

Editorial

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Adobe Acrobat Version

<[http://www.freepint.com/
issues/220802.pdf](http://www.freepint.com/issues/220802.pdf)>

I don't know about you, but I find August a bit of dichotomy. I mean, you expect it to be quiet, with everyone on holiday. You think about all the things you're going to achieve, and dream of giving yourself the luxury of perhaps leaving work early one day to take advantage of the good weather.

The reality is, of course, quite different. Colleagues on holiday means more work for everyone else. Unusual companies, like Free Pint, also seem to work on a different cycle to others. Authors appear to be more willing to write at this time of year. Indeed, in this month alone we've lined up enough content for the Free Pint Newsletter to take us almost to the end of the year.

Of course, August also means summer sales. Our '2 for 1' offers have gone down a storm, but of course that's also kept us busy. Thank goodness there are only a few days left
<<http://www.freepint.com/shop>>.

We've also been busy developing the Autumn 'Exchange' events program, and have added an afternoon on researching private equity information. Billing this alongside the existing workshops on data protection, electronic copyright and competitive intelligence, should mean that post-August will be equally hectic
<<http://www.freepint.com/exchange>>.

Perhaps it would be good to take some time out and enjoy today's edition of Free Pint. It's an all-female issue, with tips, reviews and articles all coincidentally coming from female contributors.

So, why not print off the formatted version and take it out into the sun
<[http://www.freepint.com/issues/220](http://www.freepint.com/issues/220802.pdf)

[802.pdf](#)>. If you'd like that edition emailed to you regularly, simply modify your subscription online at
<<http://www.freepint.com/member>>.

Whether you're finding August busy or boring, sunny or stormy, you can rely on Free Pint to douse the dichotomy.
Cheers

Best regards

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About Free Pint

Free Pint is an online community of information researchers. Members receive this free newsletter every two weeks packed with tips on finding quality and reliable business information on the Internet.

Joining is free at
<<http://www.freepint.com/>> and provides access to the substantial archive of articles, book reviews, jobs, industry news & events, with answers to your research questions and networking at the Free Pint Bar.

Please circulate this newsletter which is best read when printed out. To receive the Adobe Acrobat version as an attachment or a brief notification when it's online, visit
<<http://www.freepint.com/member>>.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Buy One and Get One Free

Only one week left to take advantage of 'buy one get one free' offers on advertising, job listings and UK company reports.

The Free Pint Summer Sale ends
August 31st:
<<http://www.freepint.com/shop>>

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Advertise to the largest community of information users

Advertising with Free Pint, in the newsletter or on the Web site, is a great way to reach business information users.

Find out more about August's great "2 for 1" offer at:
<<http://www.freepint.com/advert.htm>>

Free Pint Gold

This time last year Allan Pearson wrote Part 2 of an article about sites that dealt with management, funding, and IT in the voluntary sector. Also a Part 2, Guy Aron's 'Photography through the Web' looked at digital photography, accessories, processing and printing, magazines and e-zines, clubs and associations, institutions and courses.

- Free Pint No.94, 16th August 2001. "Further Voluntary Sector Resources" and "Photography through the Web - Part 2"
<<http://www.freepint.com/issues/160801.htm>>

Two years ago Gary Mackley-Smith shared his top ten recommended UK tax sites and Anne Ku took a look at reflexology resources.

- Free Pint No.69, 17th August 2000. "UK Tax Resources on the Web" and "Reflexology Sources on the Web"
<<http://www.freepint.com/issues/170800.htm>>

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Free Pint Private Equity Exchange

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<<http://www.freepint.com/exchange>>

My Favourite Tipples from Marylaine Block

- Lycos 50 with Aaron Schatz
<<http://50.lycos.com/>> - An early warning system for what's hot. This combines statistics for the most popular searches each day with a daily commentary by Schatz on what's moving up and why.
- New Pages Weblog
<<http://www.newpages.com/weblog/default.htm>> - "The Alternative Guide to New Books, Magazines & Music along with News & Views from the Net of Interest to Booksellers, Publishers, Librarians, Writers & Readers".
- Arts & Letters Daily - ideas, criticism, debate
<<http://www.aldaily.com/>> - Editor Denis Dutton scans through hundreds of online magazines and newspapers to choose the six or so interesting stories, intellectual controversies, and book reviews he links in each day. In these days of information glut, everybody needs a filter, and he's one of the best. He has companion sites as well, SciTech Review and Business Daily Review.

