

welcome to the nineteenth annual Best Free Reference Websites list. In 1998, the Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of RUSA appointed an ad hoc task force to develop a method for the "Combined Index," which provides, in alphabetical or

der, all entries from the current list and previous eighteen lists. Annotations for the Best Free Websites List entries, written by committee members in the years the websites were selected, provide guidance for using the websites as reference tools. Once again, the committee considered free websites in all subject areas useful for ready reference and of value in most types of libraries.

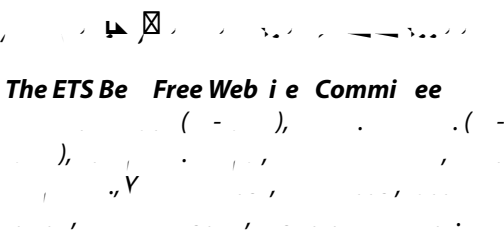
The committee has established the following criteria for nominations:

- z Quality, depth, and usefulness of content
- z Ready reference
- z Uniqueness of content
- z Currency of content
- z Authority of producer
- z Ease of use
- z Customer service
- z Efficiency
- z Appropriate use of the web as a medium

More detailed explanation of the criteria can be found on the ETS webpage: <http://rusa.ala.org/update/awards/best-free-reference-websites/>.

As in previous years, the committee worked virtually, using email and the online bookmarking website Diigo (<http://www.diigo.com>). Each member nominated five to seven websites according to the criteria specified above, and then wrote annotations of optimal use as librarians and fit the criteria listed above.

If you are interested in working with the committee to identify the Best Free Websites for 2018, the twentieth anniversary of this list, please complete the Committee Volunteer







account on this site allows you to upload resumes (which you can make available to recruiters) and other documents, receive application status updates, as well as save jobs and searches. USAJOBS also offers application guidance and resources for various populations (veterans, people with disabilities, students/graduates, etc.). The homepage allows searching by keyword (job title, agency, skills, etc.) or by location. An events section (toward of the bottom of the homepage) announces various hiring opportunities and workshops being held throughout the country.

A /P : US Office of Personnel Management

D. R : March 3, 2017

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