

Electronic resources

LISTSERVS

JOURNET

Journet is a listserv for journalism professors that encompasses all AEJMC divisions. It carries a vibrant discussion on all aspects of teaching journalism: reporting, editing, ethics, etc. The list owners are George Frajkor (gfracor@ccs.carleton.ca) and Elliott S. Parker (elliott.s.parker@cmich.edu). To subscribe – and to search the archive of postings – go to <https://listserv.cmich.edu/archives/journet.html>. Or send an e-mail to listserv@listserv.cmich.edu with the command: Subscribe Journet yourfirstname yourlastname (e.g., Subscribe Journet Deborah Gump).

ACES jobs list

If your students are looking for editing jobs, they must subscribe to this list. It supplies a steady stream of job postings for a wide variety of newspapers, and, occasionally, other media. To subscribe, go to the home page, which also carries an archive of job postings: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/acesjobs/>.

AEJMC Newspaper division list

This list is for Newspaper division members only; it's a one-way address list that officers use to distribute materials to members. It is not a discussion list. To sign up, send an e-mail to the division chair.

EDPROF

This listserv is for people who teach editing and professionals with an interest in editing education. Started by Frank Fee, now at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the list has moved to EditTeach.org. To join, click on the Edprof link under "Teaching Resources" in the right-hand rail of the home page. It will take you to http://editteach.org/mailman/listinfo/edprof_editteach.org, where you can sign up. This list comes to life with specific questions and has been very helpful in generating answers to questions we all face.

Cox Academy Training Newsletter

Cox Newspapers' monthly newsletter is a good wrap-up of its in-house training program; the newsletter offers writing and editing tips and sums up key points made by presenters. If you'd like to get on the list for the e-mailed PDF, write to Michael Schwartz, manager of editorial training, at mschwartz@coxnews.com. Include your name, affiliation and the appropriate e-mail address.

Above the Fold

The Minneapolis Star Tribune also shares its excellent in-house training newsletter. A PDF version can be sent by e-mail, but if large files trouble your e-mail provider, it's also posted on the Web. However, although about a dozen issues are posted at <http://www.startribune.com/news/hertzel/abovethefold.htm>, no new issues can be posted until a Web glitch is fixed. In the meantime, send an e-mail to Laurie Hertzel, the Star Tribune's projects editor, at lhertzel@startribune.com. She'll put you on her PDF mailing list and let you know when she resumes posting them on the Web.

A list of lists

Barbara Croll Fought at Syracuse University maintains a list of lists: web.syr.edu/~bcfought/.

GENERAL WEB SITES

ACES

The Web home of the American Copy Editors Society is www.copydesk.org. In addition to information on ACES workshops and conferences, the site offers a strong dose of training. At www.copydesk.org/quizzes.htm, for example, you'll find 66 interactive quizzes from grammar and AP style to history and current events. At www.copydesk.org/guidelines.htm, you'll get information from newsroom hiring tests to give people an idea of what hiring editors expect. The site also maintains an archive of material from its annual conferences, such as the handout from a session on do-it-yourself training in 2002 (<http://www.copydesk.org/2002conference/doit.htm>).

ACES changed its discussion list to a board. The site – at <http://www.copydesk.org/discussionboard/phpBB2/index.php> – offers an RSS feed.

EditTeach.org

[EditTeach.org](http://www.editeach.org) has been redesigned to allow for more multimedia resources, an RSS feed and an expanded Headline Challenge, which is an interactive workshop for editors who want to improve their head-writing abilities. Other offerings include teaching exercises; a guide to the use of editing protocols in several newsrooms; several years of Dow Jones editing internship tests *and* the answers; the John Bremner editing DVD; and dozens of links to additional resources, from language skills to editing research to job banks. Your contributions are most welcome.

NewsU

Poynter hosts NewsU at <http://www.newsu.org/>, and it's a rapidly growing source of innovative online journalism training. Many courses are suitable for college students as well as professionals, such as the "Be a Reporter" game and "Cleaning Your Copy," an incredibly thorough and entertaining overview of basic grammar points. NewsU has more than 40 courses and is adding more every day. And best of all, most of the courses are free. Also check out the NewsU's blog, NUAccess, at <http://access.newsu.org/>, where frequent posts highlight new resources and links.

