The World Wide Web
Virtual Library
Knowledge Dissemination
The WWW Virtual Library

Michael Chapman ............................ Arthur Secret
Raoul Sanchez ............................... Lisa Micah

Paper presented to THE INTERNET SOCIETY
Development Special Interest Group
Wednesday October 18th, 2006 — CERN, Geneva
1. History
2. What we are
3. The VL in 2006
4. The Future
5. Conclusion
### 1. Historical Introduction

**Overview.html**

#### Information by Subject

See also arrangements by [organization](#) or by [service type](#). Mail [www-request@info.com](mailto:www-request@info.com) if you know of online information not in these lists.

- **Aerodynamics**
- **Astronomy**
- **Astronomy and Astrophysics**
- **Bio Sciences**
- **Computing**
- **Geography**
- **CIA World Fact Book**
- **India: Miscellaneous information**
- **Thai-English Dictionary collection**
- **Law**
- **US Copyright law**
- **Libraries**
- **Few libraries currently have servers - you have to log on to them. But you can find out how with Art St George's list of library systems, about "Library in the Internet resource guide," and the [hypertext index](#).**
- **Literature**
- **Project Gutenberg**
- **Two classic books a month. See their explanations, the index and newsletter, books published in 1991, 1992, and reserved for the USA.**
- **Humanities**
- **BMCR classical reviews, Poetry, Science reviews. See also electronic journals.**
- **Mathematics**
- **GIRM library** (French)
- **Meteorology**
- **US weather**, state by state. Also **WAIS weather** (around MIT).**
- **Music**
- **MIDI interfacing, Song lyrics** (apparently disabled for copyright reasons)
- **Physics**
- **High Energy Physics, Astrophysics abstracts.**
- **Politics & Economics**
- **US politics**, includes campaign 1992
- **Reference**
- **Roget's Thesaurus, Experimental English dictionary.**
- **Religion**
- **The Bible** (King James version), **The Book of Mormon**, **The Holy Quran**
- **Social Sciences**
- **Computers papers archive.**
November 3rd 1992:

World Wide Web

The WorldWideWeb (W3) is a wide-area hypertext information retrieval initiative aiming to give universal access to a large universe of documents.

Everything there is online about W3 is linked directly or indirectly to this document, including an executive summary of the project, Mailing lists, Policy, November's W3 news, Frequently Asked Questions.

What's out there?
- Pointers to the world's online information, subjects, W3 servers, etc.
- Help on the browser you are using
- Software Products: A list of W3 project components and their current state. (e.g. Line Mode, X11, Viola, NeXTStep, Servers, Tools, Mail robot, Library)
- Technical: Details of protocols, formats, programs, internals etc
- Bibliography: Paper documentation on W3 and references.
- People: A list of some people involved in the project.
- History: A summary of the history of the project.
- How can I help?: If you would like to support the web.
- Getting code

Done.
“... there would be the occasional ‘Hey, I’ve just set up a server, and it’s dead cool. Here’s the address.’

With each new message I would enter in info.cern.ch a hyper-text link to the new web site ...”

“In July and August 1991 there were from ten to one hundred ‘hits’ (pages viewed) a day.”

## Information by Subject

See also arrangements by organization or by service type. Mail www-request@info.cern.ch if you know of online information not in these lists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aeronautics</th>
<th>Mailing list archive index.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Astronomy and Astrophysics</td>
<td>Abstract Indexes (down?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>See separate list.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Coombs papers archive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coombs Papers

This archive is a public archive of academic papers in the social sciences, and also in Pacific Rim geography and religious studies.

Chose your nearest site

Main archive site is at [Australian Nat’l. University, Canberra](http://www.anu.edu.au) with daily copies to [Washington University, St. Louis, USA](http://www.wustl.edu) and with weekly copies to the US national UUCP gateway, California, USA and [Univ. of Nth Carolina, USA](http://www.unc.edu).

They are just about to release two WAIS servers - one with inf. about Pacific Manuscripts microfilms collection at ANU, the other one about the anthropological/sociological research in the Thai-Yunnan area of the SE Asia. The launching is going to happen tomorrow, 21st May 92.
August 1992: There are about 20 Web servers in existence.

Ciolek: Global Networking: a Timeline.

VL (with logo) first known screenshot 1993

(by October 1993 — 200+ servers ...)

