

eye on the web

with mary westheimer

this month's shows

"The Internet brings a never-ending spectrum of gifts from our amazing world. I'm lucky enough to share some of them with the listeners of [KNLS](#), a shortwave station that reaches all 50 U.S. states and 124 other countries. At KNLS, the show is in the very capable hands of Rob Scobey and Real Peloquin. This show also is made possible by our talented and charming sponsor, [sculptor Kevin Caron](#).

"So please join us for some fun, surprises and lots of things you can find only online."

- Mary Westheimer

If you'd like to contribute sites for future shows, please e-mail Mary at mary@kevincaron.com. Thanks!

happy Big 5-0, Alaska! Yes, in 2009, the state of Alaska will mark its 50th year as one of the united states, and [Alaska: History and Culture Studies](#) is a great place to begin celebrating. You'll find a timeline that stretches from before 1740 to today, and sections on geography, culture, government, modern days and its time as a Russian colony and American territory. They all have detailed articles about their history and people as well as photographs, maps, letters and other excellent resources. There's a clickable map, too, that lets you think about Alaska in relation to its four main geographic sections, or you can be lazy like me and just use the site's search

engine to find what you want quickly. There's a teacher's guide, and a special section on the upcoming big birthday, too, so put on your party hat and get ready to celebrate!

t **Three pairs of socks, my camera and an umbrella.**

This is how I used to get ready for a trip. Then I discovered the [Universal Packing List](#). It's not surprising that this incredibly useful site was created by a programmer. Mats Henricson was going from Sweden to Africa when he made UPL 1.0, but with the help of lots of research and input, it's come a long way since then. First, you answer some questions about the trip, such as when the trip begins and ends, whether children are going, what your accommodations are, and how big your suitcase is. Is it an international trip? What activities will you enjoy? What do you want to see? What sort of transportation will you be using? Then, using nearly 500 possible items, the UPL gives you an amazingly detailed - and helpful - list of what to take and do, not only on your trip but also before it. When I travel, now the first thing on my list is using the UPL!

n **ow you see it ... or at least you will if you visit [The On-Line Museum and Encyclopedia of Vision Aids](#).**

And just what you'll see at this amazing site is everything you'd ever want to know - and then some - about antique vision aids. More than a thousand people and nearly 600 organizations have created this comprehensive celebration of spectacles. There are more than 4,000 images on the site's nearly 250 pages. There's news about vision aids, conference and events; a timeline and other history, information about identification and preservation, a glossary, slide shows of entire collections, stories about the spectacles of well-known historical figures, educational tools and games, and 430 links to related sites. Of course, you can search for what you want, but the site is quite well organized, too. This is one site clearly put together by people with great vision.

m **aybe I do, and maybe I don't ... think [ChangingMinds.org](#) is a fascinating site.**

No, I'm sure of it! After all, it has 2,500 pages! And it says it's the world's largest site on all aspects of how we change what others think, believe, feel and do. Say you're a salesperson. Or a mother. Or a teacher. Or just a person who wants to persuade - or resist the persuasion of - other people. Well, this site details the Disciplines, Techniques,

Principles, Theories and Explanations related to this beguiling art. Most interesting to me are the techniques. For instance, you can learn how to use more than 50 closes, or ways to seal deals, including the Courtship Close, the Embarrassment Close and the IQ Close. I learned about each approach and then how to use it. So I can now assure you that this is, indeed, the best site ever on the entire Internet! (So, really, do you believe me?)

**Thanks for visiting, and come back next month for
more fun from Eye on the Web.
Meanwhile, please visit our sponsor, sculptor [Kevin
Caron](#).**

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