ACQ INTERNET COLUMN

Webwords 1

Caroline Bowen

Love it or loathe it, the **Internet** (all the words in bold are defined below, and work as links in the version of this article that is on the Internet), that massive world-wide network of inter-connecting computers, has entered all our lives, including our clinics. Clients and family members proffer sheaves of worthwhile information about a communication disorder affecting them that, without the Internet, would have taken you hours to find in a well-stocked library. Small children bring pictures to therapy casually announcing that they **downloaded** them from the **web**. Patients mention in passing that they discovered a helpful **link** to a **website** or read an interesting **post** about dysphagia (or a myriad of other topics) in a **listserv**, and ask if you would like them to forward it to you by **email**. Waiting-room discussion touches on which **browser** or **search engine** is preferable. Students ask how they should cite references to documents they have found on the web. Colleagues mention that they have been **uploading** articles to their homepage.

And of course, Speech Pathology Australia whose **URL** is **http://www. vicnet.net.au/~sppathau/** has had a home in cyberspace since March 1997. No, it's not possible to ignore the Internet.

If you don't know what a **newbie**, a listserv, a link, a web browser, a search engine, or a URL are, and you are only dimly aware of the advantages of corresponding by email, and you want to find out, then this column is probably for you! Webwords will shepherd you through the maze of jargon and overly detailed instructions contained in many Internet guides that deter so many people from venturing into cyberspace.

First things first. No one is a complete Internet expert! Experienced **netizens**, even those who have been using the Internet since it began to evolve in the early 1990s, only know what they have to know in order to use the net to their advantage. And that is quite a good principle to bear in mind. Judith Maginnis Kuster advises: "Don't be put off by the terminology – it's only jargon. Nobody knows all about the Internet. Learn what you need to know when you need it, a little at a time" (Kuster, 1995).

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Based at the Department of Communication Disorders, Mankato State University, Professor Kuster is an Internet authority. As well as writing *Internet*, a regular feature of *Asha* magazine, Judith has a mind-blowing website that must be among the first stops for all newbies. Point your browser at **http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster2/welcome.html** . There you will find information about, and links to, every facet of communication disorders and sciences.

A popular page on the site is a store (archive) of all the Internet articles Judith has written for *Asha*, at **http://www.asha.org/professionals/tech_resources/internet.htm** .

Like Speech Pathology Australia, sister organisations in the United States (ASHA **http://www.asha.org/**), Canada (CASLPA **http://www.caslpa.ca/**) and the United Kingdom (RCSLT **http://www.rcslt.org/**) have well-maintained, easily navigated, and highly informative websites.

Then there is the seemingly limitless range of special interest sites like the Apraxia Kids Homepage **http://www.jump.net/~gmikel/apraxia/** and associated listserv (the Apraxia Kids Listserv). The listserv can be subscribed to by contacting the list-owner, Sharon Gretz at **sharong@nauticom.net** .

Or you might want to read entire journal articles such as "Autism, Asperger's syndrome and semantic-pragmatic disorder: Where are the boundaries?" by D.V.M. Bishop that appeared in the *British Journal of Disorders of Communication* 24, 107–121 (1989) © The Royal College of Speech Therapists, London. It can be downloaded from **http://www.jaymuggs.demon.co.uk/ bishop.htm** .

Perhaps you would be interested to marvel at the detail of the World Health Organisation Terminology site, whose Internet address (URL) is **http://www. who.int/pll/ter/pdmfinal.html** .

Next you could visit Lund University in Sweden for an exhaustive account of the Educational Programs in Europe in Logopedics at **http://www.ldc.lu.se/logopedi/europe/** .

Why not take a close look at what's on at University College London by pointing your browser to **http://www.ucl.ac.uk/HCS/staff.htm** ?

Tired of reading? Take a break, view excellent pictures of tongue-tie, or the anatomy of the larynx at **http://www.cal.shaw.wave.ca/~ejain/examples.html** and **http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/oto/studs/anat/larynx.html** respectively.

Tired of speech pathology? Surf to the Louvre, the Smithsonian Institute, Qantas bookings or Seusseville!

The jargon so far

ACQ: Speech Pathology Australia's clinical magazine, published three times each year in February, June and

October and edited by Dr Pamela Snow.

Browser: abbreviation of web browser. A web browser is a software program used to access the world wide web (WWW) as well as other tasks. Once you are equipped with a computer (with a printer, so that you can keep some of your "finds"), a modem, and an Internet service provider, you can buy or download a browser. The most popular browsers are Netscape Navigator/ Communicator and Internet Explorer.

Download: strictly speaking the term download refers to transferring a file from a server to a client using FTP, which will be explained in the next edition of Webwords. The popular (but not quite correct) use of the term is by Internet users who talk about downloading when they are simply retrieving a file from the Internet, by whatever method.

email (also e-mail): electronic mail. This is an Internet service that allows you to send (post) and receive messages to and from other Internet users.

Internet: the largest computer network in the world.

Link: short for hyperlink. A hyperlink is a bit of text or a web graphic (a picture or design) that a user can mouse-click to retrieve, or jump to, another web page.

Listserv: a small software program that automatically redistributes email to subscribers to a mailing list or discussion group.

Netizen: a person with Internet access (an Internet citizen).

Newbie: a newcomer to the Internet.

Post: an email message to an individual, mailing list or discussion group.

Search engine: a program that allows you to search for specific data on the Internet.

Subscribe: as in "subscribing to a listserv", simply means that you have agreed to receive posts or newsletters from a listserv or mailing list. In this instance, "subscribe" does not imply that you pay a fee. You can "unsubscribe" at any time.

Upload: to transfer one or more files from your own computer to a remote computer, for example, transferring additions to your own web page from your computer to a web server (more of this next time!).

URL: Uniform Resource Locator, a method of specifying the address of any resource available on the Internet.

Web: short for world wide web, or WWW. It is just one of the ways that information can be exchanged on the Internet. While it's not the same thing as the Internet, people tend to use the terms Internet, net, web and WWW interchangeably.

Website: related and interlinked web pages that are usually created by one person, or a team of people.

Making a start

The first time you surf, take someone experienced with you! If you don't have an Internet account yet, treat them to lunch at an Internet cafe! Or if you are already connected to the Internet, but have not taken the plunge, try this. Get your experienced-someone to open a browser for you, and load this document at **http://members.tripod. com/Caroline_Bowen/webwords1.htm** . Follow the links, remembering to click the "back button" (ask your helper) each time you finish browsing a new site, to return you to this page. Let me know how you get on!

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Reference

Kuster, J.M. (1995). Newbies on Internet. *Asha*, 20 (February).