

Web based Information Sources **with Reference to Forensic Science**

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Abstract: *Since from the dawn of human society information has a vital role in the development of the society in general. We find diversified explosion in all fields such as information explosion, population explosion, technological explosion, knowledge explosion. This led to the dynamism in creation, storage, distribution, delivery and demand for information. The “24X7, any time, any place information” paradigm of the networked environment is a challenge in the Information field. Internet, World Wide Web and Open Access have brought revolutionary changes in the field of Information. In this paper we try to bring forth various web based information sources in the field of Forensic Science.*

Key words: Web based information sources, Internet.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this electronic, information and technology scenario Libraries are transformed in to Information centres and there is a huge transition from printed to digital collections and e-resources. This has changed the roles and practices of traditional librarians and libraries into information professionals and information bureau, who facilitate access to various types and levels of information dissemination. The library and information professionals are well versed with the new e-information environment by procuring, organizing, accessing and disseminating various e-information sources as per requirements of the clientele. Web has a great role in providing access to diversified information sources in varied disciplines. Library and information professionals have active role to customize and optimize access to these resources.

2. INTERNET, WEB 2.0 AND LIBRARY 2.0

The origin of Internet and development of World Wide Web have revolutionized the information communication. The WWW is the most useful and powerful means of providing Internet resources combing hypertext and multimedia to provide a huge network of various resources. Web has enhanced the value of Internet as medium of communication with web servers and browsers. IT techniques are used for information processing, storage, communication, dissemination of information, automation, etc.

Web 2.0 mainly emphasizes in user generated content, data and content sharing and collaborative effort, together with use of various kinds of social software, new ways of interacting with Web-based applications, and the use of the Web as a platform for generating, re-purposing and consuming content. Eg. Wikis, Blogs Mash-ups, Peer-to-peer networking, Podcast, RSS Web services. Library 2.0 is borrowed from Web 2.0 and Business 2.0 and is the application of the technologies of web 2.0 in Libraries will result in a meaningful and substantive change in libraries, its collection, services and methods of delivery of services.

3. WEB RESOURCES TYPES AND ACCESS

WWW consists of millions of resources in diversified disciplines. These resources are identified with URL (Uniform Resource Locators), where an identified resource is available and the mechanism for retrieving it. The best-known example of a URL is the address of a web page on the World Wide Web and home directory.

There are open access web resources which are freely available on web, Subscription based web resources and "invisible web" mainly refers to the vast repository of information that search engines and directories don't have direct access to, like databases. Unlike pages on the visible Web (that is, the Web that you can access from search engines and directories), information in databases is generally inaccessible to the software spiders and crawlers that create search engine indexes.

Access is possible to the web resources through URLs, web sites, web OPACs and search engines.

4. VARIOUS TYPES OF WEB BASED INFORMATION RESOURCES

This include Web sites, E-mail based information services, Online indexes and abstracts, Full text of documents, Usenet news, Online Directories, Online chatting, Virtual/ online conferencing, E-Journals and E-Books, List serve, Online-learning and online-courses, Subject Gateways and Portals, FAQs, Virtual Help Desks, Mailing Lists, Online- Book shops and many more.

5. NEED FOR WEB RESOURCES

Widespread proliferation of Information Technology has enabled the user community to have access to www/Internet.

User community wants to enhance their learning opportunities.

Educational Institutions enhance their competitiveness by training their manpower.

Web has enabled globalization of education and made it possible with e-learning and e-education by bringing all the learners on a single platform.

6. ADVANTAGES OF WEB RESOURCES

The advantages are International reach, speed of communication, unlimited capabilities, reduced cost, convenience, search ability and linking.

E-Books, E-Journals, E-Databases offer a solution for some of the problems faced by the libraries today. They are space saving, enhance the speed of communication, provide powerful searching tools, immediate access to desktop and provide facilities such as integrated text, hyper text links and multimedia that the printed books and journals can not offer.

7. FORENSIC SCIENCE AND WEB RESOURCES

Forensic Science historically has been identified closely with the criminal justice system, but now it plays an increasingly active role in civil litigation and in regulatory matters. Forensic Science is a unique scientific endeavour different from many conventional fields of science, which have been embraced by the court of law. It is a science devoted to using scientific methods and Procedures together with objective information which will be used to help in solving a crime. Forensic Science is an Interdisciplinary Science which embraces all branches of basic sciences

and life sciences. Being an inter and multi disciplinary subject, it has vast web based resources some of which are presented here in tabulated form.

