EXPLORING VETERINARY RESOURCES
ON THE WORLD-WIDE WEB (WWW)

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ABSTRACT

World-Wide-Web (WWW) browsers, such as Netscape, Mosaic, and Lynx, have made exploring the Internet easy even for novices. A brief introduction to the terminology and a description of basic commands will be followed by a demonstration using WWW sites of interest to animal health information workers.

INTRODUCTION

Today I will be demonstrating how easy it is to explore the Web, as well as share with you some of my favorite Web sites. If there is time at the end, I would like to hear about some of your favorite Web sites and we will try some of those.

First of all, what is the WWW? The WWW is the universe of network-accessible information. It includes not only textual information, but sound, graphics, and video. The Web has its own software, protocols, and conventions and uses hypertext linking of documents and sites. Some have compared the Web (W3) with a spider's web or fishing net, in which knots or junctions are documents or graphics and the strands are hypertext links joining them. Web browsers, such as Netscape and Mosaic, are types of software that allow you to view documents and navigate through the Web and its hypertext links by just pointing and clicking.

Today we will be browsing the Web with Netscape, a hypermedia, graphical browser. Mosaic is another well-known Web browser. Fortunately both have similar commands and functions.

DEMONSTRATION, using some of the sites listed on the *Sampler of Favorite WWW Sites*, a handout.

A **home page** is like the title and table of contents page of a book. Every home page has a URL (Uniform Resource Locator), which is like an address or phone number. Most URLs begin with http://, but others might start with gopher:// or telnet://. This first part of a URL indicates the service type, with **http** (**hypertext transfer protocol**), when graphics are involved. The second and third components of an URL include the address of the machine where the file resides and the pathname locating the item on that machine.

Navigation rules/protocols: Anything listed in blue print is a link which can be clicked on and followed. A pink one designates links that have been used in the past. Arrows take you back or forward. House symbol stands for **home** and always returns you to your homepage. **Hotlists** or **personal** lists contain URLs for sites you have saved for future use. While it is fun to browse by pointing, clicking, and following links, you can enter URLs directly with the **Open** command feature. *Print* is also another nice feature. Not only can you print files, but you can **save** files and/or send them as Email messages to colleagues. Arrows are used to go back one *step* and to go forward. **Go** lists your trail. Red **stop** and pulsing N are signs the system is searching. To stop searching, click on either. **Go** is useful to trace where you have been and to backtrack. The *Netscape Handbook* (**http://home.mcom.com/home/manual_docs/learn.html**) is a valuable guide to

Netscape commands and functions. A caveat: remember the WWW is constantly evolving, new *sites* are being added, addresses changing. You may lock up, reach a dead end, or find a site under construction. You just have to bypass that site and try another one. There are 2 ways of exploring the WWW. You can browse by using *links* embedded in **list indexes**, like the WWW Virtual Library. A second method is through the use of Web **search engines, spiders, or worms. Robots** are *software* that are programmed to automatically go out and search the Internet on a regular basis and collect information about new WWW sites. Robots often contain more current information than those list indexes, which are maintained manually. All types vary by searching capabilities and scope. **http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/general/ robots.htm** is a convenient list of web robots.

If you already know your URL, then it can be entered directly. Go to Open: type in *your* URL exactly, with hyphens, spaces, caps as shown. Netvet (**http://netvet.wustl.edu**) contains hyper links to practically every known site that contains *information relating* to animals or veterinary medicine. It is an amazing and wonderful resource, created and maintained by Ken Boschert from the Comparative *Medicine Dept.* at Washington Univ. in St. Louis, Missouri. Jean-Paul Jette's Veterinary Conference Proceedings and Veterinary Table of Contents are sources of veterinary *information*. You can search conference proceedings by keyword or author. Other interesting Web sites are SHO, EID, Virtual Tourist (to get to the *University* of Pretoria). Whenever you find a useful site, be sure to place it in *your* personal list or hotlist, so you never have to try to rediscover it again. Sometimes it's difficult to retrace your path, especially after a long sitting.

