



Penny Pinching Pages

Edwardsville Public Library

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PRICE COMPARISON SITES:

Finding the “best” price comparison search engine can be tricky. Each site uses its own formula to determine prices. Information about shipping and taxes may or may not be included. Some sites feature listings from “retail partners” or focus on certain kinds of products, such as electronics. Searches sometimes include items related to what you’re searching for rather than (or in addition to) the actual item. The sites listed below are user friendly and among the most popular:

Bizrate.com <http://www.bizrate.com/>
Google Shopping <http://www.google.com/shopping>
Nextag.com <http://www.nextag.com/>
Pricegrabber.com <http://www.pricegrabber.com/>
Pronto <http://www.pronto.com/>
Slickdeals <http://slickdeals.net/>

COUPONS AND COUPON CODES

Coupon websites offer coupons and promotional codes that help you when you shop online as well as providing printable coupons for food items, household products, toiletries, etc. In most cases, the coupons are free, though some sites ask you to complete a free registration form. Typically, you must download some kind of plug-in to be able to print the coupons. The sites have instructions to lead you through the process. Keep in mind that some retailers won’t accept Internet coupons and promotional codes don’t always work. Sites also offer extras like signing up to receive e-mail alerts when new codes are posted for your favorite retailer (RetailMeNot). Several sites have discussion forums users can join as well as blogs. Be sure to check out individual retailers’ websites for deals. For instance, coupon codes sometimes provide free shipping, but you can often find that offered on a specific retailer’s site.

Coupons.com

<http://www.coupons.com/couponweb/Offers.aspx?pid=13306&zid=iq37&nid=10>

CouponCabin <http://www.couponcabin.com/>

CouponMom <http://www.couponmom.com/>

PromotionalCodes <http://promotionalcodes.com/>

RetailMeNot <http://www.retailmenot.com/>

SmartSource <http://coupons.smartsource.com//index.aspx?Link=5S2ZUA6PWPEPO>

BUDGET ASSISTANCE

There are a variety of sites with information about the importance of tracking where you spend your money and having a realistic budget. The sites below all provide worksheets to help you accomplish that.

CNN Money http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/budget101/budget_101.jsp
Living a Better Life <http://www.betterbudgeting.com/budgetformsfree.htm>
Mint.com <https://www.mint.com/>

AUTOMOBILES: ONLINE HELP

Sites abound that will help you do online research before you buy a car; in fact, you can purchase a car online. You can find invoice prices, option prices, car comparisons, and much more on multiple sites.

Autobytel <http://www.autobytel.com/>
AutoTrader <http://www.autotrader.com/>
CarBuyingTips <http://www.carbuyingtips.com/>
Cars.com <http://www.cars.com/>
CarsDirect <http://www.carsdirect.com/home>
Edmunds <http://www.edmunds.com/>
Kelly Blue Book <http://www.kbb.com/>
NADA Guides <http://www.nadaguides.com/>

LOCAL SAVINGS

Some sites target specific geographic areas for savings and coupons.

8coupons www.8coupons.com/
Money Mailer <http://www.moneymailerstl.com/>
RiverBender <http://www.riverbender.com/coupons/local.cfm>

If there are stores or restaurants you frequent, check out their website and see what you can find. Here are a couple of examples:

Restaurant deals: 54th Street Grill <http://www.54thstreetgrill.com/email-club.html>
Red Robin <https://www.redrobin.com/eclub/findlocation>

BUYING AND SELLING

Craigslist <http://www.craigslist.org/about/sites>

This site is essentially classified ads for more than 550 cities worldwide. Select your city and you'll find items for sale/trade, job, housing, and personal ads, and more. Check out the Fact Sheet for more details about Craigslist.

eBay <http://www.ebay.com/> eBay is one of the ultimate shopping and online auction websites. It may or may not be a site to visit if you're trying to pinch pennies!

TRAVEL SAVINGS

There are many, many sites to help you find travel deals on airline tickets, lodging, cruises, and car rentals. Some of the sites below have unique features. Kayak enables users to compare “hundreds of travel sites at once.” Users can sign-up for daily e-mail alerts to track fares to specific destinations. Priceline is best known for its “Name Your Own Price” feature. Hotwire seems especially well-known for hotel deals. FareCompare collects daily pricing information from more than 500 airlines worldwide. FareCompare also sends e-mail alerts to users and provides data on which days and times are the cheapest (or most expensive) to fly between certain cities. It is also a good idea to look at specific airline and hotel websites for deals.

BestFares <http://bestfares.com/>
CheapTickets <http://www.cheaptickets.com/>
Cruise.Com <http://cruise.com/>
Expedia <http://www.expedia.com/default.asp>
FareCompare <http://www.farecompare.com/>
Hotels.com <http://www.hotels.com/>
Hotwire <http://www.hotwire.com/>
Kayak <http://www.kayak.com/>
Orbitz <http://www.orbitz.com/>
Priceline <http://www.priceline.com/>
Travelocity <http://travelocity.com/>