THE INTERNET: INFORMATION FOR GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES SELECTED SOURCES IN THE AMERICAS AND EUROPE*

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Abstract: The Internet is in its infancy. Rapid development is guaranteed with large commercial firms announcing their intention to produce "value added" products for the net. Continuous change is a given. The Net is here to stay and will become an increasingly important tool for information specialists. We need to learn to use it effectively.

The author recommends investigating the "COOL SITES OF THE DAY" at http://www.infi.net and looking at the archival "Cool Sites". Look into the "BEST OF THE NET AWARDS" at http://wings.buffalo.edu. One of the premier methods of learning about the internet is The Internet Hunt at gopher:http://gopher.cic.net or at: http://gopher.cni.org which runs a contest each month consisting of questions which can be answered from sources on the Net.0 The Hunt questions and answers for the last two years are archived on Anonymous FTP at: http://ftp.cic.net Try it and see how you rank against the experts. Note some customary questions received in your department and see if an answer can be found on the Net. Save useful sites in quicklists, hotlists, bookmarks, or in notebooks or card files on the reference desk. This can form the basis for an internal catalog of Internet sites. Consider organizing these sites into categories and constructing your own Home Page.

This is not to say that there are no difficulties in the process. Unlike a traditional library which may weed out some documents every few years, items on the Internet have the property of appearing and disappearing with little notice. Our knowledge of sources seems to survive for a day rather than a lifetime! Sites may be gone for a short time, may simply be under construction, or may disappear forever. Some sites are very, very busy and hard to access. Sometimes traffic is so heavy that one never seems to be able to access a known site. (Veronica sites are a good example.) The problem of access brings us to the question of the time of day at the location where we are using the Internet. At 2pm Eastern Standard Time in the United States it is often extremely difficult to access any sources because the

busy Eastern seaboard has occupied them fully. In Europe, US sources should be more easily accessed during the day than is the case for librarians in the United States. More heavily trafficked local sites can often be more easily accessed early in the morning and late in the evening.

Maintenance of your selected sites is critical. Preferred sites need to be accessed frequently to see if they still exist and if indeed, they are still providing current data. If links to gopher or Web sites have been set up in your own facility then a specified person must be given the responsibility of checking and maintaining those links on a regular basis.

One cannot break the Internet. It was built to survive nuclear attacks. So jump in and start searching!

Good Luck and Happy Hunting. : -)

**Introduction**

I imagine the Internet as a large warehouse of books, documents, reports, boxes, games, and records which have no organization, no catalog nor is anything labeled or numbered. In this warehouse are hidden all kinds of treasures which can be found if only we have the right clues to help us in our quest. As librarians, we are accustomed to organization and order but the Internet was specifically designed to have no central control and thus has no global arrangement. The Internet is in fact a series of networks loosely connected with some common protocols. Without some guideposts, one can get lost in cyberspace. Like the land of the fairies, one can surf the net on Midsummer's Eve and become so entranced that one wakes up a hundred years later!

Our users do not want to spend hours lost in the Net, they want librarians to find the answers for them. Even more, they would like customized service specifically designed for their needs. We believe that with sophisticated search tools and access to such a large database of information readily available on the Internet it will be possible for librarians to provide this customized service. With sufficient knowledge and practice librarians can build a database of sites particular to each client. Librarians will continue to carry on the traditional role of filtering from the mass of information the particular gems needed by our users, or alternatively, instructing the users in how to find it themselves. That which is non-traditional is that the body of information from which we select will be much greater, more fluid, and will require new sorts of expertise.

With each new technological change in the communication of information, there is talk of the demise of librarians. In fact, we will be even more essential to keep up with the exponentially increasing new sites, ferreting out the good ones, and
providing a filter for users. However, before one can exploit the data available on the Internet, one must be aware of its existence. To address this "resource discovery" question is the purpose of my presentation. The two Internet sources which I will address will be Gopher and the World Wide Web. Some mention will be made of LISTSERVS, FTPs, and NewsNet but they are left for individual exploration. Pointers to useful sites, tools to help on the hunt for treasures, methods by which resources can be located, and lists of sites that have proven valuable will be recommended which can be used to find nuggets of information efficiently and successfully.

