World Wide Web Resources

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World Wide Web Resources on Children and Childhood Studies
by Katie Elson Anderson

The nature of interdisciplinary study creates a challenge to the research in the field of Children and Childhood Studies. An important part of successful research is the knowledge of the appropriate words, phrases and concepts that will provide the best results. When searching within one’s own field of study, this is uncomplicated. The complicated part occurs when one is attempting to retrieve a variety of resources from unfamiliar fields. When searching the web for the variety of resources that pertain to Children and Childhood Studies, it is important to choose the correct search tools, enter the most accurate search terms and have the skills to evaluate the websites that are found. This chapter contains general information on searching for web resources as well as an annotated bibliography of the resources that were found.

Using this Chapter

This chapter is divided into five sections. The first three sections contain a general discussion about searching for and evaluation resources on the web. “Understanding Web Searching Tools” will help you gain a better understanding of the search tools available for searching on the web. “Choosing Search Engines and Directories” will assist you in deciding which of the search tools are most valuable for your searching. This section includes a discussion of websites that provide information on analysis on all the available search tools to further assist you with your chosen search tools. Once you have found websites using the search tools, “Evaluating Websites” will help you determine the accuracy and validity of the resources you find. This section includes descriptions of available tutorials to further assist you in your evaluating skills. The fourth section, “Searching for Resources” discusses search techniques specific to Children and Childhood Studies to aid your web searching. The final section,
“Finding Resources” is a list of the resources available on the web, divided into the categories of Education, Organizations, Networks and Government. Some of these websites have links to other resources that are not included in the section, so you are encouraged to explore each website and use your new found knowledge on searching the web and evaluating websites to expand and personalize your web search for resources on Children and Childhood studies.

**Understanding Web Searching Tools**

The best way to start a search on the World Wide Web is with a basic understanding of the different tools for searching and the standard techniques used with these tools. While it is possible to get results from simple searches in your favorite search engine, a better research strategy would be one that uses more of the tools that are available. Taking the time to understand the tools and methods before you begin your search will save you valuable time and minimize frustration during your search.

There are several books, articles and websites dedicated to the description and evaluation of the different tools available for doing research on the Internet. These sources range from basic definitions to in-depth discussions of the behind the scenes workings of a search engine. For the purposes of this chapter, we will touch on some of the basics that will assist in your web searching. A discussion of the two major tools used in web searching is important in helping a searcher determine where to start a web search.

**Search Engines**

A search engine is a service that allows a user to search a database of Web sites using words, phrases or other criteria. A search engine should be used when conducting a search where the words and phrases that describe a specific topic are known. There are a number of search engines available on the web, some more heavily used than others (such as Google and Yahoo).
The variety of search engines available provides a searcher with a choice of interfaces, advanced features and output display. The variety of search engines also expands the number of results retrieved. Each search engine will have results that are unique from others due to the differences in the way the individual search engines search the web. The advantage to having a variety of search engines for researchers is that one can find a search engine that best meets their technical and visual needs. The disadvantage to the number of search engines is that a researcher cannot rely on just the one best-known engine, because each of the different search engines will yield different results. In order to have a more comprehensive search on the web, more than one search engine should be used.

The ability to search multiple search engines at once does exist in the form of Metasearch Engines, but these must be used carefully and with an understanding that they are not providing a comprehensive search. A more in-depth knowledge of the drawbacks of these types of engines should be acquired before using a Metasearch engine.

Directories

There are two very different types of directories available to a researcher. General directories and specialized directories are both compiled by people, as opposed to the robots or crawlers that produce the results of a search engines.

When a specific topic is not yet known, a general web directory can be used for searching and browsing within a broad topic. A web directory is a collection of web pages which is classified by subject. The classification and sub-classification by subject makes it easy to browse the collection. General directories do not include as much of the web as a search engine does, but they can be a good starting point for a searcher, assisting in determining a more specific topic within a subject area.
Specialized directories are different from the general directories in that they have already been narrowed down to a specific topic by professionals. A specialized directory can be a searchable website or simply a collection of links to websites that share similar themes. Other names for specialized directories include resource guides and metasites.

**Choosing Search Engines and Directories**

The success of a web search is increased by the searcher’s knowledge of how to conduct the search on that particular search engine or directory. Most search engine and directory homepages offer tips that will provide the user with information such as how to use the advanced tool, how the search engine will accept Boolean commands and which character to use as a wildcard.