The easy accessibility to internet and networking facilities has necessitated the adoption of proactive and preventive forensics to prevent crimes over internet. Forensic databanks on DNA, Firearm signature, seized explosive substances; seized IEDs, seized narcotic drugs, poisonous plants, etc. will enable the law enforcement agencies in the speedy disposal of cases as the desired information is readily available through different forensic data banks.

Here we have gathered the resources on the web from Forensic Science related websites.

7.1. OPEN DIRECTORY PROJECT

Now –a –days the web continues to grow at staggering rates. Automated search engines are increasingly unable to turn up useful results to search queries. Instead of fighting the explosive growth of information, the Open Directory provides the means for the Internet to organize itself. The Open Directory is the most widely distributed data base of Web content classified by humans. It is constructed and maintained by a vast, global community of volunteer editors. As the Internet grows, so do the number of net-citizens. These citizens can each organize a small portion of the web and present it back to the rest of the population, culling out the bad and useless and keeping only the best content.

Its editorial standards body of net-citizens provide the collective brain behind resource discovery on the Web. The Open Directory powers the core directory services for the Web’s largest and most popular search engines and portals, including Netscape Search, AOL Search, Google, Lycos, HotBot, DirectHit, and hundreds of others.

OPEN DIRECTORY SITES:

Forensic Science Resources -	- http://www.tncrimlaw.com/forensic
Wikipedia: Forensic Science	- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_science
Forensic Science Service	- http://www.forensic.gov.uk/
Advance Forensic Science Services	- http://www.afss.co.il/index.asp?lang=EN
Forensic Science Society -	http://www.forensic-science-society.org.uk/
A Dictionary for Science	http://www.adfs.state.al.us/
A Dictionary for Science Alabama	- http://www.dfs.virginia.gov/
Department of Forensic Science -	
Virginia Department of Forensic Science	
National Institute of Forensic Science -	http://www.nifs.com.au
Forensic Entomology	- http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/insects-spiders/insects-in-science/forensic-entomology/
Forensic Psychology and Legal Issues	- http://sosig.esrc.bris.ac.uk/roads/subject-listing/World-cat/forensic.html
Forensic Science -	http://www.science.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/s

	science/about/subjects/forensic_science.cfm)
Forensic Geology	-- http://www.forensicgeology.net/
- Zeno's Forensic Page	-- http://forensic.to/
Canadian Society of Forensic Science	- http://www.csfs.ca
The Forensic Science Society	--
	http://www.forensic-science-society.org.uk/
American Academy of Forensic Sciences	http://www.aafs.org/
International Association for Identification	-- http://www.theiai.org/
Forensic Science Communications	- --
	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/current/index.htm)
Foster and Freeman- Forensic Science Equipments	-- http://www.fosterfreeman.com/
Yahoo Directory of Forensic Science Resources	http://dir.yahoo.com/science/forensics/
Google Web Directory in Forensic Science	http://directory.google.com/top/science/science_in_society/Forensic_Science/

7. II. GLOBALLY AVAILABLE FORENSIC DATABASES

There are numerous databases available on the web which is very useful to Forensic Science experts and also to people from other subjects, one of which base is MEDLINE. It is a premier bibliographic database of National Library of Medicine covering various fields like Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry etc. Citations for MEDLINE are created by the NLM, International MEDLARS partners, Co-operating professional organizations. Every week MEDLINE records are incorporated into Pub Med (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.gov/pubmed/>), which will be assigned a Pub Med unique identifier.

National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology(NCSTL)	http://www.ncstl.org/
NCJRS: A Leading Research Tool for Forensic Scientist Since 1972	http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_go1613/is_1/ai_n31883554/
The Forensic Archive	http://www.digitalintelligence.com/products/forensic_archive_and_restore/
Forensic Science Service FORS Database	http://www.forensic.gov.uk/html/services/training/s/
Forensic Databases	http://www.forensic.to/aafs/database_files/frame1.htm
Combined DNA Index System (COIDS)	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/html/codis1.htm
The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) Home Page	http://www.asqde.org/
American Chemical Society (ACS)	http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content
STN Online Database (ACS)	http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841218628?cookieSet=1
Ingenta Connect (SEARCH FOR ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS)	http://www.ingentaconnect.com/
Short Tandem Repeat DNA Internet Database	http://www.dna.gov/basics/analysis/strbase
Firearms Image Library	http://www.recguns.com/Pictures/gunPictures.html
NIST Chemistry WebBook	http://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry/
United States Pharmacopeia Drug Database	http://www.usp.org/products/USPNF/

