

VSBD C TOOL BOX

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Table of Contents

Demographics.....	2
Franchise Information.....	5
Planning Tools.....	5
Legal Tools.....	5
Business News and Information.....	6
Human Resources.....	6
Dictionaries and Terminology.....	7
Women and Business.....	7
Procurement.....	7
Environmental & Green Business.....	9
Construction Issues.....	10
Energy.....	11
Agriculture.....	12
Grants.....	13
Federal Links.....	13
Industry and Business Resources.....	14
Non-Profits.....	18
Money.....	19
Management Resources.....	21

DEMOGRAPHICS

(1) Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

<http://www.coopercenter.org/>

The Center's mission is to serve the Commonwealth and to "*anticipate and forecast change and to serve as a resource to those who need to recognize and address that change.*" The site also has links to Maps and Topography of **Virginia**, Population Estimates, Tax Rates for **Virginia's** Cities, Counties, and Towns, and VASTAT's statistics in 41 categories. (11.27.2006)

(2) Demographics and Workforce Section

<http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/>

The site provides demographic statistics, analysis of trends, and the official population of Virginia. (11.27.2006)

(3) Data Place

<http://www.dataplace.org/>

Statistics, demographics, maps, scatterplots—geographically-based statistical information on the web. Build graphs and rankings to compare any number of places. You can create thematic maps and scatterplots to visually represent the data. (11.12.2007)

(4) Virginia Statistical Abstract

<http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/STATISTICAL%20ABSTRACT/>

Virginia data on employment, taxes, agriculture, crime, education, trade, construction, health, vital statistics, population, finance, tourism, the environment and more. **Virginia** data can be compared to the nation as a whole, with 10 surrounding states, or in depth with locality-level data. (11.27.2006)

(5) Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

<http://www.rich.frb.org/research/regional/profiles/Virginia/>

Economic profiles for **Virginia** in the variables of population, employment, output, manufacturing, real estate, banking, foreign trade, and Commonwealth government finances. (11.27.2006)

(6) FedStats Virginia MapStats

<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/51000.html>

Statistical profiles for the Commonwealth and **Virginia** counties and cities. (11.27.2006)

(7) FedStats Virginia Data Sets

<http://www.fedstats.gov/mapstats/more.data/51000.html>

Agriculture, population and demographics, health, labor force, business and banking, crime, education, energy and environment, personal income and earnings, and general profile from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. (11.27.2006)

(8) County Business Patterns

<http://censtats.census.gov/cbpnaic/cbpnaic.shtml>

Provides data on the total number of business establishments, employment, and payroll information by county, zip code, and metropolitan and micropolitan areas for all fifty states and the District of Columbia. (11.12.2007)

(9) StateMaster

<http://www.statemaster.com>

Statistical database that provides data for each state on a wide variety on topics, including economy, education, immigration, industry, lifestyle, and transportation. (11.12.2007)

(10) Melissadata

<http://www.melissadata.com/Lookups/index.htm>

Provides statistical data by city, county, or zip code. Find information on demographics, average income, number of households, and number of businesses by type for a given locality. (11.15.2007)

(11) epodunk.com

http://www.epodunk.com/profiles/va_a.html

Don't be deterred by the name; ePodunk provides in-depth business and demographic information drawn from government, non-profit, and commercial sources. (11.27.2006)

(12) Home Town Locator: Community Profiles

<http://www.hometownlocator.com/>

HTL profiles include census, demographic and income data, parks, schools, libraries, hospitals, airports, hotels, environmental conditions, local newspapers, media outlets, employment, maps, coordinates and aerial photos. (11.27.2006)

(13) Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)

<http://www.yesVirginia.org/>

The **Virginia** General Assembly created the VECF to provide information to businesses or individuals seeking to locate or to start a business in **Virginia**. *How Virginia Compares* provides reports comparing **Virginia** to other states in: Income and Wages, Education, Public Debt, Labor Relations, Unemployment, Taxes, and Population. Reports in various formats are available at:

<http://howvacompares.yesVirginia.org/public/hvcweb.php>. (11.27.2006)

(14) County Business Patterns 2002

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>

The site provides economic data by industry; the County Business Pattern and the Metro Business Patterns databases include the number of establishments, mid-month employment, first quarter and annual payroll, and the number of establishments by nine employment-size classes by detailed industry for all counties in the United States, the District of Columbia, and for all Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The ZIP Code Business Patterns database includes number of establishments, employment and payroll for more than 40,000 ZIP Code areas nationwide. (11.27.2006)

(15) Business QuickFacts

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51000.html>

The most frequently requested Census Bureau information at the national, state and county level. The data about people, business, and geography are tabulated down to the county level. (11.27.2006)

