

Internet Strategies for the Paralegal in New Mexico: The Basics and Beyond...

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Introduction to the Internet

- Fundamentals of the Internet
- Basic Internet Terminology
 - World Wide Web (WWW or “The Web”)
 - Electronic Mail (Email)
 - Listserv
 - Internet Relay Chat (IRC or Chat)
 - News (or Usenet News)
- Domain Names, Addresses, ISPs

Fundamentals of the Internet

- Simply a world-wide group of interconnected computers
- Originally DOD sponsored, was military and academic (and so non-commercial)
- ARPA -> DARPA -> NSF -> Private Mix
- Significant commercial activity only in last decade

Basic Internet Terminology -- Handy Online Resources

- Learning Tree @
[http://people.ne.mediaone.net/walthowe/
ilrntree.html](http://people.ne.mediaone.net/walthowe/ilrntree.html)
- Internet Glossary @
[http://www.delphi.com/navnet/faq/
glossary.html](http://www.delphi.com/navnet/faq/
glossary.html)

Basic Internet Terminology -- World Wide Web (WWW)

- The multimedia portion of the Internet
- Internet computers deliver “pages” of HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) documents universally translatable
- E.g., URL (Uniform Resource Locator):
<http://www.peacocklaw.com>
- Usually see text and graphics; Look behind the scenes at the HTML

Basic Internet Terminology -- Electronic Mail (Email)

- Send messages to an “email address”
- Send to one or more recipients
- May send with documents attached, such as a brief in Microsoft Word Office97 format
- Success rate high but keep important messages in “Sent” folder
- Errors may or may not be reported

Basic Internet Terminology -- Listserv

- An automatic device which receives messages and delivers to user list
- Usually topic oriented: e.g., patent law, pugs, or your favorite author
- Moderated or unmoderated
- Similar to news or topic-oriented web pages with discussion area, but usually more on-topic and with less “spam”

Basic Internet Terminology -- Internet Relay Chat (IRC)

- Live topic-oriented typed discussions
- Held in a “chat room”
- Can be 24-hour always same location
- Can be one-time only event (such as chat with the Rolling Stones)

Basic Internet Terminology -- News (or Usenet News)

- Every topic under the sun
- Each “newsgroup” is purportedly devoted to a single topic (e.g., alt.music.ramones)
- In practice, lots of spam
- <http://www.deja.com>

Domain Names and Addresses

- Computers organized in hierarchic structure
- Top level -- com, org, gov, edu, net, uk
- Second level -- often descriptive, rt66.com, uspto.gov, unm.edu
- Third level -- often individual computer, mack.rt66.com, hydra.unm.edu
- Address -- username@domain-name

Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

- Local -- rt66, swcp, technet, roadrunner
- National -- aol, compuserve, juno
- Provide an email address
- Provide hookup to internet / web
- Can provide software, if needed
- Can provide additional capabilities, such as personal domain (peacocklaw.com)

Substantive Legal Research

- Internet Search Tools
- Bookmarks
- Legal Search Tools
- Save and Print Information
- Citation

Internet Search Tools

- Search Engines generally useful, especially to gather business information
- Each engine has its advantages and disadvantages (see Bookmarks)
- Personal favorites are Metacrawler and Altavista

Bookmarks

- Splendid tool for storing web pages you need to repeatedly access
- See sample on diskette -- Note use of folders to organize bookmarks
- Pages are constantly being deleted, moving, changing; periodically clean out dead bookmarks (but note that a page can be temporarily inaccessible)

Legal Search Tools

- General law sites
- Specific law sites
- Governmental sites
- Court sites

Legal Search Tools - General

- The Law Engine!
- The World Wide Web Virtual Library: Law
- COUNSEL QUEST - legal resource locator

Legal Search Tools - Specific

- [New Mexico Administrative Code](#)
- [New Mexico Statutes Annotated](#)
- [Martindale Lawyer Locator](#)
- [United States Code @ Cornell](#)
- [IBM Patent Server Home Page](#)
- [Web Interface to Whois](#)
- [Community of Science](#)

Legal Search Tools - Government

- Search SEC EDGAR Archives
- Forms And Publications - IRS
- GSA Federal Acquisition Regulations
- New Mexico Technet; City of Albuquerque
- State of New Mexico Govt Information
- U.S. House Of Representatives; Senate
- U.S. House Internet Law Library

Legal Search Tools - Courts

- Second Judicial District Court
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico
- Opinions, U.S. Courts of Appeal

Save and Print Information

- File - Save As to save a web page in either HTML or ASCII text formats
- File - Print to print a web page, and the date will show in the footer
- Occasionally printing will fail or not work well; sometimes helps to turn off the Auto Load Images option, empty the caches, and reload the page before printing

Citation

- Where web pages present facts material to litigation, entry into evidence should normally be by stipulation
- If not, need affidavit of individual accessing the Web page including date and copy of Web page
- May well be evidentiary problems with Web pages of a non-party

How to Become Indispensable

- Educating Yourself and Updating Skills
- Educating Others on Internet Benefits
- Designing and Maintaining a Home Page

Educating Yourself and Updating Skills

- Just Play
- Browse Internet Magazines
- Internet Law Specific Journals (generally pricey) such as *The Internet Lawyer*

Educating Others on Internet Benefits

- Show Others the Possible
 - Show Them Online
 - Show Them Hardcopy
 - Do It Faster/Cheaper Than Existing Methods
- Show Others the Ease (Online)
- Or, Keep It to Yourself and Become Indispensable (Sometimes Works)

Designing and Maintaining a Home Page

- Learn HTML
 - L. Aronson, *HTML Manual of Style*
 - <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimer.html>
- Look at How Other Web Pages Work (In Netscape, View - Document Source)
- Use auto-HTML formatting options of Word
- Don't Copy Without Permission