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The 101 most useful websites Last Updated: 12:01am GMT 30/03/2008 Page 3 of 3

- TECHNOLOGY ENTERTAINMENT ADVICE AND INFORMATION HOUSE AND HOME SOCIAL SHOPPING TRAVEL

29 Instructables www.instructables.com DIY projects from zombi make-up to LED balloons. Excellent selection of rainy-day projects for bored children (and adults) at home.

30 Flash games www.k2xl.com Addictive series of Flash games including the hypnotically soothing Boomshine.

31 GamesSpot www.gamespot.com News, reviews, hints and tips for virtually every console game on the market. Essentially if you are still up at 2am trying to find a way into the castle on Zelda.

32 Anagrammer www.anagrammer.com Online anagram machine for Scrabble players and crossword enthusiasts. Also solves Sudoku.

ADVICE AND INFORMATION 33 Newsmap marumushi.com/apps/newsmap A wonderfully graphical - and customisable - display of news stories from around the world. Click on an item to see the full story.

34 The Eggcorn Database eggcorns.lascribe.net Continually updated guide to modern-day Malapropisms, misunderstandings and other manglings of language. From 'high dungeon' to 'wreckless driving', Eggcorn names the culprits and nudges them in the right direction.

35 Arts and Letters Daily www.aldaily.com World-class articles from intellectual and influential journals around the world. Browse the day's selections. Like The Week for eggheads.

36 Ask Philosophers www.askphilosophers.org The academy comes to cyberspace. A panel of mainly American and British philosophy scholars answers questions sent in by the public. Search the database, from Abortion to War, or send in a question of your own.

37 When Is www.when-is.com Shows you the dates of Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and American holidays from now to 2010.

38 Rhyme Zone www.rhymezone.com For when the muse has gone, a rhyme and synonym generator to help you towards the perfect mot. You can also search for Shakespeare quotations, biblical references and other literary inspirations.

39 Nationmaster www.nationmaster.com Giant but easily searchable database of statistics, maps and profiles for every country in the world.

40 Digg www.digg.com The people's approach to news and features, Digg brings together items from across the net, ranked according to how many people have felt them worth recommending. Sometimes a little techie-heavy, but excellent for discovering what the cyberworld is getting worked up about.

41 They Work For You www.theyworkforyou.com A powerful way of keeping tabs on MPs and peers: attendance records, voting patterns, recent statements and more.

42 Time Bank www.timebank.org.uk Volunteer opportunities for young people, sorted by region, interest, skills and need.

43 Wikipedia www.wikipedia.org Controversial, democratic and sometimes error-strewn encyclopaedia that has brought Darwinism to the world of knowledge. Make it your first port of call for looking something up. Just be sure to check somewhere else that what you find makes sense.

44 Wiktionary www.wiktionary.org Wikipedia's online multilingual dictionary. Immensely powerful and far less controversial than its encyclopaedic forebear.

45 Motley Fool www.fool.co.uk The original - and still the best - personal finance site on the web (the American version is at www.fool.com). For savers, borrowers, stock spotters and day traders, sound, independent advice that cuts through the jargon.

46 Martindale's 'The Reference Desk' www.martindalecenter.com From the arts, business, science and technology, a dry but authoritative conglomeration of data from around the world.

47 PubMed www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed Free and authoritative database of more than 17 million medical research papers. Not always easy to understand if you are not a medic, but a far better place to look for information than the random sites that come up on Google.

48 About.com www.about.com The internet's version of that clever uncle who always seems to know the answer to your questions. There are few subjects the site doesn't tackle, though the coverage can be superficial. A good starting point for idle research.

49 NHS Direct www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk Online information and advice about health and illness, run by Britain's National Health Service. The site includes a useful self-diagnosis tool that can reassure you that your hangover is not in fact meningitis.

50 Legal Services Shop www.freelawyer.co.uk General legal advice relating to housing, family law, employment, motoring, consumer issues and personal injury, plus wills, conveyancing and divorce. Good starting point to see where you stand. Will also, for a fixed fee, answer questions and put you in touch with a solicitor.

51 How Stuff Works www.howstuffworks.com Engaging encyclopaedia of the modern (and not so modern) world, with good illustrations and clear text. Can suffer sometimes from an 'it's amazing!' tone of voice..

52 XE www.xe.com Currency converter covering every world currency. Azerbaijan new manats to Cayman Island dollars? Just a click away.

