INTERNET ADVENTURES

VERSION 1.2

CYNTHIA B. LESHIN

INTERNET ADVENTURES
Version 1.2

Step-By-Step Guide To Finding And Using Educational Resources

by

Cynthia B. Leshin

Illustrated by Dick Strandberg

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DISCLAIMER

While a great deal of care and research has been taken to provide accurate and current information, an environment as dynamic and rapidly changing as the Internet will inevitably have changes in the factual information. Information may be in one place today and either gone or filed in a new location tomorrow. New sites come up daily; others disappear. Some sites provide new address information; others will not. The publisher and author assume no responsibility for errors or omissions, nor for damages resulting from the use of this information.

As you travel the information superhighway and find that a resource you are looking for can no longer be found at the given Internet address, there are several steps you can take to find the desired resource:

1. Check for a new Internet address or link, often provided on the site of the old address;

2. Use one of the search engines described in Chapter 6 and conduct a search using the title of the Internet resource as keywords.

3. Explore Internet sites such as Yahoo, ERIC, or the World Wide Web Virtual Library, with large directories of educational resources. These sites frequently contain updated links to the best educational resources;

4. As you travel gopherspace and find that a resource you are looking for cannot be found in the given path, search other menus on the server to which you are connected. Many times you will find these resources have been relocated;

5. Visit the **XPLORA** home page on the World Wide Web. Follow the link to Internet Adventures books. Here you will find updated information on Internet sites in the book that have changed. The URL forXPLORA is: **http://www.xplora.com/~xplora/**

The author welcomes feedback, correction of inaccuracies, and suggestions for improvements in subsequent editions. Cynthia Leshin can be contacted by e-mail at: **xplora@xplora.com.**

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To all the teachers, educators, and those dedicated to the profession of teaching and learning . . . Thank you for your contributions on the Internet . . . your classroom projects, your inspiring e-mail correspondences, your contributions to electronic mailing lists, your World Wide Web pages, and resources that you have shared with the world.

Finally, to all the creative developers of the World Wide Web for providing this new frontier for exploration and discovery.

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Imagine Being Able To...

- Go on field trips to such places as the NASA Lunar & Planetary Institute; Smithsonian Institution, and the Berkeley Paleontology Museum . . . or;
- Participate in simulated space shuttle launches or the virtual Olympic Games . . . or;
- Look at pictures and read descriptions of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other artifacts at the Library of Congress . . . or;
- Participate in projects with the United Nations, National Geographic, and NASA . . . or;
- Get weather-satellite photos of the U.S. that are no more than one hour old . . . or;
- Get current weather reports for any location on the planet as well as reports on earthquakes and other severe global disturbances . . . or;
- View current images of intergalactic events such as the Shoemaker-Levy comet collision with Jupiter, the birth of a star— M16 . . . or;
- Access computerized libraries from around the world . . . or;
- Receive current issues of national newspapers, journals, magazines . . . or;
- Receive electronically full texts of works by such authors as Lewis Carroll, Geoffrey Chaucer, Charles Dickens, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Allan Poe, William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, H.G. Wells and others . . . or;
- Have your students interact with scientists, explorers, mathematicians, artists, writers, and other students around the world . . . or;
- Meet people from all over the world with interests and hobbies similar to your own . . . or;
- Write electronic letters to the President and Vice-President of the United States . . . or;
- Receive lesson plans from CNN, PBS, NASA, and teachers around the world.

