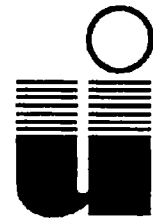




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Pime'98 Abstract

The Uranium Institute has run a World Wide Web site since July 1995 and has seen user sessions reach around 5600 per week. The site comprises some 700 pages of news and information and has attracted a good deal of favourable comment. The site is intended as an information resource to augment the service provided by the UI Information Service and is aimed at both industry and non-industry web users. The actual user community includes UI members and others from the industry, mining and financial analysts, lots of students and school children, journalists and a large number of unknown individuals. Hopefully the workshop can be used to examine user reactions to industry sites and get some idea of the extent to which we are talking to ourselves over the net rather than talking to our „publics“.

Although the UI was quite early on the web scene by nuclear standards, development of the UI site has proceeded fairly slowly and the accent has always been on good quality information. With 170,000 visitors per year site use indicates that there is a demand for nuclear information while responses indicate that there is a substantial body of quiet nuclear support which welcomes the opportunity to communicate with the industry. Does the web help to pull the industry and its supporters together?

The WWW has often been portrayed as a vehicle which allows good news and information to be communicated direct to the „public“ but attempts to realise this opportunity have not always met with success. The UI has had a generally positive experience with its web site but this is not universally the case. I would like to explore the background to this both in my presentation and in the subsequent discussion.

My general theme is to ask the question „What do users want from a nuclear related web site and are we providing it?“ Conversely it is pertinent to ask the question, „does what the users seem to want coincide with what we wish to supply?“ I will seek to address these questions from the UI experience and also from my experience of what others are doing.

Ted Mole
Head of Library and Information Services

Waste Workshop

**Statements of Leading
Contributors**