

## Web Search Tip of the Day

### HumorLinks: All the Sites that are Fit to Laugh

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I've been feeling a need for something to make me laugh, so I decided to update the Jokes and Humor section of the About Web Search directory pages. As I was poking around the Web looking for new sites to add, I found a real winner, and I've decided to grant it About's Best of the Net award.

[HumorLinks](#) is a searchable directory of humor and comedy Web sites. As of now, it includes nearly 5,000 sites in more than 45 categories. A look at some of the categories will give you an idea of the directory's range: "[Inspired and Bizarre](#)," "[Poems and Limericks](#)," and "[Live and Streaming](#)."

Besides the number of listings, the thing that sets HumorLinks apart from most of the other directories and search engines in this category is the quality of the annotations. Every site in the directory has a witty description that gives a good sense of what you'll find if you click on through.

There's lots more to like.

If you enjoy a statistical approach to your directory browsing, HumorLinks is a treat: there's a user ratings system ("HumorLinks Visitors' Rating: 8.5729 Votes: 51") with a 5-star graphic representation, and a tally of how much traffic each site is getting ("79 hits via HumorLinks since 3-Aug-2001 or 46 per month"). There are individual lists of the Top Listed, Most Visited, Best Rated and Newest links, and a set of icons to identify listings that make the grade in each of these categories.

HumorLinks provides a personalization feature that is really easy to use. Whenever you find a listing you want to keep track of, click the "Add To MyHumorLinks" button, and you're done. You can click MyHumorLinks from anywhere in the directory, and you'll get a custom page with your saved links. There's no log-in required, as the personalization feature uses cookies to identify each visitor. This makes the personalization simple and quick, with the drawback that your favorites won't follow you from machine to machine if you use multiple PCs.

The site is designed for ease of use, with consistent menus, pull downs to jump from category to category, lots of icons and visual cues to help you find the stuff that interests you, and plenty of thoughtful touches such as a thorough FAQ that explains all of the many features of the directory.

The site search engine is adequate, although it doesn't offer much in the way of syntax options, and seems slow at times. The basic search is a keyword "AND" search (all keywords required for a hit), while the advanced search function lets you choose to search keywords with "OR" (any of the keywords results in a hit) or to search by exact phrase.

Be aware that HumorLinks offers paid priority listing options to webmasters. Paid listings show up at the top of categories or search results, ahead of unpaid listings, and they are identified by a gold star icon.

Overall, HumorLinks is a great place to start a search for humor sites on the Web. Give it a spin next time you need a smile.

*Note to search geeks:* This is a great example of a fully-tricked-out implementation of the popular [Links](#) directory engine developed by [Gossamer Threads](#). If you want to see what the Links system can do, with lots of modifications applied, take a look at HumorLinks.

Kevin Elliott

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