Free Images on the Web: Photos and Paintings

(Compiled by Havena Marks, July 25, 2006)

- **http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html**
  -Library of Congress Access to digital image and photo archives (some are **not** public domain)

- **http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/artgallery/index.html**
  -All multimedia (video clips, art gallery are not copyrighted)
  NASA still images, audio files and video generally are not copyrighted. You may use NASA imagery, video and audio material for educational or informational purposes, including photo collections, textbooks, public exhibits and Internet Web pages. This general permission extends to personal Web pages.

- **http://images.fws.gov/**
  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online digital media library. Presently, the library system contains the National Image Library--the Service's collection of public domain still photos.

General Collections:

- **Free Stock Photos.com**
  (http://www.freestockphotos.com)
  This offers photos for free use, with only a few small restrictions.
  The site offers beautiful photos of: Scenery; Wildlife; Cities & Buildings; 3D Stereo Photography; Sky; Clouds; Sunsets; Outdoor Recreation; Wildflowers & Plants Historical Places; Miscellaneous.
  In addition, they provide some choice images they have pulled from Federal agency websites such as NASA. You will also find these federal agency websites below on this page, where I have provided you direct links to their pages.

- **University of Washington Libraries Digital Collections**
  http://content.lib.washington.edu/ "a growing number of collections from the University of Washington Libraries and faculty in such diverse areas as the humanities, the natural sciences, and the regional cultures of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The site includes the award-winning project American Indians of the Pacific Northwest. *These collections are especially strong in Seattle history, architecture, labor and industry, the Klondike Gold Rush, and our natural environment.* (italics are mine) Materials are primarily pictorial, although some have accompanying essays and texts. Other media are presented, such as newspapers, reports, pamphlets, posters, and maps. More formats will be added in the future. The emphasis of these collections is on rare and unique materials."

- **Library of Congress American Memory**
  http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?format=Photograph

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/

- **Berkeley Digital Library Photo Collection**
  http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/about.shtml
  More than 80,000 photos, mostly of plants, animals, people and landscapes.
  See also the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology catalogued images

- **Digital Librarian** A huge alphbatized list of image collections.
  http://www.digital-librarian.com/images.html

- **Directory of Web Image Sites**
  http://www.berinsteinresearch.com/fiolinks.htm
   by Paula Berinstein. Another big collection of images site. This one is organized by
  subject. Looks like a mix of free and commercial sites.

- **Online Archive of California**
  http://www.oac.cdlib.org/
   (OAC) A core component of the California Digital Library,
  http://www.cdlib.org/glance/ the OAC is a digital information resource that facilitates
  and provides access to materials such as manuscripts, photographs, and works of
  art held in libraries, museums, archives, and other institutions across California. The
  OAC is available to a broad spectrum of users -students, teachers, and researchers
  of all levels. Through the OAC, all have access to information previously available
  only to scholars who traveled to collection sites.
  The OAC includes a single, searchable database of "finding aids" to primary
  sources and their digital facsimiles. Primary sources include letters, diaries,
  manuscripts, legal and financial records, photographs and other pictorial items,
  maps, architectural and engineering records, artwork, scientific logbooks, electronic
  records, sound recordings, oral histories artifacts and ephemera.

- **PicturesNOW**
  http://www.picturesnow.com/html/index.htm "A Visual Encyclopedia of FREE still
  and Video Images.Search and Browse through one of the Webs largest free
  collections of Images on nearly every popular subject."

- **Image and Multimedia Database Resources**
  http://besser.tsoa.nyu.edu/howard/imaging/
  From Howard Besser and Rachel Onuf in 1996 while at Berkeley. It includes some
  good photo sources http://besser.tsoa.nyu.edu/howard/imaging/#clearinghouses
  and various information about digital images and multimedia.

- **ImageBase**
  http://www.famsf.org/fam/about/imagebase/index.asp "The ImageBase is a
  searchable image and text database of objects from the collections of the Fine Arts
  Museums of San Francisco (the de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor). The
  collections (110,000+ objects)..." It is part of the Fine Arts Museums of San
  Francisco. http://www.famsf.org/

- **Yahoo! Picture Gallery**
  http://gallery.yahoo.com/

- **FreeFoto.com**
  http://www.freefoto.com/index.jsp
  Site claims it has over 20,000 images. For non-commercial use only.

- **FREEIMAGES.co.uk**
  http://www.freeimages.co.uk/ Site says more than 2,500 stock photos for free.