EditBank

This syllabus bank for editing courses was created for the Newspaper Division of AEJMC. It has two components: an index of links to online course syllabi and a file of some that are loaded at the site. The URL is www.unc.edu/~ffee/EditBank.html. If you would like to contribute your syllabus, send the URL or an attachment to Frank Fee at ffee@email.unc.edu.

No Train, No Gain

“No Train, No Gain” is the Web site of newsroom training coaches, who share their favorite exercises and ideas to improve newsroom training. Topics include skills training, managerial advice, technology, recruitment, diversity, surveys, a resource directory of speakers and an archive of discussion threads: www.notrain-nogain.org/

Poynter resources

The Poynter Institute, founded by Nelson Poynter as a school for journalists, is a treasure of resource and training material. Poynter.org is also the home of Jim Romenesko’s media news roundup: www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=45. Other pages of particular interest are Poynter’s home for writing/editing material (www.poynter.org/subject.asp?id=2), its resource center (www.poynter.org/resource_center/) and its Headline of the Day page (www.poynter.org/headline_of_the_day/), where you can submit your favorite headline of the day and vote for other headlines. You must first register as a site user, but registration does not expose you to spammers or unwanted offers.

Dow Jones Newspaper Fund

If you want information about the Dow Jones editing internship, as well as information on other internships for college and high school students, go to <http://djNewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/default.asp>.

Journalismtraining.org

Journalismtraining.org makes it easy to search for training by topic, region and time. The Society of Professional Journalists manages this site for the Council of National Journalism Organizations.

44 Tips for Greater Accuracy

This compendium of tactics to increase accuracy in newswork has been used by educators and professionals: <http://www.unc.edu/~ffee/teaching/accuracy.htm>.

The Journalist’s Toolbox, copy editing

The Journalist’s Toolbox home page (www.americanpressinstitute.org/pages/toolbox) has more than 20,000 Web sites, updated daily to feature timely resources. You’ll find the copy editing material at <http://www.americanpressinstitute.org/content/3696.cfm>.

Hot Potatoes software

Gerald Grow of Florida A&M notes: Hot Potatoes is software for learning, not for testing. It does not provide the kind of security you need for ironclad testing, but it is excellent as a teaching tool

and can be used for testing in situations where students are monitored (to watch that they do not manipulate the code to find the answers): <http://hotpot.uvic.ca/>

Gerald Grow's home page

Various exercises and teaching ideas, including How To Write Badly, If Bureaucrats Wrote Ads, Seven Types of Paragraph Development, Using Transitions (a little story), Cartoons on Teaching Styles, Teaching Learners to be Self-Directed, and his Great-Great Grandfather's letters from the Civil War: www.longleaf.net/ggrowse/.

AEJMC's archive of research papers: <http://list.msu.edu/archives/aejmc.html>

LANGUAGE AND STYLE WEB SITES

Newsroom 101

Working with Ron Hartung of the Tallahassee Democrat, Gerald Grow has converted Ron's archive of weekly grammar practice into a series of self-grading online quizzes: <http://newsroom101.com/>. Gerald says: "The material is not systematic or comprehensive, but it does provide a repeated series of reminders of the basics of copyediting, using actual examples. I think of these exercises as the daily 'dribbling, passing and shooting practice' that student copyeditors need to do to develop their skills."

Learning "Lay" and "Lie"

Gerald Grow says that a few years ago, "I decided to bite the bullet and teach students the difference between lay and lie. The result was a 17-page grammatical epic, isolating each concept, with self-guiding practice quizzes on each step, leading up to a series of exercises containing lay and lie as used in sentences from recent journalism, and culminating in a set of diabolically difficult challenge quizzes": www.longleaf.net/quiz/laylie/.

The Tongue Untied

The University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication launched this site to help students pass its required grammar, spelling and punctuation test: <http://grammar.uoregon.edu/>.

