



WebSights

Dan MacIsaac, Column Editor

Physics Department, SUNY-Buffalo State College,
Buffalo, NY 14222; macisadl@buffalostate.edu

This academic year, WebSights will feature reviews of select sites presenting physics teaching strategies, as well as shorter announcements of sites of interest to physics teachers. All sites are copyrighted by the authors. This column is available as a clickable webpage at <http://PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights/>. If you have successfully used a site to teach physics that you feel is outstanding and appropriate for WebSights, please email me the URL and describe how you use it to teach. The person submitting the best site monthly will receive a T-shirt.

Online Professional Journals for Physics Teachers

Check out the state of the art and consider becoming active as a reader, reviewer, or author in the scholarship of the physics teaching profession:

• <http://www.aapt.org/tpt> *The Physics Teacher* or *TPT* (this journal). A nine-issues-per-year nonresearch, peer-reviewed journal, includes columns dedicated to teaching introductory physics (mainly high school or lower division college). Written specifically for teachers, it is a publication of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT—your professional organization). While you must subscribe for full online access, there are always some freely available sections in every issue. Subscriptions are cheap and the journal is searchable online. Generally shorter articles of immediate use in physics teaching, many advertisements aimed at college and grade school physics teachers.

• <http://www.aapt.org/ajp> *The American Journal of Physics* or *AJP*. A monthly peer-reviewed journal published to meet the needs of college and university physics teachers and students (another AAPT journal). Again subscriptions are cheap and the journal comes with an extensive database of retrievable online articles (some are free). *AJP* has some formal physics education research (PER) in it, which is of considerable interest to physics teachers and curriculum designers. Longer and more scholarly articles than *TPT*, often quite theoretical.

• <http://www.physicstoday.org> *Physics Today*. The 12-month U.S. physicists' journal-newsmagazine published by the American Institute of Physics (or AIP)—the U.S. physicists' umbrella organization. Read by more than 100,000 physicists in industry, government, medicine, academia, and dozens of subfields; if you join AAPT you will automatically receive a paper subscription. Again, cheap subscriptions, online searchable articles with some always free. Articles are quite readable and often cross-disciplinary, with lots of cutting edge developments, news, and professional equipment and jobs for physicists.

• <http://www.iop.org/EJ/journal/PhysEd> *Physics Education*—the European Institute of Physics (IoP) physics education monthly journal-newsmagazine, more like a com-

pendium of the above three journals dedicated to teachers. Again, cheap subscriptions, online searchable articles with the current month's issue always free. *PE* incorporates PER along with *TPT*- and *PT*-like content into a smorgasbord of shorter articles, with considerable international flavor.

• <http://prst-per.aps.org> *Physical Review Special Topics: Physics Education Research*. A brand-new peer-reviewed freely distributed electronic-only joint AAPT/American Physical Society (APS) journal dedicated to research in physics education. A sharply PER-focused professional journal with quite limited content right now, this journal holds great promise to the practical and theoretical study of physics learning.

• <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/jpteo> *The Journal of Physics Teacher Education Online (JPTEO)*. A peer-reviewed, freely distributed electronic-only journal published roughly quarterly by the Illinois State University Department of Physics. Again, sharply focused on teacher educators preparing or mentoring physics and physical science teacher candidates. Very helpful for the development of the physics teaching profession.

• <http://aer.noao.edu> *Astronomy Education Review (AER)*. Another peer-reviewed, freely distributed electronic journal published semesterly by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy. Sharply focused on astronomy and space science education.
DOI: 10.1119/1.2120393

Nuclear Pathways: A Nuclear Information Clearinghouse

<http://nuclearpathways.org> A collection of four sites dedicated to atomic physics. **The Alsos Digital Library for Nuclear Issues** is a reviewed, annotated searchable bibliography of more than 1600 books, articles, films, CD-ROMs, and websites. **Atomic Archive** explores the science, history, and consequences of the atomic age. Atomic Archive describes how nuclear weapons work, the science behind them, and the effects of their use (fictional nuclear weapons detonations in Manhattan and San Francisco Bay—*Ed*). **ChemCases** is a collection of 13 case studies linking decision making and policy with chemical science, including two 45-minute online lessons on the nuclear industry, waste, and weapons. Finally, **Nuclear Files** provides access to historical primary-source documents, biographical photos, video and audio clips, original data, and graphs provided by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

DOI: 10.1119/1.2120394