

Surfing the net? A fab idea

A recent posting on a Cybercafes list concerned the opening of a cyberlaundrette at <http://www.drci.co.uk/surf>. Can you think of a better way to spend your time while waiting for the spin dry cycle to finish?

Indexing page

Dwight Walker, on behalf of the Australian Society of Indexers has put together a page on indexing at <http://godzilla.zeta.org.au/~aussi/inetindx.htm>. Apart from a number of useful links to Internet indexes and indexing resources, there's an announcement of a prize for the best Web indexing, open to all comers.

Study of Web indexes

On a related topic, Vernon Leighton of Winona State University in the US, has published a study that he did on four of the larger free World Wide Web indexing services: Infoseek (the free variety), Lycos, Webcrawler and WWWorm. The basic finding is that Lycos and the free Infoseek have about the same precision. Webcrawler gave poor precision.

For the full report (including his professor's comments on the assignment), see <http://www.winona.msus.edu/services-f/library-f/webind.htm>

REDD update

Ann Burns from the University of Queensland reports that the Regional Document Delivery Project (REDD) has successfully completed the initial phase of testing. REDD is a windows-based electronic document delivery system, which uses MIME, E-mail and the Internet to request, scan and send multi-page documents.

If you would like to have a look at it, go to: http://libsyspc_geoff.itc.gu.edu.au/ddel/overwv.htm where you can see a demonstration model of REDD.

PIENet

PIENet is the main entry point to electronic information provided by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy and associated agencies on Australian Agriculture, Economic Research, Energy, Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, Geoscience, and Quarantine. It's at <http://www.dpie.gov.au/>

It has two recent publications, *The rural book 1995*, with a comprehensive range of information from over 26 Commonwealth departments and agencies, and the *Directory of Rural Industries Portfolio Statutory*

Authorities, a unique and complete register of Rural Industries Portfolio Statutory Authorities.

LITA newsletter

The newsletter of the Library and Information Technology Association (a division of ALA) is now on the Web at <http://www.harvard.edu/litanews/>. The past four issues are there, with hot links in the text of the articles.

ACT Branch's ProACTIVE

ProACTIVE, the newsletter of ALIA's ACT Branch is now published on the ALIANet server, with the latest issue at <http://www.alia.org.au/~actbran/proact152/proact152.html>

Online publishing

Matthew Spong is a young Australian author, who's written a novel *Down* and published it on the Internet. There's an illustrated Hypercard version for Macintosh users, and a plain text version for other folks. You'll find it at <http://www.real.com.au/commercial/spong>

Meanwhile at MIT Press, William Mitchell, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, has written *City of Bits*, described as 'a comprehensive introduction to a new type of city, a largely invisible but increasingly important system of virtual spaces interconnected by the emerging information superhighway'. There's a Welcome Page, a synopsis, the text, media reviews and a comments facility. The remarkable thing about the book is that it was also published in paper form, and the sales of the print version are at least double what had been forecast.

You'll find the book at http://www-mitpress.mit.edu/City_of_Bits/index.html

Australian SunSITE

Sun Microsystems has donated a server to the Australian National University for the purpose of being the Australian SunSITE. SunSITE is a Sun sponsored program at key educational and research institutions around the world (the ANU is the twentieth), created to promote the growth and reach of the Internet. The address of the Australian SunSITE is <http://online.anu.edu.au/CNIP/staff/monica.berko/sunsite/sunsite-intro/>

Monica Berko, the project manager of the SunSITE is looking to support the publication on the Internet of Australian information of general community interest. If you have a good (non-commercial) project, you can contact her on Monica.Berko@anu.edu.au

NewJour archive

NewJour, the Internet list for reporting and announcing new on-line elec-

tronic journals, has developed its archive to provide a better tool to track the explosive growth in on-line Internet serial publishing. It's at <http://gort.ucsd.edu/newjour>

The archive displays the entries in HTML, but takes all URLs in the messages and turns them into links, so when you read an entry describing a journal that offers a URL, you can immediately click and go to the site described. There is searching software and a reverse chronological index to let visitors check the newest material first.

