VALL REVIEW

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Vancouver Association of Law
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF VALL

Dorothy Cameron

Does anybody know where the time has gone? I dare say that it has flown the same route as my memory. When one reflects on the passage of time and the changes that have occurred, it is safe to say the job we have today is not the same job we had when we first started. Who remembers typewriters with self correcting tape, searching Lexis with dot commands or life before Internet?

It was before Internet as we know it, that VALL was established twelve years ago. While perusing the V.A.L.L. Presidents' File 1988-89, I noticed a number of changes. The most evident changes are that the acronym V.A.L.L. evolved to VALL, that correspondence was typed and photocopied and letterhead had no indication of e-mail or website addresses.

VALL has moved from paper to electronic with the website at http://www.vall.vancouver.bc.ca/vall.htm where we have the VALL Review, Notes to the Membership, and Notices of Luncheon Meetings available. When all else fails, we still have the telephone.

The articles submitted to this edition of the VALL Review reflect ongoing changes in our lives. "Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them." Henry Steele Commager

The Executive of VALL wish everyone a festive holiday season and a healthy happy New Year, with enough changes to make the year interesting and not too busy.

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FROM THE EDITORS

Anne Beresford

Internet/Intranet use in Vancouver Law Firms

In January 1998 Bull Housser library surveyed 27 law firms regarding internet access and intranet development. The September issue of the VALL Review describes one library's initiatives in the Knowledge Management and intranet arena, so we thought it might be fitting to review advances generally in firms since the 1998 survey. The field has changed somewhat, since 1998 four firms underwent national mergers and name changes while three firms were dissolved.

In 1998, 27 firms were surveyed. 6 firms reported internet access, 14 had standalone or partial access and 7 had no access. Today full desktop access to the Internet has become available in the 21 firms.

Intranets have been the focus of attention in the firms, but the growth has been more gradual. In January 1998 there were 7 firms with full intranets, 2 in progress, and none in the remaining 18 firms. Today 11 firms report developed intranets, 3 are in the works, and 7 firms report no activity.

Responses regarding library involvement in intranet development the survey reflects some activity but a variation in responsibility among the firms. Of the 14 firms with intranets, responsibility is shared by Systems or IT with the Library, and other departments, i.e. Marketing or Human Resources. 6 firms mentioned Intranet committees, with librarians as members in 4 instances, and not on the committee in two firms. Two firm libraries report 75 - 95% responsibility, 1 - 50%, and 10 report from 5 - 25%. The 14th is just getting started. In three of the firms with a national presence, there is mention of a Chief Knowledge Officer or a National Technology Committee. Mergers tend to cause a temporary slowdown in development as the committees wrestle with national issues. In terms of intranet development, bigger isn't necessarily better.

For those of us who attended CALL in Charlottetown, we were wowed by the intranet

presentations, involving John Hokkanen, the intranet guru consultant, and the PLL SIG presentation on intranets, involving Osler, BLG Montreal, and others. I personally keep waiting for something really exciting to surface on a firm intranet – so bios, pictures, and phone numbers, HR manuals, and other administrative materials are "great" and serve a purpose...but there needs to be more to justify the thousands of dollars being spent. Occasionally you pick up particular gems of information at these presentations, and some of the firms responding to the survey indicated specialized databases, recent cases lawyers are working on, memoranda database, databases of CLE programs with interactive in house registration options, client information databases, experts databases, databases of individual lawyers expertise; legal expertise in other jurisdictions, news and legislative monitoring and push technology. Responses for other KM initiatives in the survey indicated that lack of time and staff were a major factor in delayed intranet development by libraries – also management (including lawyers) consider other priorities higher on the wish list. An intranet has extreme potential for any of the national firms, to increase the bonds which have been established between cities, and facilitate communication and the flow of information, but this has to be recognized and prioritized by management. Co-ordination is key, hence the Chief Knowledge Officer, or even a "Wisdom Administrator" as a recent tongue in cheek article in *Information Outlook* describes this evolving role and title.

As librarians we know the potential of an intranet – and we also know we can play an important role in its development in law firms, but we have to drop our other responsibilities, or rewrite our roles as suggested by Lynda Roberts in her September *VALL Review* article. Some of us are more ready than others to do this.

