

Information Technology Resources for Adults

This list includes books that should prove useful to adults working with girls on Operation SMART activities. Some of these titles are biographies of prominent, inspirational women engineers and inventors. Other titles provide ideas for activities using the Internet. While no one would be expected to own all these titles, this list will provide a useful starting point in building your collection. These books can be purchased online or in bookstores, and many of them should be available to borrow from your local public library.

American Association of University Women, Educational Foundation. (2000). *Tech-savvy: Educating girls in the new computer age*. Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 1879922231. \$12.95 plus shipping and handling. Available from AAUW Sales Office at (800)225-9998 ext. 520.

This report from the Commission on Technology, Gender, and Teacher Education explores ways to make the world of technology more “accessible, appealing and inviting to a variety of users and learners.” The authors feel that there is a more important goal than just getting more girls to use computers. They would like to change the atmosphere and empower girls to become more adaptable to rapid changes that occur in the tech world, to be able to interpret the vast amount of electronic information out there, and to influence the uses to which it could be put. This is a recommended reading think piece.

Atkins, Jeannine, & Petriè, Dušan (Ill.). (2003). *Wings and rockets: The story of women in air and space*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. ISBN: 0374384509. \$17.00

This fascinating book provides a peek at the history of women pioneers of aviation. It is divided into four sections by time periods. Starting with Katharine Wright (younger sister of Orville and Wilbur) and moving through history to today’s astronauts, we read stories of brave, determined, groundbreaking women. There is also a bibliography and a list of interesting Web sites.

Casey, Susan. (1997). *Women invent! Two centuries of discoveries that have shaped our world*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press. ISBN: 1556523173. \$14.95

Seven chapters inspire girls and women by describing the processes through which real women created inventions that became widely used. It makes the invention and patenting process seem accessible. It includes a resource guide that lists books and websites about inventors and inventing, and it lists invention camps and scholarship programs.

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Resources for Information Technology for Adults (2)

*Children's Software Revue*TM. Subscriptions to CSR, 44 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. Phone (800)993-9499. \$24.00. URL: <http://www.childrensoftware.com>

Published every two months, this magazine provides reviews of children's software using a 50-item checklist. Products are rated on the following criteria: ease of use, educational value, quality of design features, whether it's childproof, entertainment, and overall value. Scores range from one star (low) to five stars (high). Testers are made up of children of many ages in family and school settings. The magazine does not take advertising revenue from software or hardware producers, which reduces bias. Also included are interesting articles for adults, such as safety on the Internet, computer programming for children, and stereotyping of characters appearing in software. The publishers have advanced degrees in education and are serious about what they do.

Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development, & National Science Foundation. (2000). *Land of plenty: Diversity as America's competitive edge in science, engineering and technology*. Washington, DC: Author.

The Commission spent one year studying the status of women and minorities in science, engineering, and technology (SET) careers. They found that although women, underrepresented minorities, and people with disabilities constitute an increasingly large portion of the workforce, their numbers are not represented proportionally in SET fields. The Commission went on to design concrete steps to fill in the gaps.

Eisenberg, Susan. (1998). *Pioneering: Poems from the construction site*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN: 0801485266. \$13.95

Eisenberg has worked in the construction industry for twenty years. She is also a teacher and activist, and she has published essays in several major magazines. These compelling poems were inspired by her work, and that of other women, in construction. It is highly advised that an adult screen all poems before presenting any of them to girls, as a few are quite graphic (including one about an electrocuted rat).

Eisenberg, Susan. (1998). *We'll call you if we need you: Experiences of women working construction*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN: 080148605X. \$16.95

This is the non-fiction companion piece to *Pioneering: Poems from the construction site*. Eisenberg details experiences, both positive and negative, of thirty women who have worked in construction. The author discusses an initiative begun in 1978 to increase the number of women in skilled trades, and why this hasn't happened.

Garfield, Gary M., & McDonough, Suzanne. (1998). *Internet field trips*. Glenview, IL: Good Year Books. ISBN: 067358657X. \$11.95. Available from J. Weston Walch. Phone (800)341-6094.

The newest way to take a field trip — through Cyberspace! Visit 57 museums via the Web sites affiliated with credible institutions. As you know, Web sites are often in a state of flux, so the authors provide contact information for themselves in case you are unable to access the site you are searching. There are 38 learning activities that can be completed while taking the virtual field trips. Time and materials necessary are noted. Activities are reproducible.



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Resources for Information Technology for Adults (3)

International Society for Technology in Education. (2000). *National Educational Technology Standard for Students: Connecting curriculum and technology*. Eugene, OR: Author. ISBN: 1564841502. \$29.95 plus \$6.50 shipping & handling. Available from the author, 480 Charnelton Street, Eugene, OR 97401-2626. Phone (800)336-5191.