(16) The Small Business Economy 2004

http://www.sba.gov/advo/stats/sb_econ2004.pdf

The report outlines the state of small business and its contributions to the economy while examining the role small business plays in the economy. The report focuses on *“economic trends and indicators, regulatory issues at the federal, state, and local levels, innovation and technology transfer, as well as federal government procurement and small business financing data.”* (11.27.2006)

(17) Black Enterprise.com: BEs 100s 2005

<http://www.blackenterprise.com/BE100sHome.asp>

The BE 100s make up the largest black-owned businesses in the nation. **Virginia** companies include:

Asset Managers: The Edgar Lomax Co (Springfield), Hughes Capital Management Inc. (Alexandria)

Auto, Ultimate Pontiac Buick GMC Isuzu (Fredericksburg), Freedom Ford Lincoln-Mercury Inc. (Wise); (Alexandria);

Banks: Consolidated Bank & Trust Company (Richmond)

Industrial Service: RS Information Systems Inc. and Innovative Logistics Techniques Inc. (McLean), Thompson Hospitality (Herndon), Dimensions International Inc. and Advanced Resource Technologies Inc. (Alexandria), Brooks Food Group (Bedford), Omniplex World Services Corp. and Communication Technologies Inc. (Chantilly), Universal Systems & Technology Inc (Centreville), MTS Technologies Inc. (Arlington) (11.27.2006)

(18) National Association of Homebuilders: Housing Facts, Figures and Trends

<http://tinyurl.com/aues2>

Housing Facts, Figures and Trends provides a snapshot of various aspects of the housing market including new home starts and sales, characteristics of new homes, homeownership rates and more. **Virginia** localities include Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport which is ranked 44th (7.62) among the Top 50 Housing Markets in 2004 by Single-Family Building Permits (thousands of units). (11.27.2006)

(19) National Institute for Labor Relations Research: The Standard of Living in Right- to-Work States

<http://www.nilrr.org/Poulson%20SOL%20Study.pdf>

The research seeks to answer the question *“whether employees are better off in forced unionism states”* or in one of the twenty-two states like **Virginia** with Right to Work laws where employees are not required to financially support a union with bargaining privileges at their work place to keep their jobs. **Virginia** Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) cited in the report include: Charlottesville, Danville, Lynchburg, Petersburg, and Roanoke. (11.27.2006)

FRANCHISE INFORMATION

(1) Franchise Solutions

http://www.franchisesolutions.com/index.cfm?fa=pif&src=adknowledge_pif

Franchise search tool. Browse by industry or state. *"Check the boxes next to the companies you would like to have contact you with more information. To ensure a meaningful exchange between yourself and the companies, Franchise Solutions encourages you to select only those that have your most serious interest and meet your investment criteria."* (11.27.2006)

(2) Franchise Information

[http://townsend-](http://townsend-law.netifirms.com/franchising.htm?gclid=CKCFo921m48CFQZDUOodgnZrJA)

[law.netifirms.com/franchising.htm?gclid=CKCFo921m48CFQZDUOodgnZrJA](http://townsend-law.netifirms.com/franchising.htm?gclid=CKCFo921m48CFQZDUOodgnZrJA)

Provides a good overview of licensing versus franchising. (11.12.2007)

PLANNING TOOLS

(1) Basics of Developing Mission, Vision and Values Statements

http://www.managementhelp.org/plan_dec/str_plan/stmnts.htm

Guide helps to *"identify or update the mission, vision and values statements for purposes of strategic planning."* (11.27.2006)

(2) Interactive Business Planner

<http://www.cbasc.org/ibp/en/index.cfm>

Interesting tool from Canada that provides an online tool for writing a business plan. By completing questions, the business plan is assembled, organized, and created in a downloadable format. Provides English and French capabilities. Recommended as an easy way to create the initial concept draft. (11.27.2006)

(3) Business Owners Toolbox (CCH)

<http://www.toolkit.cch.com/>

The touted "Total Know-How for Small Business" created by CCH of Wolters Kluwer. BOT contains helpful reading and tools on most business subjects. Links to case studies, spread sheets, and downloadable tools make this a must-see site. (11.27.2006)

LEGAL TOOLS

(1) Free Advice (Legal Portal)

http://law.freeadvice.com/general_practice/contract_law/

Provides quick information on "everyday" legal and insurance matters. It also provides a portal for locating legal professionals on various topics by state. Excellent quick guide on basic information that can assist with determining a course of action. Includes references to case law and has a search engine for finding a lawyer in your state. Provides a law forum that covers over 600,000 topics. (11.27.2006)

