Cyberwriting

Selected Internet Resources for Writers

by Simon Mills

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<u>Please Note</u>
Site addresses change all the time.
The URLs given here are current for September 1995.
If you can't find the site you want, it may have been taken off the web or, more
likely, has moved to a new address. Be prepared to navigate your way around.

This booklet is the first fruit of CyberWriting, NTU's research project
into Writing on the Internet, based in the Department of English &
Media Studies.

It was researched and written by Simon Mills.

INTRODUCTION

As a student at Nottingham Trent University you have direct access to the computer network known as the Internet. This booklet is written to aid the newcomer in using the Net to access the resources it holds in relation to creative writing.

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a network of networks, linking together millions of computer sites and databases worldwide.

It initially emerged from a project called ARPANET, begun in 1969, which was developed to link research institutes and enable them to share information.

A recent survey estimated that at the time of writing there are at least 16,000 networks connected together, and with around 20 million users. Many of the sites involved are academic or of specialised interest, and with increasing numbers of libraries coming on-line and a huge growth in electronic publishing, the Net is obviously a major source of information.

But the Internet does not just function as a passive database. It offers a much higher level of interactivity. We can get a clearer idea of this if we take a brief look at the three main Internet protocols that we shall be dealing with here and which are all available at NTU.

1) The **World Wide Web** is frequently mistaken as being the Internet *per se* although in reality it is just a part of it - albeit the most rapidly expanding and popular part.

    The Web is a vast interconnected sprawl of individual pages, and the range of subject matter covered is truly daunting. Just about anybody with access to a server can publish their own page so new sites are appearing daily along with new ways to access them. What's more, *Hypertext* allows the linking of highlighted words or graphics to other related sites of interest. Thus, you can begin at one page and travel by hyperlinks to other pages you may have never suspected existed and which are hopefully of interest to you. This is what is commonly known as surfing the Net.

    For the purposes of this booklet we shall be using a Web browsing program called Netscape which helps bring some aesthetic order to the chaos of the Net.

2) **Telnet** is a form of Remote Log-in and introduces a level of interactivity to the Net. Whereas the Web is passive, in that you just move around it absorbing information others have decided to publish, **Telnet** enables you to talk in real-time with other people who are on-line. What's more you can

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talk to them inside *text-based* *virtual* *worlds* called MUDs or MOOs. Although most of these worlds are game-based or social, some of them are of particular academic interest and offer such things as *virtual* writing workshops and poetry slams.

3) **Electronic Mail** (e-mail). As a student at NTU you have your own e-mail address which consists of your Username plus the university's address. Thus if your Username were FC111FHY01 then your **e-mail** address would be FC111FHY01@NTU.AC.UK.

The concept of **e-mail** is analogous to that of the postal system (or meat mail or snail mail as net-heads call it). Basically you are just sending a letter from one place to another but instead of all that messing around with paper, envelopes, stamps and postmen you just write your letter on-screen and at the press of a button send it, via the miracle of digital technology, straight up someone else's modem. The benefits are obvious - it is fast and cheap - although drawbacks include possible lack of privacy and of course the technical hiccups which accompany any form of electronic communication.

WORLD WIDE WEB

A basic introduction to using Netscape

For those of you who have never tried it, here's how to get onto the Web at one of Nottingham Trent University's computer rooms. Good luck.

1. Find an AppleMac. They're the ones with the rainbow-striped apples on the front.
2. Switch it on. Yes, at the back. And switch on the screen too!
3. Enter your Username and Password in the relevant boxes.
4. If the applications window isn't already visible double click on the Macintosh HD icon using the mouse.
5. Then double click on the Applications folder in the Macintosh HD window.
6. Now you should see the Applications window. Double click on the Internet folder.
7. Within the Internet folder window you will see the Netscape 1.1 folder. Double click on it.
8. Yes, you guessed it, double click on that lovely Netscape 1.1N icon.
9. Welcome to the Web and NTU's gorgeous homepage.
10. To get to an address take the mouse arrow to the FILE heading on the top bar and holding the mouse on pull it down until it highlights the OPEN LOCATION command then release the mouse button.
11. You should now see the OPEN LOCATION box. Type in the address of the web site you want to visit and click on OPEN.
12. If the server can be connected for that address hopefully the page will appear.
    You will notice that certain parts of the text or even the frames of pictures are underlined and/or highlighted (often in a bright blue). These represent hypertext links and if you click on them you will go to another page either at the present site or at another.

