

Librarian's Shelf by Heather St. Clair

Halloween on the Web

Halloween is now less than a month away and the internet has many resources to help you prepare for this holiday, but with millions of pages it can be tough to find what you want. Here are just a few websites relating to Halloween.

According to History.com, Halloween can be traced back approximately 2,000 years to the Celtic festival of Samhain. Romans combined Samhain with a couple of their own festivals and by the end of the first millennium A.D. some of these traditions were folded into Christianity. The Irish immigrants coming to the U.S. in the 19th century brought many of the Halloween traditions practiced today. To read more about the origins and evolution of Halloween go to History.com. From there you can also view videos on Halloween, pumpkins, fear, and vampire myths. You can also print out pumpkin carving patterns and play an online game called "Hidden Spirits."

The website eHow provides a wide range of Halloween tips. Get tips for selecting and carving pumpkins and free patterns. Also find ideas for witchy hairstyles, party games, costumes, how to make decorations or tell if a place is haunted and holiday safety tips.

Searching the web for "free pumpkin carving patterns" will pull up many sites with patterns ranging from simple to more advance. If you don't want to wade through page after page of websites the University of Illinois Extension has a website on pumpkins with links to a few websites, some with very unique patterns.

The U of I Extension site at offer so much more than carving patterns. Find pumpkin recipes, pumpkin types, Halloween links, growing pumpkins and more. One downside to the page is the pumpkin farms listed are only in Illinois.

If you are looking for more than just pumpkin recipes go to Allrecipes.com and then click on holidays and Halloween, you will find fall and Halloween themed recipes. In their top 20 you find Black Magic Cake, Halloween Bloody Baked Rats (it's really meatloaf shaped like a rat), Roasted Butternut Squash Soup, S'mores Apples, and Jack-O-Lantern Burgers. Under Spooky Sips there are recipes for Black Halloween Punch, Boo Beverage, Cherry-Berry Spider, Green Grog, as well as Witches Brew.

FoodNetwork.com, TasteOfHome.com, and MarthaStewart.com also have Halloween recipe pages.

If you are looking for some hauntings and strange occurrences, I stumbled across NebraskAmazing, a website with all sorts of Nebraska information. I am unsure how accurate the site is but I enjoyed reading about the Columbus glowing graveyard and the ghost named Scooter that haunts Hy-Vee under Haunted Nebraska. Strange Nebraska Creatures has accounts of Bigfoot sightings as well as other monsters. There is also a Nebraska UFO page on this site.

If we haven't covered a Halloween topic you would like to have seen websites for or if you prefer a physical book, stop by the library and staff will be available to help you find websites, videos and books on vampires, zombies, werewolves, Halloween, and both fact and fiction. You can also contact us at 402-564-7116, option 2, or library@columbusne.us.

The complete links to the sites listed above will be listed on our Facebook page under Notes. You can find the link to our Facebook page, as well as other information, at www.columbuslibrary.info. If you do not have a computer or internet connection at home the library has 25 computers available for public use. Just remember to bring your Columbus Public Library or Platte County Bookmobile card to use the computers.