Fortunately there is help available in the form of tutorials and websites dedicated the description of search engines and directories. The websites below provide a searcher with quick guides, helpful tips and easy to decipher charts that will assist in searching for information on the Internet.

*Search Engine Showdown*

http://www.searchengineshowdown.com

Montana State University Reference Librarian Greg Notess maintains search Engine Showdown, who is also a writer and speaker specializing in information resources. According to the website, he has been covering Internet resources since 1990. Search Engine Showdown provides web users with reviews, charts, news, and statistics on search engines. The Search Engines Feature Chart is a straightforward and uncomplicated way of comparing the features of seven different search engines. Some of these features include Boolean operators and searchable
fields. Also included on this website are search strategies, and information on metasearch engines and a chart on searching subject directories. The website is updated regularly.

*SearchEngineWatch*

[http://www.searchenginewatch.com](http://www.searchenginewatch.com)

SearchEngineWatch bills itself as “the source for search engine marketing”, but don’t be fooled by that label. While the target audience of the site may be web site developers and professionals in the industry, the information provided is useful to anyone conducting research on the web. SearchEngineWatch has been in existence since 1997 and was founded by Danny Sullivan who is an Internet consultant and journalist. The site is kept up to date and offers a daily newsletter to provide the most current information regarding search engines. The amount of information on this site makes it appear a bit intimidating, as it is quite a comprehensive site for all things search engine. The most useful links for basic search engine information are included under the Departments and Info sidebar, “Web Searching Tips”. The Web Searching Tips page provides links to a search engine features chart, further information on features, advanced searching, search engine math, Boolean searching and reviews.

Finding Information on the Internet: A Tutorial

*UC Berkeley – Teaching Library Internet Workshops*

[http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html)

“This tutorial presents the substance of the Internet Workshops offered year-round by the Teaching Library at the University of California at Berkeley.” The information is up to date and divided into categories allowing the user to pinpoint only the specific part of the tutorial that is needed. The Search Engine and Subject Directory portions of the tutorial provide easily read graphs that compare the features of each entry.
Evaluating Websites

Once the search engine or directory is chosen and searched the next step is to evaluate the results that are received. The results that are returned during a web search must be viewed with a critical eye; not everything that appears in the results is going to be useful, relevant or from a trusted source. It is up to the user to determine if the information is accurate and relevant to the research. There are several resources both in print and on the web that provide instruction on how to evaluate a website. Most of the instruction on assessing the quality of websites includes discussions of similar criteria; source, authorship, authority, motivation, quality of writing, currency, accuracy, objectivity, sources cited, and coverage. There are different approaches to evaluating websites but they all have the same basic goal which is to identify and evaluate the criteria in order to determine the accuracy and legitimacy of a website. With the different approaches there are different websites that instruct users on website evaluation; two such websites are listed here.

Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask
UC Berkeley – Teaching Library Internet Workshops

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html

This is a section of a tutorial on finding information on the Internet, maintained at UC Berkeley. This site offers details on how to determine which results from a search to choose and how to determine the quality of the content of the sites that are chosen. The bulk of the site is a list of questions a user should ask when determining the trustworthiness of the site and the techniques on how to locate the answers to these questions. There is a link to a checklist in PDF format that can be used for website evaluation. The section “More about evaluating resources” provides links to other websites, including a link to Johns Hopkins University’s library pages,
which provide basic evaluation information along with an interesting section on propaganda, misinformation and disinformation.

Evaluate Web Pages

Widener University, Wolfgram Memorial Library

http://www.widener.edu/Tools_Resources/Libraries/Wolfgram_Memorial_Library/Evaluate_Web_Pages/659/

This website includes a tutorial which runs approximately fifteen minutes and includes specific examples for evaluating authority, accuracy, currency and objectivity. While the tutorial is informative, what makes this website most valuable are the links under “Original Web Evaluation Materials”. This section contains detailed checklists for the different types of websites that will be found when conducting research on the Internet. There are evaluation checklists for advocacy, business/marketing, news, informational, and personal web pages. The advocacy checklist is particularly valuable for websites on Children and Childhood studies because of the large amount of .org websites pertaining to children.