Ciolek: Global Networking: a Timeline.
Historical Introduction

Ethos

The WWWVL in 2006

The WWWVL and the . . .

Conclusion
By now the Web consisted of a small number of servers, with info.cern.ch the most interconnected with the rest. It carried a list of servers, which to a degree could coordinate people who were putting information on the Web. When the list became larger, it needed to be organized, so I arranged it in two lists, by geography and by subject matter. As more servers arrived, it was exciting to see how the subjects filled out. Arthur Secret, another student, joined me for a time and set up the lists into what we called the Virtual Library, with a tree structure that allowed people to find things.
Yahoo

- Art (619)
- Business (5546)
- Computers (3286)
- Economy (990)
- Education (1835)
- Entertainment (6874)
- Environment and Nature (288)
- Events (64)
- Government (1228)
- Health (548)
- Humanities (229)
- Law (227)
- News (307)
- Politics (184)
- Reference (495)
- Regional Information (4597)
- Science (3288)
- Social Science (171)
- Society and Culture (932)

There are currently 37697 entries in the Yahoo database

Some Other General Internet Directories:
[ WWW Virtual Library * ELNet Galaxy * University of Michigan Clearinghouse ]
[ GNN - Whole Internet Catalog * Planet Earth * Yanoff's Connections ]
March 1995/2005:

There are currently 31897 entries in the Yahoo database

Some Other General Internet Directories:

[ WWW Virtual Library * Elnet Galaxy * University of Michigan Clearinghouse ]
[ GNN - Whole Internet Catalog * Planet Earth * Yanoff's Connections ]
WWWVL
2. Ethos

- What we are
- What we are not
- Summary
2.1. What we are

The same concept from inception until now.

Like the Web itself, the VL is simple and logical.

Like the Web itself, it also has at its foundation the free distribution of free information.
2.2. What we are not

“It is futile to discuss whether the Index or the table of Contents is the more useful in a book.”
Not a search engine...

Google no longer say, on their main welcome page, how many pages they index ... but a search for “html” earlier this year produced 12,920,000,000 pages.

Compared with that 11 figure total the VL only refers to a six figure number of links/URLs.
Not an encyclopædic directory project . . .

Compared with dmoz/ODP, both volunteer:

“Just as the Oxford English Dictionary became the definitive word on words through the efforts of a volunteers, the Open Directory follows in its footsteps to become the definitive catalog of the Web.”

but attributable v. “The Republic of the Web”.

VL is more monographic as against dmoz’s ambition to be encyclopædic.
(One could say ‘academic’ v general, but that has too many pejorative overtones.)
Not an encyclopædic directory project …

VL is attributable. VL is selective.

VL lacks a Wiki’s speed of response.

Again ‘different animals’.
Quality rather than breadth.

Indeed the one thing we do well is ‘focussed’ VLs.

We are determined to keep the original VL concept, but seeking to finance that without commercialisation will be the challenge.
2.3. Summary

The best paper comparison is perhaps with a small academic publisher.

We select / are selected by individuals who have a discrete collection of knowledge they wish to put before a (perhaps specialist) public. They contribute their knowledge, their expertise. We ‘market’ their œuvre, both actually by placing in the Catalog, but also by adding our ‘imprimatur’ to the work.
A collection of

* individual,

* attributable,

* autonomous,

* expert subject indices.
A collection of

* individual,

* attributable,

* autonomous,

* expert subject indices.

“It is futile to discuss whether the Index or the table of Contents is the more useful in a book.”
3. The WWWVL in 2006

- The Association
- Central Services
  1. Catalog
  2. VLsearch
  3. Topic Map
- Infrastructure
3.1. The Association

The WWWVL consists of over two hundred individual VLs, each maintained by individuals and institutions based throughout the World.

Many of those VLs are leading resources in their own fields of study, irrespective of their WWWVL membership.

VLs in English, French, German. Parts of VLs in many, many languages.
Services to members:

- link checking (?spell checking, accessibility checking, ...)
- site establishment/design guidance
- discussion lists
- ... meetings (first regional meeting, in Geneva this year)

Also ...

- Press relations
- Copyright permissions
- ‘Outreach’ ... today!
3.2. Central Services

The Web interface to/for the public.

- a hierarchical catalogue
- a search engine
- a topic map (... to be queriable)
3.2.1. Central Catalog

The WWW Virtual Library

Agriculture
Irriagation, Livestock, Poultry Science, ...

