Surfing Made Easy

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WHAT: Surfing the Internet can turn up hundreds of valuable teaching resources, but it can take thousands of hours to find them all. Here they're all gathered in one place.

INSPIRATION: I see the Internet as a classroom expander. But a couple of years ago I realized that although the Internet offered a huge amount of information, none of it was accessible through any standardized search tool.

I wanted to organize these "sites" on the Internet so that teachers could have information right at their fingertips and use the Internet more effectively in the classroom.

So I pored over various publications and spent thousands of hours surfing the 'Net myself. Now I've gathered information on more than 600 sites. Cool School Tools and the Cisco List of Education Sites are among my favorites, because they enhance not only curriculum but also professional development. Each of these sites has an "address." (For example, the address for Cool School Tools is http://www.bham.lib.al.us/cooltools.) At first, I wrote the Internet address and description of each site on a card and put them in a filebox organized by topic.

Then, thanks to a local Internet provider, I was given the chance to make my "bibliography" available to educators around the world. I got my own "home page"—my own site. I've called it Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators. And its address is http://www.capescod.net/wixon/wixon.htm. Things are still organized by topic—arts, history, science, weather, etc. Clicking on any topic produces a list of all the sites I've collected under that topic. And clicking on any one item in the list automatically takes you to that site.

CLICK: When a sixth-grade class was studying the Titanic, we visited the Titanic Home Page created by a 13-year-old Australian student. The class was amazed someone so close to their age could have a quality site—and know so much about the Titanic!