- Engines of Our Ingenuity
<<http://www.uh.edu/engines/>> - A complete archive of over 1700 transcripts of the radio program from the University of Houston where engineering professor John Lienhard muses about technology, its social impact, and "the way inventive minds work".
- Word Play
<<http://www.wolinskyweb.com/word.htm>> - Librarian Judi Wolinsky has catalogued most of the great sites on the web devoted to puns, slangage, anagrams, puzzles, MadLibs, and lots more.

Marylaine Block is a writer and Internet librarian, creator of Neat New Stuff I Found This Week on the Net
<<http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html>> and ExLibris, an e-zine for librarians and other information junkies
<<http://marylaine.com/exlibris/>>.

Email your top five favourite Web sites to <penny@freepint.com> or see the guidelines at
<<http://www.freepint.com/author.htm>>.

Free Pint's Autumn Series of 'Exchange' Workshops

- * Data Protection * Competitor Intelligence *
- * Electronic Copyright * Private Equity *

Free Pint's Autumn events are already filling up fast. If you're interested in one of these topics then book your place soon:
<<http://www.freepint.com/exchange>>

Free Pint Bar In Association with Factiva a Dow Jones & Reuters Company

If you have a tricky research question or can help other Free Pinters then do post a message at the Bar <<http://www.freepint.com/bar>> or the Student Bar <<http://www.freepint.com/student>>.

To have the latest Bar postings sent to you every other day, log in to your account online at <<http://www.freepint.com/member>>.

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Free Pint Jobs

<<http://www.freepint.com/jobs>>

SUMMER SALE: All job listings placed before the end of August are half price. Find out more at <<http://www.freepint.com/shop>>.

As well as the selected listings below, check out the weekly Bar postings which list the latest additions to Free Pint Jobs. This week's can be found at <<http://www.freepint.com/go/b19433>> and last week's at <<http://www.freepint.com/go/b19276>>.

Here are some of the latest featured jobs:

Research Manager

<<http://www.freepint.com/go/j1952>>

To manage staff, negotiate with suppliers, train end-users and provide in-depth research. To 38,000 pounds + Bonus.

Recruiter: Glen Recruitment

Subscriptions and Publications Assistant

<<http://www.freepint.com/go/j1969>>

Long term temp role, pubs & subs; use your journal/subs management & communication skills in investment bank environment

Recruiter: Sue Hill Recruitment

Legal Librarian

<<http://www.freepint.com/go/j1975>>

Legal top 50 qualified librarian. 6 month contract then reviewed. Must have experience working for similar, hit the ground running.

Recruiter: Recruit Media

Free Pint Jobs is a great place for finding and advertising information-related vacancies.

Job seekers can search the database for free, and set up a profile to be notified weekly of relevant new vacancies.

Recruiters will receive significant publicity for listed vacancies, and jobs will be matched against the 600+ stored job seeker profiles.

Find out more today at <<http://www.freepint.com/jobs>>

Recruit Information Professionals For 50% Less

Until the end of August, listings in Free Pint Jobs are half their usual price. This is therefore a great time to advertise your vacancy to the largest community of information professionals anywhere.

<<http://www.freepint.com/shop>>

Events

<<http://www.freepint.com/events>>

Organisers Frost & Sullivan have two annual events for you this September: 'Competitive Intelligence' and the 'Advanced Marketing Research Executive Summit'. Both are being held in Orlando, Florida.

In October, our very own William Hann is speaking at the 'Inmagic User Group Annual Conference' in London. Aimed at UK users of the DB/textworks products <<http://www.freepint.com/go/e152>>.

The 'Free Pint Competitive Intelligence Exchange' on the 19th September 'will look at ways of finding information on competitors, what to look for and how to communicate it to decision makers'. The seminar leader will be Arthur Weiss and it will be held here at the Free Pint offices in West London <<http://www.freepint.com/exchange>>.

Also here at our offices, Paul Pedley's 'Data Protection Exchange' will 'consider some of the key data protection issues that are relevant to intranets and websites' <<http://www.freepint.com/exchange>>.

Submit details of your event today for free promotion to Penny <penny@freepint.com>, or complete the form at <<http://www.freepint.com/events>>.