Finally regarding library software used, of the 21 firms, 15 are using Inmagic/DB/Text and of those only two mention having WebPublisher. Other software used includes SydneyPlus, Eloquent Librarian, Microsoft Access, 1 Q & A, and a Custom Relational DB.
If you would like to draw your own conclusions from this survey, and view some individual comments, the spreadsheet of responses is on

the VALL website. As most firms requested confidentiality all identifying factors have been removed.

References:

Horton, Forest Woody. The Wisdom Administrator: waiting in the wings. *Information Outlook,* September 2000, p. 26.

Roberts, Lynda. *Knowledge Management; going from passive to active. VALL* Review, September 2000, p. 2.

Submissions for the next issue of the VALL Review should be sent, by e-mail preferably, to: *Lynda Roberts*—ljr@bht.com or 646-2535 (fax) *or Anne Beresford*—aberesford@blgcanada.com or 687-1415 (fax). The Deadline for submissions is March 8, 2000

CORRESPONDENCE

An exchange between VALL and the B.C. Government regarding the accessibility of the B.C. Statutes in an electronic format.

July 6, 2000

To: The Honourable Paul Ramsey, Minister of Finance, Victoria, B.C.
From: Jane Wells, President of VALL

Re: Charging of B.C. Statutes On-Line

I am writing on behalf of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries (VALL) to convey the concerns of our membership with regard to the charging of a subscription fee for on-line access to current B.C. Statutes while access to out of date statutes remains free.

Providing current legal information is essential to the work of law librarians. The access of provincial statutory materials is an integral part of the law librarian's responsibility. At present the internet has not improved the access to our provincial statutes, the B.C. Statutes on-line are seriously out of date (October 1998) and require

time and proficiency to update. Our costs to provide this information in both print and electronic format has escalated dramatically. As the costs rise for subscription and on-line service charges, our library budget requirements must be adjusted. Increases in costs affect the quality and diversity of our collections.

Increasingly law librarians are in the position of training library users on the procedures for accessing legal information resources, specifically statutory information on the Internet. The proposed two-tier system would not only make this procedure confusing for library users but it would also introduce yet another option to deter library users from viewing, using and acting upon current legislative information.

The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries supports access to current on-line statutes and access to current legal information from government Internet sites.

Sincerely,

October 17, 2000

To: Jane Wells
From: Paul Ramsey, Minister of Finance

Thank you for your letter of July 6, 2000 regarding British Columbia Statutes on-line.

In your letter you state that the statutes currently available free of charge via the Internet are out of date. As it is the goal of the Queen's Printer to provide up-to-date statutes and regulations free of charge via the Internet, some improvements to the current system are being undertaken. As part of this initiative, the Queen's Printer is working closely with the Office of the Legislative Counsel in the Ministry of Attorney General to reduce the time required to produce the official versions of the statutes and regulations.

The Queen's Printer is also developing a product that will provide improved Internet search capabilities of the statutes and regulations. The "professional version" will be made available on a subscription –basis for use by the legal community

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and others that require advanced search capabilities.

The initiatives identified above will ensure that the public is provided with improved access to current legislation and regulations free of charge and, at the same time, provide a value-added version on a subscription basis to those that require more advanced features.

Once again, thank you for your comments and I trust that the improvements noted above will satisfy your needs.

Yours sincerely,

NEWS

VALL-BCCLS Law Library Work Exchange

Jane Wells

The VALL-BCCLS Focus Group has organized a law library work exchange between the staff of Vancouver law firms and the B.C. Courthouse Library. This program started in September and the staff of eight law firms in Vancouver and the B.C. Courthouse Library are participating. The purpose of the exchange is to enhance the knowledge of the librarians and library staff, in both law library working environments. The participants spend approximately two to three hours in the reciprocating law libraries observing, shadowing and responding to library demands in both reference and technical services. It is encouraged that more than an orientation or tour is provided so that it is, in fact, a work exchange. This program is a result of the recommendations put forward by the VALL-BCCLS Focus Group which was formed in March of 2000. The Focus group was asked to look at ways to improve the legal information services and website provided by the B.C. Courthouse Library. The VALL-BCCLS Focus Group meetings will be an annual event. I would like to thank Anne Beresford, Gwendoline Hoar, Susan Daly, Joan Mulholland, Nancy Connor, Judy Deavy, and Bronwen Jamison for being members of the Focus Group. I would also like to thank McCarthy Tetrault; Bull Housser and Tupper; Lang Michener Lawrence and Shaw; Millar Thomson; Borden Ladner and Gervais; Lawson

