Imagine access to an unlimited art catalog of research methods, materials, and ideas—any time, day or night. The fact is many resources are available to artists on the Internet.

I have spent some late nights recently “surfing the Net,” the term for scanning the Internet for Web sites. Although I’m a bit bleary-eyed, I’ve found quite a few informative sites that I’d like to share.

Before I begin, let me define a few terms. Each place or “page” you visit on the Internet is referred to as a site. This article lists a number of them, which can be located by the “site address,” an address that usually begins with the letters “http://,” where you can find descriptions of specific techniques or information about art materials. Keep in mind that some sites are maintained by manufacturers and only provide product listings, and although these may be interesting, I’ve only listed sites that offer helpful tips or methods.

If you are new to the Internet, there are a few tricks to help find specific information or sites. When you log on, the first thing you will see is a “home page,” the introduction page of a Web site. This screen contains “search buttons,” which you should click to locate various items. When looking for a specific address, find the command line on your access software (Netscape and Microsoft Explorer are two types of Internet-access software), type the exact address, and click “open.” Make sure the address is typed exactly as it appears; even a misplaced period will produce a fruitless search.

Another way to search for information is by using an Internet “search engine,” such as Infoseek or Yahoo. With this approach, type one or two of the key words instead of an entire Web address.

If you come across a site you like, “bookmark” the address and the computer will quickly access this exact site once you click on it again. Also, some sites often include “links” related to its subject. These links are quick routes to more information on your topic.

Newsgroups are another useful source of information that allow you to post questions and comments, as well as respond to the comments of other Internet surfers. For the best way to access these interactive sites, call your Internet provider or go directly to: http://www.dejanews.com. Here are a few newsgroups to get you started:

- Rec.arts.fine
- Alt.artcom
- Alt.art.scene
- Alt.art.colleges
- Alt.art.marketplace

The first three sites listed are general discussion groups on art, while the last two focus on areas as their names imply. I’ve seen many interesting questions posted in these newsgroups, and it’s often a great way to find e-mail acquaintances to chat with about art. Note that questions and responses will not post immediately but will show up in a day or so.

**SITE-SEEING**

Here is a list of sites that are of interest to artists:

- **http://finearts.miningco.com**
  Within this site, you can find informative texts on drawing and painting supplies, on storing supplies, gluing, and many other subjects. You can also access a chat room here, although I recommend experimenting to determine when people are present at this site. When I logged on, I was the only person there. (I talk to myself enough as it is!)

- **http://www.berroninput.edu/faculty/larmann/ chalkboard/paint.html**
  Tips, demonstrations, methods, and materials are the focus of a number of sites, and the pages here are no exception. Packed with valuable information on painting, color, tools, stretching canvas, and preparing grounds, this site also features ideas and concepts on the painting process, composition, transferring a drawing to a canvas, ways to think about planes of color, and how to evaluate a painting. Essential information on impasto and glaz-
The materials and techniques of printmaking, from simple intaglio processes to more advanced methods, such as etching and photo-etching.

http://www.jpb.com/creative
This site lists ten steps for boosting your creativity.

http://www.liquitex.com
This site lists a plethora of information on Liquitex products, from drawing paper to textured gels. The site also features artists who have used Liquitex products in their paintings.

http://www.art.net
This site contains information on many other subjects relevant to artists, including museums, reproductions of paintings, and printmaking techniques.
Gamblin Artists Colors Co. was established in 1980 to make finest artists' grade oil colors for painters at reasonable prices. Robert Gamblin, a landscape painter, started to make oil colors because he wanted to know about the composition of his colors. When he was educated during the 1960's, even established painters, who knew about traditional painting and paintmaking techniques, were not sharing their knowledge with students. "We were so busy breaking the rules that we did not realize that the techniques of the masters were so much more important." The company's Web site contains a wealth of information about the art materials they import from Europe and offers illuminating historical facts about many companies and the legendary artists who have used their products over the years. You can use this site to broaden your knowledge on many fascinating subjects, such as how the dawning of Impressionism contributed to the creation of Sennelier, the influence Picasso had on the creation of oil pastels, and the origins of papermaking.

http://www.savoir-faire.com
Savoir-Faire has created a Web site that provides information about the art materials they import from Europe and offers illuminating historical facts about many companies and the legendary artists who have used their products over the years. You can also use this site to broaden your knowledge on many fascinating subjects, such as how the dawning of Impressionism contributed to the creation of Sennelier, the influence Picasso had on the creation of oil pastels, and the origins of papermaking.

http://www.daler-rowney.com
Designed to be a hub of communication for anyone interested in the arts, this site exhibits an array of artwork, supplies comprehensive contact information, and provides a medley of resources for artists. This site even allows artists and galleries to exhibit up to five works at no charge. Additionally, you can communicate with individuals around the globe on any art-related subject and participate in a variety of on-line forums.

http://www.praga.com
This site provides descriptions of an assortment of presses, with great links for anyone interested in learning about new and non-toxic printmaking techniques. A special link to Keith Howard's Web page is a must-see for anyone looking for exposure to a great variety of image making possibilities.

http://www.amberalchemy.com
Developed by Alchemist Paints & Varnishes, this site is for artists interested in using a traditional approach to achieve the effects of the Old Masters. With a focus on amber mediums, this site offers descriptions of several varnishes, instructions for using them, and historical references to some of the artists who made them popular.

Because of downtime on computers, phone-line glitches, and other unexpected problems, sites may not be accessible all the time. When you have difficulty reaching a particular site, try again. If the connection still fails, wait a day or so before making another...
attempt. Also, with the Internet constantly undergoing rapid growth, the above list should not be considered complete. There are many worthwhile sites added daily.

GOLDEN ARTIST COLORS
TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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