

Epinions

epinions.com

On this site you'll find reviews on everything from colleges to movies to pet carriers. Some sections have more epinions that others, but you can choose between professional reviews and those of your fellow web surfers. Register for free and you can pen your own epinions, earning cash for the number of readers who trust your advice. Keep an eye on this site—it's got a lot of potential.

Content: B Usability: A

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The New York Times

nytimes.com

Get the Gray Lady without the cumbersome page turning, ink and Macy's sales you have no use for; the *New York Times*' full daily edition is free online. An optional free email service will put the top stories in your box each morning. Searching the *Times*' archives is free, although you'll need a credit card to buy more than the summary paragraphs at a couple of bucks a pop. Or just look them up online then find the microfilm copies at the library and put that money to good use, like for munchies or beer.

Content: A Usability: A-

The screenshot shows the front page of the New York Times website. The main headline is "High Court Agrees to Hear Case on Cigarette Ad Limits by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 10:11 A.M. ET". Other headlines include "American Airlines Requested New Deal in Buy 1, W.A." and "In Speech to U.S. Jews, Clinton Details His Middle East Plan". The page layout includes a masthead, a navigation bar, and several columns of text with accompanying images.

News Synthesis

newssynthesis.com

When your mom makes her weekly call boasting half-memories of last night's newscast: "The anchorman said you can go to jail for stealing music with that Napper thing..." get onto newssynthesis.com and set her straight in record time. There's a lot of searchable news databases these days on the web, but this also has links to things like nationally syndicated columns and think-tank web sites. Make your professors think you're super smart.

Content: A- Usability: A-

The Global Town Hall

globaltownhall.com

You've got an opinion, dammit. About politics, the environment, or simply how annoying your friends are for not having any opinions. Word to the wise: Said friends are getting sick of hearing about their pathetic lack of interest. Save your friendships and expand your audience exponentially at Globaltownhall.com, where anyone can

Editor's pick

The Scout Report for Science and Engineering

scout.cs.wisc.edu/report/sci-eng

This site hosts the biweekly Scout Report for Science and Engineering. Its list of Internet resources is meticulously compiled by discipline-specific librarians and content specialists. Wondering about atmospheric disturbance climatology? Look no further. The chosen content meets very specific criteria to weed out any unnecessary or useless links, and the site is kept clean and up-to-date. Topics appeal to students, professors and researchers alike.

Content: A Usability: A

The cover of the Scout Report for Science & Engineering, Volume 4, Number 9, December 30, 2000. It features the title in large, bold letters and a list of articles including "The Scout Report for Science & Engineering" and "The Scout Report for Science & Engineering is also provided via email once every two weeks." The cover is designed with a grid and various text elements.

write an opinion piece on their pet topic. Educate yourself with various articles culled from major news outlets. Then jump to a forum to blow off some steam on the matter. And before you know it, your op-ed piece might just end up on the front page.

Content: A- Usability: B+

DIVERSITY

Netnoir

netnoir.com

Looking for updates on your favorite black stars? Or news on African-American issues? Netnoir.com has it all and then some. This black-oriented web site offers news, shopping, email and advice on a range of issues. Check out their section for women and read up on money matters or women's history, or click on their Gospel Chapel and read about the Pastor of the Week and reviews of the latest spiritual music, books and web sites.

Content: B+ Usability: B

The screenshot shows the netnoir.com website interface. It features a search bar, a navigation menu, and several featured articles or advertisements. The design is dark with white text, and it includes a "What's Hot?" section and a "FREE SpeedDate" offer.

DVstreet

dvstreet.com

Point your web browser to Dvstreet.com, a multi-cultural web portal that allows users to personalize their own start page with channels, chat rooms, job information and more. Dvstreet's Career Center lists job postings and resume and interview tips. Their Marketplace includes over 300 online stores offering products from ethnic foods to airline tickets.

Content: B+ Usability: A-

VOLUNTEERING

The Virtual Volunteering Service

serviceleader.org

It's a new world of philanthropy! Virtual or online volunteering enables generous, busy individuals to perform volunteer tasks, in whole or in part, via the Internet at their home or work computers. VVS provides cyberservice, online mentoring, teletutoring, research work and various other jobs. It also allows agencies—such as the American Lung Association and Starbright World—to expand their volunteer programs and networks by allowing more participants, and using volunteers in new areas.

Content: B Usability: A

Volunteer America

volunteeramerica.net

If you have some spare time, and want to do something you'll feel good about, find a volunteer opportunity or vacation through volunteeramerica.net. This site, organized by state, connects individuals, families and groups with volunteer opportunities across the U.S. Many of the vacations/opportunities are sponsored by the Sierra Club and are a bit out of the ordinary, such as removing old ranching fence lines in Texas so that wildlife can migrate freely. Opportunities are listed up through October of next year, so you still have plenty of time to make plans.

Content: B+ Usability: A-

The screenshot shows the VolunteerAmerica.net website. It features a "WELCOME" message, a "What's new" section, and a list of volunteer opportunities across various states. The list includes locations like Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Puerto Rico, and others. The website has a clean, organized layout with a search bar and navigation options.