

Tip #41 – Stuck? Take a break to get your creative brain cells moving!

If your excitement about your research paper is slowing down because it's late in the term and the holidays and all, maybe it's time to take a break that can get you rejuvenated. Here are three places to do that:

A fascinating article from the New York Times explains how researchers are using the massive data available via the internet to find patterns that lead to new discoveries and knowledge. For example, researchers looked at databases of thousands of jam sessions to see how musical collaborations influenced the development of jazz. What do you want to know? Is there data out there that has the answers? There are "hidden treasures" out there for researchers who explore:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/arts/17digital.html?_r=2&pagewanted=print

Free video of the most provocative thinkers of our time is available through sites like the TED (Technology, Education, and Design) Conference. The motto of the TED Conference is "Ideas Worth Spreading." The mission of TED is "to provide a platform for the world's smartest thinkers, greatest visionaries and most-inspiring teachers, so that millions of people can gain a better understanding of the biggest issues faced by the world, and a desire to help create a better future. Core to this goal is a belief that there is no greater force for changing the world than a powerful idea."

The Ted site has 358 videos about education alone, on topics such as educating leaders; teaching arts and sciences together, and teaching with computers. See the list of TED education videos at <http://www.ted.com/search?q=education> Read about TED and other inspiring video sites at <http://www.infotoday.com/searcher/nov10/Piper.shtml>

An intriguing article called "Film School" by Chris Anderson is about how Youtube allows people to collaborate across the globe in an unprecedented opportunity for creativity which Anderson calls "Crowd Accelerated Innovation." Video lets everyone see what others are capable of and challenges them to take it further. For example, videos of people showing off their innovative dancing steps has led dance to whole new places. The article is in the January, 2011 issue of Wired Magazine which is possibly online for free at <http://www.wired.com/magazine/> Or, watch Chris Anderson's TED talk on this at http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/chris_anderson_how_web_video_powers_global_innovation.html