



REVIEW ARTICLE

Web-watch—<http://www.xray2000.co.uk>

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INTRODUCTION

[xray2000.co.uk](http://www.xray2000.co.uk) is an independently run website based in the UK, run principally for student radiographers, trainee assistant practitioners, radiographers and technicians. It was started in May 2000 as a few pages and now occupies around 600 pages and contains over 3000 images; the site author is Nick Oldnall.

The site statistics indicate over 100 visitors a day and this excludes 'passers by' staying less than 5 min and excludes visits from the same person more than once per day, with visitors from all over the world (Fig. 1).

The site search statistics provide indications for future content of the site. The top 20 search terms are MRI, skull, CT, chest, ultrasound, pelvis, knee, abdomen, shoulder, osteoporosis, IVU, hip, barium enema, pneumonia, Pott's disease, cervical spine, trauma, radiation protection, rheumatoid arthritis and osteomyelitis.

In the last three months it is pleasing to see that the site returned information on about 85% of the searches (Fig. 2).

DESCRIPTION OF [xray2000](http://www.xray2000.co.uk)

The first few sections of the menu are general, including the ever-popular message board where around 50% of the messages are from students

requiring help with a wide variety of topics from dissertations to technique and in particular the students' favourite topics of equipment and physics!

The author supplies answers usually within 48 h of postings and other visitors are encouraged to provide help in their specialist fields; the board is moderated and obscene or commercial postings are removed rapidly. Recently the message board has entertained discussions on the roles of Assistant Practitioners and Nurse Practitioners evoking some strong feelings.

The guestbook has nearly 300 messages with the majority of them expressing gratitude for help from the site, many from students, lecturers and others from many countries who have found the site useful.

There are short sections on the history of radiography and information for careers in radiography including the ever popular information on how to find a job in the USA, including contributions from UK qualified radiographer now working in the USA and an American hospital offering to help people become employed in the USA.

The collection of UK-based information with reference to official documents is a popular reference point for documents that everyone should read but sometimes are difficult to find on the web; where possible and permitted, the original document is copied with the author's permission and a link to the original site provided.

The image base is where the site first started and consists of an anatomically regioned index which links to pages of thumbnails which are linked to larger images; all the images are optimised for screen viewing and optimal download speed. Some of the older images are of low quality but many are being replaced as more recent images become available. Included are images of animals and a full set of

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Figure 1 Screenshots from the site statistics log.

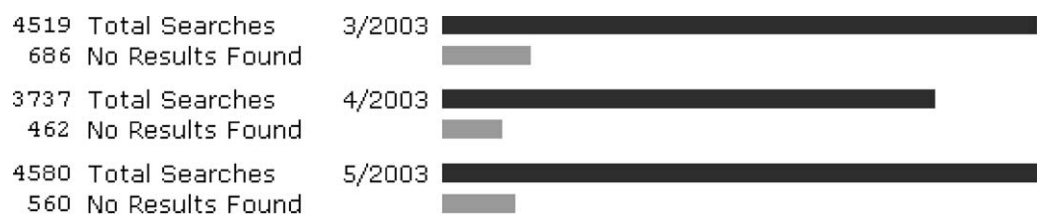


Figure 2 Screenshot from the site's search engine statistics log.

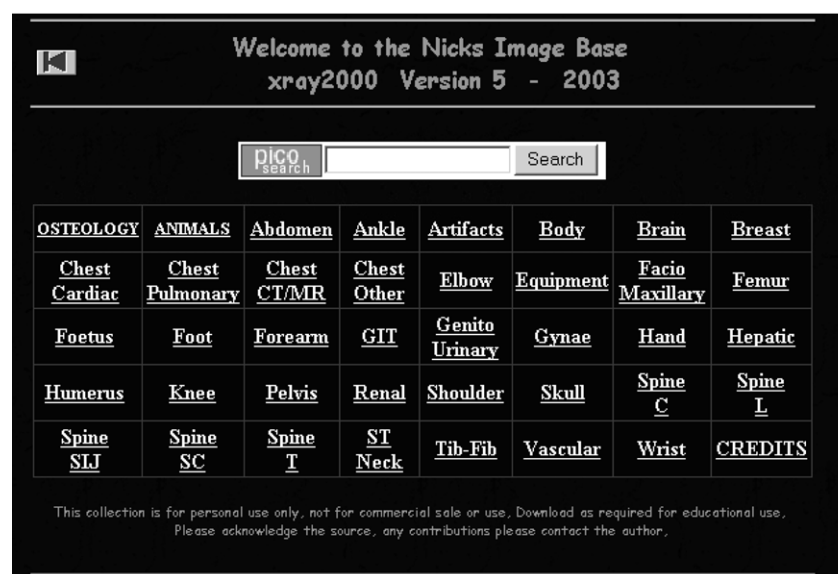


Figure 3 Screenshot of the image base menu.