53 Advice Guide www.adviceguide.org.uk Find where you stand legally with the Citizens Advice Bureau's online information resource.

54 Need2Know www.need2know.co.uk Advice and information for young people, including health and fitness, drugs, problems with bullying, how to study and applying for jobs.

55 Royal Horticultural Society www.rhs.org.uk Advice and suggestions from the world's leading gardening organisation. A good 'how-to' section and seasonal tips for the time of year.

56 Babelfish www.babelfish.altavista.com Automatic translation to and from most European languages and Chinese. The results are sometimes a little strange, but you will usually get your message across.

57 eHow www.ehow.com How to do just about everything, from getting stains off curtains to buying a second-hand car.

58 Eat the Seasons www.eattheseasons.co.uk Updated weekly, information, tips and recipe ideas on British seasonal food.

59 Age Concern www.ageconcern.org.uk Website of Britain's leading charity for the elderly, packed with advice about maintaining an active life.

60 Weather.com www.weather.com The queen of weather sites, with more information than you would possibly imagine you might need, from pollen counts to surf forecasts.

61 Uncyclopedia uncyclopedia.org Spoof Wikipedia-style encyclopaedia where nothing is true, but a good deal is very funny indeed. Idle away an afternoon or, even better, hone your comedy skills by making a contribution yourself.

62 Kiva www.kiva.org An easy way to lend small sums (from \$25) to business projects in the developing world. Kiva keeps track of your investment, updates you on progress and repays your loan as the business grows.

63 Embarrassing problems www.embarrassingproblems.co.uk From bad breath and piles to cold sores and beyond, Dr Margaret Stearn dispenses invaluable advice.

HOUSE AND HOME 64 Noise Mapping England www.noisemapping.org Click on an area of the map to find out how noisy a street, or even a section of the street, is - handy for light sleepers planning a move. At the moment only London is mapped, but the rest of England will follow.

65 Prime Location www.primelocation.com One of the best sites for finding property. It is UK-based but has a good international presence.

66 Rated People www.ratedpeople.com User reviews on local tradesmen. You describe the job you need done and how quickly and suppliers contact you with quotes - with previous customers rating them.

67 Zoopla www.zoopla.co.uk Possibly the most dangerous site on this list, Zoopla gives sale prices of recently sold homes and - the tricky bit - estimates the value of the rest. We dare you not to look.

68 Money Saving Expert www.moneysavingexpert.com Subtitled 'Consumer Revenge', this is where you find the discounts, tricks and tips to save money. The weekly email is essential reading for canny consumers. It caters only for Britain, but every country should have one.

69 MetaEfficient www.metaefficient.com Practical guide to making your home more environmentally friendly, from low-flow showerheads to 12V lighting. US-based, but many of the products are available elsewhere.

70 Design My Room www.DesignMyRoom.com For budding Laurence Llewellyn-Bowens everywhere, it provides the ability to redecorate your home in cyberspace. Choose colours, furniture, accessories and finishes and then publish the results online.

71 Up My Street www.upmystreet.com Neighbourhood information based on postcode: schools, shopping and, juiciest of all, how much the house down the road sold for recently.

72 Home For Exchange www.homeforexchange.com One of many sites where you can swap homes with someone else for a period. This is less cluttered than some of the others and has a good geographical spread.

73 SimplySwitch www.simplyswitch.com The fast way to compare utility suppliers and other services, from broadband to home insurance. Enter your postcode and the site comes back with the best deals.

74 101 Cookbooks www.101cookbooks.com Enchanting recipe and foodie blog from a Californian cook who believes in good food. Subscribe to the email alert service and transform your cooking repertoire.

SOCIAL 75 Facebook www.facebook.com The most grown-up (just) of the social-networking sites that are fast taking over the world. Excellent for staying in touch with far-flung friends, though pretty good too for re-establishing contact with those you hoped you had lost.

76 Wordpress www.wordpress.com The quickest and easiest way to create a blog of your own.

77 Ringsurf www.ringsurf.com Like an online Mothers' Union meeting (though sometimes a little more risqué), Ringsurf is a chatroom where people exchange ideas about anything from politics to relationships. The quality is not always high, but users have been known to discover new (real-life) friends with interests they thought no one would share. A tribute to the information-sharing capability of the net.

78 bubbl.us www.bubbl.us Organise your thoughts by creating mindmaps online and sharing them with others.