A few more handy things to know:

The **GO** heading on the top command bar will allow you to travel directly back to a page you might have visited several times previously in the present session. This saves time retyping addresses or pressing the **BACK** button.

The **STOP** will stop (surprisingly enough) the importing of information from an address. This is useful if it's taking too long to get a page or you realised you didn't really want it.

JOURNALS AND ZINES

The great thing about the web is the sheer volume of journals and zines available on-line. John Labovitz's massive e-zine list is testimony to this. One area of interest for writers is the popularity of on-line small magazines devoted to literature. The small magazine has traditionally been a home for the developing writer and many succesful authors were first published in this way. However, the costs involved in producing even a small circulation magazine are high. This is where on-line publishing will be increasingly important. It is now possible to produce a high quality journal that will be seen by thousands at little expense. Already there are a lot of interesting publications on the web and these can only get more numerous.

It is also worth mentioning that you can easily e-mail the editors and authors of most of these journals and zines which makes for easier networking.

John Labovitz' E-Zine list

http://www.meer.net/~Johnl/e-zine-list/zines/alpha.html

This is the longest list of e-zines and journals that I'm aware of on the web. Although many of the more academic journals are listed, a lot of the ones here are more amaturish but mainly of good quality. Everything from punk zines like *10 things Jesus wanted you to know* to *50 greatest conspiracies of all time* are here. Each entry has a short description and a hypertext link to the actual publication.

WWW Virtual Library E-Journal Catalogue

http://www.edoc.com/ejournal/

The catalogue includes e-mail newsletters, journals, magazines and newspapers. It also has a text-search facility so you can look for publications on any subject you want.

On-line Magazines

http://www.middlebury.edu/~otisg/zines.shtml

A small but reasonable list of zines not all of which are covered in John Labovitz' compendium.

Mute – the art and technology newspaper

http://doric.bart.ucl.ac.uk/web/sheep/metamute/

A superb newspaper available on paper or on-line. As the title suggests it operates in the region of art and technology, although the editors aren't so narrow minded as to draw tight definitions about what art actually is. The emphasis seems to be more on what art is *becoming*. The second issue deals specifically with the idea of *Homo Ludens* and has some interesting articles on Orlan, Scanner and the Post-human Manifesto. The ideas and writing are of a high quality and are flawlessly presented. If you want to know where the thoughts of the techno-art avant-garde are straying then check it out.

Geek Girl

http://www.next.com.au:80/spyfood/geekgirl

Described by, *Wired* as having "funny, intelligent features with a strong technowhore theme" , *Geek Girl* is now three issues down the line and gaining in popularity. Yes, you can even get the T-shirt! Definitely worth checking out . Includes an article on Noam Chomsky and an interview with Kathy Acker.

Grist

http://www.phantom.com:80/~fowler/

Lots of great writers absolutely laden with talent. There are pieces by Michael McLure and Jerome Rothenburg as well as a distinctly opiated fax from William Burroughs. There's a lot of modern poetry to be found here plus some criticism and essays. Just click on the Index to see all the material. It also has good links to other interesting sites.

CTheory

http://www.freedonia.com/ctheory/ctheory.html

"You'll either love it or hate it!" a friend told me after I asked them about *CTheory*.
"But what did *you* think?" I persisted.
"Oh, it was ok." they replied.
That's the kind of response *CTheory* tends to evoke. Still, if you want to know what's happened/happening to philosophy after/during post-modernism (depending on your point of view) then this is the journal to read. It boasts essays

and reviews by a lot of the big names including Jean Baudrillard, Kathy Acker, Hakim Bey, and the Krokers.

Cyanosis

http://www.slip.net/syszero/cyanosis/cyanosis.html

"My point: if sanity has gotten us here the one thing that is eminently clear, at least to me, is this: we need a *ticket to crazy*, and we need it now."
So runs the editorial. This is a good-looking, intelligent collection of modern poetry, fiction and art in a subversive mood. Publications like this are to the present what City Lights was to the fifties and sixties.

