



# *Internet Resource Guides: Stories for the Net*

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# *Problems we already know about the Net*

- ❖ scale : there is too much information on the Net
- ❖ heterogeneity : format and content vary wildly
- ❖ quality : most of it is garbage
- ❖ distribution : the good stuff is hard to find



# *Some solutions*

- ❖ Internet navigational tools
  - Gopher
  - WWW
- ❖ Internet retrieval tools
  - Archie
  - Veronica
  - JumpStation, WWW Worm
  - WAIS
- ❖ Internet intelligent agents
  - Knowbot
  - NetFind
  - Stanford Netnews Filtering Service




# *Failings of these approaches*

- ❖ primitive technologies
- ❖ “one-size-fits-all” mindset
- ❖ many actually make the problems worse
- ❖ divorced from intellectual efforts



# *An integrative approach*

- ❖ create content or subject-oriented guides and repositories of secondary information
- ❖ synthesize the above solutions with intellectual effort
- ❖ makes “value-added” repackaging possible



# *Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides*

- ❖ identify Internet resources relevant to a specific subject
- ❖ describe and evaluate resources
- ❖ organize resources in the context of a usable package (preferably not using a tool-based categorization scheme)



# *Who uses these guides*

- ❖ general users
- ❖ server builders
- ❖ net trainers



# *How to build these guides*

- ❖ “quick-and-dirty” searching
- ❖ contact relevant communities (via Usenet and LISTSERVs) and request assistance
- ❖ search and browse the Net
- ❖ assemble resources
- ❖ consult with subject specialists





## *How to build these guides (cont.)*

- ❖ periodic updating for communities
- ❖ describe resources (structured or free-form)
- ❖ evaluate resources
- ❖ organize resources
- ❖ package with tables of contents, indices, and other “meta-data”



# *Where to find these guides*

- ❖ Clearinghouse for Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides
- ❖ available via anonymous FTP, Gopher, WWW
- ❖ full texts are WAIS-indexed
- ❖ URL: **`http://http2.sils.umich.edu/~lou/chhome.html`**
- ❖ high demand indicates success of the value-added approach