Recommended for staff doing programming, either in school or after-school, that must meet requirements for producing technology-capable kids. The guidelines provide directions for integrating the use of technology into all subject areas of the curriculum, i.e. social studies, literature, science, mathematics, and world languages. The text is daunting, but underneath the jargon you will find that the recommendations reflect Girls Incorporated technology goals, such as: the ability to access information for personal use, the realization of the importance of information to a democratic society, and becoming an ethical adult who appreciates literature and other creative expressions of information. There is a large chart that describes concrete activities for each grade level and how they relate to the standard, plus what tools a teacher can use to meet the standard.

Martin, Molly (Ed.). (1997). *Hard-hatted women: Life on the job*. Seattle: Seal Press. ISBN: 1878067915. \$14.95

This collection features twenty-six women talking about their experiences in a variety of trades, including sheet metal work, welding, police work, plumbing, and trucking. Written in everyday language, it is accessible to adults and older girls, and it provides glimpses into the real world of women working in “non-traditional” occupations. Once you start reading these accounts, you may have trouble putting this book down.

Roberts, Donald F., Foehr, Ulla G., Rideout, Victoria J., & Brodie, Mollyann. (1999, November 15). *Kids and the media @ the new millennium*. Kaiser Family Foundation Report. Retrieved November 24, 2003, from <http://dev.kff.org/entmedia/1535-index.cfm>

A comprehensive national analysis of children’s media use, including computers, video games, television, movies, magazines, books, newspapers, Web sites, chat rooms, and popular music. The data are analyzed by gender. This very useful and extensive compilation of data is 84 pages long, so you will want to fully load your printer before you begin. The report will also provide you with important information if you are doing Media Literacy programming.

Salvadori, Mario, Hooker, Saralinda (Ill.), & Ragus, Christopher (Ill.). (1990). *The art of construction: Projects and principles for beginning engineers and architects*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press. ISBN: 1556520808. \$9.95

The art of construction outlines the basic principles of architectural structures, including bridges, skyscrapers, and stadiums. Hands-on projects are described to illustrate the principles in a fun and scientific way.



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Resources for Information Technology for Adults (4)

Sharp, Richard M., Sharp, Vicki F., & Levine, Martin G. (2001). *The best Web sites for teachers* (4th ed.). Eugene, OR: International Society for Technology in Education. ISBN: 1564841685. \$32.95

The Web sites are categorized according to the subjects taught in the standard curriculum for K-12 grades, plus drama, art, health, physical education, and vocational/technical education. Appendices include a section on Newsgroups, mailing lists, search tools and evaluation forms for Web sites. Both Mac and IBM platforms are used. As much as it is possible for a printed resource to be current, this one is.

Sherman, Aliza. (1998). *Cybergrrl!: A woman's guide to the World Wide Web*. New York: Ballantine Books. ISBN: 0345423828. \$12.00

Written by a "non-techie" who nevertheless became influential in the computer world. The author is the moving force behind Cybergrrl.com. The tone of this useful handbook is a welcome relief from computer guides that either expect the reader to know a lot more than she does or are so elementary that it insults her intelligence. The author provides basic information needed by everyone to navigate Cyberspace. Sherman's mission is to empower women and girls through technology. A selection of chapter headings includes the following: online safety tips, the opportunities for networking with other women with similar interests, girls on the Web with recommended sites, and more.

Sherwood, Walter. (1998). *Using the Internet to investigate math*. Portland, ME: J. Weston Walch. ISBN: 0825137454. \$12.95

Twenty-two ready-to-use activities that correlate to the NCTM standards. Topics include planning the expenses for a trip, converting metric to English units, figuring out how much paint or carpet to buy to redo a room, collecting weather data from a variety of cities to help plan a vacation. Learn about probability through the roll of a die exercise. This practical book includes a Web site for you to contact the publishers to contribute your own suggestions of interesting sites to explore.

Turkle, Sherry. (1997). *Life on the screen: Identity in the age of the Internet*. New York: Touchstone. ISBN: 0684833484. \$14.00

This a big-picture thinking piece or a book-length essay about people's interactions with each other in Cyberspace. The author is Professor of the Sociology of Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a clinical psychologist. The chapters address the impact of the Internet on our lives, the challenges of determining what is real and what is virtual reality, gender issues and identity, and how we communicate with each other. A historical context is given to the evolution of computer use. If you enjoy thinking about the Internet as a social phenomenon, you will find this to be an interesting read.