The Arts
Art History, Classical Music, Theatre and Drama, ...

Business and Economics
Finance, Marketing, Transportation, ...

Communications and Media
Broadcasters, Publishers, Telecommunications, ...

Computing and Computer Science
Artificial Intelligence, Cryptography, Logic Programming, ...

Information and Libraries
Information Quality, Knowledge Management, Libraries, ...

International Affairs
International Relations and Security, Sustainable Development, ...

Law
Arbitration, Forensic Toxicology, Legal History, ...

Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Biosciences, Earth Science, Medicine and Health, Physics, ...

Recreation
Gardening, Recreation and Games, Sport, ...

Done.
Interfaces in various languages.
Looking for Myanmar

The WWW Virtual Library

Agriculture
Irrigation, Livestock, Poultry Science, …

The Arts
Art History, Classical Music, Theatre and Drama,…

Business and Economics
Finance, Marketing, Transportation,…

Communications and Media
Broadcasters, Publishers, Telecommunications,…

Computing and Computer Science
Artificial Intelligence, Cryptography, Logic Programming,…

Information and Libraries
Information Quality, Knowledge Management, Libraries,…

International Affairs
International Relations and Security, Sustainable Development,…

Law
Arbitration, Forensic Toxicology, Legal History,…

Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Biosciences, Earth Science, Medicine and Health, Physics,…

Recreation
Gardening, Recreation and Games, Sport,…
The WWW Virtual Library
Regional Studies

Narrower Categories
Asian Studies
Germany

Aboriginal Languages of Australia
There are more than 200 Australian Indigenous languages. Less than 20 languages are strong, and even these are endangered: the others have been destroyed, live in the memories of the elderly, or are being revived by their communities. This site has annotated links to 180 resources for about 60 languages. About 25% of these resources are produced or published by Indigenous people.

see also: Aboriginal Studies.

this resource is indexed under: Languages and Linguistics, Regional Studies.

Aboriginal Studies
Guide to aboriginal studies. This site is maintained in conjunction with the Center For World
### The WWW Virtual Library

**Asian Studies**

Over 10 years of continuous service to the online community; Provision of expert information services, by the experts, for the experts. This research tool is produced by the Internet Publications Bureau, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra.

*This resource in English is indexed under: Asian Studies.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian Continent</th>
<th>This document keeps track of leading information facilities pertaining to the whole of the Asian continent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian Studies Electronic Mailing Lists</strong></td>
<td>Electronic mailing lists associated with the extensive Asian Studies Virtual Library network.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This resource in English is indexed under: Asian Studies.*
### Asian Studies WWW Monitor
The Asian Studies WWW Monitor (ISSN 1329-9778) was established 21 April 1994. The journal, a pioneering and the only publication of this kind in the world, provides daily abstracts and reviews of new/updated online resources of significance to research, teaching and communications dealing with Asian Studies. It is published by the Internet Publications Bureau, RSPAS, National Institute for Asia and the Pacific, ANU. The periodical forms a key element of the global, cooperative project Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library.

*this resource in English is indexed under:* Asian Studies.

### Asian and Pacific Studies Electronic Journals
This document keeps track of leading online serials of value/significance to researchers in Asian and Pacific Studies.

*this resource in English is indexed under:* Asian Studies.

### Australian Agriculture
This Virtual Library aims to provide information on various topics that relate to Australian and New Zealand farming industries.

*this resource in English is indexed under:* Agriculture, Asian Studies.

### Bangladesh
The Bangladesh WWW VL is a part of the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library Project and of the South Asia WWW Virtual Library. It was originally established on 24th March, 1994, by Dr. T. Matthew Colek, Australian National University (ANU). From 1997 to 2002 it was managed by Kamal R. Adhikary, Asian Studies, UT Austin. The site is now maintained by Eduardo Contreras.

*this resource in English is indexed under:* Asian Studies.

### Burma (Myanmar)
Classified and annotated links to more than 5000 full text documents on Burma/Myanmar.

*this resource in English is indexed under:* Asian Studies.

