Moving Through the Internet:
Teaching Mechanics and Evaluation

by
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The Talk Table group (divided about equally between academic and public librarians) spent a lively time discussing how we might "teach" searching on the Internet. It was noted that especially in the academic setting, no one seems to take the responsibility for teaching students how to use the Internet. Most of the sessions taught in both academic and public library settings have been drop-in classes; however, one member suggested that it was like "teaching Italian in five minutes." Patrons dropping in for such classes have a range in expertise from needing a basic tutorial on how to use a mouse, to needing more expert help on advanced searching techniques. With the variety of search engines available, emphasis is put on learning to use the "help" screens for each engine. Some public libraries are beginning to use volunteers from the community to help teach, thus relieving pressure on the librarians. A few libraries offer printed help sources for what is covered in class. The use of "bogus" Websites was recommended for helping patrons evaluate information found on the Net. The following bibliography was given to Talk Table participants.

Teaching the Internet

BI-L (Bibliographic Instruction Listserv)
listserv@bingvmb.cc.binghamton.edu
Send an e-mail message. Leave the subject line blank. Type *SUBSCRIBE BI-L YourFirstName YourLastName*.

Barlow, Linda. "The Spider's Apprentice." *Monash Information Services.* 1997: **http://www.monash.com/spidap.html** (26 April 1997).

Makulowich, John S. "Tips On How To Teach The Internet." *Online* (Nov.-Dec. 1994): 27-30.

"The Netsearcher's Ultimate Cheat Sheet." *PC Magazine* (3 Dec. 1996): 221-24.

Nettrain **listserv@lists.internic.net**
To subscribe, send an e-mail message. Leave the subject line blank. Type *subscribe net-happenings YourFirstName YourLastName*.

Singh, Amarendra and David Lidsky. "All-Out Search." *PC Magazine* (3 Dec. 1996): 213+.

Evaluating the Internet

Alexander, Janet E. and Marsha A. Tate. *Teaching Critical Evaluation Skills for World Wide Web Resources*. Widener University. 1996: **http://www.science.widener.edu/~withers/webeval.htm** (26 April 1997).

Brandt, D. Scott. *Why We Need to Evaluate What We Find on the Internet*. Purdue University Libraries. nd: **http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/~techman/eval.html** (26 April 1997).

Resources: Other Sites About Evaluating Information on the Internet. University of Washington Libraries. 1996: **http://weber.u.washington.edu/~libr560/NETEVAL/resources.html** (26 April 1997).

Peterson, Billie. *Tech Talk*. LIRT (Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association). 1996. **http://nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu/~hsswww/lirt/dec96/techtalk.html** (28 April 1997).

Quint, Barbara. "Critiquing The Quality Of Your Search Results—It's Not What You Know, It's..." *Online User* 3, no.1, (Jan 1997) **http://www.onlineinc.com/oluser/JanOU97/quint1.html** (28 April 1997).

Tillman, Hope N. "Evaluating Quality On The Net." *Hope's Happy Home Page*. Babson College. 1997: **http://www.tiac.net/users/hope/findqual.html** (26 April 1997).

Webber, Sheila. *Business Information Sources on the Internet: Reviews of Search Engines*. The University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, nd: **http://www.dis.strath.ac.uk/business/search.html** (26 April 1997).