

15 A+ RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

2010 COLLEGE RESEARCH RESOURCE LIST -- LYNN RADLAUER LUBELL, PUBLISHER OF INLIKEME.COM

College Navigator

(<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>)

is a free consumer information resource provided by the U.S. Department of Education. The site has tools and search options that make it quick and easy to gather and compare data about most U.S. colleges and universities. The College Navigator site also has useful links to Federal government sites for financial aid and career planning.

College Insight

(<http://college-insight.org>) provides easy-to-use college profiles that include information about affordability, student debt, and diversity.

Unigo (<http://www.unigo.com>) provides "insider" reviews, videos and photos by actual students attending the college. You'll also find institution-specific stats and rankings as well as forums that focus on specific topics and colleges. Unigo's partnership with The Wall Street Journal provides additional content focused on getting accepted, choosing schools and paying for college.

U-CAN Network

(<http://www.ucan-network.org>)

The University and College Accountability Network provides charts and concise information in a common format on more than 700 private institutions courtesy of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Institutional profiles include admissions and enrollment stats, student demographics, graduation rates, popular majors, faculty information, class size, tuition and fee trends, price of attendance, financial aid, campus housing, student life, and campus safety.

College Portraits

(<http://www.collegeportraits.org>)

College Portrait of Undergraduate Education is similar to U-CAN, but focuses on public colleges and universities.

College Results Online

(<http://www.collegeresults.org>) provides interactive tools to query graduation rates at four-year colleges and universities. In addition to providing college-specific graduation rates and other data (e.g. cost, financial aid), the comparison tool provides analogous information for similar colleges.

College Board

(<http://www.collegeboard.com>) provides search and "College MatchMaker" tools to query its database of 3500+ schools. The



site also contains useful student aid and entrance exam information.

Kiplinger's Best College Values

(<http://www.kiplinger.com/reports/best-college-values>)

ranked U.S. colleges and universities in three separate lists: public, private universities, and liberal arts colleges. Users can query, view and sort the schools on each list by various financial and quality measures.

U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges

(<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>)

Beyond its rankings, this site offers a plethora of college data and guidance. You'll find an assortment of interesting lists including: A+ Options for B Students, Learning Communities, Up-and-Coming Colleges, Internships-Co-ops, Study Abroad, Best Undergrad Teaching and Writing Programs.

FairTest

(<http://www.fairtest.org/>) The National Center for Fair & Open Testing, provides a list of more than 800 four-year colleges and universities that do not use the SAT I or ACT to admit substantial numbers of candidates.

Zinch (<http://www.zinch.com>) is a fairly new admissions portal that helps colleges and students connect. Students create profiles on the site and "shout out" to colleges of interest hoping to begin a dialogue.

Cappex

(<http://www.cappex.com>) has a user-friendly search tool that provides easy-to-absorb college profiles with information about specific programs and majors. Cappex also has college matchmaking and scholarship resources for registered users.

Common Data Set - Google "Common Data Set and Name of Institution" (e.g. Common Data Set Vanderbilt") The Common Data Set refers that the source data that colleges and universities provide annually, in a standardized format, for use in college guides and other venues. Analyzing the data can provide insight into admissions, merit aid and other areas of interest.

College Confidential (<http://www.collegeconfidential.com>), the popular college admissions site and discussion forum is a source of school-specific gossip (whether reliable or not) and information.

The Fiske Guide to Colleges provides an insider's look at more than 300 popular colleges and universities.

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