpsites Australian Web Directory**  
(<http://www.cowleys.com.au/public/jumpsite.htm>)

"Our index currently houses links to over 7000 Australian web sites and is growing fast. Anyone looking for Web sites with Australian content can do searches by subject or keywords. They can also look for new sites, or those with a 'solid gold' rating. "The indexing and scoring are our most advanced as is the keyword searching. Our special rating system allows 'Net surfers themselves to evaluate sites and thereby help each other to avoid the rubbish. It works like this. Each individual user can rate sites that they've visited. They give the site a gold, silver or bronze rating for content, presentation, and usability. Our system then displays an overall rating in each category for each site. So when Surfers come to Cowleys and do their search, they can quickly see which sites are popular and why people like them. The overall ratings are an average of the most recent individual ratings. This means that no single user can 'write-off' a given site, and a site which improves over time can improve its rating as well.

"For site owners, sites can be registered, removed, and/or updated online, at no cost. Cowleys is careful to filter out unwanted sites at the initial entry stage. Those with little or no useful content like personal home pages and pornographic sites are not included in our database.

"With both the ratings system and the filtering process, Cowleys Jumpsites index aims to address the shortcomings of the major search engines, where users often struggle to find a useful Web page from amongst thousands of low quality offerings."

- **Australian Business Directory**  
(<http://www.cowleys.com.au/public/findit.htm>)

"This site will be more sophisticated but is currently in beta. It allows searching of 828,000 businesses in Australia."

**13. Government, E-Journal and Library Indexes by Erica Ryan (eryan@nla.gov.au) National Library of Australia**

These are directories — comprehensive lists with very basic

categories.

- <http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/>  
**Official Australian Governments' Entry Point from the National Library of Australia.**

This is a directory to Australian Government — Federal, State and Local — and legal databases.

- <http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/ausejour.html>  
**Australian journals with an Internet presence from the National Library of Australia**

This is an annotated catalogue by title of Australian electronic journals. With it is a subject index with broad categories to aid access to the title list — includes see/see also references.

- <http://www.nla.gov.au/ozlib/> **Directory of Australian libraries and library information from the National Library of Australia**

This is a directory of Australian libraries grouped by type by state: special, academic, public. Online catalogues are listed with their entries. Also are listed directories of publishers and booksellers which are of interest to libraries.

**14. Home Page by Rahmat FATTAHI (p2116611@unsw.EDU.AU)**

Postgraduate Student, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney, AUSTRALIA

URL: <http://wilma.silas.unsw.edu.au/students/rfattahi/>

This is a basic home page with simple but useful entries on library science — OPACs, Dewey. Although nothing to do with the index, there is information on a Prototype Catalogue of Super Records — a new concept for the description, retrieval, and collocation of bibliographic entities.

**15. Internet Contents Service by Richard Siegersma (rfs@c031.aone.net.au, )**

Internet Training Institute & Laser Library Services Pty Ltd, Camberwell Vic, Australia

URL: <http://www.informit.com.au/iti/sample.html>

These are selective lists of high quality links with abstracts, very useful for librarians.

**16. ACCC Web Site by Roz Hodsdon (roz.hodsdon@accg.gov.au)**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

URL: <http://www.accc.gov.au>

This site can be searched using free text search engines or table of contents for browsing. Online documents include media releases and acts. Meta-indexes are included in other links.

**17. Resources on Thesaurus Construction and Vocabulary Management by Hector Echeverria (Multites@aol.com)**

Technical Support, Multisystems, Florida, USA

URL: <http://www.cris.com/~multites/places.htm>

This is a simple index classified by institutions (Web sites) and information professionals (email addresses).

**18. Coastal Bibliography Series by Joanne Hooper (jhooper@mgdestmx01.erin.gov.au)**

Reference Librarian, the Australian Heritage Commission

URL: <http://kaos.erin.gov.au/portfolio/ahc/hera/coast.html>

These are bibliographies of books relating to coastal topics e.g. lighthouses, listed by state.

"Previously the Australian Heritage Commission Library has produced bibliographies on various topics which relate to the National Estate, or to the field of cultural and natural heritage in a traditional hardcopy format. Now that the Internet has made available the exchange of information over short and great distances, our library has decided to become a player in this new media by no longer producing hardcopy bibliographies.

"This particular bibliography series has developed in conjunction with the Coastal Heritage Assessment Initiative project, under the

Commonwealth Coastal Policy. The series has been produced from the HERA Database (Australian Heritage Information System) which our library manages. The bibliographies have been arranged broadly by state. Each entry provides details such as title and author or authors, followed by the source, pagination, an abstract, subject headings and a locality heading of the item. The web pages themselves have been created by using basic HTML commands, creating logos on Adobe Photoshop and by scanning images in-house. The records themselves were taken from HERA on the Ozline network. They were cleaned up by running them through Filemaker Pro and then through a HTML template. The rest of what you see has been written in basic HTML.

