



Do you remember life before the Internet? Many of us relied on the library for the encyclopedia, back copies of magazines, and microfiche for old newspapers. Now we have even more information at our fingertips—literally and figuratively.

While Google and Wikipedia are well-known, here are a few Web sites to help you with your next writing project.

The World Factbook is hosted by the CIA and has detailed information about countries around the world. In addition to more common information like the population and type of government of a given country, you can learn about common infectious diseases and natural hazards.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

NationMaster compiles information from The World Factbook, United Nations and other sources for statistics on “everything from soldiers to wall plug voltages.” If your organization is looking to work internationally, the economy statistics might be helpful.

<http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>

StateMaster claims it can compare states in 3,000 different ways. From the number of alligator attacks (Florida tops the list with 337) to a state-by-state ranking of the percentage of grandparents caring for their grandchildren, you can probably find the statistic you need for your report.

<http://www.statemaster.com/index.php>

Google News Archive searches news records on any topic. A search of John F. Kennedy returns news articles back to 1960 without a long list of other extraneous Kennedy Web sites. If you’re looking for a particular fact reported in the news, this site will eliminate unnecessary scrolling through the long list of sites returned by a general Google search.

[http://news.google.com/archivesearch?sugg=d&as\\_ldate=1960&as\\_hdate=1960&hrange=1963,2009&hl=en](http://news.google.com/archivesearch?sugg=d&as_ldate=1960&as_hdate=1960&hrange=1963,2009&hl=en)

Authoratory lists experts in the areas of chemistry, biology and medicine. If you need an expert on a particular medical condition or environmental issue, this is the site for you. You can find lists of faculty at major universities and key researchers at international corporations. <http://www.authoratory.com/>

GooFresh is a useful tool that lets you search for sites added or updated recently. If you find yourself searching the same key words weekly or monthly, this site will simplify your life.

<http://www.researchbuzz.org/2003/09/goofresh.shtml>

If you need help with research for your curriculum or training materials, give me a call. I can help you find the statistics you need and present the information in an engaging, yet informative manner.

Thanks to Mary Ellen Bates of [Bates Information Services](#) for the leads on these research sites.

Karen DeYoung is principal of DeYoung Consulting Services, which provides quality learning experiences for individuals and groups. We develop training materials and activities that advance individual, team, and organizational learning. Our work is done with integrity, reliability, and accountability.

DeYoung Consulting Services  
Helping People Learn up to Their Potential  
4834 Park Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
(612) 822-8872  
(612) 220-3440 mobile  
deyoung4@aol.com  
[www.deyoungconsultingservices.com](http://www.deyoungconsultingservices.com)