

# Exploratorium Educator Portal: Where We've Been and Where We're Going

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Our new Educator Portal is a specially designed entryway just for educators. Its clear navigation will provide access to our award-winning online resources, including Webcasts, activities, publications, and the latest information on our professional development programs. Once you take a look, you'll want to add the Educator Portal to your browser's list of favorites <http://www.exploratorium.edu/educate/>

Here are the websites included in this presentation so you can link to them easily:

**Information Edge Homepage - <http://www.information-edge.com/>**  
Where I lived when I was not at the Exploratorium.

**Exploratorium Homepage - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/>**  
Where I lived when I'm not at Information Edge.

**The Palace of Fine Arts - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/palace/index.html>**  
Home of the Exploratorium.

**Exploratorium Learning Commons - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/lc/>**  
The Learning Commons (formerly the Library/Learning Studio) supports the educational, professional development and information needs of Exploratorium educator program alumni and museum staff by providing access to a variety of electronic, multimedia, and print-based learning resources and technology. Other services include professional development and access to a state-of-the-art digitizing station.

**Exploratorium Funding - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/support/donors/>**  
The Exploratorium gratefully acknowledges corporate contributions of \$10,000 or more.

**Exploratorium Educator Portal - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/educate/>**

One stop shopping for educators to our most popular resources in the formal and informal setting.

**Teacher Talk - <http://sodium.exploratorium.edu/cgi-bin/yabb-ed/YaBB.pl>**

Draft version of online peer communities with discussions focused on how Exploratorium resources (online and print) are implemented and adapted. This will help us provide resources that educators find most valuable as well as foster a sense of community among educators. We are using YaBB software for this and are in the process of deciding which subject areas to begin with. As these educator communities grow, new topic areas for discussion will be created by them.

**YaBB - Yet Another Bulletin Board - <http://www.yabbforum.com/>**

YaBB is a free, downloadable Perl forum that allows you to provide a real-time or asynchronous chat for your visitors.

We are using YaBB for the Teacher Talk feature on the Exploratorium's Educator Portal.

**Gossamer Threads - <http://www.gossamer-threads.com/>**

SQLB Links, produced by Gossamer Threads, is the software we have chosen for the Educator Picks feature on the Exploratorium Educator Portal. Links allows a complex link directory without being overwhelmed by editing and updating htm pages. It is modeled after Yahoo and will run on UNIX, Windows NT and Macintosh operating systems.

**Cumulus Software - <http://www.canto.com>**

Produced by Canto, this software is designed to manage and archive all types of digital assets. We are using it in the Exploratorium's Digital Asset Management Project.