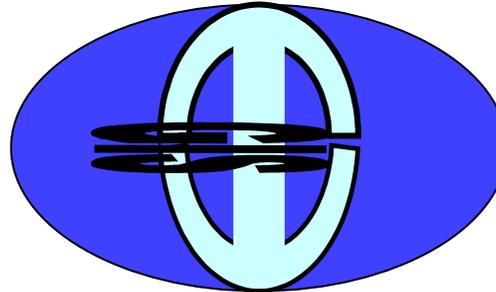


Keep an Eye on the Internet AND Save Money with IGIS

by Tabor Crombie



I. Introduction:

The Internet is ultimately the most comprehensive reference tool for obtaining medical information. Like a street map, the Internet is composed of many unique addresses. These unique addresses bring the end user to the specific site that hosts the information that presents itself on the computer screen. Finding the address, or combination of addresses, that will benefit you in making medical decisions or in giving medical instruction as a guide within your field, is my goal and the centerpiece of my idea.

II. Background:

Early in 2003, I began emailing individuals who were interested in browsing through the table of contents of selected journals (previously received by mail) for good articles. In June, I began offering to the same individuals a list of all online journals on the Medical/Nursing Library's shelf. A handful (50+) signed up to receive their selection of journal table of contents (TOCs) electronically. In the process of setting up my own electronic library, I came upon two noteworthy sites. One caters to the nursing profession (<http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/index.asp>), while the other caters to the medical profession (<http://freemedicaljournals.com>). Along with over 60 nursing journals to browse, the nursing site features CEU's (continued education units). The medical site also features an extensive list of medical journals, available to end users to browse for free information. As the authors of this latter site explain:

"The Free Medical Journals Site is dedicated to the promotion of free access to medical journals over the Internet. Over the next few years, many important medical journals will be available online, free and in full-text. The access to free scientific knowledge will have a major impact on medical practice and attract Internet visitors to these journals. Journals that restrict access to their Web sites will lose popularity."

As the need becomes greater, more journals will follow suit to stay in business. Could this be a good time to plan?

III. What is your idea?

I have put together a very simple design for the computer called "IGIS," or Internet Generated Information Station. Its purpose is to allow direct access to discipline-related information for any given department (or unit, or floor) at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. IGIS is easy to build, and most importantly, it can be designed based on a plan by the individual or group that uses it.

As in its name, the IGIS is Internet generated, meaning all information originates from an address on the world wide web. The Internet supplies plenty of information to work with, including one site which has already categorized links to desired information by medical specialty.

The mechanics of IGIS is the process of setting up particular addresses in the Favorites option. Favorites allow you to build your own filing system in either Internet Explorer (or Medscape). By building your own IGIS design, you will only need to work from Favorites to access the desired information already bookmarked for you.

Most important is the issue of non-work related browsing on the Internet. IGIS, by design, will be set up to eliminate random browsing and to produce 100% efficiency.

IV. What is the IGIS design?

IGIS has four major components: 1) Association Links, 2) Resource Links 3) Publications, and 4) Continuing Education sites.

Association Links

Keeping in mind the importance of appropriate practices and procedures, the associations of choice will maintain a standard necessary to follow. Members of the associations within the group will have access to the association newsletter and the associations own journal.

Resource Links

Much like associations, the resource links offer information and services to the non-member, the site visitor, or the registered guest.

Publications (journals)

Incorporate a number of journals that are at the top of your "need to have" list. As a general rule, a journal's table of contents is free to anyone who registers, and sent to a specified computer's email system. A list of articles arrives with links to its text.

Continuing Education Links

Stay up-to-date with certification requirements and having access to sites with CEU's. (These links will be added once more feedback is gathered.)

V. What is the Plan?

Start by setting up IGIS at a determined number work stations on each floor of FSRMC.

2N Neuroscience	5N Surgery
3N Cardiology	5W Ortho
3W Nephrology	6N Ob/Gyn
4E Rehab	7N Pulmonary
4W Rehab	8N Oncology

Any department interested in an IGIS is welcome.

VI. Make Yourself a List of Preferences:

1. What information would benefit your group the most?
2. What information would you use if it were available to you?
3. Do you have any special requests?
4. How would you set up IGIS to make it work for your group?

Summary:

- IGIS (pronounced "eye-jis") is an organized list of links placed in Favorites.
- Depending on the individual, department, or unit, IGIS can be built based on the specific discipline.
- IGIS is designed to hold any number of components: associations, organizations, resources, continued education, etc.
- IGIS can be set up on any computer (with Internet Explorer or Medscape).
- IGIS works by acquiring and applying cost free information in the fields of medicine and healthcare.

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