

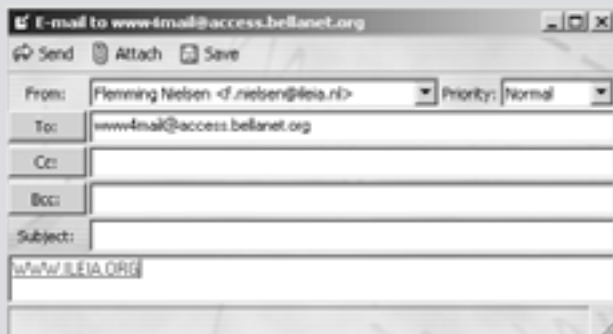
Accessing the Internet in the South

Web Access by Email

In most developing countries, access to the Internet is expensive, slow, or both. Very often, many people share a single Internet-connected computer. To surf the web in the conventional way requires a stable power supply and continuous Internet connection while the user visits one page after another. If this is not possible or practical, web access by email is a solution that allows you to access web pages using only email. You can prepare the emails before you go online to minimize the time you are connected.

What you need: Access to email, and a web browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer.

1. Compose an email message addressed to **www4mail@access.bellanet.org**
In the body of the message, type the address (URL) of the web page you wish to receive.
Send the message.



Requesting a web page by Email

2. You will receive in reply an email message containing an attachment. Open the attachment in a web browser. The web page contains only the text, no pictures, because images on the web contain a lot of data and take longer for you to download.
- 3 To follow the links, or request to see the pictures, just click in the boxes and press "send." Later on, check your mail and you will have received the requested pages.

Search the Web by Email

Send a message like the following:

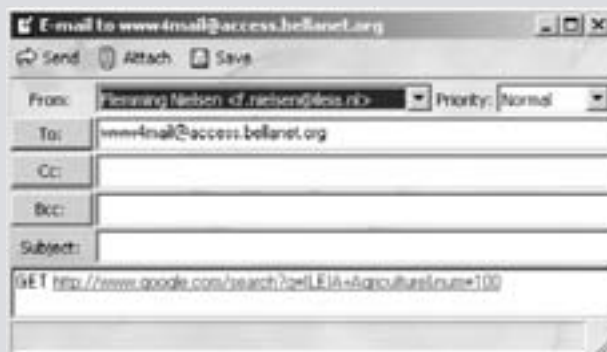
To: **www4mail@access.bellanet.org**

Subject: [leave blank]

Body:

GET <http://www.google.com/search?q=ILEIA+Agri+culture&num=100>

Try it, or replace 'ILEIA' and 'Agriculture' with your own keywords, as many as you like, separated by +



Searching the Internet with Email.

You can use a similar technique to search ILEIADOC, ILEIA's online bibliographic database:

As an example, send a message to:

www4mail@access.bellanet.org

with

<http://ileia.cust.iaf.nl:8080/ileiadoc.html?pg=q&q=sheep+goats>

(replace 'sheep' and 'goats' with your own keywords) in the body of the message.

More on Web Access by Email

- Accessing the Internet by E-Mail: Guide to Offline Internet Access
- Full instructions on surfing the web by email, ftp by email, and much more. Available in many languages. By Bob Rankin and Gerald Boyd. To receive a copy, send a blank email to: **accmail-faq@expita.com**
- See also: How to Do Just About Anything by E-Mail, by Gerald Boyd **<http://www.expita.com>**

With: some tools and techniques

Translation of Email by Email

Send an email as usual to a colleague in your own language. In the "Cc:" line, send a copy of the message to the Universal T-mail Translator. The way you format the address will determine how the message is translated.

The format of the cc address is: (Original language)-(Final translation)@t-mail.com, where the language codes can be: English (en or an), French (fr), German (ge or de), Italian (it), Spanish (sp or es), Portuguese (pt or po).

To get from an English to a French translation you would use cc: **en-fr@t-mail.com**

The person you mail to will receive both your original email and the translation.



Automatic translation of your Email using the free t-mail.com service

Reading and Converting PDF Files

Many scientific and other documents on the web are saved in Adobe PDF format. To read these documents you need the free software Acrobat Reader (See p.33 on how to get it) However, you don't need to the PDF reader if you use the "PDF Conversion by Email". This service allows you to convert PDF files to a plain text format that is easier to read and send by email using older computer technology.



You can receive pdf files from the Internet as text files. Here an article from LEISA magazine vol. 17, no. 4, page 6-8 is requested.

If the PDF is on the Internet (tip: the web address or URL ends with .pdf), mail the URL in the body of an email message to **pdf2text@adobe.com**. The converter will mail back the plain text of the file. If the PDF file is on a diskette or on your computer, send it as an email attachment to **pdf2text@sun.trace.wisc.edu**

Web-browsers

Most new operating systems (e.g. Windows) include a web browser. However, you may want to try one of the alternative free ones. Lynx (<http://lynx.brower.org/>) is a text-only browser that run fast on even the oldest computer. Since it ignores graphics you can surf very fast. It allows you download graphic files to you hard disk if you want but Lynx itself will not show them.

Opera (<http://www.opera.com/>) is a highly-rated free web browser Opera that is much smaller than other major browsers and includes an FTP client and Email program. A good choice for those using older hardware. The only problem is that the free version download adverts and thus keeps you online for a longer time.

Netscape Communicator (<http://browsers.netscape.com/browsers/main.tmpl>) Netscape's web browser comes with a set of free tools: Netscape Mail (an email client), Netscape Instant Messenger, and Netscape Composer (for creating web pages).

Microsoft Internet Explorer (<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/default.asp>) Microsoft's IE web browser comes with a similar set of complimentary tools: free email client (Outlook Express), instant messaging, and web page editing. Outlook Express is frequently targeted by viruses and is not recommended as an email client.

Viruses

Viruses (and also Worms and Trojan Horses) are programs designed to harm your computer and spread from one computer to another. They will not destroy your computer physically but can change or delete software and your files so the computer becomes useless until the software has been installed again. It is wise always to keep backup on floppy disks or CDs.

Typically, you contract a virus by opening an email attachment from an unknown person, or by sharing computer diskettes with another person. The best way to protect against viruses is to install Virus protection software on your computer and to update it regularly. If you receive a file you did not ask for, especially with the extension .exe, it may contain a harmful virus. Infection occurs once you click on the file to open it. The best solution is to delete the file without opening it.

Free virus protection software include: "AVG AntiVirus" (http://www.grisoft.com/html/us_down.htm) and V-Catch (<http://www.vcatch.com/download.html>)

More on p.33

Compiled by: Katherine Morrow (Bellanet)