The Top 20 websites in the world of procurement
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Introduction

The fastest-growing profession in business

Trying to name the Top 20 websites in procurement started as a bit of fun, but has now turned into what could perhaps become a significant contribution to helping busy procurement people do a better job - CIPS’ fundamental aim.

In 2009, defining the Top 20 websites in the profession is a good way to provide a short-cut for busy procurement people to get a ‘quick answer’. Anecdotally, following some hasty instant research at recent CIPSA events, most procurement people knew only of a handful of these Top 20 sites. And all had their own favourites they wanted to add!

Of course this work is only a snapshot of good, useful sites available today in English. With the help of The Faculty, a local management consultancy specialising in procurement, we have been able to find 20 sites that all offer a good standard of freely available, relevant and accessible procurement knowledge from around the world. They may not be the best 20 websites in the world, and there may be better protected procurement sites too, but bookmarking these twenty should certainly help procurement people do a better job by building own virtual ‘body of knowledge’ on their own PC desktops free of charge.

Naturally, we compiled this list alphabetically without fear or favour and with no commercial interest at all. Both CIPSA and The Faculty took an impartial and objective view, and resisted the temptation to try and be too even-handed, diplomatic or at all political. Maybe you have a site to recommend we add to the list? Send it to info@cipsa.com.au and we will keep a register to compare all the sites next time we run this exercise.

Finally, it would have been hubris to add our own six CIPS websites into the Top 20 listing – so we added them in appendices at the end instead. Don’t forget to bookmark them as well!

Jonathan Dutton FCIPS
Managing Director
CIPS Australasia

Melbourne, September 2009
Choosing the Top 20 – a note from the author

Entering the word “procurement” into a Google search returns approximately 32,500,000 results; approximately 600 hundred web pages for each CIPS member globally. With so much information at our fingertips, finding the information we need at the time we need it is a task that is at worst, impossible and at best time-consuming.

This research is therefore intended to provide a quick and easy-to-use snapshot of the best that the web has to offer to procurement professionals today. The Top 20 have been selected from a list of over 170 websites identified through the research which included recommendations from the following sources:

- CIPS Australia employees
- CIPS UK employees
- Experienced practitioners and consultants at The Faculty
- Members of the global procurement community via online discussion forums

In selecting the websites to feature in this paper I have at all times been mindful of how ‘useful’ the websites are to procurement professionals performing their day-to-day roles. Two immediate questions posed by this fundamental proposition are ‘how does one define useful’ and ‘what is the role of the procurement professional?’ Each question could each be the subject of much discussion and debate, which is not the purpose of this research. However, in order to provide some context around which to evaluate the usefulness of this information to you, I encourage you to consider the following criteria that were applied in the selection of the Top 20.

- **English language:** given the intended audience, websites in languages other than English were excluded from the research.
- **Freely available:** websites were evaluated based on their free content for which no fees, direct or indirect (e.g. via magazine subscription) are payable. Note however, that some websites do require some form of registration to access certain content.
- **Generic procurement relevance:** websites were selected based on their applicability to procurement generally, without bias towards any particular role, organisational structure or category focus.
- **Local relevance:** given the intended audience, websites offering content specific to the Australia and New Zealand region were viewed as particularly ‘useful’, although overall this was balanced with the greater depth and quality of content available from international sites.
- **Accessibility:** the requirement to evaluate a significant amount of information over a short period means that the research has a natural bias towards websites that are well-organised, easy to navigate and stable relative to those where good content may be difficult to find.

The Top 20 is by no means a definitive list. Nor is this research intended to replace an individual’s ‘favourites’ or ‘bookmarks’ which can be customised over time to include the most relevant information based on their own specific requirements. However, I hope that whatever your role, specialisation or interest in procurement, you will find something of value in this research. For those who have yet to build your ‘Procurement Favourites Folder’, may this list provide you with a solid starting
A Guide to using this research

The research for each website in the Top 20 is provided in the following standard, easy-to-read format.