Virtual Library: Pharmacy Page:	http://www.pharmacy.org/company.html
Pharmaceutical Company Links	
The National Clearinghouse for	http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/about/aboutncadi.aspx
alcohol and Drug Information -	
Databases	
Expert Pages	http://expertpages.com/
Electric Library	http://www.elibrary.com/elibweb/elib/do/login
Dr. O' Conner's Criminal Justice	http://www.apsu.edu/oconnort/
Mega Sites- Criminal Justice Links	
LAW ENFORCEMENT SITES ON THE WEB-	http://www.ih2000.net/ira/ira.htm
law enforcement	
Cecil Greek's Home Page - Criminal	http://www.criminology.fsu.edu/faculty/greek/gree
justice links	ml
Law Database (FSU)	http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/admin/
Informed Drug Guide	http://www.infomed.org/100drugs/
RxList- The Internet Drug Index	http://www.rxlist.com/script/main/hp.asp
Common Drugs of Abuse Information	http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/
Index (NIDA)	
Controlled Substances Act	http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/csa.html
Medical Matrix	http://www.medmatrix.org/
Drug Data Base	http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/article/2010
	/NEWS01/4280301
College and University Home Pages -	http://studentcenter.ja.org/Pages/default.aspx
Alphabetical Listing	
Medline/PubMed	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/
Amazon.com	http://www.amazon.com/
WWW Virtual Library: Law	http://vlib.org/Law
Latent Print Manuals by Ed German	http://www.onin.com/fp/
Medscape	http://www.medscape.com/
Palynology Database	http://www.biostratigraphy.com/CookInlet.html

7.III. WEBSITES OF SPECIALISED DISCIPLINES IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Here we present the websites for global societies, associations and government organizations which cover multiple specialties. For specialty specific organizations, refer to each specialty's section in this webliography. The subject disciplines include Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Botany, Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology, Criminalistics, Ballistics, Forensic Entomology, Forensic DNA analysis, Forensic Dentistry, Questioned document examination etc.

Foreign	American Academy of Forensic Sciences	http://www.aafs.org/
Organizations		
Web Sites		
	American Society of Crime Laboratory	http://www.asclld.org/
	Directors	
	Armed Forces Institute of Pathology	http://www.afip.org/
	(AFIP)	
	Canadian Society of Forensic Science	http://www.csfs.ca/
	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	http://www.fbi.gov/
	The Forensic Science Society	http://www.forensic-science-
		society.org.uk/
	International Association for	http://www.theiai.org/

	Identification	
	National Institute of Justice (NIJ)	http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/
	American Board of Criminalistics(ABC)	http://www.criminalistics.com/
	Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society	http://www.anzfss.org.au/
Forensic Anthropology Web Sites	American board of Forensic Anthropology	http://www.csuchico.edu/anth/ABFA/
	Forensic Anthropology	http://medstat.med.utah.edu/kw/osteo/forensics/index.html
	Forensic Anthro.com	http://www.forensicanthro.com/
	International Association for Craniofacial Identification	http://www.forensicartist.com/IACI/index.html
	Online skeleton	http://www.personal.une.edu.au/~pbrown3/oskel.html
	Bodies of evidence	http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/B/bodies/index1.html
Forensic Botany Web Sites	Forensic Botany	http://myweb.dal.ca/jvandomm/forensicbotany
	Crime scene botanicals- Forensic botany(Botanical society of America)	http://www.botany.org/PlantTalkingpoints/crime.php
	Forensic Paleontology: Anew way to catch crooks	http://www.crimeandclues.com/pollen.htm
Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology	The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT)	http://www.tiaft.org/
	Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT)	http://www.soft-tox.org/
	The World Wide Web Virtual Library: Forensic Toxicology	http://home.lightspeed.net/~abarbour/vlibft.html
	Molecular Expressions: Optical Microscopy Primer	http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/index.html
	Guidelines for the Interpretation of Analytical Toxicology Results and Unit of Measurement Conversion Factors	http://www.leeds.ac.uk/acb/annals/Webwise/Webwise97-1.html
	ChemFinder.com	http://chemfinder.cambridgesoft.com/
	Mass Spectrometry Databases	http://www.ualberta.ca/~gjonnes/mslib.htm
Crime Scene Investigation & Criminalistics web sites	Crime-Scene-Investigation.net	http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net/index.html
	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Tutorial	http://www.bloodspatter.com/BPATutorial.htm
	Footwear & Tire Track Impression Evidence	http://members.aol.com/varfe/mastssite/index.html

