CONSTRUCTING A WEB RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR MARINE INFO & DECONSTRUCTING THE WEB FOR A DIRECTORY OF LOCAL MARINE INFO

Peter Brueggeman

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Finding information on the Web is critically important at times and often problematic.

Directories that one sees on the Web are usually helpful but timeliness and comprehensiveness are commonly seen problems.

I maintain several well-used directories of oceanographic resources on the Web and through experience and browsing I understand the value and deficiences in Web resource directories.

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Here are my directories to give some context to my remarks.

The first is an overall guide to oceanographic resources on the Internet and it is subdivided into several widely-used and lesser-used directories. I see these pointed to from all over the Web and the traffic received is high outside my UCSD domain:

* Oceanography on the Net
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/
  800 accesses in one week in May

* Oceanography on the Net: Oceanographic & Earth Science Institutions
Directory (listed as index in Yahoo's "oceanography - institutes")
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/inst/
  500 accesses in one week in May

* Oceanography on the Net: Oceanographic & Earth Science Data Services Directory
(in Yahoo's "oceanography - indices")
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/dataserv/index.html
  560 accesses in one week in May

* Oceanography on the Net: San Diego's Ocean (in Yahoo's "oceanography")
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/ocean/index.html
  1000 accesses in one week in May

* Oceanography on the Net: Electronic Periodicals & Texts
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/guide/publns.html
  150 accesses in one week in May

* Oceanography on the Net: Scientific Community
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/guide/society.html
  100 accesses in one week in May

* Oceanography on the Net: Internet Guides
  http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/guide/guides.html
  100 accesses in one week in May

Purpose of "selective for SIO's information needs" statement:

need to be able to screen out sites I determine to be insufficient or marginal

need to be able to avoid effort in time-consuming areas without payback to users
e.g. state agencies for states outside my own, community college marine
programs, marine-oriented companies

one year after starting these directories, the need to be selective became apparent

Find broken and redirected links with MOMspider

Find new links on other directories with Monitor

Rome wasn't built in a day; I work on these directories infrequently and in
batch-mode long sessions when time is available and I'm bored with business as
usual.

As a resource directory webmaster, I really get a hand when someone flags me for
errors and suggests additions.

Purpose of "Internet Guides" Web page:

I cannot list or find all nor do I have the desire or time.

Users have to realize that there is no one-stop service for finding Web
resources and they have to browse around.

Many of my directories have links to other of my directories in order to
facilitate browsing.

For example, my institutional directory links to my data services and my
Internet Guides directory; my dataserver directory links to my institutional
directory and my Internet Guides directory.

Users have to use Web indexes in conjunction with directories.

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In addition to an expected link to SIO Library's home page from SIO's site, my directories are well-integrated into SIO's Web site.

Being deeply involved with Web resource directories and maintaining an extensive guide to resources has integrated me (and the library) more closely with my surrounding institution.

The SIO webmasters know me and I know them. The staff in the Scripps Director's Office know me better particularly the public relations and editorial staff.
 The staff maintaining the primary home pages for Scripps Institution of Oceanography are very interested in integration with the Scripps Library's Web efforts. Scripps links to the Library's various Web pages and the Library links to them.

In some cases, they picked it up and in others, I suggested the integration:

* SIO's "Gateways" page links to my directories on institutions, scientific community, and Internet Guides

* In addition to the obvious link to SIO Library's home page, SIO's "Library, Collections & Local Data Servers" page links to my data servers directory as well as a page detailing my libraries' data CD-ROM collection

I am on a short email list of people that respond to emails received through Scripps Institution's Web page. Approx half are library oriented questions and I usually email out citations with abstracts or type in a factoid from a reference book.

I take Scripps-produced copy for a research activity printed publication and WAIS index and make it available on the Web.

The Scripps Development Office is very appreciative of historically oriented Web work I did for the Scripps Archives which is part of the Library. They love the historical photo gallery and other historical efforts. Archival collections in Scripps Archives have seen increased usage by historians as a result of the presence of their archival guides and other archival directories on the Web.

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Given time constraints and the impossibility of doing a broad, comprehensive directory, what are contributions needed by others for Web resource directories?

** Tightly-Focused subject-oriented directories

** State or regional directories of subject-oriented resources

Perhaps your effort can be justified by linking an effort to your institution's location or research interests. Some excellent models include the El Nino site, several sites covering animal groups thoroughly like salmon, squid, etc.

Choose what you do carefully and selectively since you are stepping up to a time commitment and building an expectation of service. Don't assume anything is authoritative (including my directories). No one has part of their job dedicated to maintaining such Web directories so don't expect anything near perfection.