Emergency Grammar System

Another site from the University of Oregon, this one from John Russial: <http://jcomm.uoregon.edu/~russial/grammar/grambo.html>.

Spelling test

A test from Mindy McAdams, a Knight journalism chair at the University of Florida: www.sentex.net/~mmcaddams/spelling.html.

Writer's Workshop

This site, courtesy of the Ball State University Department of Journalism, includes articles on points of grammar as well as interactive exercises: <http://jdwritingctr.iweb.bsu.edu/workshop/workshop.html>.

Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation

OWL (Online Writing Lab), Purdue University, is another source of grammar pointers. Many, but not all, of the entries have exercises and answer sheets:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/>.

Grammar Handbook

The Writer's Workshop sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign includes a grammar site, which doesn't offer interactive exercises but does explain basic grammar rules concerning parts of speech, phrases, clauses, common usage problems, sentences and sentence elements: www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/.

NewsPlace™

Avi Bass at Northern Illinois University maintains this index of news-related sites, including grammar sites: www3.niu.edu/newsplace/.

HyperGrammar

The site is courtesy of the Writing Centre at the University of Ottawa. Note that it is produced by folks who use the *other* English spellings:

www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/grammar.html.

Interactive Journalism

Several interactive pages are offered at this site at the University of Queensland. One page gives students the chance to write their own news stories; another offers lessons in the importance of accuracy. And yes, it has grammar lessons: www.sjc.uq.edu.au/interactive/index.htm.

Latin dictionaries

Notre Dame Latin dictionary: www.nd.edu/~archives/latgramm.htm.

Words by William Whitaker: <http://lysy2.archives.nd.edu/cgi-bin/words.exe>.

Slang and rap

www.OCF.Berkeley.edu/~wrader/slang | This dictionary not only defines slang terms, but it also explains how and when a term evolved. The site thrives on audience input and feedback so you can submit your own word or revise a definition.

www.rapdict.org | If you have ever had trouble deciphering the meaning of a word in a rap song, this site is for you. The dictionary defines rap terms but also lists the first song in which they appeared.

<http://www.intranet.csupomona.edu/~jasanders/judi2.html> / | The College Slang Page focuses on how and why college students use slang language. It provides a dictionary of slang terms and ranks them by popularity.

MULTIMEDIA WEB SITES

Five Steps to Multimedia Reporting

The site says it wants to help reporters learn how to do multimedia stories, but editors need to know what reporters know – and more. Written largely by Jane Stevens with help from others, it's clear and comprehensive: <http://journalism.berkeley.edu/multimedia/>. You can also reach it through the Knight Digital Media Center (<http://www.knightdigitalmediacenter.org/>), which is run in partnership with USC and Berkeley and is funded by the Knight Foundation.

Podcasting Pointers

Podcasting Pointers is a new Web site by Media Concepts, Inc. and Debbie Wolfe Consulting, both of St. Petersburg, Fla. Wolfe is the technology training director at the St. Petersburg Times and is on the adjunct faculty at the University of South Florida. Podcasting Pointers shares examples of podcasting as well as tip sheets and other resources: <http://www.podcasting-pointers.blogspot.com/>

Mefedia

Mefedia is a video aggregator - and last month it drew a million unique visitors. Its video links include guides and how-tos in dozens of areas, including technology: <http://www.mefedia.com/entry/641568/>

Gruntmedia

Started by Craig Syverson, Gruntmedia is a start-up firm doing audio/video programs, podcasts, etc. Its videogrun and podgrun pages also share overviews and tutorials: <http://www.gruntmedia.com/home.html>

Online News Association

Among the offerings of Cyberjournalist.net are a tips and tools page, a gallery of good work and a blog on weblogs. You'll also find details on the annual ONA conference: <http://www.cyberjournalist.net/>.