Features Legend

- **Research**: Best practice articles, whitepapers, guidelines, tools and templates
- **Intelligence**: Information and data on specific markets, industries and suppliers
- **Discussion**: Forums for posting questions and reviewing discussion threads
- **News**: Commentary on current procurement issues and trends
- **Regional**: Content specifically relevant to Australasia region
- **Email**: Email subscription available for updates, newsletters etc.
- **RSS**: RSS feeds available for updated content
- **Mobile**: Website formatted for browsing on a mobile device
- **Registration**: Access to some content may require free registration

Aberdeen.com

Who are they?


Why are they in the Top 20?

Within their Procurement & Supply and SCM & Logistics research channels, Aberdeen Group covers a wide range of issues and topics relevant to procurement professionals globally, particularly in the areas of e-commerce and technology.

Although much of their content requires a subscription or download fee, there is a considerable amount of free content in the form of Research Perspectives, Research Briefs and even Full Complimentary Reports.

What do they offer?

Aberdeen Group Research Provider

USA

Research Email RSS Registration

Note on the Appendices

CIPS related websites and general non-procurement websites were excluded from the Top 20, however both are addressed within the Appendices at the back of this booklet.
Who are they?

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What do they offer?
- Research
- Email
- RSS
- Registration
Who are they?
Ariba Inc. is a global provider of spend management solutions comprising technology, domain expertise and consulting services.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Given their scale and exclusive spend management focus Ariba has a wealth of expertise both in terms of specific category and commodity intelligence, and also procurement practice, including a close understanding of current issues and trends facing the profession. Much of this expertise is available via the Resources section of their website which includes their category trend report Supply Watch, published quarterly.

What do they offer?

- Research
- Intelligence
- Discussion
- Email
- Registration
Who are they?
CAPS Research is a not-for-profit, independent research organisation dedicated to supply and supply chain issues. They are jointly sponsored by the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University, the Institute for Supply Management, and 130 major sponsor companies.

Why are they in the Top 20?
CAPS Research is based on knowledge gathered from their global sponsor community via research events, roundtables and workshops addressing current supply and supply chain issues. The majority of their reports and research findings are available to the general public (free registration is required) and includes focus studies, benchmarking reports, critical issues reports, and best practices articles. Some content is restricted to sponsoring organisations.

What do they offer?
Research  Intelligence  Email  RSS  Registration
**Who are they?**

eSourcing Forum is a weblog edited and authored by Iasta, a global software and services provider of supply management solutions. As the name suggests, this website looks at procurement and supply topics primarily from an e-commerce perspective.

**Why are they in the Top 20?**

eSourcing Forum is not only a useful source of information for procurement and supply professionals with a focus or interest in e-procurement and other supply related technology; it also incorporates content and topics from a broader range of procurement issues. It can be navigated using free text search or category browsing and also has links to other useful internet resources such as the eSourcing Handbook and eSourcing Wiki.

**What do they offer?**

Research  Intelligence  Discussion  News  Email  RSS
Who are they?
IBISWorld is a strategic business information provider based in Australia but with overseas offices in the US and Indonesia. In Australia their research covers 501 local industries and the top 2000 companies including data and analysis on economic and demographic statistics, industry risk ratings and business and market intelligence.

Why are they in the Top 20?
IBISWorld is a useful source of market research and business intelligence for procurement and supply professionals investigating a particular industry or company. Although fees are payable for the most detailed and up-to-date information, the free content includes key statistics for the previous year such as industry revenue, employment, exports, imports etc. as well as key competitors and high level breakdowns of products/services and cost structures.

What do they offer?
- Intelligence
- Regional
Who are they?
The Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM) is based in Mumbai, and is the national body for professionals responsible for planning, sourcing, logistics and supply chain management throughout India. It has over 5500 members drawn from both the public and private sector and it is also a chartered member of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM).

Why are they in the Top 20?
IIMM is a membership based organisation however their website does not have a members-only section, meaning all content is accessible to the public. The Knowledge Bank section of the website is particularly useful containing over 100 articles on procurement and supply related topics including supply chain management, e-procurement, value engineering, sourcing, inventory management and sustainability.