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Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

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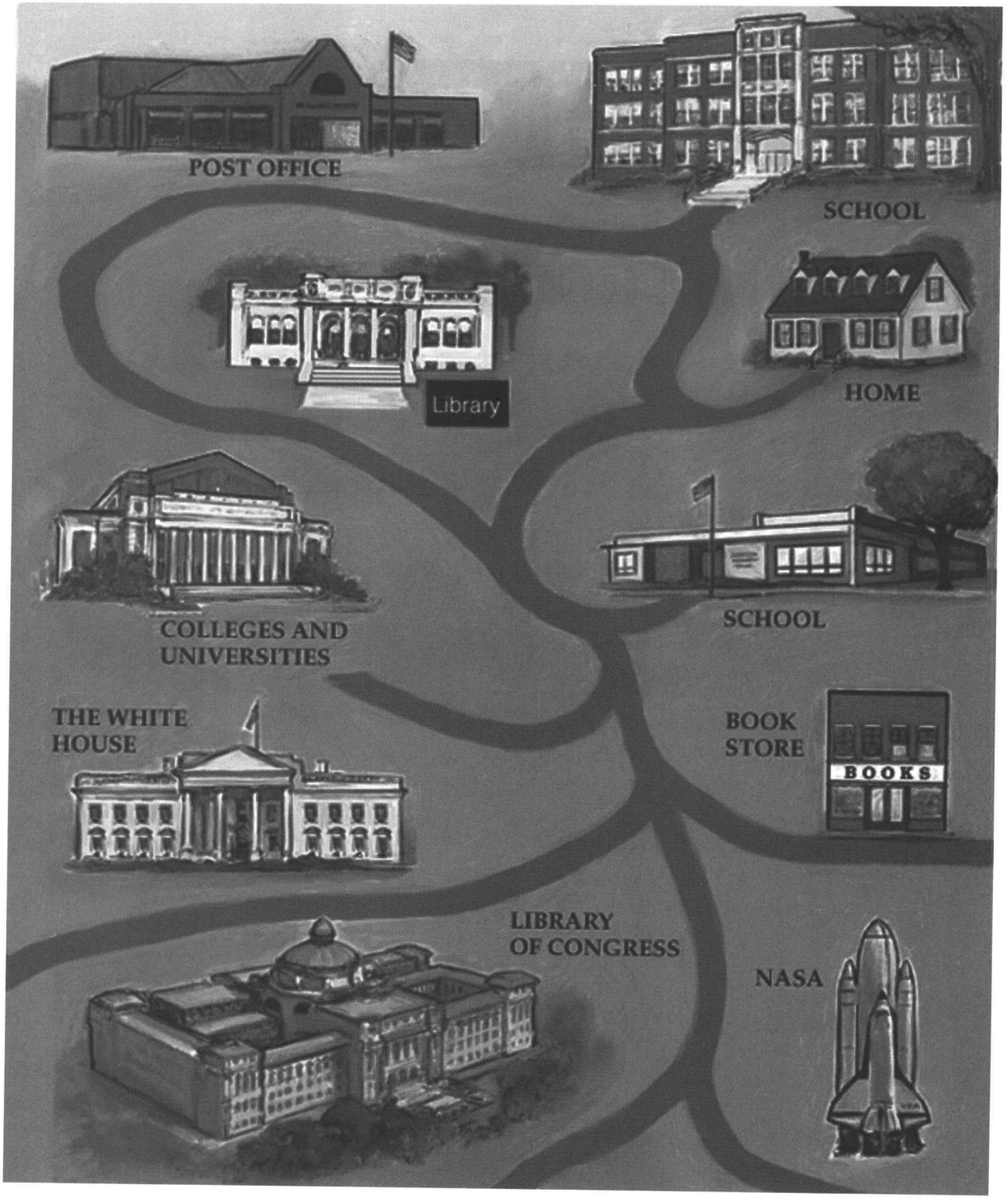
Internet Travel Agency



The Adventure Begins...

In this book you will learn how to travel along the information superhighway and visit virtual communities. You will meet and correspond with people from all over the world and have the opportunity to interact with educators, students, scientists, subject matter experts, and whomever else you choose to call upon. Stop in a cybercafe and discuss topics of interest. Visit libraries; take virtual field trips to museums, art galleries, and classrooms around the world.

