



AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION LTD

## USING THE INTERNET TO WIDEN YOUR RESEARCH BOUNDARIES

*“Information at high speed”*

It does not seem that long ago that if you wanted to expand your collection you were limited to your local stamp dealer, or the auction house to which you subscribed.

Nowadays, with the internet a collector has access to sales of material, and information regarding that material, from all around the world.

eBay did much to bring the world to the collector's door and it is now an everyday event to purchase material from countries previously not considered possible. The introduction of safe credit card handling facilities has made the use of such facilities commonplace.

The purpose of this brochure is to raise the awareness of some of the websites that can assist the enjoyment of your stamp collecting. These sites mainly provide access to information:-

- The APF website
- Wikipedia
- Joseph Luft's Philatelic Resources
- Exponet
- eBay.

### **The APF website**

The APF website has two sets of links, both of which are useful for research.

The *Links* page itself lists many connections to philatelic websites, and to make it easier to find the right one, the links are grouped under appropriate headings. These links are from all around the world. The address is [www.apf.org.au/links](http://www.apf.org.au/links).

For exhibitors there is access to information regarding the various exhibition classes, both FIP and APF – [www.apf.org.au/apf-exhibition-classes](http://www.apf.org.au/apf-exhibition-classes).

Clicking on any of the underlined class names will give you access to the rules governing the exhibiting of that class. These rules include much detail regarding the type and nature of the material that is appropriate to that class. The rules generally indicate what judges are looking for in exhibits, always useful to know in advance.

For the FIP classes more information can be obtained by reference to the various class Commissions. Access to these websites is available further down the *Exhibition Classes* page by clicking on the class name required.

If you require any further assistance with any of these exhibition classes, continue down the page for a listing of specific email contacts for each of the classes.

### **Wikipedia**

The free virtual encyclopaedia Wikipedia has a very good section on Stamp Collecting, which section would be more useful for potential and beginner collectors.

To access the relevant section of Wikipedia key in [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp\\_collecting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_collecting).

As well as illustrated descriptions, there are significant listings of *See Also*, *References and Sources*, *Further Reading* and *External Links*, and these sections are well worthwhile exploring.

The website has many levels, and hours can be happily spent exploring all of the information which it contains.

At the foot of this page there is a boxed section called “Categories”, one of which is Philatelic terminology, where many of our stamp collecting words are explained.

The more experienced collector should visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philately](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philately), the section on Philately.

This section looks in more detail at various methods of collecting, and has a boxed section with many descriptions of the Postal System.

Time spent browsing all the levels of this website can be very rewarding. There is even access to a third party website which lists philatelic terms in English (American), German and French.

Wikipedia contains significantly more material than would generally be expected in an encyclopaedia such as this. When you get to know and use this site, it can be very helpful.

## Joseph Luft's Philatelic Resources

Joseph Luft's Philatelic Resources on the Web is a compilation of thousands of links to philatelically related websites, at the time of writing there were 4,214 links included.

Access the website at [josephluft.com/joeluft](http://josephluft.com/joeluft) and select the Philatelic Resources option.

The links are listed in the following sections

- New Additions
- Auctions
- Collectors' Pages
- Commercial Offerings
- Country Specific
- Downloadable Images
- General Resources
- Postal Authorities
- Shows and Societies
- Software.

This site should provide even the most fastidious collector something to look at.

However, as is the case with such extensive lists, the ever changing nature of websites may render some of the links to be no longer operative.

## Exponet

Exponet is a virtual international philatelic exhibition containing hundreds of collections and exhibits from many countries.

With so many contributors, there is every chance that a visitor will find something of interest, and the site can be accessed at [www.japhila.cz](http://www.japhila.cz).

Exponet can be very useful in deciding what to collect; what material can I include in my collection; how can that material be laid out on the page; what should I include in my write-up; what different types of material are available for me to include.

Exponet is very well indexed which makes finding areas of interest quite easy. It also has collections or exhibits which are for sale.

## eBay

eBay is generally known as a source for the acquisition of material, and there would be very few collectors who have not visited eBay at some time.

However, eBay can also be used for research, especially in areas where there are still gaps in the recorded knowledge. This would mainly apply to classes such as Postal History and its derivatives.

When looking at eBay you see a wide range of material, and when viewed with a historian's eye, many variations from the known can be found. Even though you do not wish to acquire these items, the recording of them will add to the general knowledge when next the catalogue is updated.

It is also surprising how many non-catalogue items appear on eBay.

To take full advantage of eBay you need to have sufficient knowledge to be able to see past the many incorrect descriptions.

## General

This brochure possibly duplicates a number of the links shown in the APF website, but hopefully, the added information will make the sites more appealing – as quite often the domain name by itself is not very informative.

The amount and variety of information on the internet is extremely wide, so don't be afraid to do some exploring to find the sites that best suit. If you visit a site that does not appear very attractive, be sure to study the contents before rejecting it – you may be surprised at what you find.

The danger with website information is that it is constantly changing – new websites come on line, existing ones are enhanced or significantly altered, become outdated, or even worse, cease to exist.

Therefore exploration will become a way of life as the more you find out, the more further questions seem to arise that also need resolution.

### For Further Information

[www.apf.org.au](http://www.apf.org.au)

or

Contact your State Council

ACT: ACT Philatelic Council,  
GPO Box 980 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
NSW: Philatelic Development Council - NSW  
PO Box 220 Darlinghurst NSW 1300  
QLD: Queensland Philatelic Council  
PO Box 941 Wynnum Plaza PO  
WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178  
SA/NT: South Australian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 ADELAIDE SA 5001  
TAS: Tasmanian Stamp Council  
GPO Box 9800 HOBART TAS 7001  
VIC: Victorian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
WA: Western Australian Philatelic Council  
GPO Box 9800 PERTH WA 6001

(Further contact details, including email addresses, are available on the APF website.)

Other brochures in this series are available from the Australian Philatelic Federation or your State Council:

- 1 *Why Collect Stamps*
- 2 *Why Join a Stamp Club?*
- 3 *I have just inherited a stamp collection - where do I go from here?*

4	<i>I have just rediscovered my old stamp collection – where do I go from here?</i>
5	<i>Where do I get stamps for my collection?</i>
6	<i>Beyond Australia!</i>
7	<i>How can I identify and value my stamps?</i>
8a	<i>An Introduction to Exhibiting – Part 1</i>
8b	<i>An Introduction to Exhibiting – Part 2</i>
9	<i>Thumbnail Descriptions of the Exhibition Classes</i>
10	<i>An Introduction to Stamp Collecting</i>