What do they offer?
Research
Who are they?
The Institute of Supply Management (ISM) is the US based professional association for supply management, comprising 40,000 members. It is also a member of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM).

Why are they in the Top 20?
As one of the world’s largest professional associations for procurement and supply, the ISM website contains a variety of useful articles and tools, many of which are available after free registration. It is also useful to note that CIPS members are able to access additional exclusive “Members-Only” content by logging into the site using their CIPS membership number and password at www.ism.ws/cipslanding.cfm

What do they offer?

Research  Intelligence  Discussion  Email  Registration
Who are they?
Kellysearch is a business-to-business supplier search engine, with information on over 2 million companies worldwide. Kellysearch is published by Reed Business Information, the largest business publisher in the US.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Unlike regular search engines such as Google, Kellysearch provides results based on the products and services offered by each company in their database. Although the main focus of the site is US based suppliers, global suppliers including a growing number from Australia and New Zealand, are searchable using the Advanced Search section of the website.

What do they offer?
- Intelligence
- Regional
Who are they?
KPI Library was founded in the Netherlands in 2007 to provide users with an extensive library of KPIs and online services to build and share KPIs.

Why are they in the Top 20?
KPI Library is a useful source of information for procurement and supply professionals, not only for those seeking to measure the performance of the procurement or supply function itself but also from the perspective of supplier performance measurement. After a free registration process, users can browse by process (e.g. supply chain, procurement and logistics) or by industry (e.g. goods and manufacturing). Additional functionality is available for a fee and the site also offers networking and discussion functionality to seek specific advice from a global expert community.

What do they offer?
- Intelligence
- Discussion
Who are they?
LinkedIn is a professional networking site that provides access to an interconnected network of experienced professionals from around the world, representing 170 industries and 200 countries. LinkedIn is based in Mountain View California, however approximately half of its 40 million plus members are from outside the US.

Why are they in the Top 20?
LinkedIn is a powerful networking tool for procurement and supply professionals, in particular the Groups function. Members of LinkedIn (basic membership is free) can apply to join specialist groups where they can access news, research articles and discussions on a range of relevant topics. Searching the LinkedIn Groups Directory for “procurement OR supply” delivers almost 2000 results, with groups ranging from general procurement forums to specialist areas such as e-procurement and spend analysis.

What do they offer?
Who are they?
Strategic Sourcing Europe is a weblog for purchasing professionals. The About section of the website references the LinkedIn profile of Jean-Philippe Massin, Vice President at Capgemini located in Paris Area, France. At the time of this research the most recent post on the site was on 2nd April 2009, which suggests the site may no longer be active.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Strategic Sourcing Europe brings together a vast array of procurement and supply related information and resources available on the internet and puts them in one place where they can be found more easily. The site allows visitors to search articles using a free text search or browse a number of sections including Categories, Tag Cloud, Most Viewed, Recent Comments, Links and Archive. Although the addition of new content appears to have ended in April 2009 there is a considerable history of relevant and useful information dating back to December 2005.

What do they offer?
- Research
- Intellligence
- Discussion
- News
- RSS
Who are they?
The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is an independent office of the UK Treasury, established to help UK central government departments and other public sector organisations deliver best value from their spending.

Why are they in the Top 20?
The OGC website offers a number of useful resources for procurement and supply professionals and as a public sector service, no registration or log-in is required. While the content has been developed for practitioners within the UK and EU (particularly from a legal perspective) there are still a number of useful generic resources, particularly within the Policy & Standards Framework and Document Library sections.

What do they offer?

- Research
Who are they?
Purchasing.com is the website of the US based *Purchasing* magazine serving more than 90,000 procurement and supply chain professionals across multiple sectors. It is published 12 times a year and covers a wide range of news and commentary on topics and issues relevant to procurement and supply chain.