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Tips Article

<<http://www.freepint.com/issues/220802.htm#tips>>

"Joining the Dots : Developing a Resource to Support Changing Roles in Health Libraries"
By Alison Turner

Earlier in the year, the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) launched a new resource for health librarians. The Librarian Portal <<http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/librarian>> was developed from a collaboration with key groups in the health library world and is specifically designed to support health librarians in their new and changing roles.

This article gives a brief overview of the rationale behind this development, which although, concentrating on the health arena, may ring some bells with librarians in other sectors. The development of the portal has been a learning experience for myself and for my colleagues; this article will share some of our approaches and ideas. In the spirit of collaboration and co-operation, I would be interested to learn of similar developments in other sectors.

Rationale

You don't have to work in the health service to appreciate the massive changes underway - stories feature in the media every day. What is less documented is the impact this has on health librarians.

Recent developments within the National Health Service (NHS) emphasise the importance of information and knowledge management - examples include:

* The development of National Service Frameworks for key priority areas, such as coronary heart disease; * The move towards a culture where lessons are learned from mistakes and service failures; * A trend towards greater patient and public involvement in health care; * The fact that health is a particularly knowledge-rich sector; * The reorganisation of health care services; * The launch of a strategic programme for IT; * A move towards "joining up" health and social care; * A focus on the quality of health care.

Health librarians work in a variety of settings: in NHS organisations; government bodies; universities and colleges; voluntary organisations; charities; professional associations such as the Royal Colleges; national libraries; public libraries; and in the private sector. But wherever they are based, health librarians are facing new demands and it seems, less and less protected time to pursue professional development activities. Many librarians now find it difficult with the demands of their job to get away to study days and meetings where they can exchange ideas, learn new skills or at the very least network with colleagues.

Add to this the vast changes in the library and information profession: the librarian of the 21st Century has quite a different role to the librarian of twenty, ten or even five years ago. We're all aware of the huge effect the growth of the Internet has had on our work and we are experiencing first-hand the new opportunities presented by the growth of Knowledge Management (KM). So how are health librarians coping with their new roles and responsibilities?

Well, in true librarian fashion, they support one another.

This may be formally, through professional bodies and groups, such as the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and its sub-group, the Health Libraries Group (HLG). Or it may be via formal channels, such as the NHS Regional Librarians Group (RLG) or the University Medical Schools Librarians Group (UMSLG), to name just two examples. More informally, librarians communicate through discussion lists and face to face contact. Despite the range of support mechanisms in place, there needed to be some co-ordination to keep it simple for busy librarians. This all led to the development of the Librarian Portal on the NeLH.

Development

The portal was developed in partnership with the HLG, the RLG and the NHS Libraries Advisor (who is based with the Department of Health's Information Policy Unit), with the aim of supporting librarians in the development of skills and knowledge to support their new roles.

The objectives were to:

- Facilitate online discussion and sharing of experience
- Point to key sources on best practice
- Support skills development in new areas such as knowledge management
- Provide a one-stop shop on current topical issues
- Provide a mechanism for librarians to participate in the development of the NeLH

Much of these resources are already in place, developed by groups such as HLG. So rather than duplicate, the portal simply brings together what is already available and supplements this with new content. A number of exciting library-based projects are underway throughout the UK; a key role for the portal will be to highlight this work. This brings to mind the "Dot-to-Dot" books for children, where by joining the dots in the order given, you are presented with the big picture, hence the title of this article.

Developed by and for librarians, the portal is very much focused on partnership working. The idea of a portal specifically to support librarians was first made by a health librarian. And many librarians have volunteered to join an editorial e-group to take forward some of the ideas suggested to date. The e-group is hosted on Yahoo and consists of representatives of key groups and communities within health libraries. Members contribute when they are able to spare time, suggesting and discussing ideas, with development support from the NeLH team.

Next steps Current plans are to develop interactive content on the portal - one resource in development focuses on the training role of librarians. Initially, this stemmed from requests for materials to help train healthcare workers to use the NeLH but it quickly became obvious that librarians are spending more time on training and have little time to develop resources from scratch. The portal now features a training resource of materials which librarians have been willing to share and the plan is to develop this into an online "swap shop" of materials produced by health librarians. This helps avoid reinventing the wheel and enables sharing of experiences (good and bad).