As you travel, you will learn to use many navigational tools. Each Internet tool is accompanied by a step-by-step guided practice. After you have been introduced to the tool, you will have an opportunity to explore many educational resources on your own. You will visit classrooms and learn how Internet resources are being used to create new learning environments. You will be taken on virtual field trips where you will find that viewing multimedia resources is as easy as pointing and clicking your mouse. Most importantly, you will find opportunities very quickly to use Internet resources in your classroom and to begin designing learning environments where students work collaboratively with other students around the globe.

About This Travel Guide

This book uses a travel metaphor to help make your journey more fun, more interesting, and easier to understand. This guide is for educators with little or no Internet experience who are interested in using Internet resources for teaching and learning.

You will visit the following places:

- **Tourist Information Center**
  The Tourist Information Center provides basic and essential information on topics and navigational tools.

- **Guided Walks**
  Each Guided Walk provides hands-on practice.

- **Expedition Experience**
  The Expedition Experience provides opportunities for you to explore educational resources on your own using the tool you just acquired.

Guided Tours
In the Guided Tours section you will have the opportunity to visit classrooms around the world that use the Internet for teaching and learning.

Foreign Language Center
Every foreign country has its own vocabulary and language. In the Foreign Language Center you will find definitions of words and terms associated with the Internet tool being used.

Survival Guide
The Survival Guide is a quick reference job aid for using the Internet tool in the chapter.

Locator Maps
Locator maps help you to find Internet resources for your classroom.

Le Journal
Le Journal provides a place for you to take notes on the highlights of your journey.

What Is The Internet?

in'ter•net n.
1. world's largest information network 2. global web of computer networks 3. inter-network of many networks all running the TCP/IP protocol 4. powerful communication tool 5. giant highway system connecting computers and the regional and local networks that connect these computers
syn. **information superhighway, infobahn, data highway, electronic highway, Net, cyberspace**

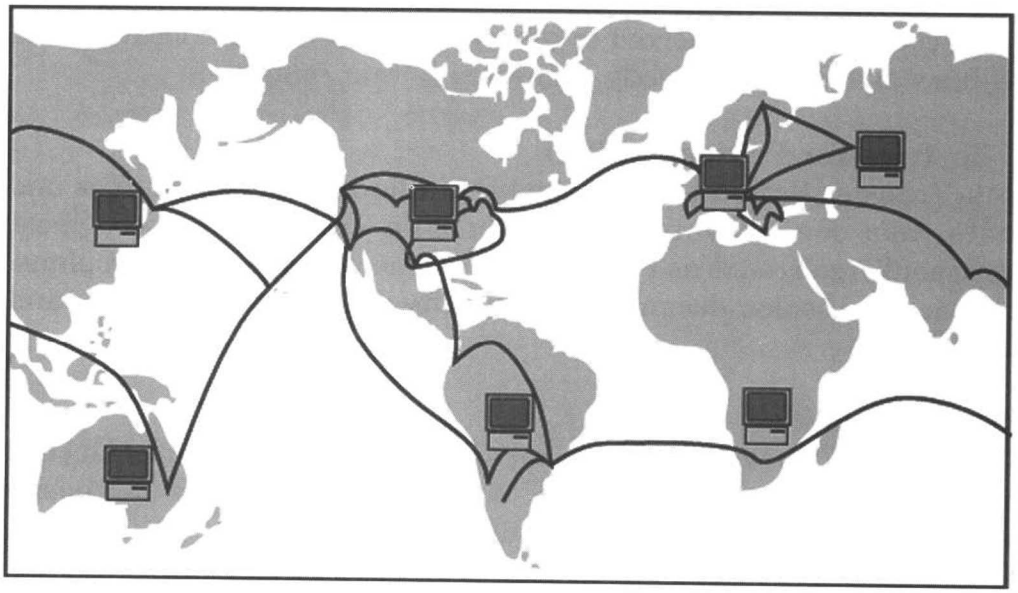
The analogy most frequently used to refer to the Internet is "information superhighway." This superhighway consists of a vast network of computers connecting people and resources around the world. The Internet is accessible to anyone with a computer and a modem.