"This medium has also given us the opportunity to incorporate work from our photographic collection. The images that have been used as backgrounds for the bibliography series have been either taken by Commission Staff, (whereby copyright is held by the Australian Heritage Commission) or permission has been given by the photographers for use in the specific bibliography (copyright is held by the photographer).

"Our aim by making this series available via the Internet was that this bibliography series would assist a wider audience, such as students, teachers, scholars and others, who wish to learn more about the cultural and natural heritage of Australia's coastal zone. And of course it allowed our library staff to learn some useful new skills."

**19. *Odin's Castle of Dreams and Legends* by Paul Gwynn (odin@wf.net)**

URL: <http://www.wf.net/~odin>

"Odin's Castle is my own creation and is patterned after a medieval castle in which each room is a different time period of history. Each of the 23 rooms is filled with links, graphics, and information pertaining to that period. Although still under construction, there is more than enough information here to keep someone busy for hours and hours, and they still will not see it all."

It is a virtual library of history and legends of large proportions. The site has a beautiful style and one can slip between sites effortlessly not realising one is browsing a very large library."

**20. *Department of Social Security Community Information Network* by Kaylene Leitch (kaylene@clin.gov.au)**

URL: <http://www.dss.gov.au>

The site is divided into rooms by type of Social Security client e.g. aged, families, rural. Inside each of these is a library and related sites link page which has a mini-library of links both to the DSS site's information on benefits and rules and regulations and to outside resource sites related to the topic e.g. Deafness or Brain Damage support group links in the Disability room's library. The room metaphor is deceptively common and it is only as you wander down the library's link from the room do you find all the resources. Each room has a chatty introduction and invites input from the users to the Webmasters who maintain the site, creating valuable feedback, e.g. the creation of a rural room because of insistence from farmers.

**21. *Annotated Index to Australian university legal resources on the web* by Morgan A Wilson (s-morgan@melvin.silas.unsw.EDU.AU)**

School of Information, Library and Archive Studies (SILAS), University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052 Australia

URL: <http://melvin.silas.unsw.edu.au/~s-morgan/index1.htm>

The site contains an alphabetical list of all sites created by Australian universities containing resources for legal research on the Internet. The rationale behind it is that some of these university sites are very powerful searching tools, and it would be convenient to bring them all together. Commentary is given about the size of each particular site, as well as the strengths of the sites, whether in general terms, or in specific areas. From a basic list of universities

one can jump into a particular site, or using the browser's search facility, one could find a particular law library resource then dig into the library's links. There is no subject index across the sites. One must browse the descriptions to find the relevant site — an annotated bibliography.

**22. *Rocketry Site Index* by Linda Sloan (Indexer@ix.netcom.com), USA**

URL: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/SloanL.html>

This is a back-of-book index of rocketry information on the Internet.

**23. *The Brisbane Outrigger Canoe Club* by Gretchen Golik (ggolik@hotmail.com or n1545515@student.fit.qut.edu.au)**

Bachelor of Information Technology student, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

URL: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~ggolik/bocc.html>

"I created an index for outrigger canoeing, running off the Brisbane Outrigger Canoe Club home page. The web site provides useful links to other outrigger sites on the web and is aimed at participants, spectators, and administrators of outrigger canoeing.

**24. *Global Positioning System (GPS)* by Rudolf Kiss (r.kiss@student.qut.edu.au)**

studying a double degree in Bachelor of Surveying and Bachelor of Information Technology at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

URL: <http://www.fit.qut.edu.au/Student/~n0089401/itb235/rk-gps.htm> (dead link)

The topic Global Positioning System (GPS) is a narrow field within the profession of surveying.

"There are a range of links grouped according to function. For example education purposes, organisations which have some connection to GPS. I have tried to include only useful links which would assist anyone looking for information about GPS and related fields. For example: Surveying students, Professional surveyors wishing to expand their knowledge, Planners and Geologists. "In the future, I hope to expand the links to include other Surveying and Information Technology areas, such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS)."

**25. *Online College Newspapers in USA* by Helvetia M. Martell (hmartell@ghgcorp.com), Dallas, TX, USA**

URL: <http://www.ghgcorp.com/hmartell/index.html>

My work for the indexing the web project was a bibliography of college newspapers that are accessible on line. The index links college newspapers on-line in USA, with access by institution name and by newspaper title. The main page calls 2 other pages/files according to the access requested: institution name or newspaper title. Each index is divided in two sections: A-L and M-Z, to make the search more manageable. A friend of mine was looking for this kind of information and was very frustrated for not finding an updated tool for immediate access to it. So I decided to work on this.

**26. *Table of Contents of Electronic Book* by Marian Meyerson (71054.546@CompuServe.COM) Philadelphia, USA**

URL: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~aussi/MeyersonM.html>

"I find your suggestion for a simple index of documents on a local computer helpful. I am thinking of creating a simple Web Page index of what I had on the Table of Contents of my book. It would have made my search of chapters much easier.

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