

网络生存

WEB LIFE

(英语读物)

刘正光 主编

网·a·终·a·知·a·in·a·丛·a·书



湖南大学出版社

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前 言

19 世纪初叶，华盛顿·欧文笔下的 Rip Van Winkle 在小山村里一觉醒来，发现眼前的一切变得完全陌生，恍如隔世，简直难以相信时代变化如此之快，顿感跟不上时代的步伐了。在快两百年后的今天，当我们已经进入“宽带”传输信息社会的今天，感觉又如何呢？

这是个知识的时代、信息的时代。网络技术的发展与普及更使得知识的更新、信息的传播越来越快。有了网络，我们足不出户，只要轻轻一点就几乎可以同步知道世界上所发生的一切。正如 Osborne Bennet Hardison 所言，我们现代人已越来越 universal 了。也正由于此，我们更加需要新知识、新信息，以更好地把握今天、预测明天。然而，网络到底离我们有多远，我们需要了解它，利用它。一个不可忽视的事实是，无论是网络建设本身，还是信息技术，国外已走到了我们的前面。因此，我们需要学习，需要引进。

学习外语的目的不仅仅是学习外语本身，而更重要的是在外语学习的过程中同时学习新知识，了解新信息。基于以上目的，我们从国外的最新杂志精选了这些精美时文编成一组系列读物，奉献给读者朋友。当然，这不是专题研究，更多的是关于网络在我们生活中方方面面的报道。希望

读者们在享受阅读快乐的同时，能体验到今天的语言的新鲜与活力，了解昨天的语言的陈旧与呆板；藉此聊以对教科书语言的老套做一补救，这也是我们的初衷。

本系列共三册，按语言的难度大致可做如下排序：《网络奇闻》《网络生存》《网络教育》。

人们现在喜欢将网络世界称为虚拟世界。这句话应该说既对又不对。对的是它确实能把我们现实世界模拟到网络之中。不对的是把它看成了是远离我们现实生活的遥远不可及的世界。其实网络就在我们的生活当中，就在我们身边。家人、朋友、财富、国事、家事、天下事、工作、娱乐、美容都能网络一点通。这是种多么惬意、自主、悠闲而同时又充满效率的生活。正因为网络给我们的生活带来的革命，生活在E时代的E人们正以前所未有的方式享受前所未有的生活。盲人看得见了，聋子听得见了，购物不用出门了，找工作不用到处跑了，投资简便了，财富滚滚进来了，人长得更漂亮了，娱乐更新潮了；当然，不用网就落伍了。网络已经给我们展示了无比美好、令人神往的新生活。

网络正在悄然地走进我们的生活，改变着我们生活的方方面面。《网络生存》只是撷取了一些非常有限的片段。真实的网络生活远比我们书中描绘的要丰富多彩。然而，E时代的生活要靠E

人们去体验，去享受。我们愿意把这份美丽留给读者。

2001年4月
编者于岳麓山

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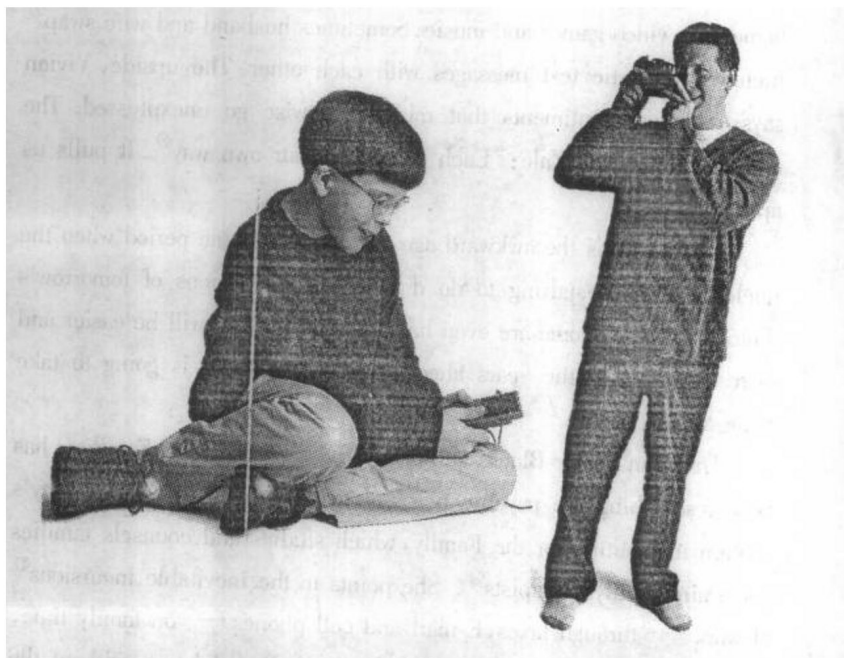
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1. We Will Have Happy Families