Lundell; Harper Grey and Campney Murphy for participating in the exchange
If other law firms are interested in participating in the Law Library Work Exchange, please notify Jane Wells, 925-0480.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Law Firms and Web Design

Steve Matthews

If you produced a detailed flowchart of 20 law firm websites you would find they were remarkably similar. The core elements simply don't change. Law firms have practice groups, lawyers and hopefully a certain amount of content. Add on a "Contact Us" page, a "Firm News" and a "Articling Program" page and you've covered off 90% of law firm websites. So what makes a quality website a quality website? I have contemplated this for six years now, and have three conclusions:
1) Graphic Quality
2) Clean and Legible Design and
3) Quality & Currency of Content.
Whether you're building an Intranet or a Internet website, your final product will be a success if you can master these three elements.

Graphic Quality:

The biggest problem with most web pages is that the designer has not taken the time to master a graphics software package. A quality web graphic can make the difference between someone hitting the back button and actually reading the content on the page. Whatever graphics software you choose, you should work in a high resolution .TIF format during the image creation process. When your picture is perfect, then do a SAVE AS to a web readable format. The two file format options you have for web readable graphics are .GIFs and .JPGs ("jpegs"). There is a simple rule for when to use each of these: always use a .JPG for photographs or pictures, and use a .GIF for logos

or anything that doesn't have a photographic quality. Knowing how and when to use each

format can be the difference between a sharp clean graphic and a grainy distorted looking graphic.

Clean and Legible Design

Second up, the general appearance of the page. The most important part of the page's look is the contrast between the background and the text. Simply put, always use a white background and almost always use black text. This is no place to get creative. If the user can't read the content, they're gone. There's a tag in HTML called <bodybackground> which allows the designer to connect the page background to their favourite "green and blue diamond background" graphic. Do everyone a favour and forget I told you about that tag.

Another element of a clean page is the font. I'm a firm believer in "Arial" as a default page font because it is round and large. That doesn't mean you can't pick another font, but round and large are very desirable features.

Quality & Currency of Content

Lets face it, most legal websites fall down in this regard. If they actually have content on their site, it's poorly arranged, out of date, the issues aren't timely, or it's in the wrong format. The simplest solution to all of these problems is to make the publication process easier. You can't control the feed of content from lawyers, but there's no reason a submitted publication cannot be on the website that same day. That means creating web templates for each style or format of content your site publishes. If you have a great printable template in MS Word, consider posting Adobe .PDFs on your site rather than converting to HTML. You could also create a title page template with a link off to the .PDF file. That way, your lawyers could send out an e-mail with a link to the webpage and not be concerned with the other party waiting several minutes for the .PDF to download. Nothing a webmaster does will impress more than speed of publication production.

RECOMMENDED GRAPHICS SOFTWARE:

Since web pages are made up of HTML pages and embedded graphics, the creation of images to embed is an essential skill. I personally use the following three software packages.

MS IMAGE COMPOSER - Lots of filters and graphic effects. One function is a "sharpen light" filter that will crisp up a blurred image without making it look grainy.

NETSTUDIO - This software is as easy as it gets. You can create very impressive graphics without being a graphic artist. One feature I like is the ability to fade and blend two images so you can't tell where one ends and the other begins.

MACROMEDIA FIREWORKS - This software has an excellent "Slicing" feature. Rather than creating a number of smaller images and embedding them in a web page, with slicing you can create one large graphic image, slice it up, and let the software create the webpage.

RECOMMENDED HTML EDITORS:

NETSCAPE COMPOSER - easy to use, works very much like a word processor, good possibility for departments maintaining intranet content with little web experience. If you can use MS Word, you can use composer.

ALLAIRE HOMESITE or MACROMEDIA DREAMWEAVER - more sophisticated, good control of fonts and presentation.

WINDOWS NOTEPAD/WORDPAD - any html editor above should be supplemented with a text editor to tweak exported code. No matter how good a job the software does, there's no such thing as a perfect WYSIWYG web editor.

The HTML export functions in MS WORD and EXCEL are forever improving. A good technique is to export content created in these traditional law firm software packages to HTML, and using an editor like Composer to clean up the final product.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

CNET BUILDER –
www.builder.com -- great tutorials, and trend analysis

THE CGI RESOURCE INDEX –
www.cgi-resources.com -- essential source of freeware / shareware perl scripts

BARE BONES HTML GUIDE -
http://werbach.com/barebones/ -- printable list of html tags for reference.

