

## **Brief Description of My Institution and Clientele**

My institution is the St. Charles Parish Library (<http://www.stcharles.lib.la.us>). It is a medium-sized public library system, and many different types of people use this library since the community it is located in is quite diverse. From older and middle-aged adults visiting the library to check out books for pleasure reading to teenagers utilizing the computers to check their MySpace pages and do research for school projects to mothers bringing their children in for storytimes, it would be hard to develop a list of just ten web sites suited to these diverse needs.

Since the majority of our computer users are students of middle to high school age, I have developed the list with their needs in mind. They are more likely to use electronic resources that they have found themselves for their assignments rather than ask a library staff member for help, so having a list of reputable web sites for them to begin their research with would be helpful. Some of the links are included because local schools tend to give the same types of assignments yearly and having electronic access to these resources would be beneficial. Other links have been included because they are geared toward this age group's general concerns. All of the top ten links are to sites that have good design standards.

## **Top Twenty-five Web Sites for My Institution**

### **America's Library**

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi>

### **Bartleby.com: Great Books Online**

<http://www.bartleby.com/index.html>

### **Bureau of Labor Statistics Career Information Home Page**

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm>

### **Chemical Elements.com**

<http://www.chemicalelements.com/index.html>

### **Don't Buy It – Advertising Tricks**

<http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/advertisingtricks/>

### **Encyclopedia Mythica**

<http://www.pantheon.org/>

### **Essentials of Music**

<http://www.essentialsofmusic.com/>

### **Exploratorium**

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/index.html>

### **How Stuff Works**

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

### **Human Anatomy Online**

<http://www.innerbody.com/htm/body.html>

### **Infoplease: Encyclopedia, Almanac, Atlas, Biographies, Dictionary, Thesaurus**

<http://www.infoplease.com/>

### **The Internet Movie Database (IMDb)**

<http://www.imdb.com/>

### **Invention Dimension**

<http://web.mit.edu/invent/invent-main.html>

**Louisiana.gov**

<http://www.louisiana.gov/wps/portal/>

**MLA Formatting and Style Guide – The OWL at Purdue**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

**The Motley Fool: Teens & Their Money**

<http://www.fool.com/teens/teens.htm>

**MyPyramid.gov**

<http://www.mypyramid.gov/>

**A Periodic Table of the Elements at Los Alamos National Laboratory**

<http://periodic.lanl.gov/default.htm>

**Peterson’s College Search**

<http://www.petersons.com/ugchannel/code/searches/srchCrit1.asp>

**The Presidents of the United States**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index.html>

**Religion and Ethics**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

**The Renaissance Connection**

<http://www.renaissanceconnection.org/>

**Shakespeare: Subject to Change**

<http://www.ciconline.org/bdp1/>

**SparkNotes: Today’s Most Popular Study Guides**

<http://www.sparknotes.com/>

**TeensHealth**

<http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/>

**Teenwire.com**

<http://www.teenwire.com/>

**Urban Legends Reference Page**

<http://www.snopes.com>

**The World Factbook**

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

**Top Ten Web Sites for My Institution**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Career Information Home Page**

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm>

**Format**

This is an online source with ties to the print version of the Occupational Outlook Handbook. It provides students an introduction to various broad career fields with easy accessibility to more in-depth research.

**Scope**

The teacher’s guide to BLS career information states that this section of the site is geared toward students, so the subject matter has been slightly simplified from the source that it is taken from, the actual Occupational Outlook Handbook. Each career on this student site, however, does

provide links back to the complete Occupational Outlook Handbook. There are also twelve main divisions of occupations on the site, and those divisions cover interests common to many students. This site is updated every two years; this coincides with the publication of each new edition of the printed Occupational Outlook Handbook. There is a “last modified date” on the bottom of every page that has a job description.

**Relation to Similar Works**

As stated above, it is similar to the print version of the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Few career web sites are as complete as this one.

**Authority**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is the author of this site; it is the agency that finds labor and economic facts and statistics for the federal government as well as disseminates its findings to other sections of the government and the American public. The Occupational Outlook Handbook has been a nationally recognized source of information for more than fifty years.

**Treatment of Information**

This student section is written in a way that is easier to read; it is geared toward a younger audience and provides a broad overview of the career. And although it is written in a slightly simplified way, little actual content is lost. If interested, the user can then proceed to the actual version of the Handbook, which is written for a slightly older audience.

