

students to the Internet. Although aimed at a British audience, many of the sources mentioned are of general interest. Other sources, such as government sources and networks available for the United Kingdom only, would need to be supplemented by local equivalents. The book is aimed at directing students to achieve hands-on experience: they should try out the URLs (Uniform Resource Locators) which are almost all aimed at enhancing the student's subject-related learning experiences.

The practical and easy to follow presentation covers the following main aspects:

- What is the Internet and how to use it?
- Essential techniques: telnet, gopher, World-Wide Web
- Searching for information sources
- Keeping up with new sources
- Publishing on the Internet
- Citing electronic sources.

Throughout the book the specific needs of students are borne in mind. The authors do not claim to cover everything about the Internet, but instead focus on essentials necessary to identify information for study purposes. Since students will have to find jobs and also have recreational needs, job opportunities and a few recreational aspects such as travelling are included. It is stressed that the Internet does not provide all available information, but complements printed and other electronic resources. The book also succeeds in bringing the vast array of Internet resources to the readers' attention, without overloading them with information. The variety of Internet services and resources covered include discussion lists, newsgroups, gophers, FTP, World-Wide Web, electronic journals, Internet search engines and subject directories. As with any other book on the Internet, there is of course no guarantee that the addresses given are still valid and in use.

A brief but clear description is provided on search techniques, for example the use of Boolean operators, proximity operators and searching in specific sections only. Unfortunately the authors neglect to point out the disadvantages of truncation, especially too short truncation of a word stem.

The very basic section dealing with publishing on the Internet is just enough to whet the readers' appetites, and to get them started (as is the authors' intention). However, the authors also provide directions to supplementary sources on Web publishing and the use of HTML. Methods of keeping up to date with new developments, books and journals on the Internet are also indicated.

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The book is recommended for Information Science courses where the Internet is taught as part of a module or paper, as well as for any other academic department wishing to introduce the Internet to its students. Sources mentioned should, however, be supplemented by sources of local relevance.

## **The student's guide to the Internet**

Winship, I. & McNab, A.

London: Library Association Publishing

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*The student's guide to the Internet* is a concise, easy to use handbook aimed at introducing university and college

The book can be ordered from Bookpoint Ltd., 39 Milton Park, Abingdon, OXON, OX144TD. United Kingdom. Tel: 01235 400 400; Fax: 01235 832068.

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