

Internet for the Librarian

I feel honoured to be invited to be the Guest Editor for the special issue of *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology* on 'Internet for the Librarian'. A bird's eye view of the contents of this issue is given below:

Indira Subbaram's paper 'Internet in a Nutshell' gives an overview of Internet. Besides a brief introduction to and a brief history of Internet, the paper discusses the basic concepts of the Net and the tools available on it like e-mail, Gopher, Telnet, Ftp, Archie, Listserv, World Wide Web and others. What is needed to get connected to Internet and details of Internet service providers in India are touched upon.

Next, Rajashekar, in his paper 'Internet Services : An Introduction' provides excellent examples as to how to use the tools in detail. He takes us through some sites of librarian's interest via Web browser, shows how to do ftp, Telnet and gives more information of various tools and commands.

The next two papers are of great reference value. 'Internet Sites of Librarian's Interest' by Judi Wolinsky describes over 100 internet resources which are of immense interest to the patrons of a library in general; Barbara Stewart describes, in her paper entitled

'Internet Advantages for the Technical Services Librarian' more than 300 plus Internet sites which are of great interest and importance to the librarian himself as a professional. Stewart's paper could be used in locating sources of information that will be useful in several functions such as cataloguing, reference service, acquisitions service, serials management, special materials management. special emphasis is on technical services management.

First, the readers may secure an Internet connection based on Indira Subbaram's inputs. Then they learn how to surf the Net using Rajashekar's examples. Thereafter readers can be rest assured of several months of fun, information, instructions; shocks and surprises as they explore the Internet resources brought to their notice by Wolinsky and Stewart.

I trust that this special issue on 'Internet for the Librarian' will lead the readers to happy, enjoyable and purposeful Netsurfing, leading to a high degree of professional fulfilment.

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Guest Editor