

Bridges on the I-Way: Multicultural Resources Online Websites of Interest on Vietnam

By Frank Alan Bruno

The article I co-authored with Patricia F. Beilke for the Fall 2005 issue of *MultiCultural Review* entitled "Vietnam and Vietnamese Americans: Helping K-8 School Librarians and Educators Understand the History, Culture, and Literature" highlighted recommended books for school use. I devote this installment of "Bridges on the I-Way" to Internet-based resources that both enable librarians and educators to increase their knowledge base and serve as sources for student papers and projects. Sites include those on the geography, history, economy, and culture of Vietnam as well as some that focus on American involvement in the war. Annotations indicate the principal audience for each web-based resource—elementary-age students, middle and high schoolers, and teachers developing curricular units and individual lessons.

American Experience Vietnam Online

(www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/)

A companion web site to PBS's *Vietnam: A Television History* series. Geared toward middle school students and up, it features interviews, time lines, maps, brief biographies of critical figures, transcripts, and reproductions of primary sources about the Vietnam War era.

Battlefield: Vietnam

(www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/)

A companion web site for PBS's *Battlefield: Vietnam* television series. The site, appropriate for middle school and up, offers a brief general history of the Vietnam War, a battlefield time line, a description of guerrilla tactics, narratives of key events such as the siege of Khe Sanh, and additional web resources.

Hitchhiking Vietnam

(www.pbs.org/hitchhikingvietnam/)

A companion web site for PBS's *Hitchhiking Vietnam* television series. The site chronicles the adventures of Karin Muller, who spent eight months trekking throughout the country. Some information found at the site about life in Vietnam includes people, work, the Vietnam War, rice, minorities, a culinary tour, holidays, and children and the elderly. She includes some extensive information about places, including the Central Highlands, Hanoi, Mai Chan, Saigon, Sapa Valley, Tabin, Highway 1, the Mekong River,

Sapa, Son La, and the Loop. Though geared to older students, much of the information would be of interest to elementary-age children as well.

Kid's Eye on Asia Presents Vietnam

(www.stmnftsc.melb.catholic.edu.au/kidseyes/vietnam/index.html)

A primary school in Australia gives a kid's-eye view of the country. Content includes *About Vietnam, Celebration, City Life, Environment, Food, History, Hmong, Houses, Industry, International Partners, Places of Interest, River Life, Rural Life, School, Transport, and Zoos and Conservation*.

Library of Congress/Federal Research Division/ Vietnam Era Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action Database

(<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pow/powhome.html>)

This database assists researchers interested in investigating U.S. government documents pertaining to U.S. military personnel listed as unaccounted for as of December 1991. A basic search tool allows keyword searching. The site includes an updated alphabetized casualty list with full information about identified military personnel.

Lonely Planet Vietnam

(www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/south_east_asia/vietnam/)

This travel site is packed with information for tourists. It includes general information about Vietnam as well as facts for the traveler, when to go, cultural events, money and costs, attractions, unusual places to visit, activities, history, culture, environment, getting around, and further readings.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

(<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVLPages/VietPages/WWWVL-Vietnam.html>)

Vern Weitzel has included over 1190 links to information about Vietnam of value to educators, students, and adult browsers in general. He has categorized content into 26 different areas: *What's New; News and Magazines; Main Web Sites for Vietnam; General Information on Vietnam; Lists of Links to Vietnam Resources; Reference Material and*

Library Resources; Maps and Geographic Resources; Information Technology Resources; Culture; History; Economics and Business; Business Directory; Government and Law; Science, Technology and Environment; Travel and Travelogues; Travel Yellow Pages; Photo, Essays, Slides, and Movies; International Education, Development and Aid; Aid and Education Yellow Pages; Vietnam Interest Groups; Personal Home Pages; Jobs and Scholarships; Select List of Vietnamese Journals and Newspapers; expert advice on specific issues; list of Vietnam-related pages at the Australian National University; and Australia Vietnam Science-Technology Link.

