April 1993

Innovations Affecting Us/ CNIDER

Judy Luther
The Faxon Company

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Luther, Judy (1993) "Innovations Affecting Us/ CNIDER," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 5: Iss. 2, Article 12.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1371>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Innovations Affecting Us

Column Editor: **Judy Luther** (The Faxon Company)

Information In Cyberspace - The Next Generation

Tight budgets and serial cancellations are focusing more attention on alternative sources of materials, such as document delivery and electronic journals, which may not be added to the collection. Electronic journals are sufficiently new that we are still defining how we will catalog, store and provide access to them locally.

The Internet has provided an infrastructure for electronic communication and publishing as evidenced by the rapid growth of listserves such as ACQNET, SERIALST, NASIGNET and the *Newsletter On Serials Pricing Issues*. Additional applications of the Internet, are still in the experimental stages while we explore what is available and determine its usefulness.

The changing formats and evolving sources of information lead us to question how acquisition librarians fit into this new environment. **George Brett**, the Director of **CNIDR** (pronounced "snyder"), the Clearinghouse for Networked Information Discovery and Retrieval offered some insights on existing tools and new projects that show us how the Internet is developing.

Not to be confused with CNI, the Coalition for Networked Information which represents ARL, CAUSE and EDUCOM — CNIDR is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Center for Communications at MCNC in the Research Triangle Park, NC. George can be reached on e-mail at "George.Brett@-CNIDR.org" or by phone 919-248-1886.

As a clearinghouse, CNIDR fosters the development and use of freely available tools that adhere to emerging standards such as Z39.50. Working to build consensus within the Internet community is a job George describes as similar to "herding cats"! CNIDR serves as an honest broker to insure full credit is given to the contributors of these works, such as Kermit whose credits are three pages long.

Existing Internet software includes: Gopher (which provides access to menus for different servers), Veronica (which can keyword search these menus), WAIS (which offers a search engine capability), Worldwide Web (which offers access to

hypertext), Archie (which offers access to archives of anonymous FTP). There are now 900 Gopher and 400 WAIS servers making databases available on the Internet.

To aid in navigating the Internet, NSF has contracted with three corporations on a project called **InterNIC** (Internet Network Information Center) to develop needed tools. The Internet Scout, a help desk function, is being developed by General Atomics in San Diego; a directory of directories is being created by AT&T Bell Labs in Holmdel, NJ; and registration services are being handled by Network Solutions, Inc. in Herndon, VA.

Although much of the information currently available is more suited to personal interests, CNIDR is working with NLM on an information locator project and with the U.S. Geological Survey on a version of WAIS with windows. At least two university presses are determining how to mount journals for distribution on the Internet.

Currently, the Internet is funded by NSF and focused on supporting scholarly activities. When commercial use of the Internet is addressed, both WAIS and Gopher+ have the capability for billing which is necessary for the commercial

sector. WAIS was created with the intention of promoting electronic publishing and can be used on x25 and TCPIP.

As useful databases proliferate and the tools to use them become more readily available, libraries will want to take advantage of these resources for our patrons. The traditional role for acquisitions may well be adapted to identifying databases, verifying their source, and providing pointers to their location on the Net.

To prepare for this expanded role, we need to learn more about how to access these sources of information. The **PACS-L** listserve is one good source. To join, send the following e-mail message to **LISTSERV@UHUPVM1.-UH.EDU**: **SUBSCRIBE PACS-L** First Name Last Name.

On Friday, June 25th, ACRL will host a workshop on "Navigating and Navigators: Research and Development in Navigational Tools and Services for the Internet" led by **George Brett** and **Peggy Seiden**, Head of Public Services at Skidmore College. For more information contact ACRL 800-545-2433 x2521.✉

Call For Ideas, Speakers, Etc.

The 1993 (12a) Charleston Conference
Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition: Bubble, Bubble, Toil & Trouble
November 4-6, 1993
Charleston, SC

The 1993 Charleston Conference will deal with issues regarding acquisitions, collection development and technical services, scholarly publishing and selection of print, electronic and other materials, vending of materials, standards, and issues which impact the world of publishing, vending and acquiring and accessing materials in the library environment.

The 1993 Charleston Conference will have several new features — including "Conversations at Breakfast" and "Conversations at Supper" as well as old standbys such as "Lively Lunches." If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, or

would like to make sure that we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. Nothing ventured . . .

Send ideas by **May 15, 1993** to: **Judy Webster**, Coordinator, 1993 Charleston Conference; Head, Acquisitions and Processing Team; University of Tennessee Library; 1015 Volunteer Blvd.; Knoxville, TN 37996-1000. Phone (615)974-4431; FAX(615)974-2708; Internet: Webster@UTKLIB.LIB.-UTK.EDU✉