

# iTeacher Two

## **ACT Now! Goals**

- Ensure equitable access for all students to technology-enriched learning.
- Enhance learning outcomes by infusing technology into standards-driven curriculum.
- Enrich instruction through the development and support of “21<sup>st</sup> Century Teachers.”
- Extend the District’s “community of learners” to include members of the global and local communities.
- Expand school-to-career opportunities that prepare students for high-skill/high-wage jobs.

## **iTeacher Series Goals**

- Introduce you to the many resources and free services that are now available on the Internet for educators.
- Provide Internet skills to enhance the educational experience for you, your students and the students’ parents.
- Provide opportunities for collaboration through Internet resources.
- Establish a web presence for your classroom.

## **Objectives**

The learner will be able to:

- view a Hotlist.
- discuss things to consider when selecting sites for creating your Hotlist.
- create a Hotlist.
- update and search for a Hotlist.
- state what to bring to iTeacher3.

## Hotlists

A Hotlist is a set of links about a specific topic. Hotlists are used to enrich existing curriculum by presenting several sites for your students to draw information from. Keep in mind that a Hotlist is just a set of resources. It is not an activity or lesson plan by itself. Instead, it functions more like a reading list of Internet resources..

### Advantages

- The students are looking at specific sites that you have reviewed and that will enhance the current curriculum.
- You are aware of each site's content.
- The learning experience will address the different student learning modalities.
- There is no time wasted on surfing/searching and it is convenient for the students.
- A HotList is a convenient way to draw a wide variety of resources together.

### Disadvantages

- Students do not learn web searching skills. There is a time and place for teaching and learning these skills. Sometimes, however, you want them to get right to the content and get busy.

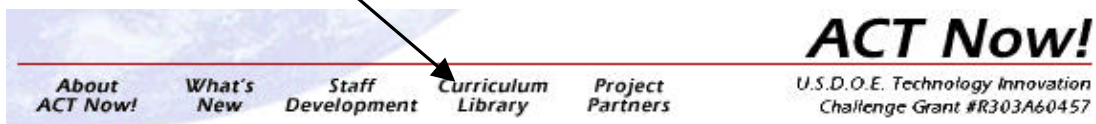
### Take a look at a Hotlist:

Explore a Hotlist by opening a browser and completing the following steps:

1. Go to the SUHSD website by typing the following URL:  
<http://www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/> in the location window and hitting return or enter.

2. Click on the *ACT! Now!* link  and bookmark the site.

3. Select Curriculum Library



4. Click on the Hotlist link



5. Type “frogs” for keyword and click on the GO button or type in the keyword or search by options.

### **Finding a Hotlist to use**

Now spend a few minutes searching the Hotlists for one or more you could use in class. Show your neighbor what you discovered.

## **Selecting sites for your Hotlist**

### **Internet Searching Tools**

In October, 2000 Google could search 1,247,340,000 web sites. That’s well over one trillion, and that’s a lot of web sites! To help search through the madness, various web companies have created databases called search engines or search directories.

**Search Engines:** A search engine looks at the content of every web page it can find, and makes a list of all the words it finds. It stores these words in a database so that if someone searches for a word, it knows where to find it. Examples of search engines include:

\*AltaVista

\*Excite

\*Infoseek

**Subject Directories:** These are smaller databases, and information is arranged by category. The important concept to remember about subject directories is that a human being has looked at every page they contain. This human intervention greatly reduces the probability of retrieving results out of context.

\*Yahoo

\*LookSmart

\*Lycos

**Meta Search Engine:** allows you to search multiple search engine databases simultaneously. For example:

\*Dogpile

\*Google

\*Ask Jeeves for Kids

**Portals:** A portal is a major starting site or anchor site for users. A portal usually includes services like: a directory of Web sites, a facility to search for other sites, news, weather information, e-mail, stock quotes, phone and map information, and sometimes a community forum.

\*Excite

\*Yahoo

\*AOL

Why care about searching tools? How does it help you to know the difference between a search engine, a subject directory, a meta-search engine and a portal? Remember that the information about various web sites has been gathered in different ways by different search tools. Although many of us prefer to go to the

same search engine or subject directory repeatedly, it is good to remember to visit different sites – especially when you're not having any luck at your favorite site.

Many people like to start with a search engine or meta search engine, but if you're not finding the information you need, go to a directory and drill down to your topic. What are the keywords that are being used? Try putting those words into a search engine.

From time to time you should also read the “Help” or “How-to” in your favorite search engine. Sites sometimes change the way they handle data. Having the latest information can only make your searching more powerful.

## **What are you searching for? What makes a good web site?**

As you look for sites to use with your students, be sure that they use the web effectively. Look for:

- **Timeliness:** historical, up-to-date and real-time information, today's news, weather, scientific discoveries, cultural events, etc.
- **Access:** the web can connect you with primary sources that would otherwise be unavailable to you. With the web you can access experts in any fields, discussion groups, other schools and many other resources that were never available in your classroom before.
- **Multimedia content:** Sound and animation can be extremely engaging learning tools. It incorporates and strengthens.