导读:

现在有许多人抱怨网络给家庭生活带来了太多的冲击。夫妻间因其中一方迷恋呆在網上而缺少了原有的浪漫与温情,小孩因上網而学坏了。可是网络本身是无辜的。它同时也可以使我们的家庭更充满关怀与爱意。本文记叙了几个家庭因网络的方便与形声并茂而享受更多的欢乐。看来问题还在于我们怎样利用网络。



Here's a rosy^① view of the future family: our kids' social skills and their relationships with us will soar. Broadband^② will spread through the land and allow custom entertainment to be downloaded with the click of a mouse. Sibling^③ battles over hardware and phone lines will fade to a nostalgic^④ memory. Since everyone will telecommute, families will have lots more time to spend together. Above all, our families, wherever they are, will always be connected.

Now want to see how the Internet is changing family life today? Step inside the Englewood, N.J., home of Yale and Vivian Schulman. Yale, a physician, and Vivian, a psychology professor, often disappear into separate rooms and log on to^⑤ the Net. So do their four children. Cocoon-like^⑥, they tend to^⑦ their business — E-mail, banking, homework, video games and music. Sometimes husband and wife swap^⑧ rueful or romantic text messages with each other. The upside, Vivian says, is tender sentiments that might otherwise go unexpressed. The downside, laments^⑨ Yale: "Each of us goes our own way^⑩. It pulls us apart."

Consider this the awkward age, the uncomfortable period when the nuclear family is starting to do digital^⑪. If the visions of tomorrow's thoroughly wired home are even half right, family life will be easier and more enjoyable in the years ahead. But getting there is going to take some doing^⑫.

Dr. Evan Imber-Black, author of *The Secret Life of Families*, has been researching the psychic ties^⑬ of techno-life at New York City's Ackerman Institute for the Family, which studies and counsels families and trains family therapists^⑭. She points to the inevitable incursions^⑮ of work — through faxes, E-mail and cell phones — on family time, the disappearance of the romantic "alone together"^⑯ hours, without the

omnipresent[Ⓢ] handset and the semipermanent disappearance of loved ones into the lair[Ⓢ] of the Net. Imber-Black suggests that families negotiate clear limits on the use of cyber and wireless wonders. Does anyone remember TV hour?

Naturally, some American families are making the transition to the wired domestic world[Ⓢ] better than others. The Hiquet family of Brownsburg, Ind., is a case in point[Ⓢ]. Stacy, a publisher, and Bryan, an at-home dad and onetime electrical engineer, say technology has helped bring together them and their children — two boys, ages six and nine, and a toddler daughter[Ⓢ]. The boys link their Game Boys with a cable and play virtual[Ⓢ] sports together that their different sizes would make impossible in real life. And Stacy and Bryan often sit with them to play games or do research.

The kids customize e-postcards to Grandpa in Terre Haute, Ind., and shoot off[Ⓢ] digital photos with audio — their sweet voices singing *Happy Birthday* — to Great-Grandma in Pennsylvania, who's got herself a cool new Microsoft Web TV and brightens up[Ⓢ] every time her red light flashes.

Bryan's been researching the family genealogy[Ⓢ] on the Web, and building a multimedia family website scrapbook[Ⓢ] that includes video footage[Ⓢ] of his other grandma hobnobbing[Ⓢ] with Hiquet ghosts at the family cemetery in Pennsylvania. With the help of a translation program, he located[Ⓢ] relatives all over the world. After visiting some in Paris, he and Stacy gave their daughter the middle name Rose, after an adorable[Ⓢ] little French Hiquet. During an extended online powwow[Ⓢ] at Christmas, the family decided to get a touch screen PC for Bryan's brother, who is mentally handicapped[Ⓢ] and cannot manage a mouse[Ⓢ].

And when they're not all home? The Hiquets are in touch through

their cell phones. On family outings, they take their Motorola walkie-talkies[®] so they can stay in touch from different cars or find one another among the crowds at Busch Gardens.