Why are they in the Top 20?
One of the great features of Purchasing.com is that anyone can access digital content from current and back issues of *Purchasing* magazine without a subscription. The website also offers a significant number of online resources including webcasts, supply chain blogs, supplier listings, a strategic sourcing case study archive and much more. Although registration is required for some features and content there is no cost to register and subscription to the magazine is not required.

What do they offer?

- Research
- Intelligence
- Discussion
- News
- Email
- RSS
- Mobile
- Registration
Who are they?
Queensland Government Chief Procurement Office is a division of the Department of Public Works and is the Queensland Government’s expert in procurement policy, practice and education. As well as advising government departments on matters of procurement they are also responsible for developing and managing the State Procurement Policy framework and whole-of-government supply arrangements.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Primarily provided as a resource for government officers with purchasing responsibilities, the information on this site is also accessible to the public. It contains many excellent examples of Australia-centric policy documents, standard terms and purchasing guidelines as well as a wealth of procurement related information on topics ranging from quality assurance to sustainability and more.

What do they offer?
Research Regional
**Who are they?**
Supply Chain Digest is a weekly online newsletter for supply chain and logistics professionals. Their corporate office is located in Springboro, OH in the US.

**Why are they in the Top 20?**
For procurement and supply professionals with broader supply chain responsibilities or interests the Supply Chain Digest is a valuable source of information. The *Resources/Education* section in particular contains a large number of useful articles including tips, tools, research and whitepapers. Much of the content requires registration which is free.

**What do they offer?**

- Research
- Discussion
- News
- Email
- Registration
Who are they?
Scmr.com is the website of Supply Chain Management Review, an executive level industry magazine published eight times a year. Their content covers a broad spectrum of supply chain activities including purchasing, production planning, order processing and fulfilment, inventory management, transportation, distribution, and customer service.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Although a subscription fee is payable for the magazine, content from both the current issue and archives dating back to 1997 is available online following a free registration process. The searchable Resource Center contains numerous white papers and articles on a range of supply chain issues and topics and includes a Sourcing and Procurement category.

What do they offer?
Who are they?
Sourcing Innovation is a weblog for sourcing, procurement and supply management professionals with a focus on best practices, education and innovation. The author and editor of the site is Michael Lamoureux, a Computer Science PhD with experience in sourcing and supply chain so technology and e-commerce is a particular focus for the site.

Why are they in the Top 20?
With over 1300 posts dating back to 2006, Sourcing Innovation is one of the most comprehensive procurement and supply related blogs on the internet. Content on a wide range of topics can be searched using the free text search function or accessed via Category links. The site also links to other related resources available on the internet such as the SI Resources site and the e-Sourcing Wiki.

What do they offer?
Research  Intelligence  Discussion  News  E-mail  RSS
Who are they?
Spend Matters is a weblog for “everyone that wants to gain insight into Spend Management”. Its scope includes procurement, sourcing, contract management, spend analysis and visibility, category management, low cost country sourcing, supply chain, lean and other related areas. It is edited by Jason Busch, Founder and Managing Director of Azul Partners, a boutique advisory firm.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Spend Matters is one of the most substantial weblogs on the internet dedicated to procurement and supply. In addition to free text searching of all content readers have access to the Toolbox and Perspectives on vendor solutions and offerings.

What do they offer?
Research  Intelligence  Discussion  News  E-mail  RSS
Who are they?
Supply Chain Brain is the website of Global Supply Chain Media, publisher of *Global Logistics* and *Supply Chain Strategies* magazines.

Why are they in the Top 20?
Supply Chain Brain offers a single point of reference for many of the most relevant supply chain related news articles available on the web. The *General Supply Chain Management* section includes content covering strategy, risk, environment, and global supply chain issues. The site also references research from external providers as well as providing detail on service providers and suppliers in the supply chain industry.

What do they offer?
- Research
- Intelligence
- Discussion
- News
- E-mail
Who are they?
Supply Excellence is a weblog “dedicated exclusively to fostering and accelerating supply management excellence”. It is edited by Ariba Inc. so spend management technology is a particular focus of the forum however it references a number of independent sources covering a wide range of procurement and supply related topics.