**Gopherspace**

The Gopher is arranged in a hierarchical manner. One must move through a series of menus to find individual files and documents, and must return to the main menu before going in another direction. The files listed below are accessed as follows: Each named site has an address. After accessing gopher with the address given, a menu appears. At that menu select the line which appears within // and then at the new menu select the line within the next // . Gopher search engines are very helpful in locating data in the thousands of interconnected gophers known as "gopherspace". The most popular are Veronica, Jughead, and WAIS. With Veronica, one may search directories or titles in 5000 gopher services and perhaps 10 million gopher items. Traffic is very heavy. Jughead usually is used to search local menus but can also search top level gopher menus (and is more readily available than Veronica). Keyword searches are indicated on local menus with the <?> prompt. The WAIS search engine does full text searching of indexed documents and directories and presents its results by weighting how closely the documents selected match the question. The Nordic project is currently working on a WAIS server which can access both gopher and the Web. Another useful tool is Archie which has indexed about 1200 internet archival sites with about 2.5 million unique file names and created a searchable database of the directories and file names. When you search Archie you will be given site names and paths to files which you then may obtain by anonymous FTP.

**Gopher Subject Trees**

One of the more useful starting points for exploring gopherspace are those gopher sites which have created subject trees and subject bibliographies to Internet resources. A subject tree is a hierarchical series of menus where there are broad subject entries subdivided into narrower subjects which are usually further subdivided into even narrower aspects. Since most of these trees are individual
site efforts and there is no central Internet authority there is much overlapping of material in different trees. This has its advantages since well organized and "advertised" sites are heavily trafficked. The following are some of the recommended subject tree sites.

Rice University, USA. gopher://riceinfo.rice.edu. Select /Information by Subject /Search by Veronica and Jughead/. One of the oldest and best developed sites in the world, Rice has an extensive subject list and sublists which are updated weekly. For example, under the subject "Economics and Business" there are over 350 subdirectories and documents pointing to further subdivisions and documents.

Australian National University. gopher://info.anu.edu.au. Select /Electronic Library - Internet Resources by Subject /Resources classified by subject/. The Web address is http://www.anu.edu.au/anu_www.html. The tree is arranged by LC classification and searchable with Veronica and Jughead. ANU is particularly strong in the social sciences where the Coombs data bases provide outstanding searchable information on demography, population, and Asian Pacific studies.

Bath University, United Kingdom. gopher://ukoln.bath.ac.uk. This tree, arranged by UDC classification, can be located by selecting /BUBL Information Service/Internet Resources by Subject/ BUBL Subject Tree/. The directory can be searched with the "/" key which will lead to extensive subdirectories and documents.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA. gopher://sunsite.unc.edu. Select /World of Sunsite/. The "sunsites" are joint projects with Sun Microsystems Co.; they provide fast access, particularly as they have worldwide mirror sites. This site is also an excellent source for US government documents, under the directory /US and World Politics/ including a searchable CIA World Fact book, US Supreme Court documents, White House documents, and Federal Information Resources. The Web sunsite at http://sunsite.unc.edu has Lycos and Harvest search engines, and the latest Web statistics.

Kent State University, USA. gopher://refmac.kent.edu. Select /Internet Resources by Subject/. This is the home site for the searchable /Directory of Scholarly Electronic Conferences/ an excellent source for accessing a particular bulletin board or discussion group. Under /Business and Economics/ can be found TQM information, the Economics working paper archive, the Economic Bulletin Board, and /Business Sources on the Net/ some 14 lengthy bibliographies on business subjects. Selecting /Electronic Journals/ accesses the Electronic Journal archive from (gopher.cic.net) and the Internet Hunt. The directory/Internet Training and Information/ contains the Michigan bibliographies and Gopher Jewels.
The Swedish University Computer Network maintains an extensive subject tree at gopher://gopher.sunet.se. It includes a table of contents which lists both topic and sub menus and documents and has WAIS searching. Sunic also operates the root gopher server for Europe and maintains the core backbone (Ebone) for 27 European countries. The type of services offered in each of these countries and their technical connectivity arrangements are outlined here.

**Study carrels** are similar to subject trees. The most useful can be found at Washington and Lee University, USA. gopher://liberty.uc.wlu.edu. To reach the list of searchable study carrels select /Finding Gopher Resources/ Search High Level Gopher Menus by Jughead/. By selecting /Jughead/ one accesses an index to some 275 searchable worldwide gopher sites. WLU and Rice are the best Jughead sites available.

North Carolina State University, USA. gopher://dewey.lib.ncsu.edu, select /NCSU's Library Without Walls/Study Carrels/. This site also provides many US government documents, a collection of electronic journals and books, and Jughead searching.