**Arrangement of Topics**

The site is arranged in a similar way throughout. There are links to the twelve main categories in easy-to-find places on each page. There are also links on each career page that will send the user to certain sections that are common descriptors to each career, such as ‘how much does this job pay?’

**Special Features**

This site is straightforward. There are no videos or audio files on the site. It relies on a clean interface and appropriate links to get its information to its users.

**Cost**

Not only is everything on this site free, it is also in the public domain since it is prepared by a government organization.

**Outside Evaluation**

YALSA (the ALA division for Young Adult services) linked to the actual Occupational Outlook Handbook, and I found this to be better suited to the audience that I am trying to reach.

**Why Chosen**

Many teens that come into the public library are looking for career information. They often have to do projects that require them to research various aspects of careers that they may want to pursue after graduating high school. The information found through this web site and its print counterpart is often exactly what they are looking for. It is the best career-focused web site that I have found, from its ease of use to the wide variety of careers that it includes.

**Encyclopedia Mythica**

<http://www.pantheon.org/>

**Format**

This is an online encyclopedia of mythology, folklore and legends from around the world. There are many articles on a wide variety of subjects in these categories, as well as images and genealogical information.

**Scope**

This resource sets itself up as a site that deals with all things related to mythology, folklore and legends. The encyclopedia provides information about many different cultures, but it is heavily focused on the Greek culture. Granted, when researching mythology, information about Greek Mythology is usually what our user is asking for and takes up a larger section in the mythology section of the print collection. This is not to say that everything else takes a backseat to the Greek section, as there are articles dealing with subjects like Latvian mythology as well as a large section on Native American mythology. Although there is much more information on some cultural groups than others, there seems to be a good balance between what is readily available on Encyclopedia Mythica and what our users' demands will be.

**Relation to Similar Works**

Other mythology web sites are not as thorough as this one, and they also tend to focus on one culture's mythology. The print collection on this subject in my institution is geared toward Greek mythology, and I cannot recall seeing much information on a lot of the subjects found on this site. It has a broad reach with focused articles, something that none of our printed materials have.

**Authority**

The bottom of each page contains who the author of that page is and most contain when the page was created and last modified. In the event that the information was obtained from an outside source, such as in the images section, that source is cited. Although anyone can submit material to the site, there is a staff that verifies and edits those submissions. The staff includes experts in various types of mythology and folklore.

**Treatment of Information**

The welcome page states that the information found on this site is good for serious researchers, students, and casual readers. After looking over the images, charts, and articles, I do think that it is good for these diverse groups as there are different sorts of resources found on the site.

**Arrangement of Topics**

Each page contains a 'you are here' hierarchical description of where the page that the user is viewing fits into the rest of the site, which is a helpful navigational tool. The mythology section is divided in to Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Oceania. Clicking these links will divide those sections further and then lead the user to a broad overview of that area and a link to browse articles about the chosen subject. The folklore section has general folklore, Arthurian legends, and folktales from other lands. There are special sections (image gallery, bestiary, heroes, and genealogical tables) to aid in further research. In each article, if a name or subject is mentioned and there is another article on it, there is a link to that article. There is also a search box on every page to facilitate keyword searching.

**Special Features**

Besides having various ways of organizing information through links, there are no special features found on this web site.

**Cost**

The information page states that while the encyclopedia is free, donations are appreciated.

**Outside Evaluation**

The Machine-Assisted Reference Section of the Reference and User Services Association division of the American Library Association included Encyclopedia Mythica in its Best Free Reference Web Sites List for the year 2001.

**Why Chosen**

I chose this web site for providing a wide range of subject matter while having in-depth articles on each of these subjects. This does not focus just on one type of mythology or folklore; rather, it includes information from cultures around the world and provides resources that are easy to use for my intended audience.

## **How Stuff Works**

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

### **Format**

HowStuffWorks is an online publishing company that describes how everyday objects as well as stranger things (like Science Fiction Musicals) work.

### **Scope**

HowStuffWorks states that it provides thousands of articles, features, and illustrations. HowStuffWorks has recently acquired the online businesses of Mobile Travel Guide and Consumer Guide, two elements that are to be integrated into HowStuffWorks so that consumers will be able to see how stuff works and make better decisions when it comes time to buy things.

