

“When Life knocks at the door no one can wait”

Just about a year ago I wrote an editorial entitled “Dentistry and the Internet—enthusiasm mixed with caution” (Quintessence Int 1995;26:663). Well, it’s already time to throw caution to the wind! Even if 1996 cannot be called the year the profession came of age on the Internet, 1997 certainly will be.

Uses of the Internet for dental organizations, universities, dental dealers, and manufacturers, to name a few, have mushroomed in 1996. Last year there was some good information available, but it took time to weed out the chafe. Now, however, there is so much more useful and better organized information that if you are not soon connected to the exciting opportunities for education and information ingestion offered on the World Wide Web, you will be left behind in the pursuit of excellence.

It is hard to believe what an incredible reference source lies at our fingertips. Taking myself as an example, a year ago I was barely dabbling in the opportunity. Now, on a regular basis, I read newspapers from my home countries of England and Norway, and I can even see a picture of Oslo city center that is updated every 15 minutes. I can find any information that I want and see some things that I never could without the maze of interlinked computers around the world called the World Wide Web.

Here are just a few sites you should visit on a dental journey of exploration. Only a few examples from each category can be listed here—but there are many more:

For orientation

<http://ua1vm.ua.edu/~crispen/roadmap.html>—A free, easy way to learn about the Internet.

<http://www.search.com/>—Search here using key words, but be prepared to be sidetracked.

Universities

<http://www.mit.edu/people/cdemello/univ-full.html>—

Find your dental school or a college for your child.

There are 3,040 active listings of universities and colleges worldwide!

<http://www.dent.unc.edu/>—University of North Carolina School of Dentistry.

<http://smile.uthscsa.edu/>—University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

<http://indy.radiology.uiowa.edu/Beyond/Dentistry/>

DentistryHP.html—University of Iowa’s School of Dentistry home page, which contains an excellent resource list of other dental sites.

Organizations

<http://www.worldserver.pipex.com/worldental/>—The FDI World Dental Federation.

<http://www.agd.org/>—Academy of General Dentistry.

<http://www.ada.org/>—American Dental Association.

<http://www.aads.jhu.edu/>—American Association of Dental Schools.

<http://www.iadr.com/>—International Association for Dental Research/American Association for Dental Research.

<http://aapd.org/>—American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

<http://www.prosthodontics.org/>—A link to many prosthodontic organizations such as:

<http://www.prosthodontics.org/member/aaed/index.html>—American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry.

Government agencies

<http://www.nidr.nih.gov/>—National Institute for Dental Research.

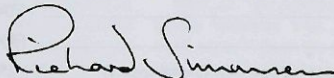
For an excellent library resource, go to the University of Michigan Dental library:

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Dentistry.lib/dent.homepage.html>, which offers a host of other resources.

To not be accused of favoring any commercial sites, I will refrain from naming any—but it is safe to say that the resources available, as well as the potential for education and business, make these some of the more interesting and informative sites to visit. Publishers, manufacturers, and dental dealers, are well aware of the potential benefit of helping you, the practicing dentist, utilize their vast resources in improving your ability to practice at the peak of your potential.

A year ago, I advised enthusiasm mixed with caution. Now, I can only borrow some profound words from John Masfield: “When Life knocks at the door no one can wait.”

So, cast caution aside—Life is knocking, and if you have not already done so, plunge headfirst into the exciting world of learning on the Internet.



Richard J. Simonsen
Editor-in-Chief