**Gopher jewels** at The University of Southern California, USA. gopher://cwis.usc.edu. Select /Other Gophers and Information Resources/Gophers by Subject/11 Gopher Jewels offers an "alternative to the more traditional subject tree design" providing information by category searchable with Jughead. One can jump up one menu level or to the top menu from any directory. This site also provides pointers to gophers by subject from Michigan State University, Sweden, BUBL at UK, and Rice. It is also a good site for finding US government information under /US Government Gopher Servers/. A good secondary source for Gopher Jewels is gopher://wings.buffalo.edu which also lists other gophers which contain subject trees.

**Subject bibliographies** gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu. Select/inetdirs/Search full texts of these Guides/ and at http://www.lib.umich.edu/chhome.html This is the major site for the "Clearinghouse of Subject Oriented Resources Guides", a large collection of bibliographies arranged by subject. This list provides some of the most important guides on the Net. In an area of particular interest it is worth downloading the related guide and checking through the suggested internet sites.

**The Web**

While gopher is a very useful system it is limited by its hierarchical structure and its inability to support video, images, and sound. Nonetheless, currently it seems that gopher sites have more hard data, and less useless glamour than the Web.
Richard Wiggins comments that the Web may be 24,000 miles wide and only one foot deep. The World Wide Web (WWW) uses more sophisticated technology and thus is able to provide easier access to a broad range of links to texts, music, images, files, names, even gopher and FTP sites. On the Web, one does not have to go back to the main menu to move in another direction. One can simply jump to another subject by clicking on an appropriate button. Many Web sites are conveniently arranged by subject indices.

The Web is easily accessed through browsers which can interpret hyperlinks and use them to move from one document to another using a standard form of address called a Universal Resource Locator (URL). Some of the most popular browsers are Mosaic, Netscape, and Lynx (text only).

WEB SEARCH ENGINES. There are several search engines for searching the Web. Below are some of the more popular ones.


CUI W3 catalog from the University of Geneva at http://cuiwww.unige.ch/w3catalog searches directories of Web documents.

Nexor Home Page in the UK provides access to the Aliweb search engine at http://web.nexor.co.uk/public/aliweb/aliweb.html

Nexor also lists all Archie sites on the web at http://web.nexor.co.uk/archie.html

Lycos at http://lycos.cs.cmu.edu Lycos, the author's favorite search engine, searches both document titles and contents and seems to be successful because it catalogs titles, headings, the first 20 lines and the 100 most significant words and its large catalog already had 1.2 million entries last April.

Harvest is one of the newer search engines and can be found at http://harvest.cs.colorado.edu/

Web sites

WWW Virtual Library from CERN Switzerland at http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/DataSources/by_Subject/Overview.html The concept of the World Wide Web was first developed at CERN and it is a HUGE searchable subject catalog arranged by LC classification leading to a universe of materials which is exceedingly large. There are also links to other browsable subject catalogs as well as an alphabetical list of worldwide servers.
Einet Galaxy at http://galaxy.einet.edu or http://www.einet.net contains a fully searchable topical index which allows entry into a wide variety of internet sources. It is said to currently contain some 130,000 links!

Yahoo at http://www.yahoo.com is another massive index of Web pages organized in subject categories. There is excellent depth to the Yahoo tree. Its sites "What's cool", "What's popular", and "What's New" are useful to check on a periodic basis. It is a particularly good source for investment and financial information links.

Planet Earth Home Page (PEHP) at http://godric.nosc.mil/planet_earth/info.html has a smaller index of subjects but a nice "Getting Started" page. It is particularly useful if you are familiar with the named clickable sources. It divides its "library" into 13 rooms with each room containing 17 "shelves" of linkable information.

Scott Yanoff's List, "Internet Services Special Directory", is another lengthy, topical index and frequently updated list of sites and documents located at http://www.uwm.edu/Mirror/inet.services.html and gopher://csd4.csd.uwm.edu For gopher menus select /Remote Information Servers/Special Internet Connections/.

Tips for Web Spinners at http://gagme.wwa.com/~boba/tips.html provides information on how to develop your own home page. It also provides links to browsers, search engines, and other interesting sites including the "Cool Site of the Day".

Lund University, Sweden http://www.ubs.lu.se/wwwindex.html is the site of the Nordic WWW/WAIS project - an experimental program for automatic detection and classification of WAIS databases featuring a WWW front end.