Literary Kicks

http://www.charm.net/~brooklyn/Litkicks.html

The zine with beatitude. Basically loads of stuff on all things beat. Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti, Snyder, Corso, McClure, Kerouac etc. Also articles on related films, Buddhism and latter day beats. It's well presented with good photos but is a little less than academic. e.g. "You have to be careful writing about Gary Snyder, because he's such a zen guy you get the feeling anything you write will be vasty inferior to silence." Can you but not agree?

Post Modern Culture

http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pmc/

"An electronic journal of interdisciplinary criticism."
If you liked *CTheory* then you'll love this! A similar kind of journal although it is a bit more diverse in that it has fiction and poetry as well. (Yes, Kathy Acker is *here* too!) Off-line it's published by Oxford University Press so you can imagine the standard of work. There are lots of back issues to peruse and also a link to PmcMoo. Another great aspect of this site is the search facility which allows you to enter a word and it will list not only places this word occurs within the journal but also in the virtual seminar records from the Moo. For example whilst searching for references to Baudrillard I found a virtual seminar given by Douglas Kellner!

Zip-Zap

http://zipzap.com/

"A collection of contemporary poetry, fiction, art, interviews, commentary, music and poetry readings."
This is a well produced e-zine with work of high quality. Issue 2 has an interview with Jeff Noon and both issues have good fiction and poetry.

The Muse

http://www.hyperlink.com/muse/

This is a London based journal concentrating on the Creative Arts, Music, Cinema, Books Dance and theatre.

Minetta Review

http://www.nyu.edu:80/pages/minetta/

"The Minetta Review is a corpus representing the best and only the best of literary matter that the NYU student body has to offer. Drawing upon the literary works of tomorrow's writers today. . ."
It's all true! Some excellent writing.

Alternative X

http://www.altx.com/

This is superb. A top of the class e-zine with loads to read and all of it interesting. There are interviews in the Amerika on-line columns with Ginsberg, Kesey and Amira Baraka and a review of Acker as well. There is a Martin Amis interview in the *Write Stuff* section and plenty of quality new writing in the *Black Ice: fiction for a wired nation* and *Interzones* sections.

The Silence

http://www.altx.com/silence/

"We will publish writers who have found their voice."
Published under the auspices of *Alternative X* but worth a mention in its own right.

This is a small journal of fiction and poetry which is well put together and of a high standard.

Hotwired

http://www.hotwired.com/

This is the online sister to *Wired* magazine and deals with the same kind of technology related subjects. It's probably the most famous of the on-line zines and rightly so. It's competently written and produced and invariably has something of interest to say about this increasingly digitized world of ours. You do have to subscribe to *Hotwired* but subscription is free, so it doesn't matter .

Feed

http://www.emedia.net/feed

An intelligent , cutting edge-of -the-electronic-frontier E-zine. It contains a survey of the Web's hypertext fiction and a sizeable hyperfiction reading list.

dimFLASH e-zine

http://turnpike.net/futrelle/

"The e-zine with nothing better to do."
Ok so it's not exactly a zine connected to creative writing but it is fun and it does give you a kind of Zippy the Pinhead introduction to the weirder or just plain inane aspects of the net.
"Two cheers for stupidity."

Cyberkind

http://sunsite.unc.edu:80/shannon/ckind/toc.html

"*Cyberkind* is the chronicle of a new society - the Networld. Not merely a collection of poetry, prose and art, *Cyberkind* catalogues the peculiar thoughts and emotions, the quirks and idiosyncracies, the culture of the Networld, the child of technology." It also has some interesting articles about *The Internet and the Writer* and links to material about hypertext fiction.

Io

http://www.altx.com/io/

"The digital magazine of literary culture."
Another quality publication from the people at Alt-X. This one's got, amongst others, Timmy Leary on *Chaos and Cyberculture* , Camille Paglia, Scott Bradfield and yet another interview with the omnipresent Kathy Acker.

Slippery When Wet

http://www.best.com/~slippery/sww.html

"Bisexual. Penetration-positive. Queer."
Poetry and fiction are prevalent in this infamous e-zine.

Trincoll Journal

http://www.trincoll.edu/tj/trincolljournal.html

"The net's first multimedia magazine."
This is a weekly magazine which covers lots of issues and includes poetry and reviews. Worth a look if only because magazines like this are going to become more and more poopular. There is an archive of all the back issues as well, of course.

