NREN and the Internet:
A Select ERIC Bibliography

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Provides guidelines on using two national networks, BITNET and the Internet. The discussion covers electronic mail, bulletin boards, collections of public files, downloading files, logging into remote systems over the Internet, online catalogs and local databases on the Internet, and future applications.


This paper highlights some of the reasons why a researcher would wish to search library catalogs through the Internet and problems that may be encountered. Also discusses the efforts of the Northwestern University library’s reference department to provide Internet-related services to faculty.


Discusses the Internet, an interconnected array of scientific research networks. The role of libraries in the Internet is discussed; the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) and Advanced Network Services (ANS) are described; and economic issues of the Internet are raised, including external economy and public good.


Discusses issues involved in the creation of the National Research and Education Network (NREN). Telecommunications technology is described; support from industry and libraries is discussed; and problems with NREN are raised, including equal access to computerized information, privacy issues, and protection of First Amendment rights.


Discusses the National Research and Education Network (NREN) and explains its role in the information infrastructures of higher education and research. Stages in the growth of NREN from 1970 to 2015 are described, finances are discussed, prospects for management and users are considered, and suggestions for future growth, finances, and public policy regulation are offered.


Holds that security, privacy, and equality of access are major issues to be considered as institutions of higher education make use of educational networks such as the Internet to enhance research and learning. Discusses ethical issues in computer access and the risks involved in inadequate computer security.


The development of an infrastructure of computer networks based on the present Internet is creating a new environment for dissemination of public information, and government information will be an integral force in the expansion of computer networks. These factors will blur the distinction between information dissemination and access to information under the Freedom of Information Act.


Describes the Internet, a collection of telecommunications networks that links government agencies, educational institutions, and other research organizations so that users can share access to databases and files. Topics discussed include problems in identifying what is available; access concerns; ethical behavior; support and training issues for libraries; and the librarian’s role.


Presents a publisher’s perspective on providing information via the National Research and Education Network (NREN). Highlights include an overview of the publishing industry; four pilot projects that created various electronic information delivery systems; benefits over printed materials; and three sidebars that offer other perspectives on publishers and NREN.


Discusses the accessibility of networked information services, i.e., National Research and Education Network (NREN), and suggests a focus on research in two particular areas to identify and meet the information needs of network users: (1) a conceptual description of the academic networked environment, particularly from a user perspective; and (2) the development of performance measures.

Discusses issues related to the idea of a virtual library, or electronic library, in an academic setting. Topics discussed include access to academic libraries via personal computers; online catalogs; wide area networks, such as Internet, and their impact on library and computer center services; administrative issues; human and technological issues; and technological advances.


This new column describes the Internet and provides a guide to its resources for new users. The hierarchical organization of Internet is explained; library applications including cataloging, bibliographic instruction, government documents, interlibrary loan, reference, and serials are described; access to Internet is explained; common problems are explored; and topics of future columns are announced.


This discussion of the NREN focuses on balancing the needs of a wider user constituency with those of the more technical scientific community. The flow of information technology is discussed, including the roles of schools, universities, and libraries; and issues of government intervention and questions of funding are addressed.

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