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Lessons Learned from Martindale's WWW Reference Projects

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LESSONS LEARNED FROM MARTINDALE'S WWW REFERENCE PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

The Martindale Homepage Project was initiated two years ago to explore what curriculum aids and research were being mounted on the web. Soon, it became clear that there was sufficient information to establish a virtual library that could support a medical school curriculum, and specialized medical, dental, veterinary, nursing, nutrition, public health, agriculture and medical law reference sources. Martindale's Health Science Guide is a "multimedia specialized information resource" currently containing over 19,600 teaching files over 29,300 Medical Cases, 342 courses/textbooks, 1000s of graphic displays and over 5,200 (MPEG's) movies. The "Graduate & Undergraduate Center" for major science disciplines is another site as is "Martindale's Reference Desk" which is a self-contained virtual reference collection. With Frank Potter, Martindale has created "Potter's Science Gems for K-12 Science Education." Comments will be shared about what this means for science & medicine, what user feedback has been like, and what future developments are underway. It's creator, known for "surfing the 3rd Wave at the Wedge & on the Net" is here to share impressions and observations about electronic web publishing and information dissemination in this medium.