**Government produced information**

Almost all nations provide some government data on the Internet but worldwide there are relatively few well developed sites. New sites are just in the construction phase. The following are a few sites where there is considerable information in the English language. It is also worthwhile to check the travel and tourism sites for general information about countries, cities, and regions. One of the best sites for this purpose is http:gnn.com/gnn/meta/travel/index.html


United States. gopher://gopher.marvel.gov and at http://lcweb.loc.gov is the most powerful site for US government information as well as a gateway to the Library of Congress catalog. It provides access to the "Thomas" Congressional gopher which contains digests and full texts of bills, to government press releases, NTIS, the US budget, the CIA World factbook, NATO and NAFTA documents, other national constitutions, and to the popular White house site at http://www.whitehouse.gov where pictures of the Presidential family and the Whitehouse building can be seen.

gopher://gopher.stat-usa.gov or http://www.stat-usa.gov is the primary site for access to the National Trade Data Bank (NTDB). The NTDB is the US Government's "most comprehensive source of world trade data", an exceptional source for export opportunities by industry, company, and product, and foreign companies or importers looking for specific products. It includes the Russian Defense Conversion database which lists joint opportunities for international companies. This is a heavily used source for international information.

gopher://gopher.nih.gov and http://www.nih.gov provide access to documents from the National Institute of Health. Select /Gopher Tunnel/Wais-based-info/ to obtain the alphabetical list of WAIS servers, the NIH phone book, molecular biology databases and to GenBank, the Genome Project, etc. The Web site also includes Cancernet, and Aids Information.

gopher://umslvma.umsl.edu Select /library/government information/ This site, at the University of Missouri, contains a subject tree listed under /Subject Area Resources/ but its major value is its extensive listing of US government documents. /In the News/ section is the gateway to current information which might include the newly proposed US budget, GATT news, and the Republican Contract with America. Under the directory /Full Text Government Documents/ can be found the Army Area Handbooks, Background notes of the State Department, and the CIA World Factbook; all containing useful information on countries worldwide.

Latin America. The primary gateway for information about Latin America is at the University of Texas at gopher://info.lanic.utexas.edu Select /Latin American General Information/Latin America and Caribbean Economic and Social Data Base USAID/ to find current statistics for Latin America both by region and
country. Red Cientifica Peru gopher://chasqui.rcp.net.pe or http://www.rcp.net.pe has excellent searching tools and Internet instruction in the Spanish language.

Canada. gopher://gopher.stat.ca or gopher://gopher.usask.ca This site also has Jughead and Veronica. http://info.ic.gc.ca/champlain/champlain.html still under construction, searches all known federal, provincial, and local government sites using the Harvest search engine.

An extensive menu of government agencies is located at gopher://gopher.nstn.ca Select /Internet Public libraries/.

United Kingdom. http://www.coi.gov.uk provides links to press releases from UK government departments including the Bank of England, Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Defence, etc.

http://www.fco.gov.uk is the home page for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and lists foreign policy speeches and press conferences.

Baltic. http://www.viabalt.ee/ Some government information about Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania may be found here although this is primarily a site for business in the Baltic area.


Russia. http://www.pitt.edu/~CJP/rees.html brings together a large body of material on the nations of the former Soviet Union, some of which contains government information.

Australia. http://www.nla.gov.au is currently under construction but plans for a guide to federal, state, and local government information by subject is well underway. It also includes the Parliamentary budget and information from government agencies.

Israel. gopher://israel-info.gov.il provides information about the Israeli government.

References

For additional information on the Internet, the following references are recommended.


The list of LISTSERVS can be obtained in a set of 14 files by anonymous FTP to: ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/ in the /pub/usenet/news.answers/mail/mailing-lists directory.

Kovacs Scholarly Electronic Conferences provides a searchable list of listservs at http://www.mld.net/KOVACS and at gopher://gopher.usask.ca

For more information on Usenet see:


Some public Veronica servers are listed below:

gopher veronica.scs.unr.edu (Nevada, USA) Veronica Home Directory

gopher veronica.sunet.se (Sweden)

gopher veronica.uib.no (Norway)

gopher veronica.uni-koeln.de (Germany)

gopher wisteria.cnidr.org (USA)

gopher serra.unipi.it (Italy)

gopher info.mcc.ac.uk (England)