WEB DEVELOPERS VIRTUAL LIBRARY
http://www.stars.com/ -- first stop for web tutorials

Quick tips for professional looking Intranet Pages

Amber Lannon

You are nearing the end of your Intranet project. You have planned and strategized; you have familiarized yourself with the technology, and you have written and edited the content. Now its time to sit down and actually design your pages. While graphics and backgrounds are no substitute for useful content, a good design can be used to support your content and to enhance your Intranet's appeal. Some important aspects to consider follow:

✍ Colors: Color is used most effectively when colors are chosen to support the message you are trying to convey through your pages. Consider the effect that different colors will have on the user. A professional look can be achieved by choosing three colors: two complimentary colors and one contrasting color used for highlighting important information or areas of your page. An RGB chart is an easy way to choose colors, you can find one at:
http://home.flash.net/~drj2142/pages/rgbhex.html

✍ Graphics: Graphics can be distracting and make your page slow to load. However, they can be used to emphasize your content and improve the appeal of your Intranet. I usually choose one to two graphics that support the message of the page and are consistent with the look and feel of our Intranet.

✍ Fonts: Above all a font should be legible and work well with the colors and graphics your have chosen. If you are using a background or a background color ensure that there is enough contrast (i.e. gray type on a black background is difficult to read). Traditional typefaces look most professional. You can't go wrong with choosing one font and using its variants (bold, italic, etc.) for all your needs.

✍ Blank Space: One of the most overlooked aspects of a page is its white or blank space. You should plan for a lot of blank space on your page – this makes your page easier to read and it places the focus on your content.

✍ Navigation: The principal method for navigating an Intranet is a set of links or buttons grouped together on the page into a navigation bar. Where and how to display this bar is the topic of a great deal of study and debate. That said, there are two basic rules to follow: your navigation bar should have no more than eight to ten items in it and vertical lists are easier to read than horizontal lists. Problems arise when you have more than ten "places" that you want to be accessible from your page. An easy yet effective solution is to use one horizontal list and one vertical list on the same page with 5-8 items in each. If you decide to go this route, make sure that the items in each grouping are comparable in scope. For example, our Intranet page has a horizontal navigation bar across the top with links to all of our administrative departments: Accounting, Marketing, Information Services, etc. In a vertical bar we have put links to our directory, our bookmarks, a map of the office, etc. Finally, the "links" in your navigation bar can be represented either by text or icons. If icons are used, text labels should always accompany them.

✍ Scrolling: All of your critical content and your navigation bar should be on the top part of your page – it should be visible without scrolling.

✍ Transmission & Testing: If your pages or any critical content on your pages take more than 8-10 seconds to load, you should consider making changes. Finally, test your pages on a variety of computers in the firm. It may not look the same on every PC, but ensure that at least everyone is getting the same content.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BC Securities Commission address has changed, effective December 1, 2000, to:
P.O. Box 10142, Pacific Centre
701 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C. V7Y 1L2

Connell Lightbody ceased operation on October 31st.

Carole Burley went to *Fraser Milner Casgrain* after the breakup of Douglas Symes Brissenden.

Swinton & Co. is now *Miller Thomson* and **Elizabeth Kinersly's** email address has changed to: ekinersl@millerthomson.ca.

Janis Pethybridge has left *CCH*.

New Members

Andrews, Shayne
Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants
573 Palisade Dr.
North Vancouver, BC V7R 2H9
Phone: 552-2063
Fax: 904-5102
Email: shaynea@intergate.ca

Heung, Katie
Legal Services Society
Legal Resource Centre
200 - 1140 W. Pender St.
Vancouver, BC V6E 4G1
Phone: 601-6095
Fax: 682-0985
Email: katie.heung@lss.bc.ca

Oriente, Rachele
Federal Treaty Negotiation Office
& Specific Claims
800 - 1138 Melville Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4S3
Phone: 775-6521
Fax: 775-7922
Email: orienter@inac.gc.ca
Saxon, Carol
Insurance Corporation of BC
Information Resource Centre, Room 249

151 West Esplanade
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3H9
Phone: 661-2739
Email: carol.saxon@icbc.com

Schachter, Debbie
BC Courthouse Library Society
3rd Floor, 800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E1
Phone: 660-2910
Fax: 660-9418
Email: dschachter@bccls.bc.ca

PETER BARK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY

Application Guidelines

The **Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary** was established by the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries (VALL) in February 1991 to commemorate Peter Bark and his contribution to VALL and law librarianship. The purpose of the Bursary is to assist members demonstrating financial need to attend:

    ✍ meetings of the **Canadian Association of Law Libraries** (CALL)

    ✍ meetings of other library associations

    ✍ continuing education workshops

    ✍ other professional development activities

AMOUNT

Up to a maximum of $1,000 per year may be awarded that may be divided amongst eligible applicants.

