

Searchable resource database on the Web

<http://www.ltsn.gla.ac.uk/resources>

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A searchable database of resources for Maths, Stats & OR is under construction, but may already be used. To search the database visit the webpage <http://www.ltsn.gla.ac.uk/resources>. At the bottom of the page is a textbox for entering a keyword or expression to search for. Pressing enter will submit the search and a results page of matching entries will be displayed.

What's in the database?

The database contains teaching materials inherited from CTI Statistics (notably a large database of teaching resources collected by Mhairi McAlpine) and resources being added by the Maths, Stats & OR Network.

In addition, users on the web may also add resources via the webpage <http://www.ltsn.gla.ac.uk/resources/add.asp>

New entries are reviewed before addition.

Resources in the database include:

Assessments, Book reviews, Contacts, Data sets, Fun entries, Java applets, Journals, QAA reports, UK departments, and Websites.

How to search

Searching is similar to many web-portals. Simply type a keyword or expression to search for and press enter. There are check boxes to enable and disable various subcategories if you wish (as default they are all selected). Further one can search either reviewed entries only (the default) or, by unchecking *ignore unreviewed user added resources* one can search both the reviewed and unreviewed entries.

If you have visited the site before a list-box will appear with your previous searches so that you can quickly return to the results of a previous search.

A further list-box on the search screen gives the current twenty most popular searches, ranked by frequency.

The results screen gives a line per matching result. An icon next to the line indicates the general category of

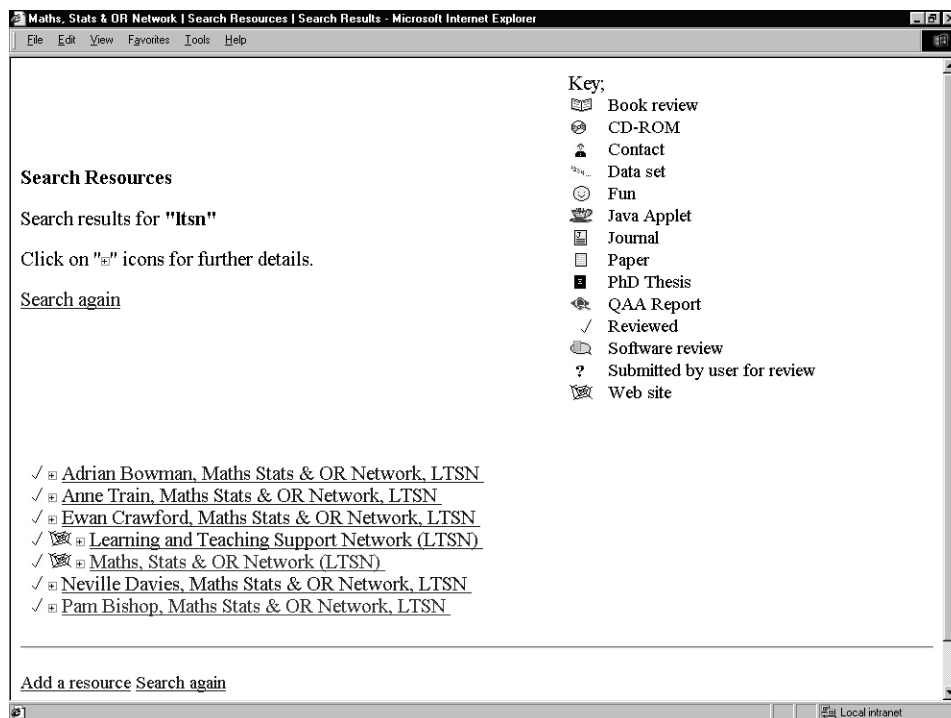


Fig 1 Searching for "ltsn" gave the results screen above

the resource (e.g. book, website, contact). Next to this is a '+' which expands the entry to give a description of the resource. If a tick appears next to an entry this indicates that it has been reviewed.

Clicking on an entry will, in many cases, take the user directly to the appropriate site. In some cases, for example software reviews, the user is taken to the review held in the database.

Future plans

The search screen will shortly be altered. The number of categories will be reduced and will link to all entries in that category (similar to the "Yahoo" and other web-portals appearance). An "advanced search" will be available which will also allow searching on year, course and topic.

The pages are still under development but may be used. Comments or criticisms (or even suggestions of suitable resources) are very welcome and can be emailed to me at ewan@stats.gla.ac.uk.