### China
The Internet Guide for Chinese Studies (IGCS) is part of the World Wide Web Virtual Library Project, which was founded at CERN by Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide
Online Burma/Myanmar Library

Classified and annotated links to more than 11,000 full text documents on Burma/Myanmar

Introduction | Structural Overview | What's New | Advanced Search | Feedback

Main Library (by subject): Activism; Archaeology; Aung San Suu Kyi; Children; Civil Society; Civil war; Dialogue/Transitional Drugs; Economy; Education; Environment; Ethnic and minority groups in Burma; Foreign Relations; Funding; Geography; Health; History; Human Rights; International Assistance to Burma; Internal Displacement; International Labour Organisation Labour Issues; Languages of Burma; Law; Migrants; Military (Tatmadaw); Palaeontology; Politics and Government; Refugee Social policies; Society and Culture; SPDC-related sites; Sustainability; The United Nations System; Tourism; Trafficking; Women.

Reading Room (by source): Bibliographies, universities, institutes, libraries, other research tools; Burma news (archive); Burma news (breaking); Burma news (current); Burmese Community sites; Burmese-language news sources; Conference proceedings; the Burma Diaspora Group; Electronic Newspapers; Films, videos, photographs and other images of Burma.
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Usage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Unique visitors</th>
<th>Number of visits</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Bandwidth</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Reported period</td>
<td>Year 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First visit</td>
<td>01 Jan 2005 - 00:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last visit</td>
<td>31 Dec 2005 - 23:58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1244901</td>
<td>3815042</td>
<td>4911222</td>
<td>15.46 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not viewed traffic *</td>
<td>Exact value not available in 'Year' view</td>
<td>(1.41 visits/visitor)</td>
<td>(3.06 pages/visit)</td>
<td>(3.94 hits/visit)</td>
<td>(13.02 KB/visit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

Monthly history
### Monthly history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Unique visitors</th>
<th>Number of visits</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Bandwidth</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>217869</td>
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<td>247323</td>
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<td><strong>1244901</strong></td>
<td><strong>3815042</strong></td>
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<td><strong>15.46 GB</strong></td>
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**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported period</th>
<th>Month Apr 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First visit</td>
<td>01 Apr 2006 - 00:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last visit</td>
<td>24 Apr 2006 - 02:01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unique visitors</th>
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<th>Pages</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Bandwidth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viewed traffic *</td>
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<td>79947 (1.35 visits/visitor)</td>
<td>223431</td>
<td>278443</td>
<td>1.08 GB (14.13 KB/visit)</td>
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<td>Not viewed traffic *</td>
<td></td>
<td>432011</td>
<td>451915</td>
<td></td>
<td>675.36 MB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

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**Monthly history**

![Monthly traffic chart](chart.png)
Hierarchical catalogue, the ‘Catalog’: 

- built from a database (actually a topic map), this allows: 
  - rich cross-linking 
  - entries to easily appear on more than one page 
  - rapid, easy updating 
- the most popular entry point for the VL, with approaching one million unique visitors per year.
3.2.2. VLsearch

VLsearch

Buscar en Vlib: [Field] [Enviar] Atrás

Por favor introduzca una o más palabras y seleccione Búsqueda

Página principal

VLib es automáticamente procesado por un mapa conceptual de la Biblioteca Virtual.
Las páginas y la base de datos © WWW Virtuel Library 1991—última actualización.
Todos los derechos reservados, incluyendo database rights.
Search for: seo  Search results: seo : 43.  Results 1-10 of 16.  Search took 0.736 seconds
Sort by: relevancy | last modified date | title

1. WWW Virtual Library --- Advanced browsing :: screen size : foreign languages : text length : summarize : html : auto-completion
   ... Selection of information - Deep web - Advanced search - SEO - Periodic search - Meta search -
   Other people search for you ... word of caution What you should know before contacting SEO firms.
   Blog: SEO Memo Discussions about search engine optimization, SEO Today Articles about what's
   happening in the SEO world. SEO Chat Articles about SEO world, tools, a newsletter... Do-it-yourself
   SEO. 3-step guide, very practical-minded SEO Toolkit 21-step ...
   [Cached copy]

2. Internet Technologies Are Changing Public Relations: Article From KnowThis.com
   ... In fact, a new industry called Search Engine Optimization (SEO) was born as technology people
**WWW Virtual Library --- Advanced browsing**

Resources to improve search, selection and readability of information.

Broader categories:
- WWW Virtual Library --- Information and Libraries
- WWW Virtual Library --- Computing and Computer Science

Contents:
- Screen size
- Foreign languages
- Text length / Summarize
- Auto-completion
- Personalized pages
- Click tagging
- Selection of information
- Deep web
- Advanced search
- SEO
- Periodic search
- Meta search
- Other people search for you.

