

Microscopy resources on the WWW

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For our monthly web guide, we usually trawl through several hundred web sites to find the ones we think are the most pertinent on a given subject. This month, however, we chose a slightly different strategy to tackle the topic of microscopy. After a first pass we were surprised to find that there are literally hundreds of high-quality microscopy web sites that would be of interest to the biotechnologist. Microscopists have discovered that

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the WWW is the perfect medium through which to distribute still images in a global fashion. So we decided instead to build a directory of directories in which we have aggregated sites that point to collections of microscopy resources on the WWW. Use this column (and its online version at http://www.medsitenavigator.com/natbio/natbio_guide.html) as a starting point to the best of online microscopy.

The various directories will point you to a huge variety of educational,

commercial, and individual web sites. You will find extensive lists of equipment makers, microscopist e-mail addresses, newsgroups, mailing lists, etc. We also noted that there are two communities existing in parallel: The professional and the amateur spectroscopist. We tried to focus on the professional resources, but have also decided to throw in an amateur site that is well worth a visit. Overall, the microscopy community is well wired, indeed.

IMAGE UNAVAILABLE FOR COPYRIGHT REASONS

Cryoelectron micrograph and computer-enhanced image of human rhinovirus 14 saturated with Mabs (top right). Close up of Mab on virus shell (bottom left)

A sampler of products and service sites related to microscopy

Home page of Microscopy Society of America	http://www.msa.microscopy.com/	Check-out their links to other microscopy WWW sites: It is very extensive.
WWW virtual library—Microscopy	http://www.ou.edu/research/electron/www-vl/	This index has a large collection of microscopy resources, from web sites to forums to software.
Directory of microscopists on the net	http://www.bocklabs.wisc.edu/imir/microscopists.html	You can search the directory online or save a copy of it on your computer.
List of microscopy vendors	http://www.mwrn.com/product/vendors.htm	This list is compiled by MicroWorld resources and news, a commercial web site focusing on resources for the microscopist.
Microscopy lists	http://www.Microscopy-Online.com/Lists/index.html	This site has aggregated the various mailing lists and newsgroups that you can access to exchange information. They have done a very nice job of telling you how to subscribe and post messages.
Directory of microscopy resources	http://www.lars.bbsrc.ac.uk/micro/	Microscopy Page
Microscopy sites	http://iris.bsd.uchicago.edu:80/trgs/web_sites/sites_dir/microsc.html	Twenty links to microscopy resources.
WWW sites on microscopy	http://www.umesci.maine.edu:80/ams/microsc.htm	More links to various resources.
Microscopy WWW resources	http://www.mcs.net/~ars/microco/wwwmicro.htm	Another directory of resources around the world.
Randy's electron microscopy web page	http://www.execpc.com/~emguyl/	A very nice directory of resources for EM (includes links to EM suppliers).
Blaine's scanning probe microscopy home page	http://www.mcs.com/~wbstine/spm/spm.html	Everything you wanted to know about this technique.
Micscape	http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/indexmag.html	A forum for microscopists.
All the virology on the WWW	http://www.tulane.edu:80/~dmsander/garyfavweb1.html	An excellent site for virology resources. Check out the section on viral micrographs and macromolecular images.
Purdue University cytometry labs	http://www.cyto.purdue.edu/	Links to many resources in cytometry.
Microscopy-UK	http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/	Fun site for the amateur microscopist.