POETRY

Poetry sites are very common on the web as any websearch will soon verify. The problem is that an awful lot of the sites are just the homepages of talentless pubescent college students. Here's a few places I found which I hope won't be a waste of your time.

The Poetry Society

http://www.bbcnc.org.uk/online/poetry/

All the way from London, England! At the moment they're in the process of constructing a Poetry Map which will be "an interactive Information and Imagination Service on all aspects of poetry in the uk today. . . If you are into poetry you can't afford to miss it." Also at this site are details about the National Poetry Competition and it's £4,000 first prize!

Sweet Bristle

http://www.ssynth.co.uk/~rday/poet_mag.html

Straight out of the apparently thriving Bristol poetry scene. This is a good site and somehow the official host of the 1995 US National Poetry Slam! There are some examples of some of the entries here as well as lots of excellent poetry related links.

Carma Bums

http://sneetch.spch.washington.edu/s/cb/html/1.htm

The Carma Bums are a group of touring performance poets and their homepage proves that poetry sites don't have to look boring. It's got quite an original presentation with a picture-map layout. The flying radio will take you to the the radio drama *Assault of the giant Burrito* and Club Blab will take you to the poets' performance space where you'll find their poetry.

So It Goes

http://www.pitt.edu:81/~soitgoes/index.html

". . . is the first digizine completely dedicated to poetry on the Internet."
Not a bad little zine and they're looking for submissions too. The standard of work
here is usually good.

The Albany Poetry Workshop

http://www.sonic.net:80/web/albany/workshop/index.html

Here's a chance for you to submit your poems for review by other readers.
Basically, your poems will be published on-line for a short time during which others
can e-mail in their criticisms and of course you can send in your criticisms of others'
work. It's a good idea so let's hope enough people participate. Also home to *The
Albany Magazine*.

Telepoetics

http://www.tezcat.com/~malachit/index.html

The American poetry scene seems to be far more networked and organised than
that in the UK. This page is about the kind of events that these networked groups
hold. It also has a good article about the history of slam poetry in Chicago.

Godhead is Dead

http://www.atlantic.net/~godhead/godhead.html

Not an e-zine but a new off-line magazine looking for submissions so it's worth
checking out if you want to get into print.

Electronic Poetry Centre

http://wings.buffalo.edu/epc/

A neat place this one. There's a good zine list and you can subscribe to the e-mail
poetics discussion group (an archive of correspondence is also here) and to the e-
mail journal RIF/T.

Living Poets

http://dougal.derby.ac.uk:80/lpoets/

Living Poets is the e-journal of the Living Poetry Society who are a postal poetry group and related to the Derby Writers' Guild.
There's collections of various poets here as well as a few good links.

Stream of Consciousness

http://kzsu.stanford.edu/vwi/soc.html

A small zine worth looking at if only for the interesting way poetry and graphics are merged. Definitely not the kind of thing you find on paper. Issue3/article 2 is a personal fave.

Inter/face Electronic Literary Magazine

http://www.albany.edu/~interfac/

Although a literary magazine it mainly publishes poetry but competent poetry at that.

Dogwood Blossoms

http://glwarner.samford.edu/data/haiku/dbindex.htm

An informal journal dedicated to Haiku and the discussion thereof setup by enthusiasts. There's also a lot of archive material here and you can always join in the discussions via e-mail.

Internet Poetry Archive Homepage

http://sunsite.unc.edu/dykki/poetry/home.html

A small site at the moment housing only material on Czeslaw Milosz and Seamus Heaney but promises to become larger. Also, will have sound and graphics for that multimedia experience.

The Poetry Exchange

http://bigsky.uoregon.edu/site/poetry/index.html

This is another place where you can send your poems to be criticised and give criticism in return by e-mail. You can also just submit poems to be published on the page. There are also some reasonable links to other sites.

Poems Poetry Poets

http://execpc.com/~jon/

Loads of links to poetry related stuff such as Internet Poetry Archives, Bengali Poetry, Charles Bukowski etc etc.

Shiki Haiku Salon

http://mikan.cc.matsuyama-u.ac.jp:/~shiki/

Haiku info for the lovers of 5-7-5 plus links to other web sites related to poetry. Also the home to a haiku contest, the first prize being a visit to Japan!