It's the communications part of the information revolution that resonates[®] deepest with most families. The Internet's power to conquer space and time is usually cited as its biggest asset[®]. And you don't need an arsenal of equipment or tons of money to do it[®]. Until she found the website MyFamily.com. Judy Mattison, a 57-year-old grandmother from Longview, Wash., was worried she was losing touch with[®] her brothers in California because of the cost of long-distance calls. Now every Friday night at 11, the households of her brothers and grown children — sometimes as many as 15 people — carry on for one or

two hours through the site's free voice chat. All she added to her PC was a \$ 10 microphone.

Other folks make a monthly video call[Ⓢ] to Grandma so they can see how the kids have grown and they can gaze at the hair on her dear gray head — if the picture's not too slow and fuzzy. New York City journalist Peter Noel uses his CUSeeMe video-telephone capability every day to see and hear his 12-year-old son and 18-year-old daughter, who live two blocks[Ⓢ] away with their mother. When he buys the tiny[Ⓢ] Critter camera for his laptop[Ⓢ], he'll be able to feast his eyes on[Ⓢ] them even on his trips to London and Paris.

But these images in no way[Ⓢ] equal real face-to-face talk and, at their worst[Ⓢ], can cause real misunderstandings. Once, Noel sternly admonished[Ⓢ] his son to "be serious"— but the boy already was. His distorted[Ⓢ], laughing image appeared on Peter's screen a good seven seconds[Ⓢ] after he had stopped laughing.

Despite such shortcomings, Noel has decided to use technology to the max[Ⓢ] to stay in touch with his kids, especially the younger one. He has armed the boy with a Palm VII, the wireless personal digital assistant, to match his own, and instructed him to check his E-mail once an hour. Why? Peter is concerned about what may happen to an African-American youth on the streets, and he wants to be instantly available if anything goes wrong.

As technology continues to advance, some families are riding it with glee[Ⓢ]. Jerry Kestenbaum, a New Jersey father of two and an information-services manager by profession[Ⓢ], is as close to the cusp[Ⓢ] of the new era as anyone can be. With his four house-hold PCs linked through a Microsoft Network and his cable modem[Ⓢ] always on, his electronic system usually runs like a dream. Sitting at his own PC, Jerry checks



his kids' daily homework through the network and , when the spelling or construction is faulty[®], he E-mails[®] them to come to his room for supervision[®]. His 11-year-old daughter dutifully obeys. But his 13-year-old outsmarts[®] him and his network with ingenious filenames[®], so Dad can't find her homework.

What will the future hold? You can expect to see more and more people carrying around wireless devices, especially as they become increasingly compact[®], multifunctional and cheaper. We will be connected — often, whether we want to be or not. Our PDAs[®] will scan[®] one another's calendars, check weather and movie times and help us make appointments with our dear ones. These ubiquitous[®] devices will allow greater freedom for children and parents to roam[®], but they will also be a leash[®] that restrains us.

How well families will communicate in the future will be limited

by two pivotal^① factors: how much the people in your house want to communicate — which is something technology can't change — and how fallible^② technology will continue to be. We will have more remote communication — some truncated and impersonal^③, some intimate and thoughtful. And we'll have pictures, words and voice. But we may yearn for^④ physical closeness. Cybereuddling^⑤ will never replace the real thing.

Notes

- ①rosy: 乐观的
- ②broadband: 宽波段的, 本文指网络传输的新技术——宽带。
- ③sibling: 同胞、兄弟
- ④nostalgic: 思乡的, 留恋过去的
- ⑤log on to: 进入
- ⑥cocoon-like: 像茧一样
- ⑦tend to: 照顾
- ⑧swap: 交换
- ⑨lament: 为……而伤心
- ⑩goes our own way: 各行其是; 互不干涉
- ⑪do digital: 此处指数字化; digital: 数字的
- ⑫take some doing: 需要采取实际行动
- ⑬psychic ties: 心理(精神)抽搐(痛苦)
- ⑭therapist: 治疗学家
- ⑮incursion: 突然袭击; 侵入
- ⑯alone together: 单独在一起
- ⑰onnipresent: 无所不在的
- ⑱lair: 兽穴
- ⑲the wired domestic world: 上网家庭; wired: 连线的
- ⑳a case in point: 典型代表