The portal was promoted heavily at the recent HLG conference

<<http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/conf.html>> with a new publicity flyer and a workshop generating suggestions from delegates for future content. At the time of writing, a quick search on Google shows 78 web pages which link to the portal - although, admittedly, some of these are NeLH pages so can't really be counted! The portal is still

developmental but with the huge list of suggestions from colleagues, there is plenty to do. There are opportunities for health librarians to get involved in this development and it would be interesting to share ideas with any similar initiatives in other sectors and in other countries.

Alison Turner, Library Partnership Co-ordinator, National electronic Library for Health, NHS Information Authority

Alison joined the National electronic Library for Health <<http://www.nelh.nhs.uk>> in 2001, having previously managed the library service at Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust. Alison has worked in the field of health information for 8 years. In her current role, Alison liaises with health librarians to keep them informed of developments within NeLH and to identify opportunities for partnership working. The overall aim of the NeLH is to make information about effectiveness of care readily available to NHS staff, using Internet and associated technologies.

Related Free Pint links:

- "Information and Libraries" resources in the Free Pint Portal <<http://www.freepint.com/go/p69>>
- Post a message to the author, Alison Turner, or suggest further resources at the Free Pint Bar <<http://www.freepint.com/bar>>
- Read this article online, with activated hyperlinks <<http://www.freepint.com/issues/220802.htm#feature>>
- Access the entire archive of Free Pint content <<http://www.freepint.com/portal/content/>>

Free Pint Bookshelf

<<http://www.freepint.com/bookshelf>>

"Super Searcher, Author, Scribe: Successful Writers Share Their Internet Research Secrets"

Written by Loraine Page
Reviewed by Helen Clegg

Writers can be super searchers too and have a wealth of tips and tricks to share, according to this book by Loraine Page.

Like other titles in this Super Searchers series, the book takes the form of interviews - a format which works well, making the material easy to read and absorb. Page has chosen writers with a diverse range of backgrounds, including a romance writer, a non-fiction specialist, a crime writer, and a medical writer. However, bear in mind that this book has been written primarily for the American market, so some of the writers interviewed will not be familiar to non-US readers. In fact, the only one I recognized was Elmore Leonard and that's because last week I saw his most recent book advertised in an in-flight magazine.

Writers use the Internet for many reasons, such as finding people to interview, marketing their work, keeping in touch with colleagues and editors, finding literary agents, carrying out background research, getting visual information, finding inspiration, submitting chapters by email, participating in newsgroups and building

relationships with their readers. David Fryxell, a writer with an interest in genealogy, is of the opinion that the Internet has even contributed to writers' "cycle time reduction", enabling many writers to produce better articles in a shorter amount of time.

The Internet has given writers easier access to much more material and many more potential contacts. Novelist Jodi Picoult tells how she used the Internet to post a query on a message board regarding the Amish, while researching her book "Plain Truth" and ended up going to stay a week with an Amish family. And then there's Gregg Sutter, Elmore Leonard's researcher. He once needed some anecdotal material on Harlan in the state of Kentucky and by surfing the Internet found Kentucky recipes for Baked Possum and Fried Squirrel - perhaps not the sort of thing that immediately springs to mind when you're looking for useful anecdotal information, but that's why the Internet can be such a great tool - it can lead you to things you'd never thought of and spark off your imagination.

Through the interviews you'll find out about the writers' preferred search engines, their sources for newspapers and magazines, their views on newsgroups and e-publishing, how they approach their research and their advice for other writers, as well as their attitude to more traditional information resources such as print, libraries and commercial online databases.

To sum up, much of the information in this book will already be familiar to many Internet researchers, so if you're a savvy researcher, this probably isn't a book for you. If you're a writer, however, it's definitely worth a read, if only to benchmark your Internet skills against those of the writers profiled here.

Helen Clegg is Marketing Analyst with RR Donnelley Europe, based in Amsterdam. She holds a B.A. Hons in French & German and an M.Sc. in Library and Information Studies from Loughborough University. Helen is a Board Member of the European Chapter of the Special Libraries Association of America. Helen can be contacted at Helen.Clegg@rrd.com She writes here in a personal capacity.

