

Web Guides

Instant Access to Information on the World Wide Web!

When you need information from the Internet, your first instinct might be to use a search engine to attempt to locate some websites. You might want to reconsider.

General search engines on the Web contain literally millions of websites and can often suggest websites having *nothing to do* with your interests. Search results might contain links to commercial, misleading, biased, adult-oriented, or outdated websites. With so many issues, you might wonder if there might be better ways to access information online. *There are!*

Middletown Thrall Library offers safer and faster paths to what you need. Our website (www.thrall.org) provides convenient **web guides** to information online – think of it like “Table of Contents” for the Internet!

Our guides, arranged by topic, contain some of the best and most up-to-date websites out there in all major areas of knowledge, including Literature, History, Health, Consumer Information and Law, among many other specific topics.

Many of our guides contain direct links to topics in the library catalog, giving you instant access to available resources throughout the local library system!

When you visit **Thrall’s website** (at www.thrall.org), you can either click on the “Web Guides – Browse All Topics” link or use the “drop-down” menu (“select a specific web guide”) to jump directly to a topic you want to explore. You can also go directly to www.thrall.org/guides

If you feel more comfortable searching, you can use our **Web Guides Search** to explore websites in our web guides and to receive suggestions as to where else you might want look, such as our Article Databases or the library catalog.

See our **Why Search?** publication (at <http://www.thrall.org/docs>) for more ideas on reevaluating web search strategies.

A Brief Tour of Our Major Web Guides

GovSites: Government Information on the Web

Because Middletown Thrall Library is a designated Federal Depository Library, we offer extensive access to Government information in print at the library and in electronic form. Browse local, state, federal, and international government information by topic. Download reports, browse “hot docs,” and take advantage of all the free and helpful information our government makes available to you!

Current Interests Center

What’s happening around the world at this very moment? What’s going on in the book world? What products were recalled? What’s on TV? What movies or DVDs are coming out? What’s making headlines in the tech world? Find out all this and more through our *Current Interests Center*.

Booklovers & Literature Guides

Discover forthcoming titles, read book reviews, start or join a book club, receive or make reading suggestions – all through our guide for Booklovers! While there, also be sure to check out our **Booklover’s Blog** (<http://www.thrall.org/blogs>).

Craving something more classical? Need to research literary criticism? Would you like to learn interesting trivia about your favorite works and authors? How about some study guides or literary quotations? Our Literature guide offers paths to all this information and more, including a “Literature Explorer,” which you can use to browse and reserve literary treasures within our library system.

Special Coverage Center

This area of our website features guides on hot topics of either local or global interest. Examples of topics include the *Economic Crisis & Recovery*, *Jobs & Unemployment*, *Climate Change*, *Gas Prices*, *Going Green*, *Bees / Colony Collapse Disorder*, the *U.S. Presidential Election*, *Immigration*, and much more.

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Ready Reference Center

When you need simple facts fast from the Web, this is a great place to start! What will you find here? Topics such as Animals, Art, Astronomy, Atlases, Automobiles, Cooking, Crafts, Databases, Dictionaries, Education, Encyclopedias, Flags, Formulas, Games, Gardening, Geography, Holidays, Myths and Legends, Science, among many more!

Health Information and Law

Our Health and Law guides link to respected and up-to-date websites and databases, including extensive information provided by the U.S. Government.

Local & New York State Information

Browse topics such as Arts & Culture, Assistance, Business & Commerce, Disabilities, Education, Emergencies & Natural Disasters, Environment, Government, Housing, Labor, Law, News, Police, Seniors, Taxes, Technology, Transportation, Travel & Tourism, Vital Records, and more.

Job Searches & Career Development

Whether you're entering the work force for the first time, looking for a new job, or contemplating an entirely new career, our ***InterJob Search*** web guide can help you discover employment opportunities or prepare for future jobs. Get tips about resumés, cover letters, and interviews. The next time you're at Thrall, be sure to pick up our free "**Jobs & Careers**" brochure at Reference and to ask about our new **Job Search Computer**.

Economy, Investment, Consumer Information

Use our *Economy* and *Investment* guides to learn about global markets, how stocks, bonds, and mutual funds work, or track business and company news. You can also use our *Consumer Information* guide to take advantage of product reviews, consumer advisories, news, and more by exploring our guide for consumers. Use information to improve your financial standing!

Colleges & Universities

Virtually visit colleges that interest you or learn how to prepare for college funding and attendance through this helpful online guide!

Spirituality

Explore documents, news, comparative studies, and more concerning major faiths practiced throughout the world.

Local History & Genealogy

Browse local history documents, locate local history libraries and museums, conduct genealogical research, and more through this guide.

Sports & Entertainment Guides

Sports fans can track scores, statistics, players and entire teams (past and present), while anyone in the mood for some local, televised, or cinematic entertainment can browse show times and learn more about their favorite entertainers.

For More Information and Free Services...

There are *many* other free services and resources available online and in our library – too many to list here!

As often can be the case, the information you need might not be on the Internet. Whatever information you need and wherever it is located, Thrall's Reference Department is dedicated to helping you.

If you are not at the library, you can call our Reference Department at **(845) 341-5461** whenever the library is open.

You can also ask our librarians questions over the Internet by going to **www.thrall.org/ask**