(2) Free Incorporating HandBook

<http://www.corporatepublishingcompany.com/index.asp?PageAction=Custom&ID=9>

Primer on things to consider when selecting the correct legal structure. The handbook is a quick reference guide on the process. The Corporate Publishing Company also provides published tools that assist with managing a company's legal structure requirements. (11.27.2006)

(3) Biz Filings

<http://www.bizfilings.com/learning/comparison.asp>

Incorporation assistance tool that helps cut through the complexity of which legal structure is best suited for a business. (11.27.2006)

(4) Corporate Publishing Company

<http://www.corporatepublishingcompany.com/index.asp?PageAction=Custom&ID=9>

Free incorporating handbook. Provides step by step guidance on the various legal structures and how to establish them. It also provides access to forms that assist with the process. (11.27.2006)

BUSINESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

(1) Business Owner's IDEA Café

<http://www.businessownersideacafe.com/Welcome.html>

"Idea Cafe offers a mix of small business profiles, how-to articles and other news-you-can-use features For example, the "Cyber Schmooz" discussion groups provide a good networking forum." (11.27.2006)

(2) CEO Express

<http://www.ceoexpress.com/default.asp>

Portal for major news and business publications. Includes a centralized business research index with indexed weblinks. (11.27.2006)

(3) Biz Info Library

<http://www.bizinfo library.org/>

Portal dedicated to providing the "worlds best information on starting and growing a business. Comprises an intensive database of published work on the panorama of business topics. (3.30.2007)

HUMAN RESOURCES

(1) Human Capital Magazine

<http://www.humancapitalmag.com/>

Resource that links to employment regulations, laws, employee development, policy crafting, etc. Good site for comprehensive compliance issues as well as current strategies in workforce management. (11.27.2006)

DICTIONARIES AND TERMINOLOGY

(1) Dictionary of Small Business

<http://www.small-business-dictionary.org/default.asp?action=A&term=showCart>

Enough said. It also includes quicklinks to SCORE and the SBA. SBDC's should also be included. (11.27.2006)

WOMEN AND BUSINESS

(1) Woman Owned "Business Networks for Women"

<http://www.womanowned.com/>

Portal that provides the latest trends on woman owned business, tools that are designed specifically for the needs of woman owned business, and a network that facilitates buyer-supplier opportunities. (11.27.2006)

PROCUREMENT

(1) Diversity Business

<http://diversitybusiness.com/>

Portal that provides support to and between small business and large buyers. Membership is required for procurement capabilities. Maintains a current listing of major buyer-supplier news as well as buyer-supplier conferences around the nation. (11.27.2006)

(2) Federal Spending

<http://www.fedspending.org/>

Created by the Office of Management and Budget, this is a "free, searchable, database of federal government spending." This resource assists with identifying awarded grants and contracts. (11.15.2007)

(3) Electronic Virginia

<http://www.eva.virginia.gov>

Provides access to listing a business in eVa system; listings of open solicitations; program information for eVa and SWaM certifications and listings of eVA training events. (11.12.2007)

(4) Procurement Technical Assistance Program

<http://www.novaptac.org>

PTA Centers are a local resource available that can provide assistance to business firms in marketing products and services to the Federal, state and local governments. Site provides links to wide variety of federal government resources (CCR, FedBizOpps, etc...). Also provides intake form to PTAP services which includes fee counseling. Includes calendar of related events. (11.12.2007)

(5) Department of Minority Business Enterprise

<http://www.dmbestate.va.us/>

Promotes "access to the Commonwealth of Virginia's contracting opportunities and ensure fairness in the procurement process." The DMBE assists small-, women-, and minority-owned business to participate in the Virginia procurement process. The SwaM and DBE programs are administered by the DMBE. (12.11.2007)

(6) Virginia Public Procurement Act—July 2007

<http://www.eva.state.va.us/dps/Manuals/docs/vppa.htm>

Provides details of the regulations pertaining to state procurement, including contract formation and administration, procedures for prompt payment, and ethics in public contracting. (12.11.2007)

(7) Virginia Business Pipeline

<http://www.virginiabusiness.org/>

"The Virginia's Business Pipeline delivers information and data necessary to establish sustainable competitive advantages for the businesses of the Commonwealth. Using innovative vehicles, the Pipeline fosters relationships with each Virginia business, demonstrating their importance to the economic vitality of Virginia. " (12.11.2007)

(8) University of Virginia Procurement Services

<http://www.procurement.virginia.edu/main/>

Provides information on state procurement in general and specifics on providing goods and services to the University of Virginia. (12.11.2007)

(9) Virginia Department of Corrections Procurement

<http://www.vadoc.state.va.us/procure/>

Procurement information and opportunities with the Department of Correction. (12.11.2007)

(10) Virginia Department of Education Procurement Office

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance/Procurement/index.html>