Related Free Pint links:

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Feature Article

<<http://www.freepint.com/issues/220802.htm#feature>>

**"UK Government Information on the Web"
By Sarah Dillingham**

The UK government produces a wealth of material each week - press releases, command papers, reports, parliamentary documents. With the advent of the web and the Office of the e-envoy <<http://www.e-envoy.gov.uk/>> more of this information is publicly available than ever before. Yet it can be difficult to locate. The majority of government information (although not all) is published through The Stationary office (TSO) <<http://www.tso.co.uk/site.asp?FO=43335>>. This was formerly known as Her Majesty's Stationary Office (HMSO) <<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/>>. HMSO also hold the Information Assets register - a list of information held by the UK Government, concentrating on unpublished resources. If you are willing to pay for your information, then a subscription to UKOP obtains full access to the official catalogue of official publications spanning twenty years <<http://www.ukop.co.uk/info/index.html>>.

For general information, a good starting point is UK online. This portal has been designed for the public. Information is divided up into key 'life events' (e.g. 'having a baby') <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/Home/HOHome/1,1031,~801b22~fs~en,00.html>>. There is an emphasis on communication with current developments <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/WhatsNew/WNGov/0,1057,~801b22~fs~en,00.html>> and consultation papers <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/CitizenSpace/CSConsultationList/0,1142,~801b22~fs~en,00.html>>.

While a substantial amount of government material is available to order from the above sources this article will concentrate on what is available freely on the web and likely to be of use to a professional researcher. Finding a relevant document is not necessarily straightforward - the various government departments maintain their own websites and have their own timetables for document publication. This means a sprawling range of sites without an obvious overall structure or consistent look and feel. Search engines tend to use relevance ranking and are often imprecise. Indexes may go by number or publication date rather than title or keyword. The documents available are usually the most recent - late 1990s onwards - and it can be tricky to find previous editions of publications. The Office of the e-envoy is currently addressing these inconsistencies but it is a mammoth task.

Lists/directories

These are extremely useful for finding contact details and deciphering acronyms.

Find your representative (MPs, MEPs, MSPs, MLAs) <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/CitizenSpace/CSFindRepresentative/0,1145,~801b22~fs~en,00.html>>.

A- Z of central government <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/Quickfind/QFCenGov/0,1588,1001~801b22~fs~en,00.html>>.

A-Z local government <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/Quickfind/QFLocGov/0,1587,1101~801b22~fs~en,00.html>>.

A- Z of benefits and services <<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/lifeevent/benefits/index.htm>>.

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<<http://www.freepint.com/shop>>

Directory of MPs, peers, offices and departments <<http://www.parliament.uk/directories/directories21.cfm>>

List of cabinet members and state departments - complete with contact details <<http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/hmg.htm>>.

The London Diplomatic List - contact details for foreign embassies/ High commissions in London <<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Servlet?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029396086>>.

Press releases and ministerial announcements

The majority of departmental websites contain press releases, however the links below enable searching from one central point. On occasion, when ringing government communication offices, I have been told that they only deal with journalists. It may be worth bearing this in mind when making enquiries.

Government news network Press releases from 1998+ updated hourly. Searchable by department/ organisation <<http://www.nds.coi.gov.uk/>>.

UK online recent press releases <<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk/NewsRoom/NRHome/0,1162,~801b22~fs~en,00.html>>.

Reuters Business Briefing have a (charged) database of government announcements <<http://www.business.reuters.com/rbb/base/en/login.htm>>

Parliamentary documents

The parliamentary homepage provides access to information from the Lords and Commons <<http://www.parliament.uk/index.cfm>>.

The search engine for parliamentary documents may not always be precise but it does cover a wide range of useful documents. One can search across all documents or within specific categories, e.g. Commons or Lords Hansard; written answers; minutes <<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/empower?DB=ukparl>>.

HANSARD - debates in the Lords and Commons. 1988+. <<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm/cmhsard.htm>>.

Official documents Command Papers ('white' or 'green' papers) and House of Commons papers <<http://www.official-documents.co.uk/>> - 2002+; <<http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/>> - 1994 - 2002.

Bills before parliament - includes status of bill <<http://www.parliament.uk/bills/bills.cfm>>.

Legal Information

There is a substantial amount of legal information available - legislation; judgements; procedure; administrative.

The Court Service: court listings; jury service; wills and probate; contact details; fees
<<http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/>>.

The Lord Chancellors department
<<http://www.lcd.gov.uk/lcdhome.htm>>.

Civil procedure rules
<http://www.lcd.gov.uk/civil/procrules_fin/index.htm>.

Human rights and Freedom of Information
<<http://www.lcd.gov.uk/foi/rights.htm>>.

