Review of the website Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet

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Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet
URL: http://www.cyndislist.com/

[Revisited Apr'07] Begun in 1996 by Cyndi Howells as a project to help members of her local genealogical society find resources online, Cyndi's List (previously reviewed, CH, Apr'00, 37-4251) now contains links to about 265,000 genealogical Web sites (and counting). According to the site's FAQ, it averages 1,500 new links a month, with 600 being updated or corrected and 300 nonworking links deleted. Links are arranged under approximately 120 subject headings (e.g., African-American, City Directories, Poland), and then subdivided by several categories (e.g., General Resource Sites, Military, and Records: Census, Cemeteries, Land, Obituaries, Personal, Taxes, and Vital). Many links contain brief annotations. Users can submit links for possible inclusion through an online form; Howells visits and verifies them before they are added to the listing.

The site has four search engines and five indexes: Main Category Index (the original 120 headings), a Topical Category Index (e.g., Localities; Ethnic Groups and People), an Alphabetical Category Index that lists every page on the site, a "No-Frills" Category Index without cross-references or descriptions, and a Text Only Category Index. Additionally, helpful pages provide links to basic computer information on issues such as viruses and copyright, and instructions on how to construct one's own genealogy home page. Users can sign up for a mailing list to receive announcements about updates and new links; a What's New page lets users view new links submitted by visitors before Howells accepts and categorizes them. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Libraries that maintain genealogy-related links on their Web sites; all levels.—J. A. Drobicki, York College, CUNY