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TWO TYPES OF FORM SUBMISSION ON WEB

differ slightly in the way that they are processed

POST method:
* passes data using environment variables
* commonly used
* byproduct is that it hides the URL that
  takes you to the data requested

GET method:
* passes data on the command line
* shows you the URL to get to the data requested

CHANGE FORM FROM

METHOD="POST" to METHOD="GET"

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    FOR KNOWN INPUT ITEMS IN A FORM,

    ** Change INPUT's TYPE= from "TEXT" to "HIDDEN"

** Remove INPUT's SIZE= and MAXLENGTH=

** Remove onscreen text associated with that INPUT

** Replace SELECT with INPUT when OPTION is given a
   prespecified VALUE (input is thus hidden)

** Remove the OPTIONs and </SELECT> code

** Fill in INPUT's VALUE= with the text/numbers

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    BEFORE:

    Year: <input type="text" name="y" size="4" maxlength="4" value="1997">

    State: <select name="st">
    .....[Names of States before Oregon].....
    <option value="OR">Oregon
    .....[Names of States after Oregon].....
    </select>

    Place Name: <input type="text" name="place" size="32" maxlength="32">

    AFTER:

    <input type="hidden" name="y" value="1997">

    <input type="hidden" name="st" value="OR">

    <input type="hidden" name="place" value="Coos Bay">

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Today's Tide - Charleston, Oregon

http://www.tides.com/cgi-bin/tcweb.exe?
Day=Today&TideCurrent=t&Region=Oregon+%28NOAA%29&
Location=Charleston+Oregon&Doit=1&a_submit=+SEARCH+

Tomorrow's Tide - Charleston, Oregon

http://www.tides.com/cgi-bin/tcweb.exe?
Day=Tomorrow&TideCurrent=t&Region=Oregon+%28NOAA%29&
Location=Charleston+Oregon&Doit=1&a_submit=+SEARCH+

Today's Tide - Brookings, Chetco Cove, Oregon

http://www.tides.com/cgi-bin/tcweb.exe?
Day=Today&TideCurrent=t&Region=Oregon+%28NOAA%29&
Location=Brookings%2C+Chetco+Cove&Doit=1&a_submit=+SEARCH+

Today's Tidal Current - Coos Bay Entrance, Oregon

http://www.tides.com/cgi-bin/tcweb.exe?
Day=Today&TideCurrent=c&Region=Oregon+%28NOAA%29&
Location=Coos+Bay+entrance&Doit=1&a_submit=+SEARCH+

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HANDOUT

CONSTRUCTING A WEB RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR MARINE INFO & DECONSTRUCTING THE WEB FOR A
DIRECTORY OF LOCAL MARINE INFO : Peter Brueggeman, Scripps Institution of
Oceanography Library, pbrueggeman@ucsd.edu

I. ADAPTING A FORM FOR LOCAL INFO
1) Step down to the form to be appropriated for your local info page
2) Get HTML file (Netscape: View Document Source)
3) Make sure URLs are complete since some sites use relative URLs.
BEFORE: <FORM ACTION="/cgi-bin/tcweb.exe" METHOD="POST">
AFTER: <FORM ACTION="http://www.tides/com/cgi-bin/tcweb.exe" METHOD="POST">
4) Edit out unwanted onscreen text and SELECTion OPTIONs

5) Edit in desired text and layout
6) Credit the data source & link to it. May need to revise your form when the
     source site changes so mark your trail.
7) Test & Graft other forms onto your local info page

II. FOR KNOWN INPUT ITEMS IN A FORM,
1) Change INPUT's TYPE= from "TEXT" to "HIDDEN"
2) Remove INPUT's SIZE= and MAXLENGTH=
3) Remove onscreen text associated with that INPUT
4) Replace SELECT with INPUT when OPTION is given a prespecified VALUE
     (input is thus hidden)
5) Remove the OPTIONs and </SELECT> code
6) Fill in INPUT's VALUE= with the text/numbers
   BEFORE:
   Year: <input type="text" name="y" size="4" maxlength="4" value="1997">
   State: <select name="st">
   .....[Names of States before Oregon].....
   <option value="OR">Oregon
   .....[Names of States after Oregon].....
   </select>
   Place Name: <input type="text" name="place" size="32" maxlength="32">

   AFTER:
   <input type="hidden" name="y" value="1997">
   <input type="hidden" name="st" value="OR">
   <input type="hidden" name="place" value="Coos Bay">

III. TWO TYPES OF FORM SUBMISSION
1) POST method: passes data using environment variables; commonly used;
   hides the URL linking you to the data
2) GET method: passes data on the command line; shows the URL linking you to
   the data
3) To determine the URL so you can directly link to the local data, change the
     FORM from METHOD="POST" to METHOD="GET"