Climate Change Collection Scorecard

Date: February 21, 2005

Reviewer: Jack Ganse

Name of resource: Online Trends: A Compendium of Data on Global Change

Sponsoring Organization: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis

URL: http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/trends/trends.htm

Site Homepage: http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/

RESOURCE WITHIN A SITE? [Y] / N

FOUND THROUGH DLESE? [Y] / N

IF SO, WHICH COLLECTIONS? DLESE Community Collection (DCC)

RECOMMENDATION YES [YES WITH RESERVATIONS] NO

STARS 1 2 3 [4] 5 (LAME TO STELLAR)

NARRATIVE (USE OTHER SIDE IF NEEDED) From the website's abstract: "This document provides synopses of frequently used time series of global-change data. Data records are presented in multipage formats, each dealing with a specific site, region, or emissions species. The data records include tables; graphs; discussions of methods for collecting, measuring, and reporting the data; trends in the data, and references to literature providing further information."

This site is a great source for climate data, but it is not designed with educators as the audience. Educators using this site need some background knowledge and experience with accessing and using online data. I use sites like these to find authentic scientific data that my students can graph and analyze.

INTENDED USE

_X_ REFERENCE
___ COMPUTER ACTIVITY
___ NON-COMPUTER ACTIVITY
[EDUCATOR], LEARNER OR BOTH (CIRCLE) IF FOR LEARNER, EVIDENCE ITS BEEN TESTED? Y / N
BEGINNER OR [ADVANCED] (CIRCLE)

Easily Printed? Y / [N] The data is offered in a few different formats, mostly text-based, that can be downloaded and opened in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel. Some computer skill is required to manipulate the data.

BUGS & TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (PROBLEMATIC TO ROBUST)

1 2 3 [4]

COMMENTS: The site is clean with easy-to-use links, but you do need to know what it is that you are searching for.

SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY- FACTUAL ERRORS/OMISSIONS (NATIONAL ENQUIRER TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)

1 2 3 [4]

EVIDENCE IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY? [Y] / N

COMMENTS: The data is fully referenced, including data sources, collection methods, measurement techniques, analysis, scientific investigators, etc.

PEDAGOGICAL INFORMATION

__X_ REFERENCE ONLY
____ TEACHER GUIDE
____ MATERIALS LIST
____ ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES
____ TIMEFRAME PROVIDED
____ STANDARDS ALIGNMENT INDICATED

PROMOTES STUDENT LEARNING (WEAK TO STRONG)

[1] 2 3 4

COMMENTS: It is up to the educator to decide if this data is appropriate for classroom use and how it should be used. No student would use this data on her or his own, as is.

APPROPRIATE/EFFECTIVE MULTIMEDIA DESIGN (WEAK TO STRONG)
1 2 3 4
COMMENTS: The web is the perfect medium for offering access to scientific data that would otherwise be inaccessible to the public. The fact that I can download data from the source to use with my students bridges the gap between the classroom and the real world.

VISUAL APPEAL (WEAK TO STRONG)
1 2 3 4
COMMENTS: In addition to the "raw" data that can be downloaded, the datasets are also accompanied by graphics depicting and explaining the data. These graphics can be very useful in the classroom for discussion and analysis.

TEACHING TIPS: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW SITE COULD BE USED OR ADAPTED FOR CLASSROOM: Educators who are intent on exploring global climate and climate change seriously should consider using this site and the data it contains. This site illustrates the process of research science well. Any educator who wishes to understand climate and climate change at the scientific level should spend time exploring this site. Novice educators can certainly harvest a wealth of graphics from this site while more experienced educators can access and use the digital data with their students. The research background material is excellent for learning more about the science.

RECOMMENDATION: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW THE DEVELOPER COULD IMPROVE THE SITE. I would like to see the caretakers of this website market it for educators. There is so much that can be done with these datasets in the classroom, yet this site lacks any guidance for educators. I see an opportunity for a collaborative endeavor between scientists and educators to make this site a "must-have" for teachers teaching climate science. A curriculum guide with activities developed from this website would be an awesome educational tool.

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