ELIGIBILITY

&& Applicants will have been members of VALL for one year.

&& Financial circumstances of applicant(s) will be considered.

&& Preference will be given to applicant(s) who: are attending a professional conference for the first time, or have conference responsibilities, or are active in CALL and/or VALL or in the law library community.

CONDITIONS

Recipients may be requested to attend particular sessions at the meeting / seminar as VALL representatives. Recipients will prepare a written report for publication in the September issue of **VALL Review** and may also present an oral report at the June VALL meeting.

APPLICATION

Apply by letter stating:
&& how you meet the eligibility criteria,
&& how you intend to use the funds and
&& the reasons you wish to attend.

Please send your application by March 1st to:
VALL
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, BC V7X 1A1

Attention: Past President

TREASURER'S REPORT

VALL Chequing Account Balance:	4,685.00
Peter Bark Memorial Fund:	12,906.47
T-Bill Account	2,329.53
36 month Term Deposit	10,500.00
Equity Shares	76.94
Total:	**$17,591.69**

UPCOMING EVENTS

&& **SLA Winter Meeting**, January 25-27, 2001, Savannah, Georgia, SLA Winter Meeting Online Northwest 2001, January 26, 2001, Portland Oregon

&& **Information Highways** 2001 Conference, March 26 - 27, 2001, Toronto, Ontario

&& 2001: A Learning Odyssey: The Annual **BC Library Conference**, Metrotown Hilton, Burnaby, BC - April 19-21, 2001

&& **SLA Annual Meeting**, June 9-14, 2001, San Antonio, Texas Annual Conference

&& **CLA**, Annual Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba June 13-17, 2001.

&& **AALL Annual Meeting**, July 14 – 19, 2001, Minneapolis, Minnesota, www.aallnet.org/events/

&& **Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference**, August 8 - 11, 2001, Corvallis, Washington

&& **Internet Librarian**, November 6-8, 2001, Pasadena, California, http://www.infotoday.com/il2000/default.htm

FROM THE BC COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SOCIETY

Staff Changes

Mary Motta, whose lilting voice you hear on the photocopy request line, is retiring a the end of 2000. Deanne Graham, who works in Photocopy/Circulation and retrieves overdue books with unfailing good cheer, is also retiring at the end of the year.

Chris Kycinsky a.k.a. Chris Taylor has moved back to her home town of Hamilton, Ontario and Ana Rosa Blue left the Society to take a position with the Canadian Venture Exchange.

Tracey Carmichael has also left to take a job with the B.C. Securities Commission. Jane Wells was Tracey's maternity leave replacement and she stayed on until the end of November to assist us in training new staff.

This fall two new librarians, Susy Caird and Toby Willis-Camp, joined the reference staff. Toby is a recent SLAIS graduate and Susy comes from

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Richmond and New Westminster public libraries. Debbie Schachter also joined the staff this fall as Assistant to the Executive Director. Debbie was previously at Pacific Press Library.

Shepards

The B.C. Courthouse Library Society can now Shepardize cases for a flat fee. The cost is $15.00 for one case and $10.00 for each subsequent case. You can restrict your results by date, treatment and jurisdiction. Contact the reference staff at 660-2841 for more details or to order a search.

Legal Research Coaching

The British Columbia Courthouse Library Society is now offering a **Customized Legal Research Coaching Service** to librarians, lawyers, and law firm staff. A member of our reference staff will conduct private one-on-one sessions or group training, customized to meet your specific needs. The sessions will be arranged at your convenience, at the Vancouver Courthouse Library.

The cost is $100.00 per hour per person. Contact **Linda Morrison** at 660-2841 or e-mail to lmorrison@bccls.bc.ca to make an appointment.