### **Relation to Similar Works**

If the user were to look up the individual object or term that he or she was interested in learning more about, the results may be overwhelming. HowStuffWorks is a good starting place for users trying to learn the basics about how something works and provide them with more information so that they will be able to perform more exact searches. My library does have a reference book that sets out to do the same thing as this web site.

### **Authority**

Each article lists an author links to his or her credentials. There is a list of fourteen people who work with the articles, so the user is able to see what sort of background the author has. All but one of them has at least a bachelor's degree. Some, but not all of the articles contain the date that they were added as well as a list of sources consulted.

### **Treatment of Information**

This site is designed for the general public, so it does not delve too deeply into highly technical matters; however, the language is not so simple as to be unusable for teen and adult audiences.

### **Arrangement of Topics**

There are ten subject areas: Auto Stuff, Science Stuff, Health Stuff, Entertainment Stuff, Computer Stuff, Electronics Stuff, Home Stuff, Money Stuff, People Stuff, and Shop for Stuff. These are then broken down into more specific subjects. There is also a search box that performs keyword searches of the site and the Web. While in the topic articles, there is a navigation box at the top of every page, and the end of each article provides links to related articles on HowStuffWorks.

### **Special Features**

There are pictures in all of the articles; some are actual photographs while others are labeled diagrams. Some of those diagrams are even animated to provide a better understanding of how the object works. While a printed source may have the illustrations, it would not be able to have these illustrations. There is also a spot for readers to add their comments. The Mobile Travel Guide section of the site is still in its Beta stage, and the quick search feature leaves a little to be desired, but the other sections provide slightly more information on topics.

### **Cost**

The site is free, but there are ads and items can be bought through the site.

### **Outside Evaluation**

The Association for Library Service to Children division of the American Library Association included this link on its list of great web sites for kids.

### **Why Chosen**

I had the Exploratorium in my list of top twenty-five sites, but I felt that it was similar to HowStuffWorks, which had a much larger subject base and was easier to navigate. It did not stop with just science topics; there are articles on a wide variety of general and specific topics. HowStuffWorks also provided more in-depth information about its subjects while not becoming cumbersome.

## **Infoplease: Encyclopedia, Almanac, Atlas, Biographies, Dictionary, Thesaurus**

<http://www.infoplease.com/>

### **Format**

This is the online version of the Information Please Almanac. Users can search the entire site or limit their results to information found in almanacs, the atlas, encyclopedias, dictionaries, or thesauruses.

### **Scope**

Information Please is designed to provide answers to factual questions using ready reference sources. It is not designed for in-depth research; rather, it provides only quick answers or basic background information, and it does this very well. However, the number of subjects it does cover is great: world news, United States, history and government, biography, sports, arts and entertainment, business, society and culture, and health and science. It also contains a homework center as well as Fact Monster, the part of the site geared toward younger students.

### **Relation to Similar Works**

Many of the information found on this site can be found elsewhere. For example, information about the individual states in the United States of America can be found in many different sources. What Infoplease does, however, is provide all of this diverse information about the individual states, such as printable maps, basic state facts, where it ranks in various categories and census data, for example, all in one place. Infoplease provides this sort of information for many topics, such as world religions and biographies. And, of course, the library has a print version of this almanac as well as other almanacs that have similar information. Having it available online, however, makes it more likely that the intended audience will use the information found in this resource.

### **Authority**

Information Please has been in business for over sixty years. It is also a part of Pearson Education, an educational publisher that also owns Prentice Hall and Scott Foresman, among others. Although the names of the authors are not found with the articles, where the article is from is cited, whether it be from an included encyclopedia or the Information Please Database.

### **Treatment of Information**

The information is displayed just as Infoplease set out to do. There are short descriptions of subjects and a lot of basic information. It is written for a general audience that is interested in finding out just the facts about the topic.

### **Arrangement of Topics**

There is a search box that allows the user to use a keyword search on either the entire site or specific reference sources found in the site. The list of subjects covered is arranged in an easy to use format, and the links are intuitive.

### **Special Features**

The user can enter a year and Infoplease will display a list of events that happened, which is good for the yearly assignment of describing what happened in the year of the student's birth. The user can also get the daily almanac, which includes 'This Day in History,' 'Today's Birthday,' and 'Word of the Day' in an RSS feed. There are also quizzes, Sudoku and crossword puzzles that interested parties can do right on the site.