Random Haiku Generator

http://www.ip.net/2d/haiku/haiku.html

A life of false truths,
a lurking catastrophe,
and I have to pee.

Now you are ready to enter the **Shiki Haiku Salon** competition.

Breakfast Surreal

http://www.indirect.com/user/warren/surreal.html

Appalling title!
Basically links to various poetry homepages on the web. Some are good, some are bad.

Asian Poets

http://pantheon.cis.yale.edu/~skyjuice/poempg.html

This is the homepage of several modern Asian Poets.

FICTION

There is an awful lot of fiction on the Web but sites that deal with it specifically are infrequent. Most of the time it's found alongside poetry, reviews, and theory in journals and zines so check them out as well.

eSCENE - The World's Best Online Fiction

http://www.etext.org/zines/escene/

"eSCENE is a yearly electronic anthology dedicated to providing one-click access to the Internet's best short fiction and authors. The stories within are culled from a collection of electronic magazines ('ezines' or 'zines') published on the Net from across the globe during 1994, and feature both established and previously unpublished authors."

Verbiage

http://sunsite.unc.edu/boutell/verbiage/

A fiction showcase containing stories worth reading.

The Doomsday Brunette

http://zeb.nysaes.cornell.edu/ddb.cgi

"This is the first Internet browsable, downloadable, interactive, science-fiction, humorous, satirical, mystery, electronic book."
Here you'll find the first few chapters of the *novel* to see if you like it enough to download it. At the end of each page of text you are able to choose which way the story goes by clicking on a choice.

Quanta

http://www.etext.org/zines/quanta

"The online magazine of Science Fiction and Fantasy publishing since 1989."
This is a very popular zine with SF fans.

Computer Generated Writing

http://www.uio.no/~mwatz/c-gwriting/

"Another approach is using software to produce text or by using dictionaries and rules for sentence construction. The result may often resemble cut-up technique such as those employed by the Dadaists or W. S. Burroughs, or they may pose as texts somehow created by alien modes of intelligence, vaguely familiar yet profoundly puzzling. But the texts in themselves can also be beautiful."
This is a very interesting site with a lot of good links to material regarding computer generated text and hypertext. Definetly not one for the literary purists.

No Dead Trees

http://www.acy.digex.net/~dobenson/novel_main.html

No, it's not a botanist's homepage. The idea is to create an interactive novel and not one in the traditional, linear plot style (dead tree).
"For the average novelist, this is an impossible task. Novels, typically written on dead trees, move in one direction. . . An interactive novel, however, must be able to move in any direction at any time. To accomplish this many writers will take part in the Cybernovel."
And you could be one of the writers.

Reactive Writing

http://194.72.60.96/www/reactant

Another interactive novel similar in theory to that of *No Dead Trees* . This one only went on-line in late September '95 so it's looking for plot and character developments in abundance. Developed by a undergraduate student at Nottingham Trent University as part of her dissertation it deserves all the help it can get.

The E-Ville Dialogues

http://www.itp.tsoa.nyu.edu/~shana/dialogues/contents.html

A bit like David Lynch in a high-speed auto-crash with hypertext fiction!
". . . a multi-meta layered, fully illustrated book. I consider the subject and object to be the study of mediated thought processes by way of the spatial and visual manifestations of the ideas discussed throughout."

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Truly a weird day on the information autobahn.

Internovel

http://www.primenet.com/novel/

Write the next chapter in a novel that is guaranteed to be published *and* receive
$500! Although submission will cost you $15.
The genres are Adventure, Murder Mystery and Romance.
Also, upcoming poetry and short story competitions.

The Walking Man

http://crow.acns.nwu.edu:8082/poeticus/walk

"A collaborative visualization, a hyperfiction dreamscape . . . a guy walking."
You can write it and read it. The walking man project asks you to take *him* for a
walk wherever you please.

Proust Said That

http://www.well.com/user/vision/proust/

A small zine discussing all things Proustian.