For those who are lacking an Ethernet link, you can still browse the WWW by using a non-graphical browser, *like* **Lynx.** By telnetting to a local or anonymous Lynx server, such as **www.law.cornell.edu** (login as **www**) or **rsl.ox.ac.uk** (login as **lynx**), connecting to the WWW is easy. Just like in Netscape, you can click on and follow links. To move up or down, use the arrows. To go to a known URL, type G(o) and then the URL. To return to the previous menu, try u.

Now that you're a WWW expert navigator, you might consider creating your home page. There are many sources of *free* information on HTML and creating homepages. I have listed one in my handout. There are certain rules and protocols. One is to be sure to reference your *homepage* at the bottom of every screen - if you want to be cited, and cited correctly, that is.

SAMPLER OF FAVORITE WWW SITES

I   Starting Point for Exploring

   A   For browsing ... List Indexes

      1   World-Wide Web Virtual Library (Medicine) ...
        http://golgi.harvard.edu/biopages/medicine.html

   B   For subject searching .. Web Robots List =
      http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/general/robots.htm

      1   Lycos ... http://lycos.cs.cmu.edu
      2   Open Text Web Index ... http://opentext.uunet.ca:8080/omw-comp.html
      3   WebCrawler ...
        http://webcrawler.cs.washington.edu/WebCrawler/WebQuery.html

II Specific WWW Sites

   A   Veterinary sites

      1   NetVet - everything veterinary and animal-related ... http://netvet.wustl.edu
      2   Veterinary Conference Proceedings database a keyword searchable database
        http://brise.ere.umontreal.ca/~jettejp
      3   Veterinary Table of Contents. Contents pages of veterinary journals - same as above
      4   Veterinary Medicine Libraries - international list of veterinary libraries, librarians, homepages,
        catalogs, etc. http://duke.usask.ca/~ladd/vet_libraries.html
      5   AquaNIC (Aquaculture)
        gopher://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/11/databases/AquaNIC

   B   Medical-sites

      1   World Health Organization http://www.who.ch/
      2   Centers for *Disease Control* ... http://www.cdc.gov/cdc.html
        Emerging Infectious Diseases http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/eid.htm
      3   HyperDoc (National Library of Medicine, USA) http://www.nlm.nih.gov/
      4   HealthLinks ... U.of Washington (USA) http://www.hslib.washington.edu/
      5   National Institutes of Health (US) http://www.nih.gov/
      6   WWW Server for Virology... http://www.bocklabs.wisc.edu/
      7   Biomedicine and Health in the News http://cortex.uchc.edu/~libweb/libpgl.html

   C   Sites with lots of grahics and for fun

      1   WWW Virtual Library: Veterinary Medicine.
        http://netvet.wustl.edu/vetmed.htm
      2   Virtual Hospital ... http://vh.radiology.uiowa.edu/
      3   AgriGator /// jtt[://gnv.ifas.ufl.edu/www/agator_home.htm
      4   Virtual Tourist II http://wings.buffalo.edu/world/vt2/
      5   AAZK (Amer.Assoc. of Zoo Keepers) http://aazk.ind.net/
      6   Pathfinder - fulltext of popular magazines. e.g. *People...*
        http://www.pathfinder.com
      7   CBS News ... http://www.cbs.com/
      8   Tree of Life ... http://phylogeny.arizona.edu/tree/phylogeny.html

Sources of Other Useful Information on the WWW

1   WWW Introduction Definitions, how to, what is, etc. http://weber.u.washington.edu/~
   larsson/hsic94/resource/www0502.html
2   Netscape Handbook: Learn Netscape everything you've ever wanted to know about using Net-
   scape http://home.mcom.com/home/manual_docs/learn.html
3   List of Web Robots - just what it says ... http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/general/robots.htm