Teaching Asia: Vietnam through Cinema

(www.einaudi.cornell.edu/SoutheastAsia/outreach/resources/vietcinema/TeachingAsiaVietCinema.html)

This guide for educators of older students covers rice in Vietnamese culture and economy, worshipping ancestors, the war in Vietnam, lesson plans, recipes, videos for teaching about the country, and a bibliography.

Things Asia: Experience Asia through the Eyes of a Traveler

(www.thingsasian.com/destination/stories_list.jsp?destination_id=1&atype=100&atype=110&atype=120)

Four hundred forty-two contributors to this site have shared their experiences of traveling in Vietnam on subjects ranging from business to food to religion. Suitable for high schoolers, college students, business travelers, and interested adults.

The Vietnam Pictures Archives

(www.ibiblio.org/vietnam/)

The site includes a number of JPEGs and GIFs, MIDI sequences and RealAudio clips about Vietnam categorized by scenery, people, arts, monuments, history, and poetry.

The Vietnam Project (Texas Tech University)

(www.vietnam.ttu.edu/)

Documents and interviews have been digitized on the site and are searchable online. Several Texas veterans have given oral interviews that can be accessed and used by researchers and students at the secondary level and up. In addition, the full texts of a huge quantity of documents and other materials relating to the Vietnam War are found on the site.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Page

(<http://thewall-usa.com/>)

The site is dedicated to those who died in the Vietnam War. Areas featured are *Today's Birthdays on the Wall*, *Today's Casualty on the Wall*, *Photo Gallery*, *Literary Section*, *Women on the Wall*, *Medal of Honor*, *Casualty Summaries*,

Wall Information Page, *Names on the Wall*, *A Time for Honor: A Video Documentary*, *The Guest Book*, *Message Center*, *Link to the Wall Page*, *Support the Wall—USA*, *Favorite Links*, and *Bracelet Exchange*. The search utility is organized by *first name*, *last name*, *home of record*, *home/state/country*, *branch*, *age*, *service or SS#*, *rank*, *birthday*, and *casualty date*. A list of casualties by individual panels is also included.

VietGate: Gateway to the Online Vietnamese Community

(www.vietgate.net/)

This site, geared to Vietnamese Americans, bills itself as 100,000+ web pages and growing. It sustained a major crash in December 2003 and is just now recovering. Some topics included are an *Online Vietnamese-English Dictionary*, a *Viet Net Weblog*, *VietHoo Links*, *Vietnam Travel Links*, *VN Music Sites*, *FM 96.1 Webcast*, and *Personal Home Pages*. The *VietHoo Links* have several subcategories of interest: *arts & humanities*, *business & economy*, *education*, *employment*, *news & media*, *recreation & sports*, *regional*, *science & technology*, *entertainment*, *government*, *health*, *history*, and *science & culture*.

Vietnam: Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States of America

(www.vietnamembassy-usa.org/)

This official government site includes news about human rights issues and includes information about Vietnam. Some of the areas described include government, public services, history, culture, geography, and other resources. The *government* subsection features a governmental overview; documents such as the declaration of independence and Constitution of 1992; information on governmental structure, the Communist Party of Vietnam, and government officials; the national anthem; and a national flag. The *public services* subsection contains content about education, public health, mass media, Internet, and Vietnam-related TV programs in North America. The *history* subsection presents the country's early history, the Dai Viet, liberation struggle, reunification, renovation: Doi Moi, and the future. The *culture* subsection discusses the evolution of culture, philosophy and ideologies, customs and practices, beliefs and religions, ethnic groups, languages, literature, arts, sports, and movies. The *geography* subsection offers basic statistics on population as well as information about the land, flora and fauna, provinces, and major cities. The *other resources* subsection includes content about government agencies, Vietnamese Overseas Missions, media organizations, political and mass organizations, nongovernmental organizations, universities, tourism, history, and reference. The *reference area* includes a Vietnam Law Database and a Vietnam Legal InfoCenter.

Viet Nam News: The National English Language Daily

(<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/>)

This 28-page daily headquartered in Hanoi provides comprehensive coverage of the latest domestic and international developments in all areas including politics, economics, business, social affairs and sports. Special pages carry commentary, analysis, and reports on the environment, science and technology, lifestyle, and key social issues. The site's sections are titled *New*, *Featured Articles*, *Politics*, *Economics*, *Socio-Cultural*, *Comment*, *Miscellany*, *Government in Action*, *Viet Nam at Work*, *Business Beat*, *Exchange Rate*, *Stock Market*, *Lifestyle*, *Sports*, *Domestic Press Highlights*, and *The Day in History*.