There are now about 750 WAIS servers. The original station is gopher://gopher-gw.micro.umn.edu. This is an extremely busy site. A good alternate source for the list of WAIS servers is the University of Maryland at gopher://info.umd.edu Select /Access to other Electronic Info Resources/WAIS/ Other WAIS servers are at :

telnet quake.think.com

telnet wais.com

telnet sunsite.unc.edu

telnet info.funet.fi (login:info)

telnet wais.nis.garr.it (login: wais)

telnet swais.cwis.uci.edu
Some Archie public servers are listed below:

Canada       archie.cs.mcgill.ca
Austria      archie.unive.ac.at
Finland      archie.funet.fi
Germany      archie.th-darmstadt.de
Italy        archie.unipi.it
Sweden       archie.luth.se
Switzerland  archie.switch.ch
United Kingdom archie.doc.ic.ac.uk
Australia    archie.au
New Zealand  archie.nz
Israel       archie.ac.il
Japan        archie.wide.ad.jp
NJ, USA       archie.internic.net
Maryland, USA archie.sura.net

For archie plex server: http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/Doc/archieplex-httpd.html
For help: archie-group@bunyip.com

Mirror sunsites can be found at http://sunsite.cs.msu.su/moscow
http://sunsite.doc.is.ac.uk
http://sunsite.kth.se
http://sunsite.huji.ac.il
This tree is mirrored at Bilkent University, Turkey.
gopher://bilkent.edu.tr

Gopher Jewels mirror sites are at

gopher://gopher.info.monash.edu.au
gopher://gopher.bilkent.edu.tr
gopher://gopher.technicon.ac.il
gopher://gopher.csv.warwick.ac.uk

On the Web at: http://galaxy.einet.net/GJ/index.html

This is an excellent resource for the beginning and advanced net user.

A discussion of two Web search engines, Lycos and Harvest, by John December

Mirrors for the CUI W3 catalog can be found at
At the mirror site for Aliweb at http://www.leo.org.www_index/aliweb.html in Germany there is a tutorial for searching both in the German and the English language.

Cancernet is mirrored in Singapore at http://biomed.nus.sig and gopher.biomed.nus.sig

New hunts can also be found at the USENET newsgroup alt.internet.services and at Anonymous FTP://ftp.nic.surnet.nl

**Internet help sites**

Information about the Internet can be obtained from The InterNic, the official source for information about the internet. http://www.internic.net and gopher://gopher.internic.net

Information about gophers is obtainable from the mother site of all gophers, the University of Minnesota at gopher://gopher.micro.umn.edu Select /about gophers/how to get software and FAQs/


New Listings on the Net. How to find out about them? Subscribe to LISTSERV@NDSUVM1.BITNET Subscribe NEWLIST first name last name

New gopher sites are listed at gopher://liberty.uc.wlu.edu Select /finding gopher resources/all gophersites/new gophers/

Net Happenings. This list includes pointers to a large number of repostings from lists of new and updated sites including new Gopher Jewels. Subscribe to majordomo@is.internic.net "subscribe net-happenings" Another source for net happenings is: http://www-iub.indiana.edu/cgi-bin/nethaps/

For a list of lists send e-mail to the mail-server@sri.com or mail-server@crvax.sri.com. in body "send interest groups" The lists of lists can also be obtained in a set of about 14 files updated monthly, by Anonymous FTP to mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu in the /pub/usenet/news.answers/mail/mailing-lists directory.

For lessons on how to navigate the Internet. gopher://wings.buffalo.edu Select /Access the Internet/What is the Internet/Let's go Gopherin'/Navigate the Internet/.

or FTP ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu Select /navigate/* or /gophern/* These two addresses provide the text of beginning courses on the Internet.
Annotated Book Review Lists can be found at Anonymous FTP at sluaxa.slu.edu Directory /pub/millesjg. Filename is newuser.faq This list is also available on the World Wide Web at http://lawlib.slu.edu/newusers.htm and Anonymous FTP at ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu Directory /nettrain/ Filenames are nettrain.revs_1; nettrain.revs_2; nettrains_revs3; nettrain.revs_4

gopher://gopher.babson.edu Select /Internet/Information/Internet Bibliography/ Written by Hope Tillman this appears to be the most comprehensive and up to date of the review sites.

