

THE MOST USEFUL SITES ON THE WEB

In the 21st century, information is the name of the game, and the internet has revolutionized the common man's ability to get information. I have been cruising the `Net since 1995. Over the last few years, I have found some really useful sites, many of which I have revisited time and time again, usually on a weekly basis. I present for your consideration the following list, which I consider "The 25 Most Useful Sites on the Internet":

1 [American Factfinder](#)

Your primary source for population, housing, economic and geographic data, from the U.S. Census Bureau. Looking for average family income, racial mix or other data for a state, county or city? This is the place to find what you're looking for quickly!

2 [One Look Online Dictionary](#)

Need to find a word quickly? Don't drag out your dictionary...visit this site! This site consolidates all the online dictionaries, including over 4.2 MILLION words! Even links to dictionaries with internet and computer terms (e.g.-enter YAHOO). This site also has a wildcard spellcheck that will find words beginning with, ending with, or containing, a string of characters! Also, check out [WWW Webster Online Dictionary](#), which includes a Thesaurus!

3 [MapQuest](#)

Enter an address and get an instant map, with a star marking the location of the address. Then zoom in or out, request local shopping, dining or lodging locations, and even get turn-by-turn directions with mini maps to help get you there! [Maps On Us](#) is another excellent source for the same thing.

4 [NoNags](#)

Looking to try some new software? NoNags specializes in finding freeware or shareware that does not NAG you to register, and has HUNDREDS of software titles you can download and try, listed by category and rated by the site's owner. Other great source for software are [TuDogs](#) and [TuCows](#)

5 [Bored.com](#)

If you're BORED, go here. It will keep you entertained for HOURS. Actually an extensive list of interesting, unique and off-beat sites on the internet, like the [BIRTHDAY SERVER](#), where you can look up her birthday, if you have her name and zipcode (doesn't have everybody in the U.S. - only 135,000,000 - about 50%)!

6 [Purportal.com - The bunk stops here!](#)

Few things bog down the internet as much as emails urging you to "Forward this to everyone you know." It might involve a missing child or a supposed new virus going around or a chance to make money because the number of emails you send are being "tracked." To find out if it's legit, go to this site first and check it out. They have five searches to real info on just about every rumor, hoax or urban legend on the `Net. Enter a few keywords from the email in question into their search, and get the truth!

7 [The Secret Guide to Computers](#)

The online version of the book makes this one of the better places on the web to get all your answers to your computer questions. PC Magazine says, "Whether novice or expert, you'll learn from the Guide and have a good time doing so. No other computer book is a better value."

8 [USPS Zipcode+4 Lookup](#)

Quickly find the 9-digit zipcode for any delivery address in the U.S., and speed up delivery of your mailing.

9 [FirstGov](#)

"Your First Click to the U.S. Government" No matter what you're looking for within the U.S. Government, this is the place to start. Everything from applying for student loans to tax information can be found here!

10 [Mail 2 Web](#)

Ever been at the AIA convention and seen a bank of free computers on the convention floor, and wished there was some way to check your email? Or been visiting a friend in another city who has a computer, and wished you could check your email from his computer? Well, now you CAN! Go to this site, enter your complete email address and email password for any POP email account, and check your email from any computer with a browser. You can also selectively delete junk mail, reply, and forward!

11 [My Yahoo](#)

There are lots of Portals available on the Web, but My Yahoo is still my portal of choice. You can modify the portal to meet your needs: local weather, sports and news, what's showing at local theatres and local TV, track your stock portfolio, and TONS more to give you just what you want at the click of a button. It's been my start page for years, and if you give it a good look, I'm sure it will be yours, too!

12 [Information Please](#)

Online Almanac with loads of information on just about any topic. Also check out their [Fact Monster](#).

13 [Google](#)

There is an estimated 1,500 search engines on the web, but this one is the one I use, because I find what I'm looking for EVERY TIME using this one. The only truly intelligent `Net Search!

14 [About Quotations: All-in-one Quotations Search](#)

Looking for a quotation? There are several sources to search for a quotation on the web, but this one searches all the major quotation databases for your quote!

15 [The Internet Movie Database](#)

What's coming out at the theatre soon, or on TV or DVD or Video? And is it worth seeing? You can find out on this site, the most complete database on the topic of movies anywhere. Characters, plots, star biographies, quotes and ratings on every movie ever made!

16 [The Internet Public Library](#)

An entire library at your fingertips! By the University of Michigan School of Information. Special areas for Teens and Youth, too!

17 [Price Watch](#)

Thinking about buying a new digital camera, printer, PDA, notebook, computer, memory, etc.? Then you really should check here first, because it will help you locate the best street price for just about anything electronic!

18 [How Things Work](#)

Ever wondered how something works? You can find out here. Sponsored by the University of Virginia, the people who run this site will try to answer any question you may have about how things work, from how a paper towel absorbs water to how the universe is expanding, and everything in between!

19 [HyperHistory](#)

If you're into World History, you should really get into this site. 2,000 files covering 3,000 years of world history! You might also want to check out [TheHistoryNet](#), touted as "the World's Best History Archives."

20 [Global Dining](#)

Find restaurants by country, state or zipcode, FAST! For more information on dining establishments, visit [Fodor's Restaurant Guide Online](#).

21 [iTools](#)

The consummate Virtual Reference Desk! A virtual compendium of search tools for everything you're looking for!

22 [The Why Files](#)

The science behind the news. You can literally spend HOURS on this site. Be sure to visit their archives, and I guarantee you'll learn something you didn't know!

23 [Cindi's List of Geneology Sites](#)

If you plan to do geneological research on your family, this is the place to start, with over 126,600 links in 150 categories to geneology resources!

24 GolfCourse.com

If you're a golfer looking for a course to play, start here! They have info on over 20,000 courses worldwide. A joint venture of Sports Illustrated and Golf Magazine. Complete course information, directions, facilities, user ratings and even a scorecard for most courses!

25 [So You Wanna](http://SoYouWanna.com)

Teaches you how to do all the things nobody taught you in school: how to avoid getting a traffic ticket, how to fake being a wine expert, how to talk with the dead, how to lose weight, how to be a movie extra, and much more.