Also consider whether a site has banner ads or not and what type of site it is. How do you know what type of site? Check the dots below.

## **Dot this, dot that**

The extension of a URL can tell you something about a site before you decide to visit it. This can save some time when searching for a usable resource.


- .com (commercial)
- .edu (educational)
- .gov (government)
- .mil (military)
- .net (commercial)
- .org (organizational)
- Coming soon: .ws (website), .tv (television) and others

## **Review of Yahoo! Bookmarks**

As you find and review the sites you'll use for your Hotlist, you may want to use some of your bookmarks from Yahoo!. (instructions on next page)

1. Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com).
2. Click on the bookmarks link. You may need to log in with your name and password.

## Creating a Hotlist



### Open a new window

1. Open a new Navigator window (File->New->Navigator Window). You should now have only two windows open.
2. Arrange your windows so that you can click back and forth between them easily. (You may want to use the Communicator menu for this.)

### Create a new Hotlist

1. In one of the windows, open the Hotlist tool.  
<http://actnow.suhsd.k12.ca.us:591/actlist/actlisthome.htm>
2. Click on "Create" and fill out the requested information (note: it is suggested that you do not use a different password for each Hotlist you create, this will be difficult to remember later)
3. Then click the "Create" button at the bottom of the page.
4. Enter information in appropriate fields.

### Copy a URL into the Hotlist tool

This section assumes that you already have some sites bookmarked or otherwise recorded. The sites should support a common theme that is probably the title of your HotList. To enter links into your hotlist:

1. Make your other window active and go to one of your bookmarks.
1. Highlight the URL in the location box. The easiest way to do this is to click in the location box to the right of the URL. Copy it to the clipboard (⌘-C for Mac, Ctrl-C for Windows).
3. Make your Hotlist tool window active.
4. In the link window, paste the URL from your bookmarked page into the URL box (⌘-V for Mac, Right-click in the URL box and choose "Paste" for Windows).
5. Type a title for your link in the Page Title box. If you don't put a title in, the link will not appear on the finished page.
6. Continue by typing in some information about the link. Write to the student. Why would a student want to look at that page? What information do you expect

students to find? Are there any special instruction you want to give? Are there any specific links that should be checked?

7. Repeat the process above for each of the sites that you want to include in your Hotlist.

## Sharing

Discuss your HotList topic with your neighbor. What lesson(s) will you be using it with? How do you expect your HotList to support your learning activity?

## Updating your ACT Hotlist

You may want to make changes to the content of your Hotlist or even change one or more of the links. To make changes, go to the ACT Now! website <http://www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/actnow/> and complete the following steps to update your ACT Hotlist:

1. Click on the **For Staff** link.
2. Click on the **▶ Online Teacher Resources** link.
3. Click on the **□ ACT Hotlist Creation Create your own ACT Hotlist here** link.
4. Click on the **Update an existing HotList** link.
5. Key in your password  and click on the **Update** button.
6. Click on the **Update** link for your Hotlist.
7. Make changes as desired and click on any of the **Update my HotList!** buttons.
8. If you need to make more changes, click on the **Back** button.

## Search for your Hotlist!

Go to the SUHSD website <http://www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/actnow/> and complete the following steps to search for your ACT Hotlist:

1. Click on the **ACT Hotlist** link.
2. Type in your keyword or search with options.

## Using the Student Handout for your ACT HotList

When you are ready to use your HotList with students, you'll want to have a handout that explains how to access the ACT HotList Library. At the back of this chapter, you'll find a form with the step-by-step instructions your students will need. To use the form, follow these steps.

- Make a copy of the form. Return the original to your *ACT Now!* binder.
- Enter the keyword for your HotList in the blank provided. (step 3)
- Enter the title of your lesson at the bottom (step 4)
- Write in any additional instructions at the bottom of the page.
- Make copies for your class.

Note that some of the words on the form are boldfaced. These words indicate computer-related concepts, skills or terminology that you may want to review with your class before sending them to the computers.

If you lose the original, it is available in pdf format on the iTeacher Two resources page.

## For your next class...

Today you made a Hotlist - a list of Internet resources. Your HotList is part of the *ACT Now!* Curriculum Library, and can be used with students by you or your colleagues any time.

In iTeacher Three you will create an account to place your classroom online (lesson plans, current postings, class policies, etc.) To prepare, use your Yahoo! Briefcase to store the following: course information (grading policy, attendance policy, etc), course documents (a class handout, etc) and a homework assignment list for two days. This will work best if the documents are created with Microsoft Word, and have file names ending with the .doc extension. Example: Class\_Policy.doc

## Evaluation

Please complete the online evaluation. Your comments are important to us.