

## Introduction

While looking over the options for journal entries, I found many that interested me. However, the digital libraries option really caught my attention because I will be putting together a website for the proposed "Kent State University East Liverpool Digital Archives Project" (KSUELDAP). This project is a joint effort between Kent State's East Liverpool Campus, The East Liverpool Historical Society, and the Carnegie Library of East Liverpool. Learning more about what is offered in other digital libraries and how they can be helpful to education, will help me to do a better job concerning my part in this project. The libraries listed below include many that I found to be very useful. I know I got a little carried away, but couldn't help my self!

## Libraries

### 1. Digital Book Index - <<http://www.digitalbookindex.org/about.htm>>

This site is not an online digital library, however, it is a wonderful resource for students and teachers alike. It is a meta-index for most major eBook sites, as well as, thousands of smaller specialized sites and provides links to more than 165,000 full-text digital books from more than 1800 commercial and non-commercial publishers, universities, and various private sites. More than 140,000 of these books, texts, and documents are available free and support is also provided for iPad, Kindle, and Nook. (DigitalBookIndex)

Examples of what you will find throughout this site is shown on the "About This site" page, and include reference books, basic texts in English and American Literature, thousands of history volumes, social science collections, medicine and health books, math and science books, books on philosophy and religion, books covering art, and legal resources. It doesn't stop there! There are thousands of links indexed to children's books, as well as, links to books covering business, education, area studies, and even links to free and commercial textbooks. This list can go on and on! I searched this site a little and was amazed at the high quality digital books I found that are free and can be saved on your computer as either a pdf or ePub file. The resources found on this site can be used in education for just about any subject you can think of. Students can use a lot of these free books for assigned book reports for English and History classes. History teachers that assign timeline projects can direct students to this site to use free reference books that cover certain timelines. Some of the

reference materials found on this site include writing and style guides, as well as, student study aids. I could go on and on with this. Another great benefit of this site is that those using it will most likely discover many other digital libraries they did not know existed. I did! You seriously need to check this site out!

## **2. Hathi Trust - <<http://www.hathitrust.org/>>**

"HathiTrust is an international community of research libraries committed to the long-term curation and availability of the cultural record. Through their common efforts and deep commitment to the public good, the libraries support the teaching and learning activities of the faculty, students or researchers at their home institutions, and the scholarly needs of the broader public as well." (Partnership Community)

This project's digital library "is a digital preservation repository and highly functional access platform" that "provides long-term preservation and access services for public domain and in copyright content from a variety of sources, including Google, the Internet Archive, Microsoft, and in-house partner institution initiatives." (Our Digital Library) Visit the "[Partnership Community](#)" page to see a list of all the universities involved in this project. Clicking on each university name will show more information as to what that particular university has to offer. When visiting the [homepage](#) of the Hathi Trust Digital Library, you will notice statistical information in the middle of the page which is updated regularly showing the amount of digitized items. As of now, Kent State University is not listed for the ability to login with your flashline username and password. However, you can create a "friend" account. The only downfall in having to use a "friend" account is that some stuff is not available for full download.

## **2. The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) - <<http://www.childrenslibrary.org/>>**

The International Children's Library offers free access to exemplary works from more than 42 countries and supports 11 languages through innovative software that was developed by hearing from young people about their needs, interests, and capacities. This project is "saving a great many books that would have otherwise perished due to a lack of space and care." (ICDL - Letter from the director) "The mission of the International Children's Digital Library Foundation is to prepare children for life in an ethnically and culturally diverse world by building the world's largest online multicultural repository of children's literature." (ICDL - Letter from the director)

This library is an amazing resource for teachers, students, and parents alike! It's "Using the Library" page lists many ways that the books in this collection can be used

which include those listed below. I love this library and will definitely use it with my grandchildren.

- Digital Story Time - Teachers and librarians can connect a computer to a projector and then access a book in the ICDL to read in front of an entire group of children.
- Scavenger Hunts - Teachers can create these to help students learn how to navigate the ICDL.
- Complete the Story - Teachers can choose a particular book to read from the ICDL and then stop before the ending, allowing students to create their own ideas of how the story ends.
- Creative Writing - Teachers can pick a particular picture book from the ICDL that is written in a foreign language and have students create their own stories to go along with the pictures.
- Learning Languages - Since most of the books in the ICDL are available in more than one language, teachers can use the books to help students learn different languages. The ICDL platform even has a built-in translator. (ICDL - Using the Library)

### **3. The Internet Archive - <<http://www.archive.org/>>**

"The Internet Archive is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. Founded in 1996 and located in San Francisco, the Archive has been receiving data donations from Alexa Internet and others. In late 1999, the organization started to grow to include more well-rounded collections. Now the Internet Archive includes texts, audio, moving images, and software as well as archived web pages in our collections, and provides specialized services for adaptive reading and information access for the blind and other persons with disabilities." (Internet Archive - About IA)

This site is amazing! A few of its projects are as follows:

- **Open Library** (<http://openlibrary.org/>) - One web page for every book ever published with over 20 million books listed and access to full-text, downloadable versions of one million.
- **The Wayback Machine** (<http://www.archive.org/web/web.php>) - Over 150 billion web pages archived from 1996 to a few months ago. Contains over 2 petabytes of data compressed, or 150+ billion web captures, including content from every top-level domain, 200+ million web sites, and over 40 languages.
- **Open Content Alliance** (<http://www.archive.org/details/opencontentalliance>) - "The Open Content

Alliance (OCA) is a collaborative effort of a group of cultural, technology, nonprofit, and governmental organizations from around the world that helps build a permanent archive of multilingual digitized text and multimedia material. An archive of contributed material is available on the Internet Archive site and through Yahoo! and other search engines and sites."

