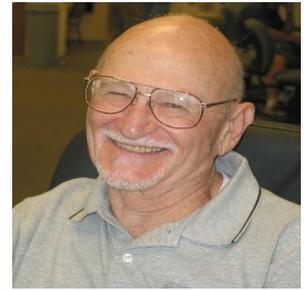


NOBODY ASKED ME BUT.....



..... when I was a really young kid living in Brooklyn (where else?) I had the good fortune of having a branch of our public library a few blocks (in Brooklyn they're blocks; in any other place they're streets) from where we lived. Those buildings were a godsend for me, a place where I spent countless hours traveling around the world, learning about the facts of life, (read sex education) and getting information for the seemingly endless book, science, history and English essay reports required by my seemingly endless procession of teachers. I loved those musty old libraries with the stern looking but most helpful librarians and the musty odor of endless shelves of books. It seemed then that here was a bottomless well of every kind of information. All one needed to do was drink as often and deeply as one chose.

Enter the computer, the Internet and the World Wide Web. In the blink of an eye one can get information, uncensored, about literally anything on earth in one's own home while nibbling on a bagel and/or drinking a cup of coffee (try that in your local library). My FAVORITES folder is full of Web sites I have found to get information I seek at any particular time, 24/7/7. I'd like to share some of them with you.

www.archives.gov This is my latest acquisition. The official government name is the U.S. Nat'l. Archives & Records Admin. but don't let that scare you off. It is a treasure trove of American history, original documents (both in photos of originals and context in modern text) as well as genealogy, the ten presidential libraries, a place for you to sign the Declaration of Independence, (honestly!) military records and a host of other information, attractively arranged and very easy to spend many fascinating hours about our great country. You'll love it!

www.loc.gov This site is our own Library of Congress, partly located in what I think is the most beautiful building in Wash. D.C., the Jefferson Library, a MUST visit in the Capitol. You can find almost anything that has been written or printed here plus scads more. An easy access site.

www.vote-smart.org With the election campaign in high gear this non-partisan site has unbiased information about every state and federal elected official, their voting records, voter registration, who's running, etc.

www.pcpitstop.com A free diagnostic program that will tell you more about your computer than you might want to know and how to get it to operate more efficiently and speedily.

www.bartleby.com The preeminent Internet publisher of literature, reference and verse with unlimited access to books and information - FREE OF CHARGE.

www.retire.net If all the foregoing has pooped you out and you're looking for a site for relaxation and fun this is your ticket. Everything from pen pals to hobbies to travel, etc. Great fun.

If you have some Web sites I haven't noted and want to share them with fellow Club members, send them to me at mattinlw99@yahoo.com and I'll pass them on in this column.

Matt