

Websites Review

Futurelab

<<http://www.futurelab.org.uk/about-us>>

Futurelab is a British non-governmental organisation dedicated to transforming teaching and learning, making them more relevant and engaging to 21st century generations through the use of innovative practice and technology. As well as working in curriculum innovation, Futurelab also tackles issues such as digital inclusion, play and computer games, digital literacy and participation. Its website offers access to information about its current projects, multimedia resources (blogs, podcasts, videos, commercial resources or free online devices principally aimed at educators), a range of publications (from manuals, reports or articles to its own biannual magazine *VISION*) and a calendar of events.

International Engineering Consortium (IEC)

<<http://www.iec.org/>>

The International Engineering Consortium was founded in 1944 with the hope of building bridges between technological advances from the previous generation with academic research. Its website includes announcements on international fairs and events on digital technological innovation, a catalogue of publications on wireless technology, IP, broadband, electronic design, networking, fibre optics and content, applications and related services. Leading North American technological institutions have a presence here, as well as Mexican university centres and, to a lesser extent, European centres. In particular, the website highlights online education services, with downloadable podcasts and videocasts spreading the content of different events organised by the institution.

MPEG Industry Forum

<<http://www.m4if.org/>>

The MPEG Industry Forum is a not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to extend MPEG format standards in such a way that they continue to be accepted and used regularly by content creators, application developers, industry, service providers and users in general. Based on its corporate mission, it also serves as a platform that enables a range of industrial initiatives in the field of technological convergence to offer their services. The website publicises workshops, symposiums and congresses on systems for digital audiovisual coding, telephone technology and sector congresses on convergence between the entertainment and broadband industries, such as the TelcoTV Annual Conference.

Council for Media and Culture (New York University)

<<http://www.nyu.edu/media.culture/>>

The Council for Media and Culture, attached to New York University, provides a forum for scholarly and public ventures that probe the form and content of human communication in mediated environments. The Council promotes interdisciplinary research, innovation in teaching, and global dialogue, facilitating collaboration between researchers, academics, students, professionals and the public at large by promoting research in areas of media and cultural studies. On its website you can access a selection of publications by Council members and information on new research projects on the new media ("Trespassing Boundaries", "Carnivore" or "Molecules and Minds").

Media Smart

<<http://www.mediasmartworld.com/>>

Media Smart is a media literacy programme encompassing eight European countries (Belgium, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Holland, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Media Smart develops media literacy educational programmes and resources for primary schools with the aim of teaching children aged 6 to 11 to think critically about advertising. Through its website, you can access free resources, available in each of the member countries. These resources are aimed at teachers and tutors, and children can even access a series of online games which show them how to understand the meaning of advertising, all through play.

Infoscape Research Lab. Centre for the Study of Social Media (Ryerson University, Canada)

<<http://www.infoscapelab.ca/>>

The Infoscape Research Lab, founded in 2005 at Ryerson University in Toronto (Canada), was created with the aim of sponsoring research projects based on the cultural and political impact of the internet, especially in relation to social media. Amongst other things, this research centre develops software based on research tools, interface designs and experimental research methods that seek to analyse the content and use of new media. The website gives access to research projects in which the laboratory has participated, a list of conferences and congresses, information about publications and coverage on the lab's activities.

Community Media Network

<<http://www.cmn.ie/>>

Because of the recent economic crisis, the Irish Community Media Network website has become the main channel for communication between its members and the general public. The network has existed since 1993 and its pages contain news stories and resources available for community media projects which are often not-for-profit and work through the exchange or renting of technical material, for example. The resources are often distributed according to each medium: radio, television, photography, the press and internet, amongst others, and a list of organisations that could provide funding is also made available to users.

Comunicàlia

<<http://www.comunicalia.cat/>>

Comunicàlia's website contains an extensive catalogue of all its programmes and a map of all the television and radio stations that subscribe to it. Most of the content can be seen online from the section of programmes as well as through the "on demand area". The website also offers access to an intranet and, particularly interesting, a real-time news service provided by the Catalan News Agency (Agència Catalana de Notícies), with which Comunicàlia has an agreement to provide news content to the network. The magazine *Antena Local* can also be accessed from the same place.

