Internet Resources on Aging

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Welcome to a new column about resources on aging on the Internet. These resources have grown from under 25 in early 1994 to almost 300 at the present time, and it now seems necessary to provide some guidance on finding one's way through these new, often overwhelming electronic information resources.

This column will attempt to provide an overview of these resources in aging, look at some of them in more detail, and provide guidelines on how to find and cite Internet resources. We will concentrate on World Wide Web (WWW) resources, but will also describe aging resources available in the other components of the Internet, including the commercial services, freenets, listservs, newsgroups, and gophers. We will assume the reader already knows the basics of using the Internet, and starting from that point, we'll concentrate on specific resources in aging.

Aging resources and sites on the Internet are, like the field itself, multidisciplinary. Perhaps that is why there are so many. There are sites for federal government agencies like the U.S. Administration on Aging, state and area agencies on aging, sites for colleges and universities offering certificate and degree programs in gerontology and geriatrics, sites for older adults themselves, research sites, sites listing and describing local community caregiving resources, sites for caregivers, sites for consumer information, sites specializing in Alzheimer's disease, and sites for demographic, survey, and census data. There are even sites that concentrate just on providing links to other sites. There are now so many sites that it's getting hard to find unique names for them — there is a GERINET and a Geronet, a GeriWeb and a Gero-
would be very useful to a person who knows little about aging and needs practical information.


The Health Sciences Library at Emory University has created home pages of direct links for many different medical specialties. This one, devoted to geriatrics and gerontology, has almost 50 direct links to other sites.

As mentioned earlier, this column will concentrate on where and how to find Internet resources on aging rather than on basic Internet use. There are many excellent general Internet books and articles available, and we will list some of them in the next column along with an overview of Internet resources and general guidelines on how to find them. Subsequent columns will focus more specifically on such topics as demographic data sets and census data, government resources, and research information. If there is anything you would particularly like to see covered in this column, please send me an e-mail message at post@shrsys.hslc.org.