🌟 Starred entries are especially recommended.

⚠️ New entries are added periodically.

Done.
Search Engine Optimization

The dark arts of the Web or how to come on top of search engines results,

Google's word of caution
What you should know before contacting SEO firms.
Blog: SEO Memo
Discussions about search engine optimization.
SEO Today
Articles about what's happening in the SEO world.
SEO Chat
Articles about SEO world, tools, a newsletter...
Do-it-yourself SEO.
3-step guide, very practical-minded
SEO Toolkit
21-step guide to optimize your web site for search engines, more theory than in the previous link. Also in German.
List of free SEO tools
From the SEO Book.
What is SEO?
From Wikipedia.
Meta-Tag.net
"Everything you ever wanted to know about meta tags."
SEO tips
Some figures, some advice. Quick to read.
Google news forum and archive
Get the answers about the SEO questions you didn't even think of! This is not a resource for SEO beginners.
Google keyword tool
To generate keywords related to a subject.

Miscellaneous

Done.
Equally one could have reached this from *computing*:

```
Advanced browsing
Resources whose primary purpose is to improve selection and readability of information.
**This resource in English is indexed under:** Computing and Computer Science, Information and Libraries.

Artificial Intelligence
This document contains some pointers to information on Artificial Intelligence (AI) available around the world on the World Wide Web.
**This resource in English is indexed under:** Computing and Computer Science.

Audio
This document contains some pointers to information on computer-based audio sound and associated software available around the world on the World Wide Web.
**See also:** Acoustics, Vibrations and Signal Processing.
**This resource in English is indexed under:** Computing and Computer Science, Humanities and Humanistic Studies, Sound.

Computer Aided Design (CAD)
This section of Virtual Library is devoted to CAD education. This section contains links to important CAD resources associated with the CAD industry.
**This resource in English is indexed under:** Computing and Computer Science, Engineering.
```
World Health Organisation — “string” search


Sort by: relevancy | last modified date | title
World Health Organisation —search excluding synonyms (organisation/organization)
World Health Organisation —search for the “string” without synonyms

Search for: "world health organisation"

URL matches: e.g. http://vlib.org, /manual/, index.html


Sort by: relevancy | last modified date | title
World Health Organisation:

- simple search 179
- “string” 10
- without synonyms 113
- “string” without synonyms 4
### Summary

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viewed traffic *</td>
<td>16350</td>
<td>19539 (1.19 visits/visitor)</td>
<td>53071 (2.71 pages/visit)</td>
<td>53071 (2.71 hits/visit)</td>
<td>191.51 MB (10.03 KB/visit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not viewed traffic *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7680</td>
<td>7680</td>
<td>10.14 MB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

### Monthly history

![Monthly traffic chart]

- Jan 2006
- Feb 2006
- Mar 2006
- Apr 2006
- May 2006
- Jun 2006
- Jul 2006
- Aug 2006
- Sep 2006
- Oct 2006
- Nov 2006
- Dec 2006
Search Engine of member VL pages, ‘VLsearch’:

- relatively young (just over one year old)
- still adding member VLs and ensuring their coverage
- popular: twenty to thirty thousand visitors/month
- some 10% of users are using a non-English language interface
3.2.3. **Topic Maps**

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**WWW Virtual Library --- Topics Database**

**Benin**

- Capital city: Porto-Novo
- Towns: Porto-Novo
- Broader categories:
  - Africa
  - The Francophonie

This record is of type: Countries, States, Jurisdictions, etc.
WWW Virtual Library --- Topics Database

The Francophonie

Quick search:

narrower categories
- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada

Done.
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie external link provides a definitive list of members, and other details of the Francophonie.

Relevant VL member library:
Francophonie

WWW Virtual Library Arbitration Database
This subject is also covered in the WWW Virtual Library Arbitration Database.

WWW Virtual Library Law
This subject is also covered in the WWW Virtual Library Law.

Note
All members are listed here. That is the forty-nine full members, the four “états associés” (Albania, Andorra, Greece and Macedonia) and the ten “états observateurs” (Armenia, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

This record is of type: Regions of the World.
francophonie et Francophonie

La francophonie désigne la communauté composée des personnes qui ont en commun l’usage de la langue française. Avec un F majuscule, elle désigne la Francophonie institutionnelle, dont le principal acteur est l’Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

A la base d’un travail de Doctorat sur le thème de « La géopolitique des aires linguistiques : le cas de la Francophonie institutionnelle », ce site vise à répertorier un certain nombre de sites internet touchant au thème de la francophonie.