Institute for New Media Studies

Run by Nora Paul, the institute focuses on creation of and research into new media. Its sites include the Digital Storytelling Effects Lab, the Elements of Digital Storytelling and Gravel (Game Research and Virtual Environment Lab): <http://www.inms.umn.edu/>

Teaching Online Journalism

Mindy McAdams, Knight chair in journalism technologies at the University of Florida and author of "Flash Journalism: How to Create Multimedia News" (flashjournalism.com), has a great list of resources (mindymcadams.com/sites.htm) as well as other helpful stuff, including her syllabi: <http://mindymcadams.com/>

WIRE SERVICES

At least two wire services – The Associated Press and the McClatchy-Tribune Information Services – make their feeds available **for free** for classroom use. Content is delivered over the Web through password-protected sites. Their stories, photos and graphics cannot be used in any kind of publication without payment. So you can use the material for classroom exercises and for generating story ideas and discussion, but you can't use it in your school's newsletter or magazine, even if they are nonprofit.

► The Associated Press allows its college press members to share their passwords with their schools or departments of journalism. For example, The Post, the independent student newspaper at Ohio University, is an AP member and has shared its password with the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. If you don't have a student newspaper or if the paper is not an AP member, you might check with the AP bureau in your area to see if you can piggyback on the AP membership of your local newspaper. Don't be surprised if the local bureau isn't aware of this deal; if it isn't, urge the bureau chief to check with the home office. (If you have problems, I'm happy to try to help - Deborah Gump, dgump@concernedjournalists.org.)

► The McClatchy-Tribune Information Services (<http://www.mctdirect.com>) delivers content from all McClatchy and Tribune publications, as well as other organizations that have joined the wire, such as the Dallas Morning News. Each week, the service moves about 1,200 news stories, 130 photos, 25 print graphics and illustrations and paginated pages, seven news animations and 20 TV graphics. The same restrictions about using the material apply. To sign up, get in touch with editor Jane Scholz: 202-383-6085 or jscholz@krtinfo.com.

NEWSPAPER SITES

www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages | The Newseum's Web home posts more than 250 front pages from around the world every day. The site doesn't archive these pages – at least, not yet – but it does archive pages covering some events of historical importance, such as the Virginia Tech massacre and Hurricane Katrina.

www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html | A guide to newspapers archives – which are free, how many years are covered, etc. – with links to the archives themselves. Maintained by volunteers of the Special Libraries Association.

www.newspagedesigner.com | News Page Designer is part of the Society for News Design's Web site. It posts portfolios, answers questions, offers "tips & tricks" and features collections of historic news pages, such as the capture of Saddam Hussein, as well as feature pages and sections.

To find newspapers ...

<http://newslink.org/>

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

<http://www.newspaperlinks.com/home.cfm>

www.kidon.com/media-link/index.shtml (worldwide)

<http://www.mondotimes.com/> (worldwide, w/radio and TV, searchable by topic)

<http://www.gebbieinc.com/dailyint.htm> (w/ radio, TV, trades)

ET CETERA WEB SITES

A view of us

Check it out the next time you need to keep the big picture in mind:

http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights_dmsp_big.jpg

Seven Sisters

Here's a Seven Sisters the AP Stylebook doesn't tell you about. Scroll down to the Pleiades entry:

<http://www.winshop.com.au/annex/Taurus.html>

Seven Wonders of the World

In case you want to show your students what the Seven Wonders looked like:

<http://ce.eng.usf.edu/pharos/wonders/index.html>

Le Woogie Card Trick

One of many puzzles at this site, the card trick will show your students how the mind can play tricks on the eyes:

<http://understandingscience.ucc.ie/pages/quiz.htm>

The Eye Test

Same lesson as the card trick above (just ignore the silly "reasoning" at the bottom):

<http://www.neilslade.com/Papers/eyetest.html>

NPR Weekend Edition Puzzle

In case you want to play word games with your students:

<http://www.npr.org/programs/wesun/puzzle/>

Fun with quizzes

The ACES Web site offers 66 quizzes, from usage and AP style to Iraq and the Mideast:

<http://www.copydesk.org/quizzes.htm>

More fun with quizzes

Encarta's collection of quizzes include grammar and geography:

<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/departments/homework/default.aspx?page=Quizzes>

Copy editor jokes

<http://www.geocities.com/picapoleemics/>