The Internet began in 1969 when a collection of computer networks was developed. The first network was sponsored by the United States

Department of Defense in response to a need for military institutions and universities to share their research. In the 1970s, government and university networks continued to develop as many organizations and companies began to build private computer networks. In the late 1980s the National Science Foundation (NSF) created five supercomputer centers at major universities. This special network is the foundation of the Internet today.

Computer networks were initially established to share information among institutions that were physically separate. Throughout the years these networks have grown and the volume and type of information made available to people outside these institutions has also continued to evolve and grow. Today we can exchange electronic mail, conduct research, look at and obtain files that contain text information, graphics, sound, and video. The Internet is constantly changing and growing as more and more schools, universities, organizations, and institutions make available new resources. The Internet makes these resources available to each of us through our computer networks. These networks make it possible for us to be globally interconnected with each other and to this wealth of information.

Figure 1.1
Global web of computer networks.



What Does It Mean To "Be On The Internet?"

Access to the Internet has many different meanings to people and to network providers. Any commercial service or institution that has full Internet access provides the following capabilities:

- Electronic mail (e-mail)
- Telnet
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- World Wide Web

Electronic Mail

Electronic mail is the most basic, easiest to use, and for many people, the most useful Internet service. E-mail services allow you to send, forward, and receive messages from people all over the world, usually at no charge. You can then easily reply to messages, save, file, and categorize received messages. As you first learn to navigate the Internet, electronic mail can keep you very busy and provide access to many useful resources.

Electronic mail also makes it possible to participate in electronic conferences and discussions. You can use e-mail to request information from individuals, universities, and institutions.

Telnet

Telnet provides the capability to login to a remote computer and to be able to work interactively with it. When you run a telnet session, your computer is connected to the computer at another location and will act as if it were directly connected to that computer.

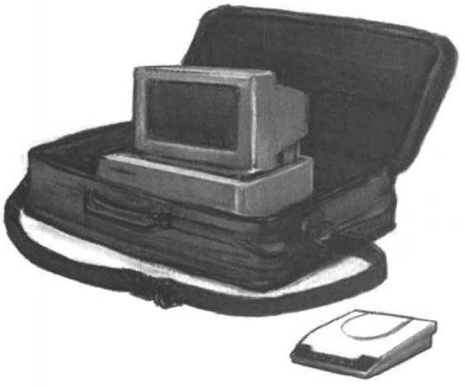
File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

File Transfer Protocol is a method that allows you to move files and data from one computer to another. File Transfer Protocol, most commonly referred to as FTP, enables teachers to receive lesson plans, magazines, books, documents, free software, music, graphics, and much more.

World Wide Web

The World Wide Web is a browsing system that allows point and click navigation around the Internet. World Wide Web users can easily access text documents, images, video and sound.

What Do I Need To Pack?



Two of the most frequently asked questions are:

> "What do I need to get on the Internet?"
> "How do I get on?"

The following are needed for Internet access:

- a computer;
- a communication modem;
- communication software;
- an account on an Internet-accessible service provider.

To use the World Wide Web you will need a direct or dial-up SLIP or PPP Internet Connection.

Computer
You can use a Macintosh computer or a DOS/Windows computer. You may use a DOS/Windows computer at school and a Macintosh at home with the same Internet account.

Communication Modem
A modem changes computer signals into signals that can be transmitted over telephone lines. The speed at which these signals is transferred is referred to as "baud rate." The higher the baud rate, the faster the signals move. You will want to select and use the fastest modem that can be supported by the Internet connection you are using.

Communication Software
Communication software makes it possible for a computer to communicate via a modem. You will need to configure your communication software in order to link to other computers. Programs that you use will frequently provide these modem settings.

You can also enter and store the dial-up phone numbers for the telecomputing sites that you use. For example, if you are using an Internet provider, it will have a phone number for you to call to connect to its service. Your modem will dial this phone number to connect you to your provider.

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