	Latent Print Examination: Fingerprints, Palmprints and Footprints	http://onin.com/fp/
	Marks Working Group	http://www.intermin.fi/intermin/hankkeet/wgm/home.nsf/
	Ridges and Furrows	http://www.ridgesandfurrows.homestead.com/
	Forensic Fiber examination guidelines	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/backissu/aprill1999/houckto.htm
	Hairs, Fibers, Crime and Evidence	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/backissu/july2000/deedrick.htm
Forensic DNA WebSites	MITOMAP: A Human Mitochondrial Genome Database	http://www.mitomap.org/
	Mitochondrial DNA Concordance	http://shelob.bioanth.cam.ac.uk/mtDNA/toc.html
	Mitochondrial DNA Analysis in the FBI Laboratory	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/backissu/july1999/dnalist.htm
	STRBase	http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/
	National Center for Biotechnology Information	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
	Forensic Mathematics	http://dna-view.com/
	DNA Technology in Forensic Science	http://books.nap.edu/books/03090
Forensic Entomology	American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE)	http://www.forensicentomologist.org/
	Forensic Entomology Pages, International	http://folk.uio.no/mostarke/forens_ent/forensic_entomology.html
	Forensic Entomology: Insects in Legal Investigations	http://www.forensicentomology.com/index.html
Ethics in Forensic Science	Ethics in Science	{ http://www.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/ }
	American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Ethical Guidelines for the Practice of Forensic Psychiatry	{ http://www.forensic-psych.com/articles/artEthics.php }
	American Society of Crime Lab Directors Code of Ethics	{ http://www.asclld.org/ethics.html }
Explosives	International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI)	http://www.iabti.org/
	Analysis and Detection of Explosives: Published Papers, Reports and Presentations, 1988-1998	{ http://www.ncfs.ucf.edu/twg/fex/docs/Analysis%20and%20Detection%20of%20Explosives.pdf }
Firearms, Tool Marks & Ballistics	Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE)	http://www.afte.org/
	firearmsID.com	http://www.firearmsid.com/
	Firearms Tutorial	http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/TUTORIAL/GUNS/GUNINTRO.html

Forensic Odontology	American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO)	http://www.abfo.org/
	Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD)	http://www.boldlab.org/
	Forensic Dentistry Online	http://www.forensidentistryonline.org/
	Issues in Human and Animal Bite Mark (Bitemark) Management	http://www.forensic.to/webhome/bitemarks/
Questioned Document Examination	American Society of Questioned Document Examiners	http://www.asqde.org/
	American Board of Forensic Document Examiners	http://www.abfde.org/
	Questioned Documents Site of Emily J. Will	http://www.qdewill.com/
	Identifont	http://www.identifont.com/index.html
	Virtual Typewriter Museum	http://www.typewritermuseum.org/
	The Classic Typewriter Page	http://staff.xu.edu/~polt/typewriters/index.html
	Bookbinding: A Tutorial	http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/book/
	Omniglot	http://www.omniglot.com/
	CounterSpace	http://www.counterspace.us/typography/
	fonts.com	http://www.fonts.com/FindFonts/search.htm

7. IV. INDEXED E-JOURNALS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE (Abstracts and Full text)

There is no one index to the forensic sciences literature making finding where a journal is indexed often a challenge. Several key forensic science journals are only indexed in one index, only on the publisher's web site, or are selectively indexed by multiple indexes (e.g., in the journal *Science and Justice*, a publication of The Forensic Science Society, PubMed indexes biological related articles -- such as DNA analysis, and Web of Science indexes non-biologically related articles -- such as firearms topics).

