

## New Sites for Focused Browsing

### Replacing Old Journals

If your editorial group is responsible for maintaining your library, as mine is, you are probably familiar with the frustration, time, and expense of finding and retrieving a past issue of a journal. To help with this problem, Readmore, Inc. (the journal-ordering service company) sponsors a Website called Backserv, "a list devoted exclusively to the informal exchange of serial back issues and books among libraries" (1).

Participants may leave searchable messages indicating their interest in finding or making available back issues of any serial. In my case, I searched BackMed, Radiology looking for an issue of a medical journal specializing in radiology. Luckily I found that a correspondent had the volume and issue I needed; I was able to get the copy for the price of postage. If I hadn't found what I needed, the site has a list of back-issue dealers. Moreover, Readmore provides access to the dealers' catalogs that can be browsed or searched online. In the original spirit of the Internet, this site is a public service sponsored by Readmore: You do not need to be a customer of Readmore to participate.

### Online Dictionary

You may now gain Web access to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th Edition (1994), free of charge (2). This searchable database allows wildcard searches, provides links to cross-references in definitions, and contains biographic and geographic names. As noted in the newsletter *Copy Editor* (3), the Web version contains material from the 1994 copyright printing but does not contain new words added to later editions. This is a bit illogical because electronic files are so much easier to modify than print versions, but even more so from the user's point of view; like many users, I usually need an Internet dictionary when my printed copy does not have the most recent additions.

### Creating a Web Presence

If you are planning to develop a Web presence in your organization, you may have an interest in the following description about

how the Website here at the Radiology Department of Brigham and Women's Hospital came to be and how it continues to be administered. The decision for us to create a Website was made by the department chairman working with the director of informatics. These two envisioned the Web as an opportunity to share the wealth of our department's clinical and research information at a modest cost. They then made 4 critical decisions:

- Hire a full-time Website coordinator with an interest and expertise in communications and education.
- Have the coordinator be part of the publications group for the department. They saw this initiative as an extension of our print communications, which could give the new effort a proven organizational framework. The relationship with the medical staff, the departmental support, and the priorities had already been worked out for print communications, so the focus could be on issues that were unique to Web publishing.
- Have the coordinator's office be in the informatics section among computer scientists and physicians. A Website does have a significant technical component that is still evolving, so an ongoing source of computer-science expertise is critical.
- Operate the site with a core staff of 4 people plus contributors: the coordinator, the department head (MD), the head of informatics (MD), and the publications group manager (editor). This core has meant that our site is constantly being evaluated from multiple perspectives. The coordinator assures that the disciplines are combined in a positive manner.

The organizational framework for a new Web effort is critical for smooth operation and high quality. Are there any readers with stories to tell? We're poised to listen.

### Job Hunting? Personnel Hunting?

Try out a few of the online resources.

- *Copy Editor* (4) is an especially well-attended site. Jobs are posted for 3 weeks.

There is no fee either to post an opening or to respond to postings. The time limit keeps the list short enough to browse easily. Part of each job must entail some degree of copyediting. This site came to my attention by courtesy of Judy Dickson.

- Society for Technical Communication (5) has extensive listings on a wide range of jobs and is glad to add your opening; no fees. This site does not convey a feeling of care and attention that I got from the *Copy Editor* site but then, few do. Freelance (contract) and permanent placements are advertised.

Share the wealth. Let me know about your finds on the Web. [edwards@ulna.bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:edwards@ulna.bwh.harvard.edu)

### References

1. Readmore Corporation. Backserv. <http://www.readmore.com/electron/backserv/backlist.html> (2 January 1997).
2. WWWebster Search Screen. <http://www.m-w.com/newdict.htm> (2 February 1997).
3. Where the words are on the house. *Copy Editor* 1996 Oct/Nov:7.
4. Copy Editor. About jobs for copy editors. <http://www.copyeditor.com> (2 February 1997).
5. Society for Technical Communication. Self Service Job Leads Database. [http://www.stc-va.org/cgi-bin/./db\\_manager.cgi](http://www.stc-va.org/cgi-bin/./db_manager.cgi) (1 February 1997).

### Something's Missing!

This issue of *CBE Views* has no "News About Members". Let us know about your new job, retirement, honors, and other items of interest to CBE members. Send your information (up to 100 words) to Martha Tacker, Editor, *CBE Views*, 704 228th NE, Suite 623, Redmond WA 98053.