79 Technorati www.technorati.com An intelligent, intuitive and inspiring way to read entries from some of the millions of blogs that dot the internet. You can browse by subject or area of interest, read the postings that are catching the world's attention and bookmark blogs that catch your attention. And if you want to join in...

80 Flickr www.flickr.com The website you graduate to once you've discovered how to put your holiday snaps on the net. Here, everyone's photos are linked by using tags, such as 'Spain', 'beach' or 'happy', which sets you off on an exploration of others' uploads.

81 BabyCentre www.babycentre.co.uk There are plenty of great parenting forums out there - Netmums, Mumsnet - but this is still the best source of considered, authoritative, often soothing advice on everything from colic to tax credits.

82 Friction TV www.friction.tv YouTube for debaters. Upload a short video about an issue close to your heart and others reply in kind or by text.

SHOPPING 83 GiftGen www.giftgen.co.uk Gift ideas for when you can't think what to buy someone. You enter their age, sex and interests and how much you want to pay and it scours the net for ideas.

84 eBay www.ebay.co.uk Online shopping for (nearly) everything you might want to buy. The original auction formula is still going strong, but plenty more features have been added since it began. Take a look at non-UK sites, such as ebay.fr and ebay.de, too, for bargains others may have missed. The layout is the same even if you don't speak the language.

85 Who What Wear Daily www.whowhatweardaily.com Fashion tips, advice and suggestions. Includes Ask a Stylist for those tricky co-ordination problems and a What Was She Wearing? inquiry service to help you track down your favourite celebrity's fashion choice.

86 Gumtree www.gumtree.com Unabashedly straightforward classified ads site, for everything from new homes to online romance.

87 AbeBooks www.abebooks.co.uk The Amazon of the second-hand book world. More than 13,500 booksellers selling 110 million books. If it's not here, it's not worth looking for.

88 Kelkoo www.kelkoo.co.uk There are plenty of price-comparison sites on the web, but this one seems to get it right more often than most. Type in what you want to buy and Kelkoo will come back with the cheapest prices it can find.

89 Engadget www.engadget.com A (digital) finger on the pulse of the technology world. All the newest developments, discoveries, gadgets and toys - before they hit the shops.

90 Cork'd www.corkd.com Discover more about wine by reviewing what you've enjoyed and receiving tips and suggestions from others.

91 I Love Jeans www.ilovejeans.com Find the right jeans for your fit before you even leave home. A cheeky but revealing 'body type' guide takes you straight to the brand you should be trying. Search by style, body type or brand. Women only.

TRAVEL 92 Sky Scanner www.skyscanner.net Monitors prices and destinations for all the low-cost airlines so you just type in where you want to go and when to find the best deal.

93 The Man in Seat 61 www.seat61.com Routes, tickets, tips and advice - the only guide you need to travelling by train from Britain to Europe and the rest of the world.

94 Walk It www.walkit.com Online pedestrian routefinder for London, Birmingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh that shows you the best route to walk from A to B. Includes calorie counter, CO2 savings and points of interest on the way. Other cities coming soon.

95 Transport for London Journey Planner journeyplanner.tfl.gov.uk Indispensable and almost always spot-on guide to negotiating the capital's public transport system. You enter your starting point and destination and it gives you the best bus, tube, cycle and even boat routes to get you across town.

96 ViaMichelin www.viamichelin.com A hi-tech hark-back to the days of leisurely motoring. ViaMichelin gives you maps, routes and directions throughout Britain and continental Europe with added panache. The maps have a pleasant printed quality about them and, naturally enough, your route is accompanied by gastronomic highlights to be found along the way. There's also information about destinations.

97 Carbon Neutral www.carbonneutral.com Information on your carbon footprint and how to cut it down. Includes an online calculator to measure your effect on the world.

98 Expedia www.expedia.com Excellent all-round travel site. Use it for good prices on flights and holidays, but click on 'Destinations' for some well-researched and up-to-date travel guides.

99 SeatGuru www.seatguru.com Aircraft seating plans, showing you the prime seats, possible annoyances and seats you should avoid.

100 Airline Meals www.airlinemeals.net A consumer guide to what you can expect to eat on board. There are news and features from the airline catering world, but the best part is a gallery of photos of on-board meals sent in by passengers and listed by airline.

101 World Hum www.worldhum.com Travel writing with a twist. Click on the destination you have in mind and be prepared to be inspired. The site also offers travelogues, news, books reviews, blogs and slideshows.

Seven This article is from Seven magazine, free with The Sunday Telegraph every weekend

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