DIGLIB archive

Terry Kuny (not Kuny Terry), the administrator of the DIGLIB list run on behalf of IFLA, has pointed out that you can browse the DIGLIB list archive in hypertext text format at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cgi-bin/ifla-lwgate/DIGLIB/>

This lets you follow a discussion thread that you might have come across after it had started or just check to see whether a topic has been discussed on the list.

Gopher pops up now and then

There's no doubt that the World Wide Web is the centre of attention in Internet development, but there's still work going on with gophers. And as Craig Summerhill from CNI observed recently in response to a post from the egregious Dr Internet, 'You need to have a leaner protocol — like Gopher — for actually navigating through the address space, and you use HTML/HTTP simply to display those objects that are of interest to the user'.

In this context, the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress has announced the expansion of its menu on LC MARVEL, the library's gopher. This menu now provides selected finding aids which are searchable using WAIS, information on Reading Room policies and procedures, instructions for searching manuscript catalog records in the library's online catalog, and the Division's annual acquisitions reports. Only a small percentage of the division's finding aids are available at present in electronic format, but this will increase.

The Library of Congress gopher is at marvel.loc.gov or for those who can't get by without a URL gopher://marvel.loc.gov

MARC page

LC has also set up the MARC home page that provides WWW access to all that is available on the LC MARVEL gopher (MARC Advisory Group Proposals and Discussion Papers, MARBI Minutes, Concise format documentation, code lists, MARC fo-



rum archives and indexes to all the above). New features include information about the MARC maintenance agencies, a MARC user notes section with items that clarify or explain aspects of MARC use, and a MARC utilities section.

The MARC home page is at <http://www.loc.gov/marc>

inet-issues mailing list

When the inet-issues list was announced in October, there was some confusion as it appeared that its sphere of interest was already pretty well covered by the Link list. After some discussion though, it emerged that it would be concentrating on the technical, operational and organisational issues that need to be resolved by the local Internet community. Link, on the other hand deals mostly with policy discussions and, as necessary, the slowness of the Internet link to the US.

To subscribe to inet-issues, send a message to majordomo@mail.aone.net.au containing the text: subscribe inet-issues

US business directory

If you're looking for American busi-

ness information, try the central Source Yellow Pages at <http://telephonebook.com> You can search by category or browse the index, or just enter the company name and the state. Very useful!

And here is the news

The *Daily Internet News Collage* (LA edition) is a good starting point for getting to news sources around the world on a variety of topics. Sources include Reuters news summary (updated several times a day), CNN, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times. There's also a good selection of daily comics (but not Calvin and Hobbes - alas).

Have a look at <http://www.rhythm.com/~prash/inc/inc.shtml>

More on the DEET home page

The DEET Home Page at <http://www.deet.gov.au> now features a listing of DEET publications from 1992 to date, and the DEET Library home page at http://www.deet.gov.au/pubs/library/lis_top.htm This has links to the EETCAB (Employment, Education and Training Current Awareness Bul-

letin) database, a listing of journals, books, seminars, conferences and Internet sites indexed under subject headings on vital portfolio issues.

Breast cancer site

The National Breast Cancer Centre, based in Sydney, has established a home page as a source of information about breast cancer in Australia. It will feature information on breast cancer statistics, clinical guidelines, clinical trials, the NBCC and its projects, contact points, breast cancer research and issues, news, Australian resources, upcoming conferences and events, and links to other resources. You'll find it at <http://www.nbcc.org.au>

Another e-text site

There are a number of medieval and classical-oriented e-texts mounted at <ftp://ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu> Anonymous login, then set for directory [pub/history/Europe/Medieval/Translations](ftp://ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu/pub/history/Europe/Medieval/Translations). All the texts in this directory are in the Public Domain, and all are available to anyone who wants them, no strings attached. Most are compressed using PKZIP 2.04g. The files are listed in the README.TXT file. ■

Contributions and suggestions for this column are always welcome. Please contact Kerry Webb at k.webb@nla.gov.au, or via the ALIA National Office, incite@alia.org.au

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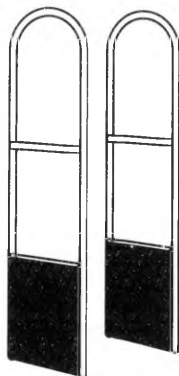
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