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Beyond the Chemistry Web

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**Beyond the Chemistry Web**

Bob Buchanan, Chemistry Librarian, Auburn University

If you need to find out whether an urban legend, a rumor, a common fallacy, or anything that just doesn’t sound right is true or not, try searching **Snopes: Rumor has it.** Barbara and David Mikkelson, a husband and wife team, founded this site in 1995 to provide impartial analysis of urban legends. Winner of two Webby awards, this well-regarded site has been used by millions of people and a number of major news organizations.

http://www.snopes.com

Looking for authoritative data and information on the impact of the internet on people and society? The **Pew Internet & American Life Project** performs extensive survey research on the “impact of the internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life” and makes the results freely available. This one of those rare sites that is valuable to citizens, students, and scholars. Huge data sets on trends for adults and teens from 2000 to date can be downloaded into an Excel file for manipulation. Browse for over 300 surveys via three broad categories: activities & pursuits; demographics; and technology & media. Charts and graphs are also available from this amazing web site.

http://www.pewinternet.org

You probably already know that the Wayback Machine at the **Internet Archive** is a terrific place to see what a web site used to look like, but it preserves more than just web pages. It also archives huge numbers of videos, audios, software, and texts. There is even a blog on what the Internet Archive is currently up to.

http://archive.org/

**Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE)** searches over 36 million open access academic web resources. It harvests Open Archives Initiative (OAI) data from more than 2,000 scientific digital repositories which makes it useful for searching the deep Web. Searches can be refined by year, type of document, subject, and author.

http://www.base-search.net/

**Speech Accent Archive**

Listening to the accents of native and non-native speakers read the same paragraph (in English) at the **Speech Accent Archive** makes it clear that everybody has an accent. Created by George Mason University, this archive can be a “tool for linguists, speech pathologists, phoneticians, engineers who train speech recognition machines, and even interested laypeople.” Accents can be browsed by geographic regions or by the language of non-native English speakers.

http://accent.gmu.edu/index.php

**Ergonomics Made Easy** offers information and practical suggestions about the computer ergonomics, computer workstation design, shoulder and back pain, eyestrain, and stress relief. Use the links for the Learning Center to find broad topics, but make sure to scroll down each page for a question and answers section. As with any medical advice … see your doctor if you are having medical problems.

http://www.ergonomicsmadeeasy.com/blog/

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute Biointeractive Lectures** is a collection of hour-long videos by experts in the biosciences who talk in layman’s terms but in a serious manner – much like Technology, Entertainment, and Design (TED) Talks the Great Courses lectures. There are eleven informal one-hour talks and seventeen series (each with four one-hour talks) on topics such as the immune system, the science of fat, and viral outbreaks.

http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/lectures

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