The question of finding the right information is perhaps even more important, and it requires a new organizing principle of information for the digital age.... The problem that people are running into with digitized information is that the amount of information is growing exponentially. The number of Web sites has grown from 5,000 to 50 million over the last 10 years or so, and the information they contain is very dynamic. At the same time, search engines are becoming more powerful and people are creating more sophisticated, semantically based retrieval mechanisms. All of that will, in fact, improve the quality of search and finding information. However, there is a different dimension, that of video and audio information, which cannot be routinely indexed and searched at present. (Goodman, 2001, pp. 13-14)
This chapter discusses scholarly electronic databases and specific gateways to U.S. government information available on the Web. These Web sites represent a sampling of resources either initiated by academic interests or by sources for the dissemination of public information that benefits those involved in higher education in all capacities throughout the Pacific region based on the following:

• Digital Collections of Educational Resources
• Online Educational Resources for the Pacific Region

Digital Collections of Educational Resources

ICT have brought adult learning and professional development into the center of the global education agenda (Pye, 1999). As technical advancements in higher education from a global perspective emerge, virtual resources to support digital programs and curriculums must be addressed. Curriculum designers consider what relevant materials are available in electronic format to reach students requiring online research support. E-resources can and do enable innovations in teaching (Henderson & MacEwan, 1997). From a collection development perspective, librarians select resources in an electronic format to cover a broad sweep of general materials such as encyclopedias. At the Pennsylvania State University library, the electronic version of the popular Encyclopedia Britannica was acquired, and data collected revealed that within a six-month period, this acquisition was searched over 140,000 times by Penn State users (Henderson & MacEwan, 1997).

Subject-specific electronic databases are interesting and gratifying for courses that require a more refined and specific scope of resources. One such resource that focuses on the humanities is JSTOR, which provides a wide and scholarly range of disciplines and is provided to students and faculty at UOG. With over 900 participating institutions in 84 countries, this electronic journal database provides scholars with a run of journals from first issue, many dating from the early 1800s. As a not-for-profit organization with a mission to archive important scholarly research into the future (JSTOR, 2004, www.jstor.org), this high quality database is particularly valued for institutions of higher education in more remote areas in which academic resources are scarce.
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