

English 202C

Internet Resource Guide: Information Technology

Patrick Mac Weiler
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What is in this Guide

This is a guide that contains information and tips about different websites, journals and databases that can assist with learning and developing information technology skills. The content discussed covers a wide range of subjects will be covered: programming, networking, servers, infrastructure and implementation.

Who is this Guide For

This guide is for individuals developing their IT skills, whether that be through schooling or in a professional role. Parts of this document will have a focus on Penn State students, but whenever that is the case the document will identify it.

What this Guide Assumes

While this document is intended to tune and develop the readers IT skills, it still assumes that the reader has basic knowledge of IT. You do not need to be an expert but should have taken at least a couple courses or worked in the field. This is so that you can follow along with the terminology and understand its relevance.

Organization of this Guide

Each resource is divided onto its own page of the document so that it is clearly organized. Each division is organized the same way so that reader can clearly follow its structure. First the title of the content followed by its type. Then where the content can be found. The abstract makes up the bulk of the information provided and then any tips that were found to be helpful.

Tips For Using this Guide

To get the most out of this guide it is important that you not only read the information provided but you also explore the content provided by the link. Several descriptions discuss the content visually and it will be stuff to follow along without seeing the content first. Exploring the content can also lead the reader to a better understanding of what the abstract is discussing.

Axelos Knowledge Center

Database

Location: <http://www.axelos.com/Knowledge-Centre/>

Abstract: Axelos is new joint venture company created by the Cabinet Office. The Axelos Knowledge Center is a database of credible articles, book reviews and publications. The database provides a convenient and simple way to access a large amount of information to use for various purposes. The goal of Axelos is to nurture best practices by providing an outlet in which to do so. The Knowledge Center is paid service, but as a Penn State Student you get full access. The database focuses on several different professions by breaking the content up into categories. In turn, these categories allow for someone to stay focused on relevant content. Each category is also divided by Publications, Qualifications, etc. IT has a vast category that provides immense amounts of resources to the user.

Tips: Axelos can be very confusing so it is important to keep in mind exactly what you are looking for. When you are simply looking for content you want to stay in the Knowledge Centre tab, this is where all the content lies. The other tabs contain information about Axelos. Immediately on the left you'll see a box of links labeled "Knowledge Centre," these links provide various information about what the website can provide. Where you will want to look is directly below that box, there is where you will find various links that lead you to different subjects like IT Service Management. Once you open this link you'll find the break down of Publications, Accreditations, Case Studies, etc.

Statistical Abstract of the United States

Location: <https://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

Abstract: The Statistical Abstract of the United States began publishing statistics of social, political and economical organization in 1878. It is a very comprehensive documentation of almost every relevant piece of data that could be recorded in the US. In 2010 the Abstract contained 30 sections, 926 pages and over 1300 individual tables covering 200 topics. All of this data is free to the public, therefore businesses in all fields can use it as a tool to optimize their processes. The abstract includes a large portion of its data to internet usage. Internet traffic plays a large role in the IT world so this information would be incredible useful.

Tips: The website can be very daunting because of how much information it hosts, however, it is actually very easy to use. On the left side of the page the abstract is broken up to into 30 sections. Each one of these sections is broken down again into sub sections. For example, you can find Internet Publishing and Broadcasting and Internet Usage within the section Information & Communications. Once you located the section you are looking for, there will be several listings of information that fall into that category that you can access. Each listing comes in both Excel and PDF format in which you can download.

The IT Professional's Companion: An IT Terminology Guide

Journal

Location: http://www.fordham.edu/images/campus_resources/information_technology/documents/geekspeak_wpenewsletterversion%5B1%5D.pdf

Abstract: The IT Professional's Companion: An IT Terminology Guide is a document provided by the Global Knowledge. Global Knowledge Inc. is an IT and Business skills training company founded in 1995. Global Knowledge's purpose is to provide training and courses around the world to training centers, private facilities and the Internet. They provide information on topics ranging from programming to VoIP. Global Knowledge is a good organization to be familiar with in general, but this particular document focuses on terms and acronyms used in the IT world. It is extremely helpful for anyone in the IT world because there is so much language that goes along with all the different systems and processes you interact with. It is a fairly large document, 20 pages in length full of different terms, but it does cover the standards.

Tips: The strength of this document is that it does not attempt to cover every term that you can find in the field of technology. This document has collected the terms it finds to be most important and organized them alphabetically.

This document should be used as a base for an IT professional; the first terms that they learn and always know. Several other terms will be learned through a career that are specific to a project, but it is important to retain the basics.

