

Electronic journals, lists and newsletters

Publications such as electronic journals, lists and newsletters comprise one of the most valuable groups of resources on Internet. They incorporate the immediacy that is such a feature of Net publishing with the contributions of a wide range of experts and people with a general interest in the topic being discussed.

By reading these publications, the beginner can begin to get a good idea of what's available and how to find it.

The Association of Research Libraries has since 1991 published a printed version of its *Directory of Electronic Journals and Newsletters*, listing more than 440 titles in the current version.

Previously compiled by Michael Strangelove at the University of Ottawa, the database is now created by ARL. The Directory is available in a gopher with the URL of `gopher://arl.cni.org:70/11/scomm/edir` by pointing your gopher at `arl.cni.org`, or by finding the ARL gopher through a public access gopher.

The printed book also includes the definitive directory of academic discussions, created and maintained by a team led by Diane Kovacs of Kent State University.

This work has been available on the Internet throughout its ex-

istence and can be retrieved from the `listserv@kentvm.kent.edu`. You may also retrieve it via anonymous ftp from: `ksuvxa.kent.edu`.

If you are interested in obtaining the printed Directory, you can send a message to ARL's Office of Scientific and Academic Publishing at `osap@cni.org`.

To facilitate keeping such a resource current, ARL created the list NewJour-L, which publishes announcements of new electronic journals as they become available. To subscribe, send mail to `listproc@e-math.ams.org` with nothing on the Subject line and the single message

S U B S C R I B E
NEWJOUR-L. Information about new journals can be posted to `NewJour-L@e-math.ams.org`.

Another notable publication is *Library-Oriented Lists and Electronic Serials*, a compilation of electronic discussion lists, distribution lists and electronic serials which are of interest to library professionals and staff.

It is intended to help the user of networked information resources by:

- Providing the names and addresses of the selected electronic lists and serials

- Giving brief directions for obtaining access to these resources and
- Providing a subject index to the resources.

This document was originally the work of Charles Bailey, Jr, assistant director for systems at the University of Houston Libraries.

He has maintained, revised, and frequently published it since 1990. The August 1994 update is now available.

To retrieve this document by e-mail, send the following message to `listserv@uhupvm1.uh.edu`

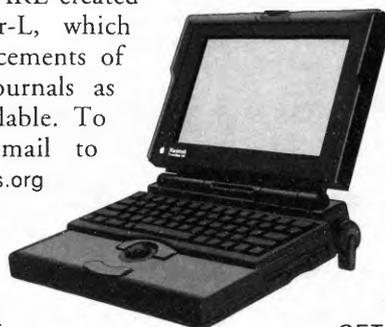
GET LIBRARY LISTS

F=MAIL and do not include any other text in the message.

To retrieve this document via gopher, point your gopher client to `info.lib.uh.edu`, port 70 (or look for the University of Houston gopher) and follow the path:

- > Looking for Internet Tools and Information
- > Information About the Internet
- > Library-Oriented Lists and Electronic Serials

To retrieve this document via a WWW browser, use the URL: `gopher://info.lib.uh.edu:70/00/tools/netinfo/library`.



Tools of the trade

While I don't intend to run an Internet introductory course in this column, I'll give brief explanations of terms and concepts where necessary. Universal Resource Locators (URLs) are a case in point.

URLs were developed for the World-Wide Web (WWW) as unique labels to identify a particular system or document.

A URL consists of an indicator of the type of resource (`http` for WWW documents, `gopher` for entries in a gopher, `ftp` for an ftp server etc) followed by an address of the computer where the resource is located, followed, op-

tionally, by a hierarchical location of a document within that computer system.

Thus the URL for the National Library's WWW Main Page is `http://www.nla.gov.au` and the URL for the ANU's ELISA service (which uses gopher software) is `gopher://info.anu.edu.au`.

Most importantly, a URL can only be used within the WWW system, that is, through a WWW client such as Mosaic, Cello or Lynx. You can't telnet to a WWW server. So, when a URL is referred to in this column, we will indicate an alternative access path where possible.

Similarly, sometimes there will be a reference to 'pointing your gopher' at a particular address, with possibly a port number specified. This is relevant if you have gopher client software such as Cello or HGopher where you can enter this information when prompted.

If you don't use one of these clients on your microcomputer, you can telnet to a public access gopher, like Tony Barry's at `info.anu.edu.au`, then go through the menus. It takes a little time at first but you'll soon find your way around.

