

Creating a Home Page on the WWWeb

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A major problem throughout the scientific community is the time it takes to get a paper published. In our own specialty, that may range from six months to well over two years. This dilemma produces the most stress for those working in the field of research whose grant renewals depend upon the regular publication of results.

Imagine you have decided to conduct a research project on the impact video-imaging will have on the acceptance of orthodontic treatment over the next decade. What would help you get a fast start in a relatively new field of technology?

At any one time there are probably a number of individuals working on the subject of video-imaging. But because of the publication backlog of reviewed papers, nearly all of the most recent research on this topic is unavailable. Worse yet, you have no easy way of determining who is initiating new studies in this field.

During the past year I watched one of one of my more enthusiastic graduate students struggle with this problem. After selecting his research topic, he searched for appropriate references upon which to build the rationale for his thesis. During that same period, as Editor of the *Angle Orthodontist*, I received five manuscripts directly related to his topic, and I estimate that an-

other 10 may have been submitted to other journals. My student will not have access to the findings of these studies until after he graduates and his degree is framed and hung on the wall.

To help solve this problem, The Angle Orthodontist plans to establish its own Home Page on the World Wide Web. Our primary purpose will be to better serve the research interests of our orthodontic specialty by publishing a list of research papers (topics, authors, and institutions) that have been accepted for publication.

A Home Page on the Web will make it possible for investigators, including my graduate student, to communicate with others in the field, compare research findings, and share ideas. The flow of information will be greatly enhanced by using the Internet to see the papers in our files waiting for publication.

Alvin Toffler, in his book *The Third Wave*, noted that "the development and distribution of information has now become the central productivity and power activity of the human race." Your Editor plans to make this journal more productive, more powerful, and more user-friendly.

While you're in a creative mood, why not drop me an electronic line or two about this exciting new opportunity...DLTurpin@aol.com