Searching for Resources

Search Engines

When searching for resources in Children and Childhood studies using a Search Engine, it is important to remember that using more than one search engine will increase the number of results. The resources provided in this chapter were found using both Google and Yahoo. Google gave the most direct results, focusing in on education sites with program in the topic. Yahoo was more likely to bring up records that contained information on books, journals, or studies related to children and childhood studies. Most of the metasites from educational institutes were found by conducting a search using the words “children childhood studies”. This search brought up
many websites for Universities and Colleges that have some academic programs or classes within the topic. This was a good place to start because many of these websites contained links to other websites on the topic.

When searching for more specific topics within the discipline, simple keyword searches within Google were successful. The top results were accurate and direct the user to many of the organizations that deal with the specific topic. These searches can also be narrowed by country or even state. For example, using the terms “Child Poverty” results in multiple websites for national and international organizations. Narrowing that search to “Child Poverty California” brings the searcher directly to the California information of some of the national organizations as well as to sites that are specific to California. It is advantageous that Search Engines will search not only the main page of a website, but the content within the website.

General Directories

General directories are a bit of a challenge to navigate when researching an interdisciplinary field because the resources do not always fit neatly into one area of the directory. While some interdisciplinary areas such as Women’s Studies do appear in directories, at this time locating resources in a directory for Children and Childhood studies is not as straightforward. A directory is useful for browsing because it allows a searcher to start with a broad search and narrow the topic by exploring the categories and subcategories. The disadvantage to using a directory is the fact that the resources exist in different areas and it can be time-consuming to search for relevant resources using a directory.

There are several different general directories to choose from. Many of them have similar categories, but because they are compiled and edited by different groups the results will not be the same. It is important that a researcher understand how the directory is created in order to
better evaluate the results. A good directory will have this information under “about” or “directory help”.

The directory used for locating resources for this chapter was Google http://www.google.com/dirhp. Google was chosen because it uses the hierarchy of the Open Directory Project (http://dmoz.org/), which calls itself the “largest, most comprehensive human-edited directory of the Web”. The combination of Open Directory’s hierarchy and Google’s page ranking system allow for easy browsing and relevant results. Google provides a “related categories” section that is extremely helpful in browsing a topic because it directs the user to the different categories where more information can be found.

The challenge with using any directory is in having the time to browse the different categories that are available. It is not always clear what resources will occur in which categories and it is more than likely that the resources that are needed will be found in many of the categories.

A good category in a general directory to begin the search for Resources in Children and Childhood is: Society. Within Society choose Issues, then, narrow that down to Children, Youth and Family. Within the subcategory Children, Youth and Family will be several different subcategories that can be browsed. The Children, Youth and Family category within Society was discovered after browsing Health/Children’s Health and Home/Family. While browsing these categories it was observed that the majority of the resources appeared in the “Related Categories”: Society/Issues/Children, Youth and Family. The related category feature is very useful when browsing as it directs you to other categories whose subcategories include topics on children. Another nice feature of Google directory is the ability to search only within the
category that has been selected. This is useful when browsing is no longer necessary and a specific search is warranted.

When reviewing the result from directory browsing, it is important to realize that the people compiling the list have compiled the list based on their knowledge and expertise. This knowledge and expertise may not always match your information needs. In the case of general directories, not all of the listed sites will be useful to your research or even valid for the topic. It is up to you to explore these links to determine their usefulness.

Specialized Directories

A specialized directory is a directory that has been narrowed down by professionals within the field of specialty. This is helpful because the use of these directories can eliminate the need to look at all of the results, because it is known that the sites have been selected for a specific group of users and their needs. There are some specialized directories that have been created to only include academically valuable and scholarly resources. Infomine and Librarians’ Internet Index are examples of such directories. While these directories will provide already screened information, they can be more difficult to browse. They are searchable and a good plan of action may be to use the general directories to get results and then use the specialized directories to confirm the value of these results.

Librarians’ Internet Index

http://lii.org/

Librarians’ Internet Index is a publicly funded website that contains websites which are selected, described and organized by a team of librarians. The websites are selected based on the criteria of availability, credibility, authorship, external links, and legality. New sites are continuously added and sites that no longer meet the criteria will be removed. The site is divided
in a similar way to the general directories with many of the same categories. For example, choosing Society and Social Science will allow you to choose Social Issues and within these issues are child related topics similar to the general directories. The child related sites are not as easily found as in the general directories as there is no specific category for children’s social issues. The results include brief descriptions along with links to actual documents as well as websites that will provide more information. The site can also be searched with a simple or advanced search.

