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Websight

Dennis Read
Read & Associates

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ACCESS AMERICA FOR STUDENTS

<http://www.students.gov>

ACCESS AMERICA FOR STUDENTS is a clearinghouse of government information pertinent to students in high school or college. The site is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to provide students with web site links to find information on topics.

After an eye-catching introduction that may be skipped, and is unnecessary, the main page is divided into several information sections. The sections are: First-gov, Cross agency portals, Plan your education, Pay for your education, Military service, Career development, Community service, Travel and fun, and Additional resources.

First-gov has links to site that allow students to register to vote, apply for federal student aid, register for selective service, buy savings bonds, change an address with the USPS, electronically file taxes, get a passport, obtain consumer information, and retrieve federal forms.

Cross agency portal has links to some of the other ACCESS AMERICA sites such as *Disabilities.gov*, *Seniors.gov*, *Workers.gov* and *Trade.net.gov*. There is a link to federal, state and local government agencies. Another link is called STUDENT PARTNERS. This links to a page that has further links to organizations that help students in various ways. Among those listed are: U.S. Student Association, National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, American Medical Student Association, and the National Black Graduate Student Association.

In the Plan Your Education section are topics such as: Prepare for college, College, Graduate school, Young professionals, Vocational, International Students, Study Abroad, Parents guide, Distance education and School web sites.

The Pay For Your Education has the following topics: Scholarships and grants, Student loans, State financial aid, Work study, Military funding, Budget your money, and Calculate your costs.

Career Development has links to information on: Internships, Fellowships, Student job programs, Explore careers and Job search.

The Military Service site not only has links to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Marines, but also to the National Guard, the Coast Guard and ROTC.

The Community Service section is designed for students who are looking for some sort of community service. The topical links include Environment, Health care, Education, Poverty, Children and how to be an international volunteer.

Government 101 is designed for research and general information providing a wide range of government resources. The categories include Vote, Congress, Legislative information, Executive branch and Supreme Court.

The categories seem obvious, but some of the links are quite surprising. Under the Congress link, in addition to links for the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Library of Congress, there are links to the Federal Depository Library Program, the Global Legal Information Network, Fedstats, Fedworld and some very interesting political science, non-governmental web sites such as the Voter Information Services Congressional Report Cards, The Center for Responsive Politics, and The Center for Public Integrity. Many of these are listed under each category. The Supreme Court has a listing for the federal government telephone directory called the Government Blue Pages.

Travel and Fun includes information on travel safety, finding a campsite, and many travel and recreational links.

Additional resources has information links in the areas of diversity, academic resources, paying taxes, housing, health and the environment.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

<http://www.persecution.org>

International Christian Concern (ICC) is a non-denomination, non-governmental organization dedicated to public awareness of the persecuted Christian church and to helping the churches and Christians in areas of persecution. The ICC has an archive of full-text articles going back to 1998 on the persecuted church worldwide. In addition, there is a country profile of all the countries that actively persecute Christians. In the country profiles are general information about the country such as size, population, birth and death rates, life expectancy, languages, religions, ethnic groups and economic information. This information is credited to the *CIA World Factbook*.

There is a discussion of the religious atmosphere of the country and how it applies to Christians, a listing of extremist groups (often religious in nature) who persecute Christians, the government and how it acts from a religious standpoint and its support of persecution. There is a listing of recent actions of known persecution and information about religious prisoners.

While the database is not large, it is very interesting. The site would be a definite help to any student who is doing research on how Christians are currently being persecuted worldwide. There is also a free periodical, *Concern*, that is about the persecuted church. This periodical would be of interest to any Christian school or college in which there is an interest in the persecuted church. The site also includes a bibliography of pertinent books and other materials.

Dennis Read is President of Read & Associates, Library consultants. In his TCL "Websight" column, Dennis locates and reviews Internet websites which are helpful to Christian librarians in all fields and situations.