

Poetry Webography: Annotated List of Specialized Gateways Resources for high school English Students

[Poets](http://www.multcolib.org/homework/hslit.html#hsipoet) <http://www.multcolib.org/homework/hslit.html#hsipoet>

and [Sonnets and Poetry](http://www.multcolib.org/homework/hslit.html#hsipoet) <http://www.multcolib.org/homework/hslit.html#hsipoet>

Multnomah County Library Homework Center in Oregon has created this valuable gateway for students and teachers. Via “The Homework Center”, this gateway provides links to a comprehensive list of sites for teens and educators, including a specialized list of poets from John Ashberry to Yeats. Users are able to access biographical and critical analysis of major poets. Emphasis is placed on contemporary poets, but links to Shakespeare are also included. The “Sonnets and Poetry Links” offer a specialized list of valuable links to poetry sites, including links to poetry slams and electronic poetry collections.

[Literature/Poetry](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/theme.html) – <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/theme.html>

“The Learning Page” from the Library of Congress is a gateway that is listed as one of the best 101 Best Websites by ISTE, offering access to over 7 million historical documents, photographs, maps, films, and audio recordings. For students and teachers, it offers lessons and activities for using these resources in your classroom. The site divides lessons by Themes, Topics, Disciplines, or Eras- **scroll down to Literature/Poetry section**. The site offers titles and suggested grades-levels, focusing primarily on American issues.

[Poetry: Gateway to 21st Century Skills](http://www.thegateway.org/teaching-learning) <http://www.thegateway.org/teaching-learning>

A comprehensive gateway with extensive search capabilities for educators, GEM (Gateway to Educational Materials) offers a wealth of subject-specific links to online educational tools that are directly linked to national standards. This site offers categorization selection, and has detailed “refine your search” capabilities. You can refine your search by text, title, description, and key words. To narrow down your search, click on the “search within

results”, or scroll down on the left had side of the page to various subcategories. This gateway offers a wealth of educational lessons plans and online resources. **Use the word “Poetry” as a search word, then (if needed) refine your search by grade level or subtitle.**

BUBL LINK a Catalogue of Internet Resources <http://bubl.ac.uk/link/linkbrowse.cfm?menuid=10953>

This gateway offers links to electronic sources and links to sites such as poetry archives, timelines, concordances, and glossaries. BUBL uses the Dewey Decimal Classification system as the primary organization structure for its catalogue of Internet resources, so it’s easy to match sources with sources that are available in the library. **Under the “Literature and Rhetoric” subcategory, click on “809 Poetry Resources” for a list of poetry sites.**

At **AcademicInfo**, an online education resource center with extensive subject guides, **Poetry Resources** <http://www.academicinfo.net/poetry.html> offers links to American poetry and sites that focus on other languages, including Greek, Japanese, and Bulgarian poetry archives. Not only does it supply links to subcategories of individual poets and organizations, but it also offers subject directories for comparative literature and literary theory. At the same site, check out the **Poetry Digital Library** <http://www.academicinfo.net/poetrylibrary.html> which features the new media poetry and links to Irish, Farsi, Iraqi, and Spanish poetry.

The Invisible Web and What I have Learned about Quality Gateways

The Invisible Web (also known as “the cloaked web” or “the deep web”) is content that is hidden from search engines. Many factors determine whether a webpage is visible or invisible to a search engine. Since robot spiders aren’t advanced enough to find and read private content or databases, they remain unseen by major search engines. Since dynamic database content is stored in fluid databases with user-contributed content that search engines have difficulty in seeing, content such as subscription websites with ever-changing content or networks that are private go “unseen” by search engines (Gil).

Since the invisible web contains very important material, it is crucial to find ways to reach information on the invisible web. The best way to do this is to find good specialized directories that specify your research topic.

I will teach students information about the invisible web by asking them to search for a topic in a popular search engine and compare the results to a search they make in a directory such as [Complete Planet](https://completeplanet.com) (Hock). Another way of showing kids how to access the invisible web is to follow the search term with the word “database”. According to UC Berkley’s “Invisible Web: What It Is, Why It Exists, and Its Inherent Ambiguity”, the sites [The Librarians’ Internet Index](http://lii.org/) and [Infomine](http://infomine.ucr.edu/) are particularly valuable for academic research.

Learning quality gateways has opened up a whole new world that I didn’t know existed. I’m amazed at how different it is to search within a gateway compared to searching on a search engine.

For example, I used to spend hours trying to find quality poetry sites for my English literature class blog. Had I known about gateways, I would have spent ten minutes rather than two hours in trying finding quality educational sites on poetry. What I like most about gateway sites are that they are streamlined to the subject/genre for which I’m searching and the subdirectories help me to narrow my search.

Works Cited

Gil, Paul. "What is the 'Invisible Web'? ." Internet for Beginners. Jan. 2009. About.com. 20 Jan. 2009 <<http://netforbeginners.about.com/cs/secondaryweb1/a/secondaryweb.htm>>.

Hock, Randolph. *The Extreme Internet Searcher’s Internet Handbook*. Medford, NJ: Cyberage Books, 2007.

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