American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology (2001-Present)	http://www.amjforensicmedicine.com/
Canadian Society of Forensic Science Journal	http://www.csfs.ca/csfs_journal.aspx
Forensic Science International (1995-Present)	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03790738
Forensic Science Review Indexes (1989-varies)	http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Galaxy/2044/index.html
Identification Canada	http://www.cis-sci.ca/Content/index.htm
Journal of Forensic Identification	http://www.theiai.org/publications/jfi.html

Australian Journal of Forensic Science	http://search.informit.com.au/browsejournaltitle;rec=E-Library,issn=0045-0618
British Journal of Forensic Science & Justice (formerly Journal of the Forensic Science Society)	http://www.pavpub.com/pavpub/journals/BJFP/index.asp http://www.forensic-science-society.org.uk/publications/saj.html

7. V. OPEN ACCESS E-JOURNALS & E-BOOKS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Many forensic science related journals are published by associations; therefore they have been slow to appear full text on the Web or are only available full text online to members. Below are some publications that are available free to all.

Crime and Clues: The Art and Science of Criminal Investigation	http://www.crimeandclues.com/index.htm
FACESforward	{ http://www.ga.lsu.edu/faces/forward.html }
FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin	http://www.fbi.gov/publications/leb/leeb.htm
Forensic Science Communications	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/current/index.htm
In the Spotlight: Forensic Science	http://www.ncjrs.org/forensic/summary.html
International Journal of Drug Testing	http://www.criminology.fsu.edu/journal
International Journal of Digital Evidence	http://www.utica.edu/academic/institutes/ecii/ijde
Forensic Net Base	http://www.forensicnetbase.com/
Handbook of Forensic Services	http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/handbook/forensics.pdf
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room	http://foia.fbi.gov/room.htm

7. VI. FORENSIC SCIENCE COURSES OFFERED BY VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

Many Universities offer Bachelors and Master courses in Forensic Science in India but few offer Research facilities.

Allahabad Agriculture Institute	www.aaidu.org/default.asp
Amity Institute of Behavioural Health and Applied Sciences	www.amity.edu/aibhas/prog.asp
Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	www.bujhansi.org/
Dr Harisingh Gour University, Sagar	www.sagar
	University.nic.in/dept/crim_home.htm

Gujarat University	www.gujaratuniversity.org.in
Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan	www.nicfs.nic.in/
National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences	
Punjabi University, Patiala	www.punjabiuniversity.ac.in
St.Xavier's College, Mumbai	www.xaviers.edu/frame12.htm
University of Lucknow	www.lkouniv.ac.in
University of Delhi	www.du.ac.in

7.VII. FORENSIC LABORATORIES & ORGANISATIONS IN INDIA

There are Forensic Laboratories in all the states in India. All these laboratories are governed by Directorate of Forensic Science. Here we present webliography of few laboratories and organizations.

Directorate of Forensic Science, Ministry of Home Affairs	http://dfs.gov.in/
Bureau of Police Research and Development	http://bprd.nic.in/
Finger Print bureau - CID, West Bengal	http://cidwestbengal.gov.in/specialunit-s-finger-print-bureau.php
Department of Explosives	www.explosives.nic.in
Central Forensic Science Laboratory, CBI	www.cbi.gov.in/cfssl/about.htm
National Crime Record Bureau	http://ncrb.nic.in/cfpb.htm
The A.P.State Forensic Science Laboratory	www.apfsl.org/
Haryana Forensic Science Laboratory	http://fslharyana.nic.in/
Uttar Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory	www.uppolice.up.nic.in/forensic.htm
Madhya Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory	http://www.mppolice.gov.in/dynamic/branches/fslcid.htm
Himachal Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory	http://himachal.nic.in/home/forensic/organisation.htm
Tamilnadu State Forensic Science Department	http://www.tn.gov.in/tamilforensic
National Bureau of Investigation	www.nbiindia.com/index.htm

8. CONCLUSION

The World Wide Web is highly useful in getting precious information of various subject fields including images and videos that are shared over the Internet. This has an added advantage over any other communication media because real time information can be gathered which consumes less time in accessing to the new events that are happening around the world. Access to the Web is simple, but handling enormous quantity of information on part of a librarian is really a tough job. So, the primary requisite on part of librarian is to organize the information. Looking for a specific piece of information on the internet is quite like searching for a needle in a hay stack. With thousands of sites out there how do the professional know which site contains the information user is looking for. In knowledge based society library 2.0 is a new paradigm which is user-centered change. In this paper an attempt has been made to give a glimpse of various Web Resources that are generated in the area of Forensic Science for dissemination of information.

World Wide Web has made Internet a paradigm in global communication and information flood is collapsing all boundaries, assembling together the whole user community under one roof.

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Zeno's Forensic Site. [Online]. Available. <http://www.forensic.to/>