Lists & Resources

The English Server

http://english-www.h55.cmu.edu

The English Server is based at Carnegie Mellon University and was set up on-line for the public distribution of research, criticism, novels, hypertext and miscellaneous writings from the humanities disciplines. There's a lot of academic material here. The list includes: Feminism, Film and TV, Cultural Theory, gender and Sexuality, Poetry, The Panic Encyclopaedia, Music, Fiction and yes, even the weather!

The EText Archives

http://www.etext.org/

Lists that could keep you busy for weeks. There are copious links to zines, electronic books, mailing lists and religious texts.

Cyberpoet's Guide to Virtual Culture

http://homepage.seas.upenn.edu/~mengwong/cyber/cgvcl.html

"A cyberpoet is one who strives to be artful in their use of virtual space. Someone who makes frequent trips to the edge of technology/culture/society and then reports back to anyone who will listen. The avant-guard of virtual culture."
This is worth checking out if you want to know more about cyberculture if only for the *lexicon of virtual culture* which will help you understand what all this Cyberpunk stuff is about. There's also good links to various sci-fi, Cyberbeatnik and Cyberpunk zines. A site obviously constructed by someone who knows.

Big Dummy's Guide to the Internet

http://conx.bu.edu/ccs/bdgtti/

"A round trip through global networks, life in cyberspace and everything."
Basically, if you decide you want to find out more about the Internet and how to explore it then this is the place to come.

On-line Writers' Club

http://mhdstore2.moorhead.msus.edu/write/index.html

This looks like it could be a useful site for the creative writer. If you've got access to IRC then you can talk to others on-line who will discuss your work in real time, otherwise it is possible to have your writing critiqued via e-mail. There are also archived pieces and critiques so you can see how it works and links to resources such as dictionaries.

The Word @ The Speakeasy Cafe

http://www.speakeasy.org/~dbrick/hot/word.html

Part of the Speakeasy Organisation based at a real-life cafe in downtown Seattle.There's a huge list of literary and not so literary links here so it's worth a visit. If you're in need of humour then I suggest the J. P. Sartre cookbook link; "I want to create an omellette that surpasses the meaning of existence and instead they taste like cheese. I look at the plate but they do not look back."

Speculative Fiction Clearing House

http://agent2.lycos.com:8001/sf-clearing-house/

By speculative fiction they mean SF, fantasy and horror. This is a good resource if that's your genre. There are links to sites of relevant authors and archives and also a good zine list. There is also a page of links to writers' resources.

Password

http://www.poptel.org.uk/password/

Based in Manchester this is a catalogue of over 1200 books that you can order by e-mail or telephone. There's a lot of poetry available here as well as a unique digital poetry service where you can get poetry books sent to your e-mail address at a fraction of the book price and then print it out how you want.

The Complete works of William Shakespeare

http://the-tech.mit.edu/shakespeare/works.html

"I'll put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes."
Pretty much what it says really. A good feature, for those of you who want to drop bardic quotations without the hassle of reading the works, is the list of famous quotations. But remember, whatever anybody says, his jokes just aren't funny.

Literary Research Tools on the Net

http://www.english.upenn.edu/~jlynch/research.html

Another university site, this time the English Department at Pennsylvania University. The list of available material here is huge and includes: Classical and Biblical / Medieaval / Renaissance / Eighteenth Century / Romantic / Hypertext / Theory / Twentieth Century and much, much more.

Breakfast Surreal

http://www.indirect.com/user/warren/surreal.html

Appalling title!
Basically links to various poetry homepages on the web. Some are good, some are bad.

The Virtual Press - Writer's Gallery

http://www.aloha.com/~william/vpwg.html

Quite a good resource this one although still in its infancy by the looks of things. They have just started a *Critique Corner* where you can publish poems and criticise and be criticised. There are a lot of links to resources as well including dictionaries, encyclopaedias, library resources, newsgroups and information on other authors.

Corduroy's Coffeehouse

http://metro.turnpike.net/c/critter/index.html

Although this site resides in the more pretentious suburb of Beatsville its menu is worth checking out. There really are a lot of good links here for all aspects of literature. And remember one good link leads to another!

Watch (Writers and their Copyright Holders)

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/hrc/hrc.watch.hp.html

A joint British and American database listing writers and their copyright holders. "WATCH was brought into being in response to a widespread view that it is often difficult and frustrating to try and find out who holds the copyright in an individual author's work.

