

# Exploring Geology on the world-wide web – invertebrate Paleontology and Evolution

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## INTRODUCTION

This issue's column will focus on World-Wide Web resources for learning about invertebrate paleontology, paleobotany, and evolution. This is essentially a continuation of last month's discussion of Web resources for dinosaur and vertebrate paleontology information.

All of the URL addresses in this article are available as hypertext links from a Web page I created at: <http://www.geology.uiuc.edu/~schimmri/geology/geology.html>

Connecting to the resources below from this single Web page will save you a substantial amount of typing.

## GENERAL EXHIBITS

There are several invertebrate paleontology exhibits, of varying quality, currently available on the Web. While some present only images, others arrange their images around a unifying theme such as phylogeny or geologic age.

### St. Louis Science Center

[http://slsc.wustl.edu/~slsc/docs/mod3/mod3\\_2/mod3\\_22/ep1000m.htm](http://slsc.wustl.edu/~slsc/docs/mod3/mod3_2/mod3_22/ep1000m.htm)

This is a virtual exhibit at the St. Louis Science Center with some basic information about the geologic periods and fossils represented in Missouri. Unfortunately, as seems to be the trend in museums today, most of the descriptions are brief one-sentence blurbs without much substance. It's worth a peek but not much else.

### Wayne State University

#### College of Science Museum of Natural History

<http://gopher.science.wayne.edu/animals/fossil/index.html>

This is an archive at the Museum of Natural History at Wayne State University College of Science in Detroit which contains several fossil images. While the descriptions of these images are somewhat sketchy at present, there is a promise to provide more information in the near future. This is a good site to visit if you're interested in collecting some fossil images.

### Hunterian Museum

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/Museum/HuntMus/earth/index.html>

The Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow in Scotland offers an overview of the history of

life along with some fossil images. There are also some interesting temporary exhibits on microfossils and conodonts that are worth visiting.

### University of California at Berkeley

#### Museum of Paleontology

<http://ucmp1.berkeley.edu/exhibittext/phylogeny.html>

The Museum of Paleontology at the University of California in Berkeley (UCMP) is arguably the best virtual exhibit for paleontology on the Web. This is the Phylogeny entrance to the exhibit that will allow access to all of the exhibits. From any point within the museum, you can take a Web lift to any specified taxon, geologic period, or glossary topic. While parts of the museum are still being built, there is an extremely large amount of information here about various organisms, biological evolution, paleoenvironments, geology, and tectonics. The images alone are worth the visit.

<http://ucmp1.berkeley.edu/exhibittext/evolution.html>

You may, if you prefer, enter the Evolution entrance to the UCMP. This page contains information about Charles Darwin, some biographies of scientists who helped develop modern evolutionary theory, and links to online versions of *Voyage of the Beagle* and *The Origin of Species*.

### Royal Tyrrell Museum

<http://www.cuug.ab.ca:8001/VT/tyrrell/tyrelmp1.html>

The Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta, Canada specializes in dinosaur fossils but also has a very good invertebrate paleontology exhibit. You can use the clickable museum map to begin your tour anywhere in the museum and systematically follow the arrows through the exhibits that present lots of high-quality information and many wonderful images.

## SPECIFIC ORGANISMS

The following resources present various types of specialized information about selected fossil invertebrates. Hopefully, in the future, more paleontologists will set up Web pages about the organisms they study.

### Crinoids

<http://141.218.91.93/crinoid/zcrinoid.html>

The BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium is developing an interactive educational software project detailing the process by which paleontologists reconstruct