Why are they in the Top 20?
The Supply Excellence blog has a comprehensive history of posts and articles dating back to April 2006 covering a range of procurement and supply related topics. ‘Best practices’, ‘procurement’, ‘sourcing’ and ‘supply risk’ are among the most substantial tags or categories featuring on the site and an interesting additional feature is the Supply Now monthly podcast featuring commentary and insight on the latest procurement and supply trends.

What do they offer?
- Research
- Intelligence
- Discussion
- News
- E-mail
- RSS
The following table provides a quick reference guide to the features of each of the websites profiled in the Top 20.

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CIPS Business Intelligence available to CIPSA members online at www.cips.org/australasia/professionalresources/ebsco/ A global reference system updated on a daily basis consisting of thousands of journals and articles, enabling procurement professionals fast online access to business intelligence.
Appendix III: Other useful internet resources

The purpose of this research was to identify the Top 20 procurement and supply related websites and therefore did not include websites that are more general in nature. However, in terms of the overall ‘usefulness’ of websites to procurement and supply professionals in performing their day-to-day jobs, there are a number of key websites that are assumed to be part of any practitioners core toolkit. Some of these are included below for reference.

Search
Google is the world’s most popular search engine and is an excellent tool for locating any type of information on the internet. Understanding how to use different search criteria will make your searches more powerful and the results more accurate (enter “google search help” in the search box). Google Alerts are also a useful tool for staying up to date on topics of interest on the web (enter “alerts” in the search box).
www.google.com

General Knowledge
Wikipedia is a global online encyclopaedia that is continually updated by its worldwide community of users. At the time of this research it contained over 3 million articles and almost 18 million pages in total. It is therefore a very useful reference site for up to date information on almost any subject.
www.wikipedia.org

World News
Thomson Reuters is the world’s largest international multimedia news agency and a great source of information and commentary on the latest world, finance and business issues.
www.thomsonreuters.com

Finance
Bloomberg is one of the world’s largest providers of financial news and information. As well as the latest commentary on financial news stories their website offers calculators, stock quotes, currency rates, interactive charts and other market data.
www.bloomberg.com

Directory
Historically, the Yellow Pages Directory has been the definitive source of company contact details in many countries around the world. While the hard copy directories are less relevant in today’s e-enabled society the online Yellow Pages are still an excellent source of local, relevant business information.
www.yellowpages.com.au
www.yellow.co.nz
The Faculty is a highly specialised management consulting company that works with leading Chief Procurement Officers to deliver results and transform procurement capability. Our commercial leadership initiatives such as the Procurement Roundtable, CPO Forum and the Procurement Executive Program connect CPOs with the Boardroom and elevate the status of the profession.

We work alongside the leadership team to implement best practice, including:

- Strategic initiatives that drive the development of the company's procurement performance and lead to bottom line delivery
- Professional development programs for commercial leaders and their teams
- Networking to assist professionals move into, develop within, and be promoted beyond procurement.

Visit www.thefaculty.com.au or contact +61 3 9654 4900.

Matthew Perfect
Consultant

Matthew is a procurement specialist with considerable sourcing and supply experience across a range of industries including finance, logistics and resources. He has held senior procurement roles with Toll Group and National Australia Bank and has worked for a number of leading Australian and multinational organisations as a consultant with Ariba.

His experience includes:

- Managing large, business critical spend categories for a leading Australian and international logistics provider
- Leading an e-sourcing transformation program for a major financial institution, involving new technology implementation and driving a pipeline of e-sourcing events
- Executing multiple strategic sourcing projects for clients across a range of spend categories in both local and global supply markets

Since joining The Faculty Matthew has led or been involved with a number of projects for both Australian and global clients, including various category strategy reviews, SRM workshops, procurement training and a major change management and technology implementation project.

Matthew has an Honours degree in Economics from Cardiff University in the UK and has also completed a Graduate Certificate in Applied Finance and Investment at the Securities Institute of Australia.