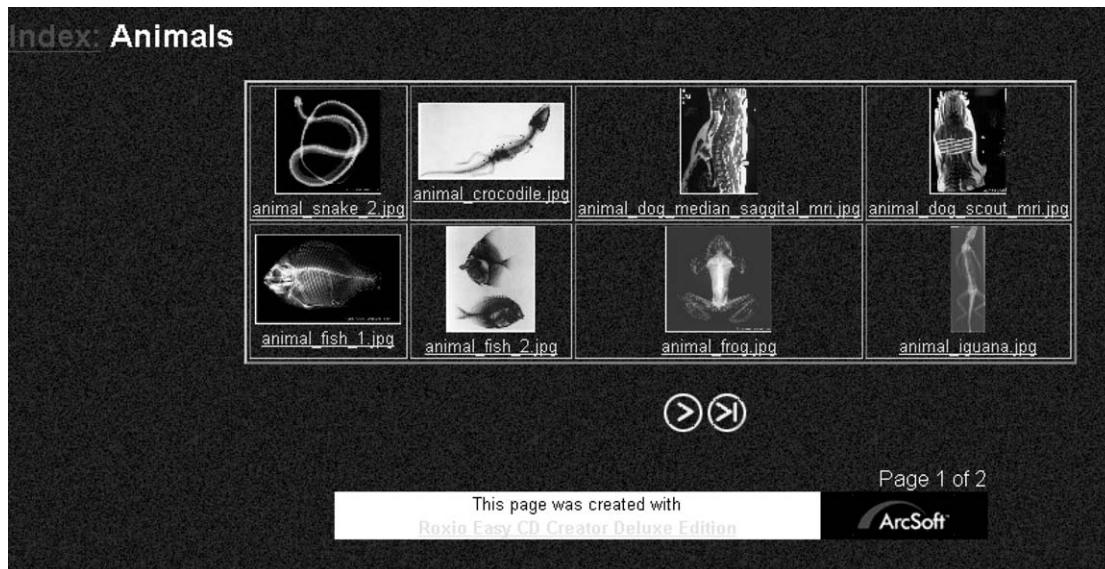


Figure 4 Screenshot of an image base thumbnail page.

osteology images which have even proved popular with primary school teachers (Figs. 3 and 4).

The two most recent main additions to the site which are currently being developed are indexes of information relating to pathology and the technical aspects of radiography; the subject list in the pathology index bears a passing similarity to a now obsolete publication indexing radiographic pathologies which was extremely popular some years ago!

The technical index is being slowly updated and is in answer to requests for information received from e-mail or on the message board.

The Tutorial notes section is a collection of introduction to topic areas for student radiographers and includes introductions to Chest, Extremity, GI tract, Urography, Skull Radiography, Sample Technique notes, Thoracic Spine, Radiographic Equipment, Equipment Testing, Intensifying Screens, X-Ray tubes; all these are in Acrobat format and can be downloaded as required.

Technique notes are for the basic examinations and include line diagrams, radiographs and image evaluation notes for a wide range of contrast and non-contrast techniques. Drug information provides

an introduction to drugs used in the X-ray department including a section on medical gas cylinder colour coding.

Dissertation help includes a range of articles and links to other sites for students needing help with their degree dissertations, with information on writing, referencing, reflection and web searching.

The useful articles section includes links and articles of special interest to students and the online learning section links to online learning websites but with an American bias.

A light-hearted diversion at the end of the site is a section for children with an interactive skeleton with X-ray images of a basic selection of bones and a light-hearted introduction to X-rays with a fun little chap called Max.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Any ideas to improve the site are welcome and can be placed on the message board or e-mailed to the author. Future developments include a section on digital radiography, computed radiography and PACS.