

Internet and personal computing fads.

Mary Ann Bell, Mary Ann Berry and James Van Roekel. New York: Haworth Press, 2004. 210p. ISBN 0 7890 1771 7 (pbk).

Price: US\$15.95

This book has been described as “an easy-to-understand guide to the often confusing computer/Internet jargon”, and that is precisely what it is! It is written in terms understandable to the layman, and it includes everyday terms used in:

- general computer use – bandwidth, cookies, CAD, HTML, spamming, Linux, geek speak, shareware, URL
- information-related aspects – cybrarian (which has an unexpected definition), search engines, information society, e-books, hyperfiction, e-zines, electronic publishing
- computer-related aspects in business – palm computers (or PDAs), new economy, internet advertising, online conferences, dot-com
- computer-related aspects in multimedia development – multimedia, online conferences
- computer-related aspects in entertainment – digital cinema, digital imaging, digital video, gaming, comic sites, media streaming, Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI)
- computer-related aspects in communication – chat rooms, email, instant messaging, blogging, emoticons, internet radio, Internet Relay Chat (IRC), multi-user domains (MUDS), MP3s, new media, skins, usenet, cybercafes
- computer-related aspects in education – distance education, Webquest
- computer-related aspects for the future – virtual reality, wireless application protocols (WAP), wireless networks

It also includes terms related to the historical development of computers – computer hardware, Luddite, Mac versus PC, punched cards.

There is an alphabetical contents page of the terms covered in the front of the book, and a more detailed index at the back. This book is useful for looking up those computer terms which one has heard or read, but is not quite sure what they mean. It would be of interest in a public and an academic library.

Reviewed by: Yvonne Blomkamp, Information Officer, UCT/MRC Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town.

Tel: +27 (21) 650 4579

Email: yblomkam@sports.uct.ac.za

Internet guide to travel health.

Elizabeth Connor. New York: Haworth Information Press, 2004. 150p. ISBN 0 7890 1824 1 (pbk).

Price: US\$14.95