

## Oxford Info - Website Overview

### Introduction:

Oxford Info (<http://www.oxfordinfo.co.uk>) is a site dedicated to providing information about the city of Oxford. The original Oxford History website (which can still be found at <http://www.oxfordhistory.co.uk/oxfordhistory.html>) has been extensively modified and extended.

Oxford Info comprises of four main sections: history, tourism, entertainment, and accommodation. These sections are further sub-divided to allow users to quickly access the information they want.

The site has a number of notable features:

- 'Live bar' at the top each page- a source of regularly updated Oxford news.
- Community Forums- a place to chat and share information.
- Text-resizing to make the website available to as many people as possible.

### The Team:

The team consist of three members of the Lower Sixth at Abingdon Boys School.

- **James Lloyd**- the founder of the website and responsible for the development of the site.
- **Joseph Delo**- works on the design of the maps and is the photographer.
- **John Coleby**- handles the historical research.

In addition to our primary roles, the team collaborates on the content of the site.

### Our Aims:

As a team we are committed to the overall aim of providing information about Oxford city. We work to ensure that the information is reliable, up-to-date and above all easily accessible.

### Development:

The development of the site has been a yearlong process starting this time last year after our success at the BCS Web Design Competition in 2005. With the main infrastructure in place it was a question of transferring the site to the newly purchased domain ([www.oxfordinfo.co.uk](http://www.oxfordinfo.co.uk)) and then slowly making the changes.

The site was given a completely new design that focuses on providing advanced navigation along with sleek formatting.

The team held meetings every half-term to discuss and guide the development process. The development of the website is very much dependent on the time-constraints placed on the team due to school and looming public exams.

Unfortunately a number of areas remain uncompleted:

- History Overview
- Shopping
- Maps and Tours
- Film Reviews
- Stage Reviews

We remain committed to the website and aim to complete these sections by summer 2007.

### **Site Plan:**

The site is split into four, easy to navigate sections.

#### **1. History:**

The history of Oxford is still a key focus of the website. The main feature is the Interactive Map. Using the tabs to switch between icons and the rollover function for a snapshot of the building, this provides an easy, clear and fun way to obtain information.

Detailed historical information, high-resolution photos, opening times, and an interesting fact are all available. Furthermore click on the link to Multimaps for the location of the building in question, and follow the link be taken straight to Google Images for more photos. If that wasn't enough, discussion in our online forum is also offered.

#### **2. Tourism:**

This section of the site consists of a number of sub-categories:

- *Eating and drinking*- a database of restaurants, cafes and bars has been developed using PHP and MySQL scripting. The filtering facility can be used to select places by taste, price or both; this provides an efficient means of browsing and an easy way for us to update information.
- *Getting there*- clear information and tips about getting into and around Oxford. Includes advice on travelling by car, rail, bus and plane.
- *Attractions*- a great selection of places to visit in Oxford, ranging from palaces to zoos!
- *Shopping*- still under construction but plans for a flash-based viewer to find and investigate shops in Oxford.

- *Maps and Tours*- also under construction.

### 3. Entertainment:

The entertainment section tells you all you need to know for a successful day out! It offers information on Cinemas and Theatres accompanied by reviews of the latest film or stage production. It also tackles the all important question of where to park.

### 4. Accommodation:

This is the major new feature of the Oxford Info website for 2007. The database allows the user to search an extensive list of hotels, guesthouses, hostels and self-catering accommodation. Users can refine their search using the tabs and by selecting any number of search criteria. It was developed using PHP and MySQL.

### Future Plans:

In addition to finish the under-construction pages by summer 2007, Oxford Info has a number of over exciting development plans:

- 'Oxford Info Guidebook'- essentially a condensed, printed version of the website with advertising opportunities for all businesses. For more details go to <http://www.oxfordinfo.co.uk/guidebook.html>.
- WAP-based version of the site for viewing on mobile handsets.

### Conclusion:

The team hope that it will provide the public with a comprehensive, accessible and enjoyable source of information about Oxford city. Oxford Info is an ongoing project which will continue to grow and develop into the future.