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## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE REVIEW

# The Olympic Games

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The current international focus on the Olympics, with the games in Beijing this summer and the national interest in planning for the London 2012 games, presents an excellent opportunity for considering a wide range of related aspects within the hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism curriculum. Given the evolving nature of this topical area, key useful resources for teaching purposes are readily available online. This review thus concentrates on those which can be found through the Intute: social sciences, 'Podium' and London 2012 websites.

## Internet Resources for Olympic Studies

**Intute: social sciences** has produced the informative "Internet Resources for Olympic Studies". This provides an excellent starting point for those seeking resources on the Olympics, whether staff or students. The guide is appropriately divided into general resources; history of the games; past games; London 2012; future games (other than 2012); Olympic people; research; event management; contemporary issues in sport and other international competitions. The guide gives a clear indication of the breadth of information available and all links can be accessed through the Intute service. For example, the Musarium™ website sponsored by Kodak provides an excellent timeline of images from 1896 through to 1996, and is well worth seeking out. The guide to planning major sports events published by UK Sport highlights the key points which require consideration by organisers of large sporting events, and a section of the Visit Britain site explains the vision to create a lasting legacy following the London 2012 games.

The guide can be accessed online at <http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/booklets> and paper copies are available on request from the Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Network [hlst@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:hlst@brookes.ac.uk).

## Podium

**Podium** is the further and higher education unit for the 2012 Games and it is a comprehensive up to date source of resources for academic purposes. Podium has a nationwide remit and aims:

To communicate both within the sector and with outside agencies about the potential for Universities and Colleges to support the successful staging and delivery of the 2012 Games.

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To coordinate the development of activity within the sector that maximises the benefits of hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in this country, contributing to the building of a sustainable and wide reaching legacy.

Their site provides a useful news and email service so that it is possible to keep up to date with developments, and an events listing which identifies an eclectic range of events suitable for those with Olympic and sporting interests. There is also an extensive listing of commissioned reports available from the resources section. These include the contribution of further and higher education to the Beijing Games in 2008, employment forecasts and skills estimates for the 2012 games. <http://www.podium.ac.uk>

## **London 2012 site**

The London 2012 site is a vibrant site which is constantly growing in its scope and information. There are sections on sports and venues, how to get involved, plans, news and what is happening in regional areas. The site is also home to a lively blog which encompasses a host of topics including Beijing, volunteering, and young people. The plans section provides an overview of the organisational factors relating to the games and detailed information on matters such as cultural, transport and sustainability strategies. This is certainly a site worth keeping up to date with and it is possible to sign up on the site to receive their e-newsletter. [www.london-2012.co.uk](http://www.london-2012.co.uk)

## **Further Resources**

The Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Network will keep up to date with resources relating to the Olympic Games that may be of interest and this information can be found on the dedicated web page at: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/hlst/ourwork/hlst\\_olympics](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/hlst/ourwork/hlst_olympics)

Resources include a review of the recent Council for Hospitality Management Education (CHME) Student Conference hosted by Sheffield Hallam University in March 2008; a resource guide on the Olympic Games; and the Event Management Link 20 newsletter, which includes articles on the Olympics.