Infomine

http://www.infomine.com

Infomine is a “virtual library of Internet resources relevant to faculty, students, and research staff at the university level”. The resources contained in Infomine include databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, mailing lists, online library card catalogs, articles, and directories of researchers. This site is set up more for searching within a category than for browsing, which makes it more difficult to locate resources. After choosing a category, a search form is provided, requiring that a search be conducted using title, author, subject, keyword, description of full text. This type of specialized directory would be most useful to someone who has already narrowed the topic down enough to conduct a search. The biggest challenge is in knowing which category to search for the specific topic. Besides the basic academic categories (science, humanities, etc...), Infomine has a Cultural Diversity and a Government category that may be useful for finding resources within this interdisciplinary subject.

Finding Resources
The resources that are listed are divided into the following categories: Education, Organizations, Networks and Government. The sources were found using Search Engines, General Directories and Metasites. As of the time this chapter was written all links were valid and all websites currently updated unless otherwise noted. These resources are meant to provide a general starting point for research within the field.

Education

The resources listed below are maintained by educational institutions from around the world. These educational institutions have either a degree program in children and childhood studies (or related interdisciplinary program) or have a Center affiliated with the institution. All of these resources can be considered metasites because they contain a list of links on similar topics. There are more educational institutions that have programs or centers that are not listed below because they do not provide further information and resources beyond descriptions of the academic program.

Many of these sites include links to valuable resources that are local and regional to the educational institution. While some of the links to general information from these sites are detailed in another section of this chapter, many of the links from these pages are not discussed due to their specificity to location or subject matter and should be explored for further details.

Child & Family Studies Resources - Syracuse University Library

Syracuse University

http://libwww.syr.edu/research/internet/child/index.html

Syracuse University Library’s resources for Child and Family Studies provides a list of print resources (with local call numbers and locations), links to International Statistics and
Organizations, links to locating statistical and demographic information on the federal, state and local level, and a list of Metasites for Child and Family studies. Some of the links to the statistical sites are only available to local users, but other links are available to any researcher.

**Child and Family Web Guide**

**Tufts University**

[http://www.cfw.tufts.edu](http://www.cfw.tufts.edu)

The Child & Family Web Guide “describes trustworthy websites on topics of interest to parents and professionals....the sites have been systematically evaluated by graduate students and faculty in child development.” The websites are organized into five categories: family/parenting, education/learning, typical child development, health/mental health, and resources/recreation. The resources/recreation section does not contain research-based information and is geared more towards parents then researchers. The categories are color coded, making the website easy to navigate and the topics easy to identify. The site can also be searched by age group or by using an index search.

**CYFC: Children, Youth and Family Consortium**

**University of Minnesota**

[http://www.cyfc.umn.edu](http://www.cyfc.umn.edu)

The Children, Youth and Family Consortium was established in 1991 and is committed to “interdisciplinary work, integrating institutional service and outreach into research and teaching, and providing for University and community engagement around child, youth and family issues.” The site has links to local and international information on Public Policy along with resources for
current issues. There are extensive lists of resources in Early Childhood, School-Age Children, Adolescents, and Family Relationship and Parenting. The resources in each of these subject areas are divided into four categories; University of Minnesota Resources, Non University of Minnesota Resources, Data Sources, Community Resources and Programs, and Policy. Clear descriptions of the sites are provided along with the links in each of these categories.

**Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development**

**Georgetown University Medical Center, Georgetown University**

http://www.gucchd.georgetown.edu/

The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development was “established over four decades to improve the quality of life for all children and youth, especially those with, or at risk for, special needs and their families”. Along with information regarding the center and its work there is a link to Online Resources that can be selected by topic. Topics that are available are: mental health, early childhood, developmental disabilities, special health needs, cultural competence, research and evaluation and clinical and community services.

**Harvard Children’s Initiative**

**Harvard University**

http://www.provost.harvard.edu/childrensinitiative

The Harvard Children’s Initiative is no longer active, but the “beyond Harvard” link on this website provides links to websites relating to children and families and annotated bibliographies on topics relating to Children and Childhood. The links are divided into the following categories: academic children’s centers, after school programming, Boston area
resources, children and violence, children’s social and ethical development, foundations, children’s global mental health and nonprofit organizations. Within each of these categories is a list of sites. Clicking on these sites brings you to a site description where you can then link directly to the site. The site is not maintained and was last updated 2003, however many of the links were still found to be valid.