### **Cost**

This site is free to use; it does have advertisements and a link to ordering copies of the print version of the almanac.

### **Outside Evaluation**

The Machine-Assisted Reference Section of the Reference and User Services Association division of the American Library Association included Infoplease in its Best Free Reference Web Sites List for the year 1999. It was also on a list of suggested sources in Bopp and Smith's *Reference and Information Services* text for this class.

### **Why Chosen**

This site includes so much information about so many different topics, yet it is easy to use and search through. It is not a site that just provides links to other authoritative sources about certain subjects; rather, Infoplease has these sources at its disposal and integrates them into the site. It is a good, general site for the intended audience of this list of links.

### **MLA Formatting and Style Guide – The OWL at Purdue**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

#### **Format**

This site is designed to provide updated MLA and APA formatting and style guides for writers of research papers. Clicking on the specific style that is desired will bring the user to that specific information.

#### **Scope**

For both MLA and APA styles, this site is divided into sections that discuss the following: general format of the paper, two types of in-text citations, formatting quotations; footnotes and endnotes, the works cited or reference list page, citing various types of resources, and additional resources. The site provides explanations and examples of the aforementioned topics in an easy to understand way.

#### **Relation to Similar Works**

There are a lot of citation guides found on the web, but none were as complete as this one. It contains the two types of citation styles that my institution's users request most often (MLA and APA), and provides great explanations and examples of the formats used when citing specific types of resources.

#### **Authority**

The site was prepared by the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University, which is affiliated with that university's English department. The authors and date that the pages were last updated are found at the top of every page.

#### **Treatment of Information**

Although this site is produced by Purdue University, presumably for its students, it is written in a way that anyone needing information on how to format a research paper in MLA or APA style would find it useful.

#### **Arrangement of Topics**

There are links at the bottom of each page to specific sections of the style guide. This makes it easy for the user to find the sort of information for which he or she is looking.

#### **Special Features**

This web site provides a printable version of its information for users to use. It also has a general writing guide.

#### **Cost**

Using the web site is free, and even printing a number of copies is allowed. OWL requests that if the user is making a large number, however, to please let them know because a nominal charge may be assessed.

#### **Outside Evaluation**

The Association for Library Service to Children division of the American Library Association included a link to the old version of the OWL on its list of great web sites for kids. After searching more of the site, I found this current version.

### **Why Chosen**

Most students who come into my institution ask for guides for either MLA or APA style. This web site begins with an introduction about both of them and then the user can choose the appropriate style. Research papers are always a big project at the local schools, and having this resource would be helpful to the staff and students.

### **The Motley Fool: Teens & Their Money**

<http://www.fool.com/teens/teens.htm>

#### **Format**

This is an online guide for teens about money, investing, and other things financial.

#### **Scope**

This teen section aims to give teens the basics about investing and more details about what certain financial terms mean. It also provides advice from other teens as well as the Motley Fool writers.

#### **Relation to Similar Works**

There are many financial books as well as many financial web sites, but they are either too in-depth or very basic. The Motley Fool web site, however, is in the middle; it does not talk down to teens while providing them with important financial information. If the teens do require more information, they can always register with the site to gain access to more extensive information.

#### **Authority**

All of the factual articles found in the teen section were written by Selena Maranjian of the Motley Food. She has an M.B.A. from Wharton. The Motley Fool has been in business for over ten years and they have written books as well as a syndicated newspaper column. There are no dates found for when the sections were last updated, but the information is timely.

#### **Treatment of Information**

Since this site is geared toward teens, the language used is definitely appropriate for teens. It uses slightly less formal language, which is useful for getting teens to keep reading and understand better. When talking about stocks, it uses stocks for companies that produce products that are teen-centered. That is a little thing, but it goes a long way in getting teens to understand.

#### **Arrangement of Topics**

The actual Motley Food web site has a much better arrangement of topics, but the teen section is just fourteen headlines for users to choose from about different financial topics. It does cover a wide variety of useful topics, but there is no hierarchy or specific arrangement of topics; the user just has to read the headline and choose what he or she wants to learn more about.

#### **Special Features**

The teen section of the site does not have special features, but users can take advantage of sections of the main site. For example, there are stock graphs and data, discussion boards, a sort of school for users interested in specific topics, and a personalized 'My Fool' section.