Yahoo - science-fiction, fantasy and horror

http://www.yahoo.com/art/literature/science_fiction_fantasy_horror/

An example of the kind of list you can get from a *Yahoo* search. I thought it was worth putting in for all you sci-fi enthusiasts. The authors link is particularly rich. Another good yahoo address is:
http://www.yahoo.com/art/literature/poetry/
which gives a great list of poetry zines, collections and reviews available on the net. *Yahoo* is really just a search engine and as such can be used to search for any subject. See the *Searching the World Wide Web* section of this booklet for more details.

Feminist Science Fiction, Fantasy and Utopia

http://www.uic.edu/~lauramd/sf/femsf.html

This is an intelligent overview of how some SF writers have approached gender issues in their work. It looks at the work of a fair number of authors and also at feminist revision of mythology.

The Online Writery

http://www.missouri.edu/~wleric/writery.html

Advice on how to communicate with other writers via e-mail and Moo.

Bricolage

http://bel.avonibp.co.uk/bricolage/welcome.html

"Internet-related information and resources of interest to on-line writers."
This site is only four months old but already has loads of links to relevant sites.

Litweb

http://www.vmedia.com/shannon/litweb.html

A reasonable list of literary links which include poetry and genre fiction.

Storyweb

http://www.best.com/~dsiegel/storyweb.html

Advice on screenwriting and storylines from a professional "script-surgeon".
"Remember, no matter how delicious your filling is, if it isn't wrapped tightly within a well made tortilla, you don't have a meal, you have a mess."
Be prepared to get Hollywood all down your shirt!

Project Gutenberg

http://jg.cso.uiuc.edu/pg/lists/list.html

This project aims to get every classic book ever written on to the web so people can access them for free. Go there to see what's already available and to find out more about what's behind the project.

Virtual Libraries

http://www.w3.org/hypertext/datasources/bysubject/

This address will take you to the subject index. There's lots to choose from here including Literature and Writers' Resources on the Web (horror, poetry, journalism, SF, Playwriting).

The Inscription Project

http://icse1.ucsd.edu/~aasarava/inscript.html

Created in May 1995 this site is still under heavy construction but looks like it has promise. The project hopes to "teach the fine art of writing in its many different forms and guises." One to keep an eye on, just in case.

Polyhymnias

http://www.calpoly.edu/~dhoracek/netphil.html

A list of e-mail discussion groups that are concerned with various areas of philosophy.

Chaos in English Studies

http://www.missouri.edu/~wleric/gallery/flynn.html

A learned paper about Chaos in relation to semiotics and poetry from one of those over-educated Missouri students. Ok, so I know it's not of interest to everyone.

SEARCHING THE WORLD WIDE WEB

There are quite a few search engines available on-line at the moment that enable you to do keyword searches for particular sites which have subject information that interests you specifically. The three addresses I list here are my favourite way of searching for new sites but don't let that put you off using others. As the various search engines utilise different catalogues the results of a similar search on one could produce completely different results.

Lycos

http://lycos.cs.cmu.edu/

Webcrawler Searching

http://webcrawler.com/

Yahoo

http://www.yahoo.com/

TELNET

A brief introduction to Telnet

1. Follow the WWW instructions (p.3) until you get to the Applications window.
2. Double click on the Vax Connection.
3. Enter your Username and password at the prompt.
4. Enter Telnet at the $ prompt.
5. You should now see the prompt TELNET>
6. To get to your address type co <address>
   Thus to get to LambdaMOO you would type

   co lambda.parc.xerox.com 8888

MUDs, MOOs and MUSHes

As I mentioned in the introduction, Telnet enables you to enter *text-based virtual reality* and actually communicate in real-time with other people who are on-line wherever they might be in the world. The names of these digital worlds are usually either MUD (Multi-User Domain), MOO (MUD Object Orientated) or MUSH (Multiple Shared Hallucination).

Now it must be admitted that an awful lot of these virtual worlds are based around role-playing games where Elrond the Troll slayer (really a bored undergrad in Seattle) will rescue virtual princesses and live out his Tolkienesque fantasies. However there are a few Moo's about which are more pointedly academic in their interests and have brought into being the idea of the virtual classroom and seminar.
A couple have even held virtual poetry slams!