United States Office of Personal Management: Strategic Information Technology Plan

Catalog of US Government Publications

Location: <http://permanent.access.gpo.gov/gpo46749/strategic-it-plan.pdf>

Abstract: The United States Office of Personal Management Strategic Information Technology Plan or SITP is a very detailed plan about how the Office of Personal Management is implementing a technology plan to support their endeavors. It is a 60-page document outlining every detail required to implement technology infrastructure within a department. The OPM is similar to any other office in that it has budgets, staffing and management. Handling these aspects can be difficult, the document walks through five phases of the implementation: Successful Practices and Enabling Initiatives, Enterprise Initiatives, Business Initiatives, OPM Enterprise-Wide Shared Platform and Preparing the Workforce.

Tips: A professional in an IT department should use this document as a guide to implementing their own Technology Plan. While no company is the same, this document can serve as an outline to shed light on the process. Given that the OPM is a government entity the reader can assured that it is a reliable and accurate document.

To get the most use out of this document, the reader needs to first understand the way it is structured. Reading the Executive Summary first will allow the read to get the background on the project as well as its intentions. From there, the reader should follow along sequentially to fully comprehend the document.

Web Monkey

IT Support Website

Location: <http://www.webmonkey.com>

Abstract: Web Monkey is a very unique website brought to the internet by the famous tech magazine Wired. It can best be described as a personal guide to everything technology. From coding to setting up networks, Web Monkey provides an outlet in which anyone can use to learn and improve upon their skills. While the information can be somewhat straight forward, having some background in IT is certainly beneficial. If you are looking to improve your skills or do some at home IT projects this Website is for you. The site also provides news and updates happening in the IT world, it is not its strongest quality but offers something alongside its function.

Tips: The search function within the website isn't the best. It is recommended that you use Google and include the url "webmonkey.com" in the search to direct the results at Web Monkey.

Another way to locate information is by browsing. Web Monkey breaks everything down into categories so that you can narrow in what you are looking for.

Dream in Code

IT Discussion Forum

Location: <http://www.dreamincode.net/forums/forum/82-software-development/>

Abstract: Dream in Code is a very popular online discussion forum. While it has a focus on developing and coding questions, Dream in Code can provide help with almost anything technology related. Anyone who subscribes to the web page, which is free, can ask questions and comment on others. However, Dream in Code has many more functions, there are tutorials, support and news all based on technology and programming.

Tips: What you'll find is that a lot of questions you may want to ask probably have already been answered. For this purpose Dream in Code broke all the questions and answers up into categories so that you can browse forums based on subject. This can save you time waiting for a response!

When you find a forum you think may be helpful, you'll want to click on it to open it up. The first things you'll see are more forums. These are forums that fall under the subject but get more specific, or Sub-Forums. If one of them is more specific to what you are looking for you can open it up, if not scroll down and you'll find topics that other subscribers have posted. Once you find what you're looking for open it up and you'll find more details about the question being asked and the answers to it.

CNET

IT News Source

Location: <http://www.cnet.com/news/>

Abstract: CNET is an American based news source for consumer technologies. CNET started in 1994 as a simple source for reviews and feedback, today CNET produces content for both radio and television alongside the numerous videos and articles that can be found on their website. This is an awesome resource for anyone looking for new technology products, whether it be for personal use or looking to upgrade a few things around the office. CNET covers a wide range of products and gives unbiased, quality reviews to give you a confident perspective on the product.

Tips: CNET is extremely easy to use because the interface is very intuitive. You can find all the most recent and popular topics right on their front page. If you are looking for something more specific you can find a list of categories that CNET reviews. On those pages they'll give you very specific breakdowns as well comparisons between multiple products.

National Science Foundation

IT Information Source

Location: <http://www.nsf.gov>

Abstract: The National Science Foundation, or NSF, is a government that supports education and development in the science and technology field. While foundation has a primary purpose of providing money and resources to organizations looking to making advancements, the website provides an incredible resource for individuals to keep with the advancements of technologies and breakthroughs. This is essential for any professional in the IT and Science world. Each year the foundation has a budget of about \$7 billion, everywhere that money is spent is clearly laid out on their website via pie charts.

Tips: Along the top of the webpage the NSF breaks down everything they do by category. In the awards tab you can find everyone that has been given award by the NSF. In the discoveries tab you can find the research and findings that have been accomplished by the NSF broken down by subject. The News tab provides a source all relevant stories happening in the Science and Technology world, not just within the NSF.

The NSF should be used as a way to keep up with the rapidly advancing technologies in your profession. It is important to understand what is happening in other divisions of your field in order to be working at the head of the field.