#### **Cost**

The actual Motley Food web site requires the user to register (for free) to gain access to articles on the site. This teen section of the site, however, does not require any registration. There are links to purchasing the books throughout the site.

#### **Outside Evaluation**

In the September 2003 "Web Site Review" section of *School Library Journal*, an article was written ("Teens and Their Money") that linked to the Motley Fool web site.

### **Why Chosen**

The world of finance is foreign to most people, and especially to teens who are just starting out by having their first jobs. Providing a link to this sort of information may be helpful to those teens that do have a job and are wondering what to do with their earnings as well as teens looking for ways to make money. Most other financial web sites are geared toward adult earners.

### **The Presidents of the United States**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index.html>

#### **Format**

This is an online list of presidents linked from the official site of the White House.

#### **Scope**

This site aims to provide biographical information about all of the presidents that the United States has had as its leader. It does this by providing a succinct biography of the president's life and work as well as a list of basic facts, such as when he was president, his birth date, his death date (if applicable), and a link to his wife's biography page also found on the White House's web site.

#### **Relation to Similar Works**

Any sort of general biographical source would have information about these presidents, but this site provides the authoritative backing of the White House.

#### **Authority**

The biographies on this site come from *The Presidents of the United States of America*, a book written by Frank Freidel and Hugh S. Sidey. It is published by the White House Historical Association with the cooperation of the National Geographic Society.

#### **Treatment of Information**

All of the former presidents' pages are arranged in the same way. The current president's page, however, has a slightly fancier format and can be viewed in Spanish. The language is slightly more formal than the other pages that I have included, but it is still the best source for basic information about the presidents of the United States.

#### **Arrangement of Topics**

From the main page, the user can arrange the list of presidents alphabetically by last name or by date of service. This simple feature could be very useful to students who may not know exactly where the specific president needed fits into the grand presidential scheme of things.

#### **Special Features**

If the president has a presidential library, that information and a link to the library are included at the end of the article.

#### **Cost**

This site is completely free. There are no advertisements.

#### **Outside Evaluation**

The Association for Library Service to Children division of the American Library Association included this link on its list of great web sites for kids.

### **Why Chosen**

The White House is a great web site for finding out information about certain aspects of the history of the United States. This section of the site, the section with biographies of all of the presidents, can open up this world to teens. As they are looking for information about the president they have to find information about, they can look at other sections of the site. This section with the presidents is, of course, wonderful in its own right since it provides an easy to use interface and the same format is in place for most of the information included.

## **SparkNotes: Today's Most Popular Study Guides**

<http://www.sparknotes.com/>

### **Format**

This is an online study guide site for students. It includes many different subjects, all free to use.

### **Scope**

This site exists to help students with basic skills to enable them to ultimately achieve their academic goals. They began with providing literature guides, but they have expanded to subjects that include test prep, grammar, foreign language, science, math, and history.

### **Relation to Similar Works**

This site is obviously similar to the classic Cliffs Notes guides. Despite the bad press that these types of materials get, they are really great resources when they are used in conjunction with the actual book. It gives the reader something else to think about when reading, as well as explaining more difficult themes and symbolism.

### **Authority**

SparkNotes are written by students or recent graduates who specialize in the subjects that they are writing about. When the user clicks on the grey 'How do I cite this SparkNote' bar, the name of the author can be found. They are part of the Barnes & Noble publishing group.

### **Treatment of Information**

This site is easy to use and easy to read. It is obviously written for students who are of the reading level for these types of subjects, and that is the way that the guides are written. The language is academic, but not to the point that it is hard to understand.

### **Arrangement of Topics**

The literature guides are the main focus of the site. The user can search for the needed book or browse a list of titles. Each title has a table of contents, where the basic information about the book can be found, including information about themes, characters, and links to the summaries of different sections of the book. This is a very easy to use way of arranging materials.

As for the other topics, the site begins with a major heading, such as math then narrows it down to types of math, and then the user can choose the specific information that he or she needs. There is also a navigational box on every screen of the guides as well as a hierarchical description of where the page that the user is viewing fits into the rest of the site.

It is impressive that the amount of information contained in this site is available at no cost to the user yet still arranged in such an attractive way.

### **Special Features**

Users can access all of the SparkNotes information for no cost. There are also links to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus right on the site for users. There is also a message board on the site, but it is mostly filled with students who are looking for easy answers to their assignments rather than people working together to find answers.