Legislation - <<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/>>.

Statutes 1998+ - Acts of the UK parliament; 1991+ local acts. Indexed by year or searchable
<<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm>>.

Statutory Instruments (Sis) 1987+. Draft SI's 1997+. Indexed by year or searchable
<<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm>>.

The Court Service judgements database
<http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/judgments/judg_frame.htm?OpenDocument>.

House of Lords judgements 1996+
<<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld199697/ldjudgmt/ldjudgmt.htm?>>.

Court of Appeal judgements (1996+), High Court judgements (1997+); Privy Council judgements (1996+) House of Lords judgements (1996+)
<<http://www.bailii.org/>>.

Company/business information

The DTI website has a comprehensive range of business information much of which can be found at their excellent library in Victoria.

Companies House - all companies are required to file documents with companies house and it is an excellent starting point for basic company information. In addition to company filings there is a database of disqualified directors
<<http://www.companies-house.gov.uk/>>.

Trade partners - extremely useful collection of material for exporters <<http://www.tradepartners.gov.uk/>>.

Serious Fraud Office <<http://www.sfo.gov.uk/>>.

The Patent office <<http://www.patent.gov.uk/>>.

Current product Standards
<<http://www.dti.gov.uk/strd/strdpubs.htm>>.

EU product directives
<<http://www.dti.gov.uk/strd/ecdirect.htm>>.

Consumer gateway
<http://www.consumer.gov.uk/consumer_web/index_v4.htm>.

Procurement

When engaging in business, the government require

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suppliers to follow certain processes. Many departments have their own procedures. The controversial private public partnerships (PPP) and private finance initiative (PFI) come under this subject.

DTI procurement guidance
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/about_dti_procurement.html>.

TSO e-procurement
<<http://www.tso.co.uk/site.asp?FO=39593&UDI=500760>>

Office of Government commerce
<<http://www.ogc.gov.uk/index.html>>.

Best practice and publications
<<http://www.ogc.gov.uk/index.asp?id=640>>.

Central Unit on Procurement (CUP) Guidance
<<http://www.ogc.gov.uk/index.asp?id=94>>.

Government Construction Procurement Guidance - documents held here may supersede those held in the CUP guidance series. It is worth checking in both locations.
<<http://porch.ccta.gov.uk/treasury/reports.nsf/ed1e7ff5aa6def30802566360045bf4d/ac60fe87b620f6128025682e00534b57?OpenDocument>>.

HM Treasury procurement guidance (left hand menu)
<<http://www.ogc.gov.uk/index.asp?id=396>>.

MOD Defcons/Deforms/Standards
<<http://www.ams.mod.uk/ams/content/docs/toolkit/ams/admin/navigation/frames.htm>>.

For previous editions or defcons not held on the website contact the MOD on 01554 822323. In addition, the request must be faxed to 01554 822402. Turnaround time is 7 - 10 days.

Private Finance Initiative - PFI Network Register for access
<<http://pfi.ogc.gov.uk/>>.

Treasury Taskforce Guidance on PFI including signed deals list <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Documents/Enterprise_and_Productivity/Public_Enterprise_Partnerships/ent_pep_index.cfm?>.

Partnerships UK - <<http://www.partnershipsuk.org.uk/>>.

Summary of departmental websites

The Cabinet Office <<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/>>

Covers: Ministers and organisations; public sector standards; issues across government; the government machine; the civil service.

Publications: Consultation register and code of practice; guidance and best practice <<http://www.cabinet->

office.gov.uk/index/guidcons.htm#Guidance>; research reports; public sector standards (egg charter marks)

Department of culture, media and sport (DCMS)
<<http://www.culture.gov.uk/>>

Covers: Museums, galleries, libraries, conservation, the national lottery; tourism; sport; gambling; alcohol and entertainment licensing; censorship; Commonwealth games.

Publications: strategy papers; review documents.

Ministry of Defence <<http://www.mod.uk/>>

Covers: Agencies and organisations; consultations; freedom of information; defence issues; doing business; key facts

Publications: Consultation papers; select committee reports; factsheets; 'The Green Book' - Defence and media in times of emergency; defence reports and policy papers (1988+) <<http://www.mod.uk/publications/index.htm>>; Defcons, Defoms and defence standards <<http://www.dgcom.mod.uk/dgcom/dss/foreword.htm>>

Department of Education and skills (DFES)
<<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/index.htm>>

Covers: Adult learners, employers, HE students, job seekers, learning and skills, parents, school governors, teachers and young people.