**Information Sources for Childhood and Adolescence Studies**

**Liverpool John Moores University**

[http://cwis.livjm.ac.uk/lea/info/child](http://cwis.livjm.ac.uk/lea/info/child)

This UK based site is maintained by JMU’s learning resource center by subject information officers in Childhood Studies. An interesting element to this site is the links to interactive tutorials on searching the Internet in the fields of education, social policy and social statistics. The site includes links to abstracts, indexes, electronic journals, statistical sites and child-centered organizations. As with many of the resource sites maintained by individual schools, the target audience is made up of local users. The links (requiring a name and password) to the electronic journal titles, abstracts and indexes will not be useful to a non-affiliated user, but the alphabetical listing of over thirty-five journals can be of great use to anyone exploring topics in Childhood Studies.

**National Centre for Research in Children’s Literature**

[http://www.ncrcl.ac.uk/](http://www.ncrcl.ac.uk/)

University of Surrey Roehampton
The sources on this website are primarily from the United Kingdom and they include information on publications by the center and links to useful websites pertaining to the study of Children’s Literature. Links to journals, academic sites, and discussion groups supplement the list of general sites.

**Online Resources**

**Center for Children and Childhood Studies, Rutgers University, Camden Campus**

http://children.camden.rutgers.edu/resources.htm

This page of online resources is broken into three sections: Researchers/Scholars, Families/Community and Educators/Students. The resources for researchers/scholars includes a descriptive list of Journals in Children and Childhood Studies including links to the journal’s website when available. A section on statistical information provides links to local, state, U.S. and International websites that provide various statistics. Selected National and International research reports are also available in the researcher/scholar section, providing links to reports on national and international issues related to children. The “Selected Websites” section under researchers/scholars is an excellent list of available web resources in Children and Childhood studies. Along with links to the mega-sites that are detailed in another section of this chapter, the selected websites include links to other centers for children and childhood and schools with children and childhood degree programs. Other sites are sorted by topics that include adoption and foster care, juvenile justice, advocacy groups, children and poverty, children’s literature, child abuse and neglect, children’s health risks and children with disabilities.

**Peabody Library Resource Guides: Child and Youth Study Resource Guide**
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/peabody/articles/guides/youth.html

This is a resource guide provided by the library at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. The site includes suggested resources for research in child and youth studies. The resources include reference books, periodicals, indexes, general texts, and briefly described linked sites. The inclusion of library call numbers and links to periodical articles indicate that the target audience is local users, but the information is useful to anyone researching the field. This website provides a nice overview of the resources available including directories, handbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies and guides to literature, periodicals, indexes and abstracts, government documents and online resources.

Resources for Childhood Studies

University of Edinburgh

http://www.childhoodstudies.ed.ac.uk/links.htm

The Childhood Studies program at University of Edinburgh provides a brief description and links to National children’s organizations, International children’s organizations, Networks, and other information resources. The section with the most links is the national section, which contains organizations in England, Wales and Scotland. A brief description of each link provided is useful in determining the usefulness of the listed sites.

Organizations

There is a multitude of websites for non-profit organizations dedicated to children. One of the easiest ways to locate non-profit organizations is to do an advanced search on Google,
limiting the domain name to .org. When a website has a domain name of .org, this is a good indication that the website belongs to a US non-profit, non-governmental organization. It is advisable that the search terms used be specific, as using the search terms “child OR children” with domain .org resulted in 258,000,000 hits.

While there are a lot of organizations and advocacies dedicated to researching, developing and improving the lives of children, not all of these organizations can be considered a resource. Many of these organizations provide information only pertaining to the organization and its specialty. A lot of organizations include information on how to make a difference by donating or volunteering. The resources included in this section are for websites that provide extensive information and resources beyond the individual organization. Websites were selected for this section based on the area of focus and the amount and availability of resources.