"The Procurement Office provides purchasing support for the department, as well as procurement consulting and technical assistance." (12.11.2007)

(11) Virginia Information Technologies Agency

<http://www.vita.virginia.gov/procurement/contracts.cfm>

Provide information technology that enables the government to better serve the public. Provides a listing of and information on companies with statewide contracts to provide IT services. (12.11.2007)

(12) Federal Business Opportunities

<http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>

This site "is the single government point-of-entry (GPE) for Federal government procurement opportunities over \$25,000. Government buyers are able to publicize their business opportunities by posting information" and "commercial vendors seeking Federal markets for their products and services can search, monitor and retrieve opportunities solicited by the entire Federal contracting community." (12.12.2007)

(13) Integrated Acquisition Environment

<http://www.acqnet.gov/index.cfm>

This web site is designed to help businesses in their efforts to provide goods and services to the federal government. Users can access information about government regulations and systems, as well as learn of opportunities and training. (12.21.2007)

(14) Federal Energy Management Program Procurement

<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/procurement/>

Valuable information for businesses desiring to sell energy related products to the federal government. Provides link to the publication *Federal Procurement Opportunities for "Green" Vendors*. (12.12.2007)

(15) Central Contractor Registration

<http://www.ccr.gov/>

Companies wishing to conduct business with the federal government must register at this site. Registration allows companies to bid on government contracts and to have their information centrally-maintained and accessible by all government agencies. (12.12.2007)

(16) Federal Procurement Data Center

http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentId=10060&contentType=GSA_BASIC

The FPDC manages the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS-NG) which is the central repository of statistical information on federal contracting. (12.12.2007)

(17) The Federal Marketplace

<http://www.fedmarket.com/>

The free information on this site is an archive of e-newsletter articles covering such topics as, GSA schedules, writing procurement proposals, selling IT to the government, and procurement with the Department of Homeland Security. This site also provides fee-based consulting to help companies sell to the federal government. (12.12.2007)

(18) Federal Acquisition Jumpstation

<http://prod.nais.nasa.gov/pub/fedproc/home.html>

This site provides links to procurement sites and information for all federal government agencies. (12.12.2007)

(19) SBA Subcontracting Network

<http://web.sba.gov/subnet>

SBA site which posts subcontracting opportunities. Sub-Net is used by federal agencies, state and local governments, and education entities to make subcontracting opportunities more available to small businesses. (12.12.2007)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN BUSINESS

(1) Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES)

<http://www.ceres.org>

Group of investors and environmentalists working to integrate sustainability into capital markets. (10.15.2007)

(2) Conservation International

<http://www.conservation.org>

Provides information of worldwide conservation programs. (10.15.2007)

(3) Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov>

Comprehensive listing of all environmental regulations. Provides information of laws under consideration by Congress. (10.15.2007)

(4) Environmental Search Engine

<http://www.webdirectory.com>

Provides links to websites and addresses to agencies promoting alternative and renewable sources of energy. (10.15.2007)

(5) Green Business

<http://www.greenbiz.com>

Clearinghouse for information to help businesses operate profitably while maintaining environmental responsibility. Provides links for sustainability resources and employment opportunities. (10.15.2007)

(6) Green Seal

<http://www.greenseal.org>

Non-profit organization that promotes the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Provides lists of certified green companies and information on becoming certified. (10.15.2007)

(7) Sustainable Business

<http://www.sustainablebusiness.com>

Provides links for individuals desiring to invest in or by employed by green businesses. (10.15.2007)

(8) Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

<http://www.deq.state.va.us>

Provides comprehensive listing of state environmental laws and permitting information. (10.15.2007)

CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

(1) Energy and Environmental Building Association (EEBA)

<http://www.eeba.org>

Seeks to promote energy efficient, green homes and communities through education. Online bookstore and links to organizations promoting the responsible use of energy. (10.16.2007)

(2) Federal Environmental Executive

<http://www.ofee.gov/>

Promotes sustainable environment stewardship throughout the federal government through the use of the environmental management system. Provides links to government and non-government sites for sustainability resources. (10.16.2007)

(3) Green Building

<http://www.buildinggreen.com>

Provides information to builders to make their buildings economically feasible while minimizes their impact on the environment. Provides links to sources of environmentally preferred products. (10.16.2007)

(4) Green Construction

<http://www.gdrc.org>

Promotes construction of buildings and infrastructure that are sustainable and affordable by raising awareness and developing tools for assessing the impact of a project on the environment. (10.16.2007)

(5) National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)

<http://www.nari.org>

Promotes professionalism in the remodeling industry by emphasizing high standards of honesty, integrity, and responsibility. Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice are included in website. (10.16.2007)