Below I have listed a few of the Moos which may interest writers although it must be stressed that visiting a Moo is a writing exercise in itself, for the whole thing is text-based and you must describe your character and all it does.So obviously the better the writing the more interesting the world will be for everyone involved.

When you get to a MOO, connect as a guest (usually the command is simply "co guest.") and if you've never visited one before it is highly advisable to read the HELP file before you begin so you can at least learn how to communicate and move from place to place. It really is very simple.

A final word of warning. MOOing can be highly addictive. Families have been destroyed by members believing they were walking begonias in real-life as well as in virtual life.

PMC-Moo

hero.village.virginia.edu 7777

This is the MOO that is related to the journal *Postmodern Culture* (see *WWW Zines and Journal* section) and is the hangout of many an academic. It is a theme MOO in that it deals specifically with the postmodern. It is so popular that at the moment there are no more characters available although you can still log on as a guest.

      Amongst the attractions here are virtual seminars and virtual poetry slams.

      To find out about any seminars it's advisable to e-mail someone at PMC Journal.

      The poetry slams usually occur every other Friday night (EST) and are held in conjunction with the Nujorican Poets Cafe in Manhattan. If you want to read the proceedings of one of the slams then go to the World Wide Web address: http://www.dc.peachnet.edu/~mnunes/slam.html.

      When in the MOO the Virtual Poets' Cafe and Clam Bar can be reached by typing in @go #6216 (this is the teleport command).

PennMOO

ccat.sas.upenn.edu 7777

PennMOO is based at the University of Pennsylvania and is another MOO that has held poetry slams in the past and is hoping to continue doing so in the future. The slams were held in the language room (#8230). For more info and an e-mail address see the World Wide Web site at: http://www.english.upenn.edu/moo/slam.html.

LambdaMOO

lambda.parc.xerox.com 8888

If "hell is other people" then at LambdaMOO you can create your own hell.

      This is the biggest and most populated MOO. There are usually between one and two hundred characters inhabiting Lambda at any one time.

      Although it's more of a social MOO than an academic one, I thought I'd list it because it is popular and friendly, and therefore a good world to begin your MOOing experiences in. Role-playing is a strong feature of this MOO and let's face it, there aren't many places you can run into people/characters such as Mistress_Kali, Orphanslut, Canis_Lupis or Siva.

      It's an interesting place to explore and if you get your own character you can build your own rooms! It's rumoured that some famous people come here (yes that

does include Kathy Acker!) in various guises so the company can be pretty interesting. The only limits are those of your imagination.

ZooMOO

moo.missouri.edu 8888

This is the MOO at Missouri University and although you can visit it as a guest to get a character usually entails that you have an academic background or are a student there. Creative writing tutors are often to be found in the writery (@go the writery will get you there) and are willing to discuss work with you.
For more information they have a page accessible via *The Online Writery* on the WWW at http://www.missouri.edu/~wleric/realtime.html. Here you'll find an e-mail address if you want to know more.

MOO Related Web Pages

Faz's MUSH page

http://www-egr.uh.edu/~escco/mush.html

Plenty here for those of you who wish to share hallucinations! There are literally hundreds of links to various Muds and Mushes. It's amazing how many of them start with the word **DARK**. I fear that way Death Metal lies!

MUDs, MOOs and MUSHs

http://www.itp.berkeley.edu/~thorne/moo.html

Some connections to MOO's etc and some basic instructions on how to get about in them.

Wild World MOOs and MUDs

http://www.missouri.edu/~c594600/moo.html

Absolutely loads of links to MOOs and information about them.

Recommended Reading (paper!)

Surfing on the Internet

J.C.Herz, Abacus, 1995

Highly-readable and extremely informative.

Internet Virtual Worlds Quick Tour

Carton, S. Ventana Press, 1995

Instructions on interactive games, conferences and forums. A useful guide to creating your own virtual reality.

Wired

Monthly magazine. The bible of the wired generation. Comes in two flavours - American and UK editions. US imports are expensive, but markedly different and worth checking out. On-line too (see Hotwired, p. 9)

.Net

Monthly magazine. British. Very readable, with lots of URLs to check out and often quite a literary/academic slant.

Guardian On-line

Broadsheet supplement, every Thursday. A few more lovely URLs plus debate and discussion about topics virtual and on-line.