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Academic Uses of the Internet

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Many Information Systems faculty are aware of Internet resources in their field. Resources such as ISWorld Net, INFOSYS, comp.infosystems, and the ISWORLD e-mail list are well known to IS academics and professionals. But is that all there is? How are academics in other fields using the Internet? Are there Net-based opportunities out there waiting for discovery and development in an Information Systems context? This tutorial brings a multi-disciplinary perspective to the use of the Internet for teaching, research and information distribution.

The tutorial begins with an overview of Information Systems resources on the Internet. Electronic mailing lists, newsgroups, electronic publications and World Wide Web pages of interest to Information Systems academics and practitioners will be highlighted. This introductory section of the tutorial concludes with an invitation for participants to identify additional major resources in the field that have not been cited by the convener.

The principal focus of the tutorial is to demonstrate how other disciplines are using the Internet for teaching, research and information distribution. Internet resources in electronic publishing, distribution of course materials, testing, and development of research opportunities will be shown. Resources from Marketing, Accounting, Philosophy and other fields will be cited or demonstrated. Special emphasis will be given to teaching and research resources on the World Wide Web.

The tutorial concludes with some practical suggestions how Information Systems academics can borrow models from other disciplines to establish Internet-based resources for the Information Systems profession. The open and sharing nature of the Internet encourages cross-fertilization of ideas and models across disciplines. Participants will be encouraged to find an Internet-based project worth doing and do it. Related issues such as lagging institutional rewards structures will be discussed as time permits.

The tutorial will be of interest to participants at all levels of Internet expertise. Beginners and intermediates will find the first portion of the tutorial to be of special interest as valuable starting points for learning more about the profession through the Internet will be shown. Intermediate and advanced users will be able to contribute their knowledge about IS resources on the Net and, hopefully, come away with ideas they can use for their own professional development and to make a contribution to the profession.