(6) Sustainable Sources

<http://www.greenbuilder.com>

Directory of green building professionals and green real estate. Provides links to green associates, conferences, programs, and publications. (10.16.2007)

(7) US Green Building Council

<http://www.usgbc.org>

Works to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, healthy and profitable places to live and work. (10.16.2007)

ENERGY

(1) Alternative Energy Source

<http://alternativeenergysourcesinc.com>

Company seeking to produce corn-based ethanol as a renewable energy source. (10.16.2007)

(2) Alternative Energy Investments

<http://newalternativesfund.com>

Mutual fund that invest only in socially responsible firms having a positive impact on the environment. (10.16.2007)

(3) Dominion Virginia Power

<http://www.dom.com>

Allows customers to manage their accounts and be informed of company news. (10.16.2007)

(4) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

<http://www.eere.energy.gov>

Government agency seeking to reduce America's dependence on oil "by advancing technologies such as biomass and biofuels, solar power, wind power, advanced vehicles, and hydrogen fuel cells." (10.16.2007)

(5) Energy Prices

<http://www.bloomberg.com/energy>

Lists current prices of petroleum, natural gas, and electricity. (10.16.2007)

(6) Energy Star

<http://www.energystar.gov>

Joint program of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy created to protect the environment by promoting the use of energy efficient products and businesses. (10.16.2007)

(7) Fuel Efficiency

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov>

Website created by the Department of Energy to educate consumers on fuel economy ratings, alternative fuel vehicles, and hybrid vehicles. Consumers can compare vehicles for energy efficiency and impact on the environment. (10.16.2007)

(8) Greene

<http://www.green-e.org>

Independent renewable energy certification and verification program. Works to expand market for clean, renewable energy by advancing awareness of renewable energy options. (10.16.2007)

(9) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

<http://www.nrel.gov>

Division of the Department of Energy charged with advancing the nation's energy goals by developing renewable fuels and energy sources. (10.16.2007)

(10) State Energy Program

www.dmme.virginia.gov/divisionenergy.shtml

Promotes energy conservation, efficiency, innovation, and education in Virginia. (10.16.2007)

(11) United States Department of Energy

<http://www.energy.gov>

Charged with protecting and advancing the nation's energy and nuclear supply by promoting scientific and technological innovation while being environmentally responsible. (10.16.2007)

AGRICULTURE

(1) AFSIC Sustainable Agriculture

http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=2&tax_level=1&tax_subject=286

The Alternative Farming Systems Information Center is a part of the USDA's National Agricultural Library devoted to providing information on sustainable and alternative agricultural systems, crops, and livestock. (10.16.2007)

(2) CropLife Foundation

<http://www.croplifefoundation.org>

Promotes safe, sustainable agriculture through education, certification and training programs, and funding scientific research. (10.16.2007)

(3) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

<http://www.sare.org>

Division of the USDA devoted to advancing farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities through a nationwide research and education grants program. (10.16.2007)

(4) United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.nal.usda.gov>

The National Agricultural Library provides information on a wide variety of agricultural topics. (10.17.2007)

GRANTS

(1) Environmental Grantmaking Foundations

<http://www.environmentalgrants.com>

Offers a comprehensive guide to companies that offer grants for environmental projects. Website lists more than 900 foundations with all pertinent information, including the application process and deadlines. (10.16.2007)

(2) Environment Funding Source

<http://www.fundsnetsservices.com/envIRON.htm>

Provides links to several foundations that fund a variety of causes, including environmental projects. (10.16.2007)

(3) Grant Resource

<http://www.grants.gov>

Site run by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist organizations and individuals in finding and applying for federal grants. (10.16.2007)

(4) Green Communities

<http://www.enterprisefoundation.org>

Non-profit organization that "helps build affordable housing for low-income Americans by providing financing and expertise to community and housing developers." (10.16.2007)

FEDERAL LINKS

(1) US Patent & Trademark office

<http://www.uspto.gov/>

Comprehensive site for applying for patents, trademarks, and copyrights. (10.16.2007)

(2) Federal Reserve Banks

<http://federalreserve.gov/>

Provides information on monetary policy and banking regulations. Great source of economic data. (10.16.2007)

(3) ITA/Exporting

<http://export.gov/>

Government portal to help businesses in exporting goods and services. Use Export Basics to help assess export readiness, identify markets, develop export plan, and conduct business online. (10.16.2007)

(4) OSHA

<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/news/presskit.htm>

Information to help business stay informed of and comply with federal labor laws. (10.16.2007)

(5) US Gov Forms

<http://forms.gov/bgfPortal/citizen.portal>

Link to various forms generated by the federal government, including tax, small business, social security, veteran's benefits, and FEMA forms. (10.16.2007)