- **Education** (<http://www.archive.org/details/education>) - Contains hundreds of free courses, video lectures, and supplemental materials from universities in the United States and China. Many of these lectures are available for download. (Internet Archive - Projects)

**4. DigiLibraries.com** - <[digilibraries.com](http://digilibraries.com)>

Over 20,000 free downloadable eBooks in many different categories. Downloads are limited to 50 per day.

**5. International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP)** - <<http://imslp.org/>>

Provides music scores free of charge to anyone with internet access and is entirely collaborative, welcoming all contributions.

**6. LibriVox** - <<http://librivox.org/>>

Volunteers record chapters of books in the public domain and release the audio files back onto the net. This project's goal is to make all public domain books available as free audio books.

**7. Project Gutenberg** - <[http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)>

This project offers over 36,000 free ebooks to download to your PC, Kindle, Android, iOS or other portable device. Choose between ePub, Kindle, HTML and simple text formats.

**8. The Rare Book Room** - <<http://www.rarebookroom.org/>>

Constructed as an educational site intended to allow visitors to examine and read some of the greatest books of the world and contains about 400 books that range over a wide variety of topics and rarity.

**9. The WWW Virtual Library** - <<http://vlib.org/>>

The WWW Virtual Library (VL) is the oldest catalog of the Web, started by Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of HTML and of the Web itself, in 1991 at CERN in Geneva. Unlike commercial catalogs, it is run by a loose confederation of volunteers, who compile pages of key links for particular areas in which they are expert; even though it isn't the biggest index of the Web, the VL pages are widely recognised as being amongst the highest-quality guides to particular sections of the Web.

**10. Wired for Books - <<http://www.wiredforbooks.org/index2.htm>>**

For many years, most of the best writers of the English language found their way to Don Swaim's CBS Radio studio in New York. The one-on-one interviews typically lasted 30 to 45 minutes and then had to be edited down to a two-minute radio show. Wired for Books is proud to make these important oral documents publicly available for the first time in their entirety. Listen to the voices of many of the greatest writers of the twentieth century.

**11. The Green Free Library <<http://greenfreelibrary.newspaperarchive.com/>>**

This is an online database that contains more than 143,759 newspaper pages, dated from 1838 to 2005. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword and date, making it easy for you to quickly explore historical content.

**12. State Digital Resources: Memory Projects, Online Encyclopedias, Historical & Cultural Materials Collections -**

**<<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/statememory/>>**

A list of state digital resources located on the Library of Congress Web site.

**13. The European Library -**

**<<http://search.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/en/index.html>>**

Resources from many libraries throughout European countries, which include online exhibitions and virtual tours through history.

**14. The Smithsonian Institution Libraries -**

**<<http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalLibrary.cfm>>**

Way to much to list here! Check it out!

**15. ipl2 Information You Can Trust - <<http://www.ipl.org/>>**

ipl2 is a public service organization and a learning/teaching environment. To date, thousands of students and volunteer library and information science professionals have been involved in answering reference questions for our Ask an ipl2 Librarian service and in designing, building, creating and maintaining the ipl2's collections. It is through the efforts of these students and volunteers that the ipl2 continues to thrive to this day.

**16. The United States Digital Map Library -**

**<<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgenweb/maps/>>**

This is a USGenWeb project that includes State and County maps, as well as United States maps and Indian Land Cessions to the United States Treaty Maps.

**17. The September 11 Digital Archive - <<http://911digitalarchive.org/>>**

Uses electronic media to collect, preserve, and present the history of September 11, 2001 and its aftermath. The Archive contains more than 150,000 digital items, a tally that includes more than 40,000 emails and other electronic communications, more than 40,000 first-hand stories, and more than 15,000 digital images. In September 2003, the Library of Congress accepted the Archive into its collections, an event that both ensured the Archive's long-term preservation and marked the library's first major digital acquisition.

### **18. The Youngstown State University Oral History Collection -**

<[http://www.maag.yosu.edu/oralhistory/oral\\_hist.html](http://www.maag.yosu.edu/oralhistory/oral_hist.html)>

Began in 1974, collects and preserves first-person narratives of northeastern Ohioans who have participated in, or closely observed events which have significantly affected both the state and nation. The Oral History Collection houses over eleven hundred interviews including personal narratives focusing on World War II, Vietnam, Youngstown College (University), Greek, Puerto Rican, Romanian, Russian and Italian culture, industry (steel, pottery, brick, labor relations, coal, and railroads), politics, the Holocaust, and religion.

OK, I'll stop even though it is hard to do!

## **Conclusion**

Teachers can use the resources found in digital libraries to create their own multimedia exhibits or virtual field trips, to create presentations for use during classroom lectures and discussions, to provide interactive activities, and to encourage student directed searches, just to name a few. Students in higher education can use resources found in digital libraries for just about any subject you can think of. There are digital libraries available that pertain to computers, programming languages, and equipment such as the [ACM Digital Library](#). I also found many digital libraries that support free resources available to the entire public, as well as those that offer free open courseware. To find out more about open courseware, visit the [Open Courseware Consortium](#). You will find many available free courses in just about every subject. Digital libraries not only supply instructors with an endless amount of resources that they can implement into lessons, they also support student inquiry.

I hope you find these resources helpful. Instead of visiting those that were listed for this project, I wanted to find others that you may have not known about. I have many more bookmarked that I could have added to this list. Had I done so, this paper would have been never ending. Enjoy!

## **Bibliography**

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