

4-2013

Internet Reviews: BEN (BioSciEdNet) Portal

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Recommended Citation

Creech, John, "Internet Reviews: BEN (BioSciEdNet) Portal" (2013). *Faculty Scholarship from the Library*. Paper 6.
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BEN (BioSciEdNet) Portal. Access: <http://www.bioscienednet.org/portal/index.php>.

Established in 1999 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science along with 11 original collaborative professional societies, the BioSciEdNet (BEN) portal was chosen in 2005 to be the National Science Digital Library Pathway for biological sciences education. All resources offered through this portal undergo a thorough peer review process administered by scientists and staff members of the participating professional societies. The reviewers maintain clear and consistently high standards when reviewing and adding sites, thus guaranteeing the scientific quality and accuracy of each resource.

The Web design is clean, simple, and easily navigable. The site currently contains more than 18,000 reviewed resources that cover vast and specialized topical areas within the life sciences. Users will quickly discover resources via a variety of locators, beginning with basic and advanced keyword searching, and can easily limit searches by audience level. A word search for "biodiversity," for example, returned 931 matches. Users may also browse by 77 diverse subject categories such as biostatistics, botany, cell biology, ecology, endocrinology, microbiology, mycology, public health, toxicology, and zoology.

Users can browse by 50 resource types, among them animations, educational standards, historical documents, laboratory exercises, lesson plans, teaching strategies and guidelines, and Webcasts. The "Browse by Audience/Level" feature allows one to locate resources from nearly all educational levels, from preschool to graduate and professional levels. The "Continuing Education" subsection within this area leads users to more than

5,000 resources across the life sciences. Many of the links provide citations to both free and subscription scholarly papers, high-resolution images, brief biographies, and interviews with scientists.

Each resource record typically displays a variety of data—author, title of resource, brief abstract, ratings of the resource when available, links to original publishers of the information along with copyright details, and audience level. Thousands of beautiful still images included in many of the records will enhance the learning experiences of students, teachers, and college faculty, as will the links to more than 2,000 informative videos.

The BEN project states that its mission is to "serve as a catalyst for strengthening teaching and learning in the biological sciences." The collaborative effort underlying this stellar collection of resources succeeds brilliantly in providing a site of significant value to undergraduate and graduate life science and education students and academic faculty.—*John Creech, Central Washington University, John.Creech@cwu.edu*

The Quilt Index. Access: <http://www.quiltindex.org/index.php>.

The Quilt Index is a free, open access digital repository and online reference resource focusing on quilts and quilting. Launched on the Web in 2003, but with a history beginning in the 1990s, the Quilt Index is a collaborative project of the Alliance for American Quilts, MATRIX: Center for Humane Arts, Letters and Social Sciences Online, and Michigan State University Museum. The project has received multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Contributors include the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress and an extensive slate of regional, state, and international organizations.

Online collections include quilts both historic and contemporary and those produced in the United States and internationally. The

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