Fédération des télévisions locales (FTL) [Federation of Local Television Stations]

<<http://www.inforegions.be/>>

The home page of the Federation of Local Television Stations for the French community in Belgium is a meeting place for professionals from federated television stations, as well as a means of communicating with the general public on today's local Francophone television stations in Belgium. On the website, programming catalogues, news and direct links to each of the member television stations can also be found. Once the user selects the content, they are normally redirected to the local Walloon television station's website where it has been produced. It is significant that, within the Federation, there is also a local Luxembourg television station.

Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

<<http://www.cbaa.org.au/>>

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia is essentially the public body that supports local radio stations in the country. Its mission is to offer all kinds of services to the different media, above all legal training and improvement. The website acts as a link between different radio stations and there are job offers, scholarship programmes, calls for grant applications, competitions and awards on offer. It's also possible to access podcasts from associated radio stations and areas are provided for debate among users, as well as news, newsletter alerts and links of interest.

Center for Transformative Media (CTM)

<<http://ctm.parsons.edu/themes/>>

The Center for Transformative Media (CTM) is a research centre dedicated to the invention, critique and understanding of transformative media practices, including gaming, social networking, creative mobility, data mining and participatory learning. CTM projects focus mainly on the ecologies of change, with an emphasis on public networks as a space for ways of learning. Its website provides information on ongoing projects, such as the future of learning, participatory media practices, the issue of identity with new media, mobile platforms, information visualisation on new dynamic media and the pedagogy of play.

Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT)

<<http://www.cdt.org/>>

The Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) is a US non-profit public interest organisation working since 1995 to promote free speech and privacy in new information and communication technologies, for example by keeping the internet open, innovative and free. On its website you can access information about different issues related to the world of communication such as free speech, consumer privacy, the role of information technologies in health-related topics ("health IT") and the consequent privacy risks, the relationship between national security and individual rights, digital copyright and open government.

Xarxa de Televisions Locals (XTL) [Local Television Network]

<<http://www.xtvl.tv/>>

The XTL website serves both to promote the XTVL company within the audiovisual sector in general and its internal use by syndicated television stations. It contains a catalogue of content produced by the Barcelona Provincial Council's network, access to files with descriptions of both television stations that regularly broadcast this content and a list of the episodes made and often links to each project's producers or website. The website also has a section on live broadcasts, another on highlighted programmes, and a section to receive programme proposals.

Communications Consumer Panel

<<http://www.communicationsconsumerpanel.org.uk/>>

Established under the British Communications Act of 2003 as the independent, policy advisory body, the Communications Consumer Panel analyses the interests of consumers on issues related to telecommunications, broadcasting and the audiovisual market, with the exception of content issues. Its website provides interesting information about different digital participation initiatives, media access, the digital switchover, consumer protection, new social networks, telecommunications, the digital divide and copyright. Ongoing projects and research publications carried out by the panel can also be accessed.

Global Media Research Center (Southern Illinois University)

<<http://gmrc.siu.edu/index.php>>

The Global Media Research Center is a research centre based at the United States' Southern Illinois University, directed by one of the leading scholars in community media, Dr. John Downing. It is currently carrying out several interdisciplinary projects in the field of communication, and one which particularly stands out is an encyclopaedia on alternative media and social movements, a complete study about the Nigerian Nollywood phenomenon, and research into the use of videogames in South East Asia. The website contains all the information on the centre and contact details, as well as a file of videos featuring seminars and presentations on each of the projects.

Comunitarias TV

<<http://www.comunitariastv.org/>>

Comunitarias TV is a network of community television for Latin America created in 2008 as part of the international cooperation between Spain and a range of community media initiatives in Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador, with the support of UNESCO's audiovisual and platform project. The network's mission is to share content and also experiences in general among various television networks, amongst which the pioneering Televisió de Cardedeu stands out. On the website you can look at the project "Con nuestros propios medios" [With our own media], consult related documents and access press releases about the impact of initiatives implemented on conventional media.