Vietnam Resources Center

(<http://vietsandiego.com/vnsources.html>)

This San Diego-based site has extensive links about Vietnam, including *Vietnam—In General*; *Vietnam—Arts, Literatures, Music, Poems, etc.*; *Vietnam—Business, Investment*; *Vietnam—Law Resources*; *Vietnam—Organizations*; *Vietnam—Student Associations Around the World*; *Vietnam—Vietnamese Community Online*; *Vietnam—Pictures*; *Vietnam—Religion*; *Vietnam—Society & Culture*; *Vietnam—Social Science, Science, and Technology*; *Vietnam—Software and Information*; *Vietnam—Travel*; and *Vietnam—War, Veterans*.

Vietnam Tourism

(www.vietnamtourism.com/)

This is the official site of the National Administration of Tourism. The site is accessible in Vietnamese, English, French, and Chinese. It has information about places to visit, cultural practices, vestiges, museums, entertainment, shopping, restaurants, business opportunities, ecological sites, history, geography, and the ethnic differences of the people.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

(www.vvmf.org/)

This site's purpose is to "preserve the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to promote healing and to educate about the impact of the Vietnam War." It includes current news about the Memorial as well as lesson plans to help students learn about the war. The *Teach Vietnam* section has an *Echoes from the Wall* subsection with six separate lesson plan modules for teachers that cover *Escalating Involvement in the Vietnam War*, *Conflict on the Home Front*, *Those Who Served*, *The Vietnamese and Vietnam*, *The Wall as Healer*, and *The Legacy of the Vietnam War*.

Vietnam Veterans of America

(www.vva.org/)

The official site of Vietnam Veterans of America, the only national Vietnam veterans' organization congressionally

chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam Era veterans and their families. A wealth of federal information is provided including speeches and legislation that impact Vietnam Veterans. The site is arranged into *About the War*, *AVVA (America Associates of Vietnam Veterans of)*, *VVA (Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund)*, *VVA Cyberstore*, *Health Care Issues*, *Scholarship Info*, *VVA Education*, *Veterans Benefits*, *Government Relations*, *Events*, and *VVA in Action*.

Vietnam: Yesterday and Today

(<http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/>)

This site is devoted to helping students and educators understand the Vietnamese conflict. There is a *war timeline*, *help for students*, *books about the war*, *web links*, *journal/discussions*, and a *site map*. The *war timeline* covers the period from 1930 to 2004. *Help for students* offers more general information on citing resources, copyright and plagiarism, downloading and printing, evaluating web sites, how to do research, paper and speech topics, search tips, and useful search engines. *Books about the war* includes creative literature, nonfiction, and new books. *Web links* covers history of the war and Vietnam today.

Vietnam War Bibliography

(<http://people.clemson.edu/~emoise/bibliography.html>)

Edwin E. Moise at Clemson University has compiled an extensive, up-to-date bibliography on different aspects of the Vietnam War. Students should consult his list before beginning their research or studies.

Web Guide Vietnam

(www.webguidevietnam.com/)

Extensive links to Vietnam, including such topics as *climate*, *economy*, *gambling*, *geography*, *government*, *history*, *language*, *parks & reserves*, *population*, *shows & events*, *sports*, *travel*, *Vietnam schools*, and *Vietnam Facts*.

Women in Vietnam

(www.illyria.com/vnwomen.html)

This site is dedicated to telling the story of the 7,500 U.S. women who served during the Vietnam conflict. Topics include *Red Cross*, *Military Women*, *Military Nurses*, *Get Back in Touch*, *Bibliographies*, *Photo Tours*, *Health Stuff*, and *Help for Students*.

The World Factbook—Vietnam

(www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/vm.html)

This CIA-authored print and online source covers such topics as geography, people, government, economy, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues. It is an excellent resource for finding general facts and details.

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