

SITE REVIEWS

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SPECIAL FEATURE

From A to 'Zine

Online magazines bring you more than just mainstream news content

By Genevieve Robertson

E-zines—online magazines—are a great source of entertainment for those who are chained to a computer. Articles are easy to email to friends if you find something you want to share, and perusing online pages is a good way to procrastinate while doing homework—or while at work—and still appear to be productive. Here are some of the e-zines people are—or should be—talking about.

Salon.com (salon.com) offers articles and regular columns on everything from politics and technology to sex and health. *Salon* has something for everyone: top business news, celebrity columnists like Camille Paglia and Garrison Keillor, and comics. Another section entitled “Table Talk” serves as a discussion board to give your opinion about issues.

Feed.com (feedmag.com) is also a general interest magazine. Here you'll find essays that are more opinion than reporting and articles on the sci-fi show “Farscape” or the issue of Canadian Pride. A good

source for intelligent and thought-provoking opinions on current events.

Keep your eye on two recent launches. *Inside* (inside.com)

was a high-profile general interest start-up in September. You have to pay for it (check it out free for a 30-day trial).

Another recent launch is *Failure* magazine (failuremag.com). This is a one-joke concept that actually works. Recent stories include a profile of the Buffalo Bills (four-time Super Bowl losers) and the Corvair (the mother of all loser automobiles).

Literary magazines—from university journals to a couple of friends publishing each other—offer a broad range of interesting writing.

Zoetrope-All Story (zoetrope-stories.com) provides the entire issue in a downloadable PDF format and contains a section called “All Story Extra” that features fiction only available online. There is also a writing workshop where you can read pieces by writers of all levels and comment, as well as submit your own writing for comment.

On the smaller side, but with a great collection of writing and easy-to-read format, is *Oyster Boy Review* (levee67.com/obr). It also has a print counterpart, but you are able to access the entire issue, as well as back issues, online. They publish fiction, poetry, and reviews by writers with a little less notori-

ety than those in *Zoetrope*, but who are still quite talented. The format is printer friendly if you don't have the patience for staring at the screen, and *Oyster Boy*

Review provides links to a number of other online literary magazines, both academic and independent. •



STUDY RESOURCES

Ancient Sites

ancientsites.com:

Welcome to “the premier online community for ancient history fans!” This site whisks you back in time to the days of Spartacus and Socrates. There are plenty of message boards and chat rooms on every aspect of history (including those that want to discuss how *Gladiator* isn't historically accurate). Don't forget to enter your historical web site in the “best homes” section, which is a delightful list of Roman-related links.

JWorkman

Content: A Usability: C

National Atlas of the US

www-atlas.usgs.gov

Ever wonder what the topographical region around Kansas City looks like or where the nearest toxic waste dump is? Don't bother dragging yourself to the library, just visit the National Atlas online. Use their simple interactive map to navigate your way around the US, or look at their more specific maps on topics like transportation, people, environment, geology or biology. The site serves as an excellent reference tool and fun curiosity quencher. *TMaor*

Content: A Usability: B+

COMPUTER TIPS

Mac Update

macupdate.com

There are a number of shareware and demo downloading web sites aimed specifically at Mac users, but macupdate.com seems to be the most complete. You'll find a wide variety of software, most of which is free or packaged as shareware. Check out the Most Popular and Hot Picks categories for must-have applications. You can also choose from a number of MP3 players for Macs here. *DDesmond*

Content: A- Usability: B

Windows Registry Guide

regedit.com

PC users who are willing to tinker a bit with their operating system will find this site full of cool tweaks to improve both their system and programs such as MS Office. Change the look and feel of your desktop, improve its performance, or participate in a discussion board. Keep in mind that you'll have to do some editing of your system's registry file to implement these changes, so be sure to make a back up first! Fortunately the site provides clear, if technical, instructions. *DDesmond*

Content: B Usability: C+