(6) Library of Congress

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Provides access to congressional records and congressional bills and legislation. (10.16.2007)

INDUSTRY & BUSINESS RESOURCES

(1) Food Service Industry

<http://www.ifdaonline.org/>

Current information on legislation affecting food service industry. Provides access to reports on industry operations, profitability, and food service. (10.16.2007)

(2) Food Marketing Institute

<http://www.fmi.org/>

Comprehensive site supplying information on all aspects of the food industry, including food safety, consumer research, retail operations and management, technology, and pending legislation. (10.16.2007)

(3) Food Service Distribution

<http://www.ifh.com/industry/InformationLinks.cfm>

This site is maintained by a large food distributor operating in the Carolinas. Provides links to general industry information. (10.16.2007)

(4) National Restaurant Assoc

<http://www.restaurant.org/>

Provides latest industry research and tips and tools for running a restaurant. Addresses health and safety concerns and a variety of legislation affecting the restaurant industry, including immigration reform, depreciation schedules, and death taxes. (10.16.2007)

(5) VA Hospitality Assoc

<http://www.vhta.org/>

Offers food safety training courses and certification. Provides information of legislation under consideration by the Virginia legislature affecting the industry. (10.16.2007)

(6) VA Retail

<http://www.virginiaretail.org/>

Provides information on legislation affecting retail business in the state. Offers support services to members of the VRMA, such as medical and dental insurance, accounting and payroll services, and fraud detection. (10.16.2007)

(7) Bio Cycle

<http://www.jgpress.com/archives/free/000239.html>

Magazine devoted to promoting recycling, composting, and renewable energy. Current and archived articles are available. (10.16.2007)

(8) National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service

<http://attra.ncat.org/publication.html#energy>

Index of publications providing information and technical assistances to the agricultural industry, particularly in reference to sustainable agriculture. (10.16.2007)

(9) The Manufacturer

http://www.themanufacturer.com/us/detail.html?contents_id=3636

Magazine devoted to manufacturing. Provides access to current and archived articles on such topics as leadership and strategy, design and innovation, skills and productivity, logistics and supply, and operations. (10.16.2007)

(10) Assoc of Performing Arts Presenters

<http://www.artspresenters.org/>

Provides support services for performing arts presenters, including providing information on grants, helping with visas, and maintaining a job bank. (10.16.2007)

(11) Non Profit Art Organizations

<http://art-support.com/nonprofits2.htm>

Listing of and links to nonprofit photography art centers and community art centers organized by state. (10.16.2007)

(12) Museums

<http://www.justluxe.com/museums.php?gclid=C1vd3Kq1xIYCFSBISgodB3Hn7g>

Links to museums, art galleries, and aquariums from around the nation. (10.16.2007)

(13) List of Music/Art Groups

<http://www.shenandoahmusic.com/culturalartcenters.htm>

Promotes the arts in Shenandoah County, Va. Provides links for networking with other arts groups, musicians, and cultural centers. (10.16.2007)

(14) National Home Builders

<http://www.nahb.org/default.aspx>

Provides an array of business management tools, under the Resources heading, for its members. Information regarding the economy and housing industry and courses and seminars offered by NAHB to members and consumers is provided. (10.16.2007)

(15) CSI

http://www.csinet.org/s_csi/sec_specifier.asp?TRACKID=&CID=4&DID=4

The Construction Specifications Institute provides standards and training for writing construction documents that are clear, precise, and complete. (10.16.2007)

(16) National Lien Law for Contractors

<http://www.nationallienlaw.com/GeneralLienLaw.asp>

Pertinent site for anyone involved in construction industry. Provides general information and various construction forms applicable to all states. Provides state-specific forms for mechanics liens, prelien notices, waivers, and releases. (10.17.2007)

(17) Construction Codes

<http://www.constructionnotebook.com/ipin2/CSIDivisions.asp>

Listing of construction codes for the state of Nevada. (11.12.2007)

(18) Building Green

<http://www.buildinggreen.com/menus/>

Listing of over 2100 environmentally preferred products. (10.16.2007)

(19) Center for Quality Franchising

<http://www.aafd.org/>

The center is a non-profit trade association representing the rights and interests of franchisees. Click on "Publications and Resources," then "The Franchisee Voice" to access information on fairness initiatives, buying power, franchise organizations, and tips on buying a franchise. (10.17.2007)

(20) Employment Law Resource Center

<http://ahipubs.com/>

Provides access to a wealth of information and resources on Human Resources. Source for free employment forms. Compliance kits available for purchase. (10.17.2007)

