Traversing the trelliswork of the Internet

ALIA on the Net

Welcome to ALIAnet, ALIA's presence on the Internet. Its URL is **http://www.alia.org.au/** and it's based on a Web server with lots on information about ALIA, its structure, office bearers, National Office staff, and the services it offers to members.

Many thanks to the people who assisted in various ways, including Sun Microsystems, Cisco Systems, AARNet staff, and the technical staff from National Office, the University of Canberra and the National Library.

IFLA on the Net

Courtesy of SilverPlatter Information Inc and the Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT) Core Programme, IFLA now has its own Web server. **http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/** is the URL.

Apart from general information about IFLA and its activities, there is a page on the 1995 IFLA General Conference in Istanbul, featuring registration and tourism details.

Wired is hot

Wired magazine has a reputation for being a good, pacy read on Net matters, and extracts have been on the Net for some time. Now comes HotWired at **http://www.hotwired.com/** but it's more than just an online version of *Wired*.

You have to register to use it (although no charge is involved) and there is discreet advertising. But there's also a real-time chat area called The Piazza, and other content in text, images, and movies. In the Piazza, guest speakers appear frequently (Neal Stephenson, author of *Snowcrash* appeared in January) and members can ask questions through a moderator.

One of the more unusual Net resources listed in February is the Keirsey Temperament Sorter at **http://sunsite.unc.edu/jembin/mb.pl**, an online questionnaire based on the Myers-Briggs personality test. Try it!

More on electronic journals

In the September *inCite* the NewJour-L list, dealing with electronic journals was advertised. It's been running since August 1993, but late in 1994 it started crashing.

It's now been moved to the University of Pennsylvania where it runs on Majordomo software. And the name has been changed to NewJour.

To subscribe send a message to **majordomo@ccat.sas.upenn.edu** with a blank subject line and **subscribe NewJour** in the body of the message. Note that you don't put your name in the message.

Former subscribers to NewJour-L will have been re-subscribed to NewJour.

US newspapers on the Net

In November last year, there was a newspaper strike in San Francisco. Management and unions responded by publishing their own online editions on the Internet. The unions' paper is still there — the San Francisco Free Press at **http://ccnet.com/SF_Free_Press/** but its last issue was on 14 November, with the main headline reporting that the strike was over. The other newspapers, the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* are still being published on the Net at **http://sfgate.com/** with news, columnists and classifieds. The site (known as The Gate) has good coverage of Net matters, with an extended report (in February) of

Lists, listservs, listprocs, Majordomo or whatever ...

Despite the wonder and power of the World Wide Web and its astonishing range of information, e-mail continues to be the most important Internet application for most people, and while direct person-to-person communication is useful, you'll probably find that discussion lists provide the best way of sharing your views with your professional colleagues or other people with the same interests.

The problem is that there are a few different types of lists, and the commands for one type won't work with others. Without going into too much detail, here are a few general pointers, but the best single tip is to save the information that you get when to subscribe to a list. You'll need it some time.

The simplest type of list is where a collection of e-mail addresses is maintained at a site and a mail message to the 'listname' is propagated to all those addresses. To subscribe or unsubscribe to such a list, you need to send a message to the list owner. Of course, it will probably work if you just end a 'subscribe' message to the list address (the list owner will see it and add your address to the list) but it's more polite to send a personal message. Examples of this type of list are *catlibs*, *circlibs* and *syslibs*.

A more common type of list is known as a Listserv which uses software at a site which may run a number of lists. This software has a number of facilities to manage the membership of a list (subscribing, unsubscribing, displaying membership details) without the intervention of the list owner. To subscribe to one of these lists, you would typically send a message to **listserv@xyz.com.au** with **subscribe listname your name** in the body of the message. Similarly to unsubscribe you would send a message to the listserv specifying the listname. Examples of listserv lists are *PACS-L* (and most of the major US lists) and *collibs*.

Listproc is software that was based on Listserv and operates in a similar way. The lists operated by the National Library such as *abn-l* and *ndis-l* use Listproc.

Another common system is Majordomo, and it typically operates in such a way that you can send a subscription request to a list address, such as **listname-request@xyz.com.au** with **subscribe** in the message. You can also send the message to **majordomo@xyz.com.au** with **subscribe Listname** in the message. Whichever method you use, you don't have to specify your name, as the Majordomo software extracts this from the e-mail message.

Many lists at the ANU such as *arlisanz-l* and *asia-www-gopher-news-l* use Majordomo.

(If you'd like to know more about Listserv, Listproc, Majordomo or any other list software send a message to **majordomo@pop.psu.edu** with **get file mlm-software-faq** in the body of the message.)

The best reference source for Australian lists is Ozlists at **http://griffin.itc.gu.edu.au/gint/ozlists/** maintained by Linda Heron at Griffith University. It has detailed instructions on how to subscribe to each list. For US Lists, see **gopher://info.lib.uh.edu:70/00/tools/netinfo/library** the Library-Oriented Lists and Electronic Serials at the University of Houston.