### **Cost**

There is no cost to use the site, but print copies of the SparkNotes guides as well as downloadable PDFs can be purchased through the site. There are advertisements for other companies on this site.

### **Outside Evaluation**

The Machine-Assisted Reference Section of the Reference and User Services Association division of the American Library Association included Encyclopedia Mythica in its Best Free Reference Web Sites List for the year 2004

### **Why Chosen**

Teens often need help understanding certain aspects of the literature that they have been assigned for school. This site explains things in an easy-to-understand way. Besides the literature guides, the site contains guides on many other subjects, such as history and science. There is

also a test prep section as well as help choosing a college. This site was much more in-depth and more user-friendly than the Peterson's site I included in my top twenty-five.

### **TeensHealth**

<http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/>

#### **Format**

This is an online site that provides links to articles about topics important to teens' well-being.

#### **Scope**

The site is designed for teens that want straightforward information about health topics, friends and relationships, and growing up.

#### **Relation to Similar Works**

Because this site contains so much information about so many different topics, I cannot think of other works that do the same thing. My library does have materials that deal with specific subjects that are found on this site, but nothing as complete.

#### **Authority**

This site was created by the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. It has been online for over ten years, and contains doctor-approved information. Medical experts review the content of the site before it is published and the published information is also reevaluated on a regular basis. Each section contains the author's name with a link to his or her qualifications as well as the last date it was reviewed.

#### **Treatment of Information**

The site does not 'dumb-down' the information in its articles, but it does make sure that they are written in easy to understand language. The authors are very good about defining medical words, and they even usually provide the pronunciation for them.

#### **Arrangement of Topics**

The topics covered in this site include your body, your mind, sexual health, food and fitness, recipes, drugs and alcohol, questions and answers, diseases and conditions, infections, school and jobs, and staying safe. When clicking one of these broad topics, the user can then find the topic that is geared best toward what is needed. There is also a search box on every page.

#### **Special Features**

There are short animations with audio included in certain articles. The user can also choose to email articles right through the site. There is also a link to viewing certain articles in Spanish.

#### **Cost**

This site is free and has no advertisements.

#### **Outside Evaluation**

The Association for Library Service to Children division of the American Library Association included a link to the Kids Health section of this web site on its list of great web sites for kids. I chose to use the Teens Health link because it is more appropriate to my audience.

#### **Why Chosen**

This site includes subjects that change considerably during the teen years. Although teenwire.com was a great site for dealing with sexual health, TeensHealth deals with sexual health as well as a number of other important topics.

## **Urban Legends Reference Page**

<http://www.snopes.com>

### **Format**

This online resource provides the text of stories of unknown truth and determines their validity.

### **Scope**

This site intends to discover the truth behind urban legends, old wives' tales, strange stories and rumors, among other things.

### **Relation to Similar Works**

My library does have a reference book on urban legends, and this web site is a great addition to researching that topic.

### **Authority**

The authors of the site are Barbara and David Mikkelson. Each article contains the sources that the author consulted as well as the date that the page was last updated.

### **Treatment of Information**

The information found on this web site is easy to understand and easy to read. Some of the original legends can be a bit difficult to follow, but the following explanations do try to explain them as well as show the truth in the matter.

### **Arrangement of Topics**

There are forty-three subjects found on the main page, from topics ranging from Disney to toxins. Clicking one of these subjects will bring up a link of topics and the user can then find the one that is most appropriate. There is also a search box on each page that allows easier searching when it is unknown what subject the user's topic would fall into.

On each article page, the author states a succinct version of the topic, whether the claim is true, and the origins of the claim. There is also a link of sources used that the user can visit to learn more about the topic.

### **Special Features**

There are pictures and copies of original documents on the site where it is appropriate. There is also a glossary that tries to explain the difference between such terms as 'urban legend' and folklore.

### **Cost**

This site is free, but there are advertisements throughout the site and donations are accepted.

### **Outside Evaluation**

Carol Marshall, a children's librarian, included this link in an article she wrote for *School Library Journal* in January 2002 about web sites that focus on odd information and could be used by students. YALSA (the ALA division for Young Adult services) also linked to this web site.

### **Why Chosen**

There is a lot of misinformation that is found on the Internet, from seemingly legit web sites to forwarded chain emails, and the Urban Legends Reference Page aims to shed some truth on those subjects.