**Child Health**

**World Health Organization**

[http://www.who.int/topics/child_health/en](http://www.who.int/topics/child_health/en)

The World Health Organization website is broken down into Health Topics. Choosing “Child Health” will bring up this page, which “provides links to descriptions of activities, reports, news and events, as well as contacts and cooperating partners in the various WHO programmes and offices working on this topic”. Links to related web sites and topics are also available in this section on Child Health. The World Health Organization is the United Nations specialized agency for health and the main website contains extensive information on all health related topics. It is possible to explore other health related topics to find more resources on a specific topic. The site is also searchable by key word. Searching with key words “child” or “children”
Children’s Defense Fund

http://www.childrensdefense.org

Children’s Defense Fund is a private, nonprofit organization that is supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. Children’s Defense Fund “provides a strong, effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves.” The Data section of the website provides national, state and census data provided by the organization. The Links section includes links to organizations, networks and publications, government agencies, and sites, which provide national data. A brief description of the organization, network and publication is included with these links. The site is searchable and the search can be narrowed down to a specific topic within the website.

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers

http://www.child-soldiers.org/

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers “works to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, to secure their demobilisation and to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.” The site provides a variety of resources on the use of child soldiers. The resources are made up of global reports, themed reports, international standards, newsletters and press releases. A “Links” section of the website provides an extensive list of international websites relating to children and armed conflict.
Connect for Kids

http://www.connectforkids.org

Connect for Kids is an organization that strives to provide the tools and information needed for individuals to work on behalf of children, youth and families. The site can be searched by topic and subtopic as well as the type of content. Topics include diversity, education, health, youth at risk and history of childhood. The types of content that can be accessed include articles field reports, organizations, and web links.

National Center for Children in Poverty

http://www.nccp.org/

Columbia University

The National Center for Children in Poverty is a research and policy organization whose mission is “to identify and promote strategies that prevent child poverty in the United States and that improve the lives of low-income children and families.” The site offers data wizards on all fifty states for policies and demographics allowing for selection of both state and policy. A link to the Research Forum (http://www.researchforum.org) at the National Center for Children in Poverty allows for more advanced searching of the available resources. The site also provides access to news releases, fact sheets and other publications.

National Data Analysis System

Child Welfare League of America

http://ndas.cwla.org
The National Data Analysis System is part of the Child Welfare League of America’s National Center for Research. The Child Welfare League of America is a member-based child welfare organization that is committed to “engaging people everywhere in promoting the well-being of children, youth, and their families, and protecting every child from harm”. According to the website the National Data Analysis System (NASD) is the most comprehensive collection of child welfare and related data in the country. The data and statistics are accessible by topic and much of the data is presented in tables and graphs that can be customized by state and date range. These customized reports can be downloaded. The topics available are: adoption, agency administration, child abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect fatalities, child care, children’s health, family preservation and support, fiscal data, juvenile justice, out-of-home care, outcomes and population data. There is also a research and information section for each of these topics that provides links to statutes, related web sites and data and research. The related websites appear in the data and statistics, but there is an additional brief description of these websites provided in the research and information section.

Save the Children

http://www.savethechildren.org

Save the Children is, according to this website “the leading independent organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world”. The resources on this site are publications by Save the Children and links to other organizations’ resources. Links to these PDF documents and some links to other websites are found by going to the Professional gateway and choosing More Information and Technical
Resources. A publications link provides access to the latest research, annual reports, fact sheets, issue briefs and other publications.

UNICEF

United Nations Children Fund

http://www.unicef.org

The mission statement of UNICEF states that this organization, which is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly works to “advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.” This international organization provides detailed information by each country. General information about the country is supplemented by statistics for basic indicators, nutrition, health, HIV/AIDS, education, demographics, economics, women, child Protection and rate of progress. Current news links and information about surrounding countries complete the extensive information on each country. There is a search box on every page, making it easy to search for particular key words and topics. The site has a “Resources” section that provides links for development professionals, teachers and students, publications and UN links. The resources for development professionals and students and teachers include documents, statistics and UNICEF publications on a variety of topics. The section for development professionals includes a link to childinfo.org which is the website that accesses UNICEF’s key statistical databases. Childinfo.org is dedicated to statistics compiled by UNICEF and is searchable by keyword and by indicators.

Networks
Network websites are a valuable resource since the mission of network is to provide information via a central location. Various organizations join these networks in order to contribute information while also benefiting from the information provided by the other organizations that are part of the network.