- **istockphoto.com**
  http://www.istockphoto.com/index.php Download credits actually cost 25 cents, so it's actually not free. However, artists get 5 cents credit each time one of their items is downloaded, so you can build up credits.

- **Webshots** Part of Excite.
  http://www.webshots.com/homepage.html

- **The Geo-Images Project**
  http://geogweb.berkeley.edu/GeoImages.html "The Geo-Images Project attempts to make images (mostly photographs) that are useful in teaching **geography** more widely available using computers and the internet. It was conceived, constructed, and is maintained by G. Donald Bain, Director of the Geography Computing Facility, University of California at Berkeley." Has some cool stuff like virtual reality panoramas.

- **Wildlands Image Archive** Looks like lots of safari type pictures. "This image archive contains hundreds of animal images and scenic landscapes from all over the globe like: Antarctica, Aruba, Botswana, Falklands, Galapagos, Kenya, Namibia, Netherlands, Shetlands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, U.S. and Zimbabwe."

- **Beryls Free Photographs**
  http://www.picturesquebydesign.com/page1.html Nature, historic, ships/boats, misc.

- **About.com's**
  http://websearch.about.com/od/internetresearch/a/newsarchives.htm list of photography and pictures search tools and archives.

- **Historical Picture Collections**
  http://history.acusd.edu/gen/documents/clipsources.html A long list of sites from Dr.Steve Schoenherr, Dept of History at the University of San Diego. Stong on historical photos. Many of the sites are also listed in the Digital Media Bank.

- **Photo Gratis**
  http://www.photosgratis.com/

- **Eikon Image Database**
  http://research.yale.edu:8084/divdl/eikon/index.jsp for biblical studies at Yale. Images in the EIKON database are a subset of the Yale Divinity School Digital Library. Some images in the EIKON database are restricted to Yale use, due to copyright agreements.

US Government Agencies

- SciTechResources.gov
  A collection of US Government Science and Technology web sites

- **NARA**
  http://www.archives.gov/ (National Archives and Records Administration) Take a look at the search tool for the National Archives "Digital Classroom," http://www.archives.gov/search/index.html?section=/digital_classroom/ for materials that can be used in the classroom. My impression is that this could be a great source for US history and for anthropology courses with its historical stock footage. Search the word "Custer" and see the classroom materials that you pull up. See also their audio-visual page. You can also go to their homepage http://www.archives.gov/ to start your search. Try searching "Custer Photographs" and check look for "American West Photographs" http://www.archives.gov/research/index.html in your search results.

- **NASA:**
  http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/nasa_gen/
  NASA Image eXchange (NIX): http://nix.nasa.gov/ Astronomy, Earth, Flight Vehicles and more.
  Pictures, photographs and images
  http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/Redirect_Spacelink.html

- **NOAA:**
  http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/ (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) photolibrary: "...the NOAA collection includes thousands of weather and space images, hundreds of images of our shores and coastal seas, and thousands of marine species images ranging from the great whales to the most minute plankton."

- **NPS:** (The National Park Service) http://www.nps.gov/
  Click on the "search" link at the bottom of the page. Then type in "photos" and topic that you are interested in. For example, "photographs and yosemite." Images can also be found in the Digital Image Archive.
  http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/imagebase.html

- **Smithsonian** http://photo2.si.edu/ Office of Imaging and Photographic Services: "Use this site to locate Smithsonian photographs of interest to you. They are available to download for your personal use, and for use by schools and students. "

- **USDA:** (United States Department of Agriculture)
  [Historical Photos](#) Most of the photographs on display in this section were taken between 1937 and 1943 during the Farm Security Administration (FSA) era.

- **USDoD**: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome   (US Department of Defense) Images/multimedia http://www.defenselink.mil/multimedia/

- **USFWS:** http://www.fws.gov/ (US Fish and Wildlife Service) Images http://www.fws.gov/pictures/

- **USGS**: http://www.usgs.gov/ (U.S. Geological Survey) USGS Image Collections Aerial photofinder

- **US Department of the Interior**: Photo library resources
  Includes: USFWS, USGS, Bureau of Reclamation, NPS. Look at the additional info it offers.

- A list of Federal agencies you may want to check:
  http://www.ovpr.uga.edu/sponprog/federalagencies/
  Is there a Federal agency related to your discipline? Most of the work created by the US government is in the public domain, so look for federal agencies related to your subject for potential free materials.

You are responsible for obeying copyright laws and any conditions stated on the sites that you access.