Bill Goffe's Guide to Subject Oriented works on the Internet is updated about every 5 weeks. gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu/inetdirs

Electronic texts are available at the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford gopher site at gopher://gopher.rsl.oc.ac.uk Select /librarian's corner/ Alex/ which can be browsed by author, date, host, language, subject, title or searched by keyword. Also select from the main menu /Browse by subject/Internet/ Many electronic guides to the Internet are available in full text here including Big Dummy's Guide to the Internet; EFF Guide to the Internet; Internet Basic, Hitchhikers Guide to the Internet; Zen and the Art of the Internet; User Guidelines, and Unofficial Smilie Dictionary. There is a mirror site at North Carolina University gopher://dewey.lib.ncsu.edu Select /Library Without Walls/Reference Desk/Guides/.

Author’s Update - The Internet: Information for Government Libraries April 1996

Since this article was prepared the Internet, and specifically the Worldwide Web, has had explosive growth and this growth shows no signs of abating. Gopher, which was in the Spring of 1995 already being outclassed by the ease of use and the graphics of the Web, is still important for its content but gopher sites are even more easily accessed through the Web than before. Rice University gopher at (http://riceinfo.rice.edu) and the Australian National University (http://elisa.anu.edu.au/elisa.html) are still very important informational sites as is the BUBL tree at Bath University. Additionally, the Clearinghouse of Subject Oriented Resources Guides at the University of Michigan is maintained and kept current. Some things are gone forever; Gopher Jewels disappeared in early 1995 and the Internet Hunt has not been updated in a year or more.

On the other hand, the efforts at organization, cataloging, and indexing of the Web are growing as fast as the Web. Many more new search engines, each with its own unique capabilities, are being developed. Lycos, the WorldWide
WebWorm, and Webcrawler are still important but to them one must add Digital Equipment’s Alta Vista (http://altavista.digital.com), Architext Software’s Excite (http://www.excite.com), Infoseek (http://guide.infoseek.com), and Open Text (http://www.opentext.com:8080). More interesting, there are sites which include many search engines, (http://www.enterprise.net/anadas/search/); (http://www.search.com);
the Netscape Homepage; and (http://www.albany.net/allinone), the latter in both French and English. There is also a special site for searching some 13,000 Newsnet groups (http://www.dejanews.com/dnhome.html). SavvySearch is unique in performing parallel searches in several databases simultaneously! (http://cage.cs/colostate/edu:1969)

Some older sites have gotten better and better. Yahoo is still the most popular directory site for categorized information and Scott Yanoff’s list, the Internet Service List, (http://slacvx.slac.stanford.edu/misc/internet-services.html) is still a good place for What’s New and What’s Cool on the net. New sites on the net can also be found at Yahoo, Netscape, and Net Happenings (http://www.midinet/NET/) as well as NCSA which is more selective in the new sites that it lists at (http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SDG/Software/Mosaics/Docs/whats-new.html).

While it is estimated that the number of Web sites has increased from about 23,000 in the Spring of 1995 to over 100,00 in January of 1996, even more significant is the exponential growth of commercial sites which, following Net etiquette, provide useful information as well as advertising. On the other hand, the commercialization of the net has increased the number of fee based sites. The National Trade Data Bank (NTDB) (http://www.stat-usa.gov) now charges a fee, albeit small, for access to its database and this trend is likely to increase in the future.

Government sponsored databases have increased slowly in the last year, but some have completed their construction phase and others have developed new homes. The United Nations home page provides information on all its agencies at (http://www.un.org/). In addition to the site at Champlain, Canadian government information can be found at (http://info.ic.gc.ca/opengov/index.html) and the United Kingdom has an expanded site at (http://www.open.gov.uk/index.html).

Librarians continue to have concerns about the quality of information on the net and how to evaluate it. We want to know how current, how accurate, and how reliable is the information source. We are concerned with credentials just as we would be with traditional print sources. Small efforts have been made to rate the quality of sites on the net. Magellan (http://magellan.mckinley.com.) rates many of its indexed web sites with from one to four stars. A list of its top rated 5% of Web sites are listed by PointCom (http://www.pointcom.com). For an overview of
this subject see Hope Tillman’s article „Finding Quality on the Internet or a Needle in the Haystack“, (http://www.tiac.net/users/hope/findqual.html). Software is now available which can electronically monitor sites, update addresses, and alert us, when a site is no longer being maintained. Developing our own customized home pages on which we can list addresses most pertinent to our particular clientele is becoming easier and easier. Since the originally article was presented at IFLA, there are many more tools available for finding information and they are even more sophisticated. We have more and better possibilities of identifying exactly the piece of information needed by our clients. We increasingly have the skills to identify, evaluate, organize, and communicate information found on the Internet just as we have always done with traditional printed formats.

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