**Children’s House**


Children's House is a cooperative initiative by AIFS, Child Abuse Prevention Network, Children's Rights Centre, Childwatch International, CRIN, Family Life Development Center, IIN, ISCA, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank and WHO. Children’s House is dedicated to providing a place for the exchange of information that addresses the needs and concerns of children. The resources are divided into sections on Child Research, Early Childhood, Child Health and Children’s Rights. There is also a section with information on and links to Non-Government Organizations, news and other information resources.

**Childwatch International Research Network**

[http://www.childwatch.uio.no](http://www.childwatch.uio.no)

According to the website, the ultimate goal of Childwatch International is “through network activities to promote, initiate and disseminate international, inter-disciplinary research that leads to a real improvement in the well-being of children”. This nonprofit organization’s website offers resources in child research and child related matters. The child research resources include links to institutions and organizations that conduct research on children’s rights. There are also links to online research reports and journals, data and ongoing studies. The child related
matters portion of the resources includes links to web sites on various child related topics. These topics include abuse and neglect prevention, child health, child labor, child rights and organizations, children and media, children and war, children and youth in conflict with the law, children with disabilities, early childhood, the girl child, homeless children and street kids and youth and adolescents. Within each of these topics are descriptive links to the related web sites.

**CRIN**

**Child Rights Information Network**

[http://www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org)

One of the key objectives of the Child Rights Information Network is to meet the information needs of organizations and individuals working for child rights. The Child Rights Information Network is a Global Network of Organizations committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to sharing information on Children's Rights. The website is part of the network’s program for child rights and it contains an extensive amount of information on child rights including resources, news, events and a directory of child rights organizations. The information on this website can be searched by region, theme, or type of resource. The search forms allows for a choice of language, country, information type, and keywords. The resulting resources are made up of publications and reports on child rights. These publications include books and newsletters, journals, conference reports, and training materials.

**CYFERnet: Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network**

**Practical Research-based Information from the Nation’s Leading Universities**

The CYFERnet Web site is maintained by a team of workers at land-grant university Extension services across the nation. CYFERnet's Web site is a central location for the information on children, youth and family resources from all the public land-grant universities in the country. Materials are reviewed by college and university faculty. The site is searchable by title/abstract, full text and author. Information is broken down into the following categories: early childhood, school age (K-8), teens, parent/family and community. Each of these categories is broken down into subcategories within the topic. The resources for each subtopic include general information, links to other resources, programming resources and research.

Government

Government websites are an excellent place to find research and statistics on a variety of child related topics. The resources listed below were included because of the general nature of the resource and the amount of information available within the department or agency. Other government websites were discussed in the chapter on Government Resources. When searching for government websites do not limit the search to the United States government. There are valuable resources on websites for International Government Agencies as well.

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/

This site is for the Administration for Children and Families, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The ACF is a federal agency “funding state, territory, local, and tribal organizations to provide family assistance, child support child care, Head Start,
child welfare and other programs relating to children and families.” The site includes FAQ’s and
links to websites on a number of topics related to children and families. These topics include:
adoption and foster care, child abuse and neglect, childcare, child support, disabilities and
children, youth and families. A drop down box allows for locating the websites of specific
programs with the Administration for Children and Families. There is also an area to find
information on various topics by navigating a drop down box and selecting the suggested
questions that will meet your information need.

**ChildStats.gov**

http://www.childstats.gov/

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

This web site is the official website of the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and
Family Statistics. The forum is a working group of twenty Federal agencies that collect, analyze,
and report data on issues related to children and families. The website “offers easy access to
statistics and reports on children and families, including: population and family characteristics,
everconomic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education.” A “Related
Resources” section contains links to data sets, tables, databases, and reports provided by related
websites on different aspects of child well being. These aspects are broken down into the
following categories: Child well-being and youth indicators, Population and family
characteristics, economic security, Health, Behavioral and social environment, Education, Kids
pages and Research on Child well-being. The site is searchable by keyword.

**National Child Protection Clearinghouse**
Australian Institute of Family Studies

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Family and Community Services. The clearinghouse “collects, produces and distributes information and resources, conducts research, and offers specialist advice on the latest developments in child abuse prevention, child protection and associated violence.” A Resources section contains different references and information including bibliographies, statistics and links. The links consist of local, regional and international sites pertaining to child abuse and child abuse prevention.