Publications: - statistics, speeches, strategy, consultations, research papers, key documents - white and green papers and guidance
<<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/key.shtml>>

Department for environment, food and rural affairs (DEFRA) <<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>>

Covers: Animal health and welfare; environmental protection; exports and trade; farming; fisheries; food and drink; horticulture; plants and seeds; rural development; sustainable development; water; wildlife and countryside.

Publications (indexed by title and searchable): <<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/publications/pubcat/index.htm>> press releases; statistics; DEFRA journal (2002+) agencies and non departmental public bodies (NDPB) sponsored by DEFRA; current research initiatives; forms and regulations; foot and mouth crisis inquiry reports.
<<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/inquiries/index.asp>>

Foreign and Commonwealth office (FCO)
<<http://www.fco.gov.uk/>>

Covers: travel; trade and investment; foreign policy.

Publications: The Documents Database - access to documents 1997+.
<<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395375>>

Department of Health (DOH)
<<http://www.doh.gov.uk/index.htm>>

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Publications: Wide range of documents indexed and searchable via the Publications Library (POINT) database <<http://tap.ukwebhost.eds.com/doh/point.nsf/Publications?ReadForm>>; the Circulars Library database <<http://tap.ukwebhost.eds.com/doh/coin4.nsf/Circulars?ReadForm>>;

The Home Office <<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>>

Covers: Community policy, crime reduction, drug prevention, immigration and nationality, passports, race equality and diversity.

Publications:
<<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsintro1.html>>
Command papers (1999+); Statistical bulletins (1979+); Research reports and findings; development and practice reports; Police research series papers (1992+); policing and reducing crime briefing notes (1995 +); Crime reduction research series (1999+) and misc.

Parliament <<http://www.parliament.uk/index.cfm>>

Covers: Business of the house; Hansard; bills; committees; the Lords; the Commons.

Publications: Judgements; parliament live; archives.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
<<http://www.dti.gov.uk/>>

Covers: business; employment; consumers; science and technology; energy.

Publications: press releases; ministerial speeches; consultations; publications; regulatory guidance. Searchable database of all DTI publications available to the general public <<http://www.dti.gov.uk/publications/>> along with links to a huge selection of DTI web pages - many of which contain documents. Searchable by industry area or page name, e.g. 'exporting' or 'statistics'.

Department for Transport (DFT) <<http://www.dft.gov.uk/>>

Covers: Aviation, health and safety, local transport, railways, roads and vehicles, shipping, travel advice.

Publications: Speeches, statistics, research, Transport 2010 documents; press releases, statements, reports, a substantial number of white papers and guidance under the various headings; the Highway code

<<http://www.roads.dft.gov.uk/roadsafety/hc/index.shtml>>

HM Treasury <<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>>

Covers: Enterprise and productivity, financial services, international issues, public spending and services, tax, work and welfare, the Euro, and the UK economy.

Publications: press releases: budget documents; Consultation documents and code of practice, index of legislation, Public Finances Databank (a compilation of published data covering the main aspects of the Government Finances including receipts, expenditure, borrowing and debt. 1960s+)
<http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/Economic_Data_and_Tools/pubfinance/data_pubfinance_index.cfm?>.

Department for Work and pensions (DWP)
<<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>>

Covers: families and children, working age, pensions and retirement.

Publications (1997+): Claim forms
<<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms.htm>>; best practice guidance; circulars; minutes and speeches; model documents, regulations; statistics.

This article has given an overview of the broad range of government information available on the web. Hopefully it has provided a useful starting point for further research. It is worth remembering that many government documents, especially older ones, are not available electronically. In this case the traditional method of picking up the phone and ordering a hard copy from the appropriate department is the method to choose. Be prepared to be persistent and to have to speak with several people until you reach the right person - it can be a frustrating process, especially when documents are not delivered immediately. But usually the combination of web based material, The Stationary Office bookshop and direct order should cover most government information needs.

Sarah Dillingham is the Litigation Information officer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, a leading global lawfirm.

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I'd welcome your feedback about this issue. So please either email your comments direct to me, or post them publicly at the Bar.

See you in two weeks!

William Hann, Managing Editor
<william@freepint.com>

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