INTERNET CORNER

From the Internet Librarian 2000 Conference

Lynda Roberts

Miscellaneous links to Websites and other bits and pieces from this year's conference:

Webmasters' Roundtable Internet Librarian 2000 with Darlene Fichter Northern Lights Internet Solutions Ltd. In her presentation, Darlene, offered pointers on creating a better website:

- Content should be focussed on the 80% who use the site rather than struggling to please the 20% that don't
- Organization, navigation and design are important. Navigation should be fast, simple, intuitive and result driven
- Results should be categorical in a table rather than alphabetical or in long columns
- A "jump" or navigation bar is a good idea
http://www.lights.com/talks/2000.il/webwizards/index_files/frame.htm

Most of the PowerPoint presentations from the Internet Librarian 2000 Conference are posted: http://www.infotoday.com/il2000/presentations/default.htm however, without the speaker notes, few have any great value.

Suzanne Levesque, Business Information Specialist, Information Services, ENMAX Corporation gave an comprehensive presentation on the the **Creation of a Portalized Library** [POWERPOINT SLIDES]. Basically she outlined the process of creating an Intranet or library portal in her organization from nothing.

Emedicine – http://www.emedicine.com/ - Medical textbooks available online including ex-rays and illustration plus addition comments by authors and physicians. Some texts are still works in progress - look for the green dot indicating completed topics.

Free medical journals – http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/ -- free access to medical journals over the Internet. There are a few hundred medical journals archived on this site.

Publist – http://www.publist.com/ - index to more than 150,000 magazines, journals, newsletters, & other periodicals. information on publications from around the world, representing thousands of topics.

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Jake - Jake.med.yale.edu – Part of Ulrichs, jake (Jointly Administered Knowledge Environment) is a reference source used to find online journals and journal articles. jake does this by managing online resource metadata with a database union list, title authority control, and linking tools, as well as making it easy to add a local holdings layer.

DocMorph - docmorph.nlm.nih.gov/docmorph/ -- The DocMorph Server is an experimental prototype web server for processing library information through the World Wide Web. It is designed and operated by the Communications Engineering Branch, part of the National Library of Medicine's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications. By registering you can use the technology for free. It allows users from any place on the Internet to upload scanned image files for conversion to alternative formats. By using your web browser, you can upload files to their Server for conversion, and usually in less than one minute your results are ready. The DocMorph Server does not change the original file on your hard disk. It only delivers to you the converted file, which you may store on your computer at your option.

Libdex – www.libdex.com - a worldwide directory of library homepages and web-based OPACs on the Internet. Software created by Northern Lights.

Search for adobe files in the "Invisible Web"-- searchpdf.adobe.com - a means to search the millions of .pdf files on the Web.   Postscript and .pdf documents are impossible to find on the web using traditional search engines. These documents make up a collection otherwise known as "Invisible Web".

Who links to your site? – in a Google or AltaVista search box enter the address of your website after the word "link:" -- e.g. <link:www.bht.com>

Quotations -- http://www.xrefer.com/ -- Free access to over 300,000 entries - facts, words, concepts, people & quotations covering art, music, history, business, law, literature, health, science

Surfwax search engine – http://www.surfwax.com/ -- a meta search engine – has a few unique features: scope notes in order to "focus" your searc h terms and "site snaps" .

Research Index – http://www.researchindex.com/ A very powerful index to digital scientific literature. It includes extensive citation information and computes statistics and finds related documents for all articles. ResearchIndex also indexes those difficult to find Postscript and PDF research documents that make up the "Invisible Web". A project of the NEC Research Institute, the software, algorithms and techniques can be downloaded for use in your own library.

Did you know that in October 2000, Google finally introduced support for the Boolean OR operator? Check out more about **Search Engines** from Greg Notess, a writer and speaker who presented at the Internet Librarian Conference -- http://www.searchengineshowdown.com/

More Google news: If you want to restrict your search to an URL, use the term "allinurl", e.g. allinurl:vall. More news at **Research Buzz** -- http://www.researchbuzz.com/

What We Need to Know to Direct Our Future – links to two interesting presentations that try to sum up the big picture:
♪ Darlene Fichter, Northern Lights Internet Solutions Ltd. http://www.lights.com/talks/2000.il/cluetrai n/ (Internet Explorer recommended)
♪ Rebecca Jones, Dysart & Jones Associates, http://www.infotoday.com/il2000/presentat ions/jones.ppt