(21) Commerce Clearinghouse

<http://www.toolkit.cch.com/>

Excellent site for free information and forms. Small business guide provides information on every aspect of starting a business. Business tools heading provides information on a wide variety of topics, including business finance, employee management, hiring and firing employees, marketing, taxes, safety, and government contracts. (10.17.2007)

(22) Business Guides

<http://www.missouribusiness.net/iag/index.asp>

This site is specific to the state of Missouri, although much information is applicable to businesses operating in other states. Provides specific guides for licensing, legal structure, hiring employees, and taxes for industries in which small business have a major role. (10.17.2007)

(23) FW Dodge Reports

<http://www.fwdodge.com/>

This site provides information to construction companies on projects currently being bid. Plans and specifications are available for projects nationwide to help firms prepare bids on projects. (10.17.2007)

(24) National Business Association

<http://www.nationalbusiness.org/>

Non-profit association devoted to helping small businesses. Click on "NBA Business Tools", then "NBA Resources" to access First Step Review, which helps determine the likelihood of getting a SBA guaranteed loan, and Operating Plan Forecast, which forecasts profits and warns of impending problems. Both resources are free and downloadable. (10.17.2007)

(25) Smart Biz

<http://www.smartbiz.com/>

This site bills itself as "Internet Technologies Resources for Startup and Small Businesses." It provides a wealth of information on such topics as getting started in e-commerce, creating a website, marketing online, and managing payroll and assets online. (10.17.2007)

(26) Entrepreneur

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/>

Comprehensive site for entrepreneurs and future entrepreneurs. Site includes ideas for starting a business, growing a business, and franchise opportunities, as well as information on all aspects of running a small business. Entrepreneurs may also ask questions of a panel of experts. (10.17.2007)

(27) Directory of Associations

<http://www.marketingsource.com/associations/>

"Comprehensive source of information on associations and professional societies." Information is available for purchase. (10.17.2007)

(28) Thomas Directory

http://www.thomasnet.com/nsearch.html?which=prod&navsec=campaign&heading=86812252&WT.mc_t=PPC&WT.mc_n=gaw&WT.srch=1®next=1

Comprehensive listing of trade associations in the United States and Canada. (10.17.2007)

(29) Sweets Directory For Construction Industry

<http://sweets.construction.com/directory/>

Online resource for building products information. Provides links to thousands of companies that supply building products. (10.17.2007)

(30) Career Infonet

<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>

Comprehensive site for job seekers. Provides a wealth on information of employment trends, professional development, education requirements, wages by occupation and locality, and preparing for interviews. Access to state employment agencies and job banks. (10.17.2007)

(31) World Phone Directories

<http://www.infobel.com/teldir/>

Access to worldwide directories of people and businesses, including business yellow pages, toll-free business numbers, and U.S. government directories. (10.17.2007)

(32) Better Business Bureau

<http://search.bbb.org/>

Allows user to request a reliability report from the BBB on a particular company. (10.17.2007)

NON-PROFITS

(1) Technology Issues

<http://www.techsoup.org/>

Provides technology services for non-profits and makes available to non-profits donated and discounted technology products. (10.17.2007)

(2) The Grantsmanship Center

<http://www.tgci.com/>

Offers workshops in writing grants for non-profits and government agencies. Resources include proposal writing guide, listing of new grants announced, and index of funding sources by state. (10.17.2007)

(3) Foundations

<http://www.foundations.org/grantmakers.html>

Directory of websites of grantmaking foundations. (10.17.2007)

(4) Magazine

<http://philanthropy.com/>

The “Chronicle of Philanthropy” reports on grants announced, trends in philanthropy, and legislation affecting giving. (10.17.2007)

(5) Council of Foundations

<http://www.cof.org/Council/?ItemNumber=4009>

Provides information on starting different types of foundations, stewardship principles, and national standards for community foundations. FAQ provides answers to many questions facing managers of foundations. (10.17.2007)

(6) Public Welfare Foundation

<http://www.publicwelfare.org/index.asp>

Funds grants to ensure fundamental rights and opportunities for people in need, particularly in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice, health reform, and workers' rights. (10.17.2007)

(7) Foundation Center

<http://lnp.fdncenter.org/finder.html>

Maintains database of funding sources. Provides common grant application forms, prospect worksheets, and statistics of grantmakers. (10.17.2007)

(8) The Fund Raising School

<http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/TheFundRaisingSchool/>

Offers certificate on fund raising management through the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Four key courses are: principals and techniques of fundraising, planned giving, developing major gifts, and interpersonal communication for fundraising. (10.17.2007)

(9) GuideStar

<http://www.guidestar.org/>

Provides information on non-profits to enable donors to make better decisions and to encourage charitable giving. Encourages transparency in non-profits. (10.17.2007)

