

## OshWeb: a high quality information portal on prevention

### Links, reviews and comments on Occupational Safety and Health websites

Information is undeniably more and more accessible these days thanks to the Internet. Yet at the same time it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find precisely the information you really need. And, it's not simply a question of finding the right information, you need to be sure that what you find is correct and up-to-date.

Traditional Internet search engines and portals have proven to be a valuable tool in navigating through the ever increasing mass of information, but fall short of many user's real needs. Researchers, prevention experts and anyone looking for top quality information needs a selective and organised overview of high quality information sources on the Internet.

<http://www.oshweb.com> offers this kind of service. OshWeb is a qualitative portal for prevention websites. Each source has been selected, catalogued and filtered by a team of subject and information specialists.

A standard information package is presented for each source, giving details on the information provider, the target audience, the type of information and the language(s) the site is available in.

OshWeb is an example of a good practice instrument that is particularly useful for SMEs. The portal has been developed by the ISSA Information Section and is free to access for all Internet users.

#### Characteristics

OshWeb is a portal providing access to quality occupational safety and health information available on the Internet and has several characteristics:

1. OshWeb is an on-line service with qualitative links to hundreds of sites and documents on the Internet.
2. OshWeb is the result of an intellectual process: the information sources are selected according to an intellectual process based on qualitative criteria; the description of the site and document content and the recognition of key words and other indices is also done on an intellectual basis.

#### Objectives

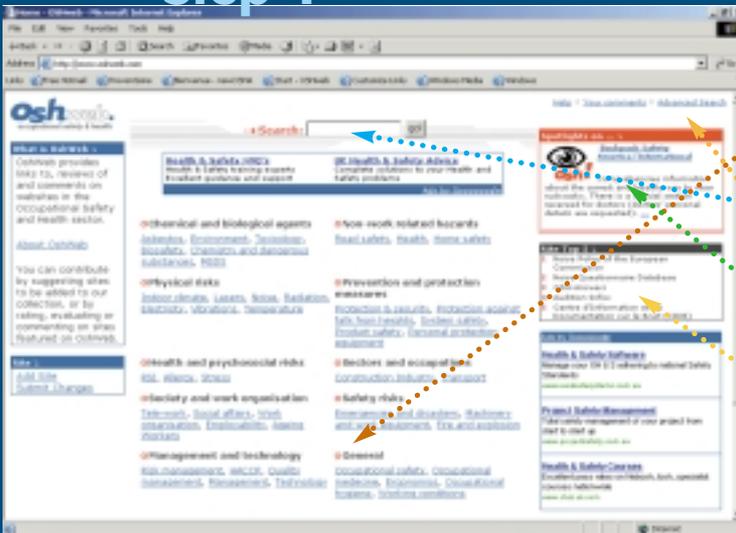
1. To simplify Internet access for experts and researchers, and to stimulate the use of the Internet for the exchange of information and communication;
2. To filter and annotate qualitative sources for prevention experts and to make them more accessible in terms of both form and content.
3. To offer a uniform and high quality information portal;
4. To stimulate cooperation agreements through the linking-up of prevention sub-areas.

#### Who manages OshWeb?

OshWeb is managed by a team of IT experts and OSH specialists, who work primarily on developing and expanding the catalogue of source sites. In addition, there are specific sector experts responsible for development of the specialist subject areas. The IT experts evaluate the sources suggested by the sector experts and the users of OshWeb themselves. Another technical team is responsible for ensuring that the software behind OshWeb runs properly.

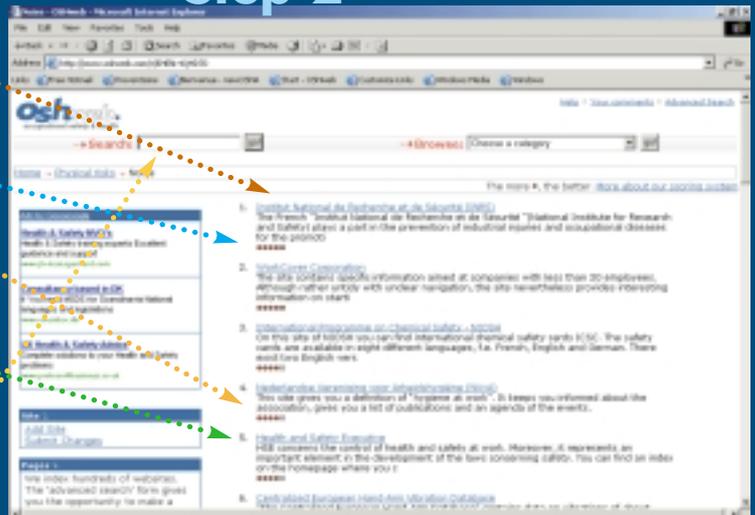
# How to use OshWeb ?

## Step 1



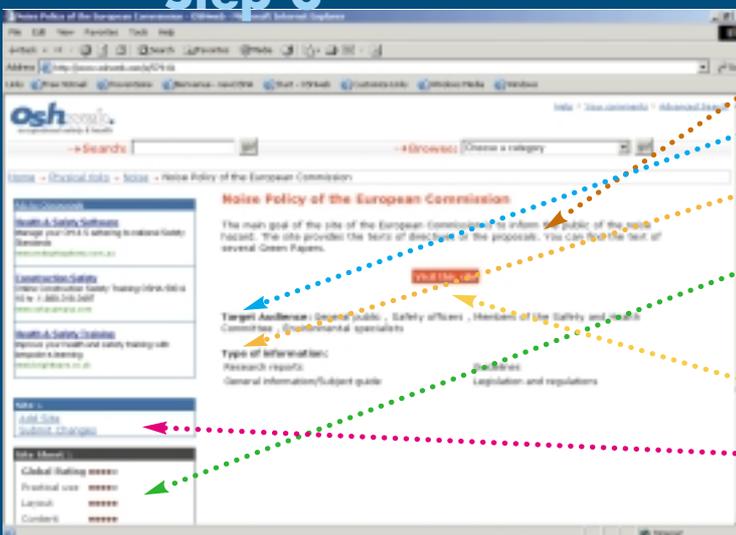
- 1 To find the right source for your information needs, click on one of the 10 headings or on one of the 43 subheadings.
- 2 Alternatively, enter a key word in the Search field.
- 3 Or use the Advanced Search option.
- 4 Maybe the current source under the spotlight has what you are looking for.
- 5 You might also want to take a look at the Top 5 sites.

## Step 2



- 1 Information sources corresponding to your search are listed in qualitative order, i.e. according to their rating.
- 2 Each site is given a rating from 1-5 shown as dots. The more dots, the better the site.
- 3 A short description of each source is given to assist you in finding the right information for you.
- 4 Simply click on the name of the information source to go to a more detailed overview of it.
- 5 Note that you can make a search by key word or heading from almost any page on the site.

## Step 3



- 1 Here there is a more detailed description of the information source.
- 2 Details of who the site is aimed at.
- 3 A brief list of the types of information found on the source.
- 4 The side bar on the left indicates the site's rating, the language(s) the site is available in, the type of organisation responsible for the information source, the site's URL, and the date of the site review.
- 5 You can visit the site by clicking here.
- 6 Users can also suggest amendments to the content of OshWeb, or propose new information sources.