La liste non exhaustive sera complétée au fil des recherches.
A Topic Map links TOPICS by ASSOCIATIONS.

A thesaurus is a simple example. It has very few association types (e.g. BROADER TERM and NARROWER TERM).

In a TM associations can be anything describable. They are also inherently, themselves topics.

Thus associations such as ‘is the author of’, ‘wrote the work’, ‘is published by’, ‘is the publisher of’.

The ability to query the associations between topics as well as the (page) topics themselves is a very powerful tool.
Topic mapping topics in member VLs:

Topic Maps originated from research on the meta-indexing of textbooks –they fit very closely with the needs of the WWWVL.

- relatively young (one year old)
- experimental
- fairly obviously, works best with easily defined/fixed topics (countries, languages, . . .)
- Much to do:
  - The creation of a TMQL (Topic Map Query Language) would release the power of the knowledge contained in topic maps –at the moment our present pages probably appear to most users as just an over-sized hierarchy with rather good cross-linking
  - if we are to achieve a “semantic Web” this would be a major contribution towards it
3.3. Infrastructure

Linux

The VL central services were put on an existing, running server in Geneva in late 2004.

Although orders of magnitude different from the server’s previous usage, as one might expect there were no significant problems.

Webserver: Apache
Database (TM) software: ‘bespoke’ (but quite simple Perl).
4. The WWWVL and the Future

Volatility

both ‘loss’ and having ‘had the consultants in’ . . .

What to do about loss:

to cache / to archive ?

greater linking to archive.org ?

. . . ?
Censorship/Partisanship

ordre public
Historical Introduction

Ethos

The WWWVL in 2006

The WWWVL and the . . .

Conclusion

Censorship/Partisanship

ordre public

sites/domains that advocate/condone child prostitution
Censorship/Partisanship

*ordre public*

sites/domains that advocate/condone child prostitution
sites/domains that advocate/condone torture . . . ?
Censorship/Partisanship

ordre public

sites/domains that advocate/condone child prostitution
sites/domains that advocate/condone torture . . . ?

Practically a VL on, say, Classical Music should not be advocating or encouraging classical music; it should be giving a dispassionate, balanced review of the best web resources available on its subject area.
The challenges the Virtual Library faces in relation to knowledge management, in the cataloging of resources and making an accessible, effective interface to those resources are far from unique.

They are major challenges that will face us all, if in various forms, over the coming decades.
5. Conclusion

- Creation of a stable management structure, building on a decade-and-a-half of remarkable voluntary administration.

- Whilst guarding the primary role of knowledge dissemination, widening the target population.

  The VL has always prided itself on using small (fast loading) pages, ‘frames’ free and with only essential graphics content. What was (and is) of advantage to those with poor connectivity, is now relevant for the increasing number of small screen devices.

- The central catalogue is now available in English and French, Spanish is in the process of being loaded. An experimental Chinese interface is already in operation and is being re-edited.

  The search engine has Arabic, English, French and Spanish interfaces. It is intended to have both servers working in all five of these languages as well as Russian.

- ‘Outreach’ both to members (a first regional meeting in 2006) and to non-members (Linux Days, the Topic Maps Research and Applications conference, the 4\textsuperscript{me} Rassem-
blemement pour les droits de l’homme, today) has broadened interest in the VL as well as providing valuable feedback from experts in related fields. Such activities will need expanding: to attract new members (and thus improve coverage); to inform users and potential users; to attract sponsors and supporters; and, not least, to learn from all these persons.

- Knowledge can only be effectively disseminated if it can be found. A hierarchical catalogue and a VL specific search engine are both essential parts of this. Mapping subjects and their semantic linkages is an area the VL is developing using topic maps and published subject/resource indicators (PSIs).
- Such a mapping should link deeper into member virtual libraries.
- Amongst central services to members is the checking of the validity of links on their pages. Extending this to a robust quality audit including link checking, page accessibility criteria (i.e. WAI) and spellchecking is an important
goal.
A detailed booklet of guidelines has already been published and distributed to members.

- Feedback, particularly today, feedback on how to improve knowledge dissemination in parallel with ‘development’ initiatives, is always sought, and valued.