(10) The Grants Connection

<http://www.grantsconnection.com/>

Subscription service which profiles foundations which have demonstrated giving in Virginia. (10.17.2007)

(11) Association of Fundraising Professionals

<http://www.afpnet.org/index.cfm>

Fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals. Provides a Code of Ethics and Standard of Professional Practice for fundraisers. (10.17.2007)

(12) National Council of Nonprofit Associations

<http://www.ncna.org/>

Provides updates on federal and state policies affecting non-profits and links to resources to help small and midsized non-profits to be more effective. (10.17.2007)

(13) National Center for Charitable Statistics

<http://nccsdataweb.urban.org/FAQ/index.php?category=31>

National clearinghouse for data on non-profits. 990 online system allows non-profits to file their tax returns through this site. (10.17.2007)

MONEY

(1) Banking State Profiles

<http://www.fdic.gov/bank/analytical/stateprofile/atlanta/VA/VA.xml.html>

Source for economic indicators, banking trends, and banking profiles for the state. (10.17.2007)

(2) National Consumer Cooperative Bank

<http://www.ncb.coop/>

Provides financial and related services to cooperatives and their members, as well as independent businesses and franchise. Banking services information and applications are available online. (10.17.2007)

(3) Co-Bank

<http://www.cobank.com>

Provides financing to agribusiness, agricultural cooperatives, Farm Credit associations, and rural utility companies. Website provides information about products offered. (10.17.2007)

(4) Virgin Money

<http://virginmoneyus.com>

A financial services company facilitating private loans and mortgages. Helpful for small business owners planning to borrow money from friends and family. (10.17.2007)

(5) American Express

<https://www201.americanexpress.com>

Look under small business for small business resources, including ways to manage and monitor your spending, savings on travel, and directory of business accepting the American Express card. (10.17.2007)

(6) More Business

<http://www.morebusiness.com/>

One-stop resources for small business owners. The site contains sample business plans for many different types of business, as well as marketing and management tips and helpful information for starting a business. (10.17.2007)

(7) Credit MD

<http://www.creditmd.com/>

Financial services for business and individuals with credit problems. (10.17.2007)

(8) Active Capital

<http://activecapital.org/>

Helps connect small business with private sources of equity capital through online security offerings. (10.17.2007)

(9) Farm Credit

<http://home.farmcreditofvirginias.com/>

Financial cooperative providing loans to for farms, country homes, agricultural land and machinery, and livestock. Other services include insurance and leasing services for those in the agricultural industry. (10.17.2007)

(10) Small Business Lending Corp

<https://www.smallbizlending.com/>

Source for loans for small businesses. Apply online. Access tools for writing business and strategic plans and for creating financial statements. Links to articles on obtaining financing and writing business plans. (10.18.2007)

(11) BeneTrends

<http://www.benetrends.com/home/index.php>

Site explains how to use your retirement funds to finance your small business. (10.17.2007)

(12) Padgett Financial Calculators

<http://www.padgettnb.com/tools.html>

Interactive financial calculators help businesses and individuals analyze decisions, such as buying versus leasing automobiles and equipment and comparing loan options. Offers a range of financial services for small businesses. (11.12.2007)

(13) Financial Services Fact Book

<http://www.iii.org/financial2/>

Financial services, savings, banking, investment and debt ownership, asset management, retirement funds, convergence, insurance, mortgage, finance, housing, technology. (11.12.2007)

(14) Insure U for Small Business

<http://www.insureuonline.org/smallbusiness/>

This toolkit from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners provides easy-to-understand training, tips, and information on the various forms of small business insurance. (11.12.2007)

(15) Finance Encyclopedia

http://www.eagletraders.com/books/int_fin_encyclopedia.htm

Definitions and descriptions of financial terms and abbreviations used in business and government. (10.17.2007)

(16) VA Health Care Foundation

<http://www.vhcf.org/underserved/loadfund01.php?PHPSESSID=a2256b9533a1ac65ba29bd2aa76c84a0>

Source of low-cost financing to health care providers practicing in or starting a practice in underserved areas of Virginia. (10.17.2007)

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

(1) Marketplace Business Simulations

<http://www.marketplace-simulation.com/index.php>

Business "Flight Simulator" that supports management learning through a true-to-life business decisions model. MBS is a fully web based tool. (5.31.2007)

(2) Free Management Library

<http://www.managementhelp.org/>

"Provides easy-to-access, clutter-free, comprehensive resources regarding the leadership and management of yourself, other individuals, groups and organizations. There are approximately 650 topics in the Library, spanning 5,000 links. Topics include the most important practices to start, develop, operate, evaluate and resolve problems in for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Each topic has additionally recommended books and related Library topics." (11.15.2007)