Exploring Geology on the World-Wide Web – Rocks and Minerals

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INTRODUCTION

This issue's column will discuss some world-wide web resources for learning about the science and hobby of mineralogy, the science of crystallography, and a few topics in igneous and metamorphic petrology and petrography (excluding information about volcanic rocks which were discussed in a previous column).

All of the URL addresses in this article are available as hypertext links from a web page I maintain at:
http://hercules.geology.uiuc.edu/~schimmri/jge/geology.htm1

Note that this address has changed from that given in previous columns. Connecting to the resources below from this single site will save you a substantial amount of typing. Also, due to the lead time between the writing of this article and its publication along with the volatile nature of the world-wide web, URL addresses may change periodically, and the web page will be maintained to reflect any such changes in the resources described below.

MINERAL IMAGES

The following world-wide web sites provide spectacular online images of mineral specimens from around the world.

Fluorescent Minerals

http://www.users.interport.net/~kenx/indexa.htm

This site features a fairly large collection of images of fluorescent minerals photographed under ultraviolet light by amateur collector Kenneth Colosky along with a bibliography of books about fluorescent minerals and information about the Fluorescent Mineral Society.

Gallery of Specimen Images

http://www.rtd.com/~bkeller/rockshop/minimage.html

This is a very large gallery of exquisite mineral specimen images from around the world, maintained by amateur mineral collector Bob Keller. The images are grouped by the name of the person who collected them, and the mineral's name and locality is given for each specimen.

The Image Gallery

http://www.theimage.com/

A commercial web site with a lot of beautiful images of minerals and gemstones along with some useful scientific information about each specimen. Several of the specimen images are available in **3-D** and the site also features tutorials on creating high-quality images on the world-wide web.

Iowa Minerals

http://samuel.igsb.uiowa.edu/htmls/browse/minerals/miner als.htm

Information and images from the Iowa Geological Survey Bureau about minerals found within the State of Iowa.

Mineral Gallery

http://www.galleries.coml

While this is a commercial site, it's low-key and features an excellent gallery of mineral images along with extensive information about each specimen. The minerals are grouped by name, class, or other assorted groupings including birthstones, gemstones, minerals mentioned in the Bible, ore minerals, minerals which commonly form twins, and fluorescent minerals. This site is worth a look just to examine the interesting information presented for each mineral.

Smithsonian Institution

http://galaxy.einet.net/images/gems/gems-icons.html

Images, with brief text descriptions of spectacular mineral a.nd gemstone specimens from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Technical University of Clausthal

http://www.immr.tu-clausthal.de/labs/mincoll.html

A collection of mineral images from the museum in the Institute for Mineralogy and Mineral Resources at the Technical University of Clausthal (Institut für Mineralogie und Mineralische Rohstoffe, Technische Universität Clausthal) in Germany. The names and localities for each mineral specimen are given in German.

Paris School of Mines

http://www.cri.ensmp.fr:80/mineral/

Information and images of the mineral collections in the Museum of Mineralogy of the School of Mines (Musee de Mineralogie, Ecole des Mines) in Paris,