Contribution to symposium on:
('distributed communities of practice')

**A Researchers Paradise
High Quality Services on the Internet**

Author:
Jørgen Burchardt

Institution:
Tidsskrift for arbejdsliv/Nyt om arbejdsliv

Session type:
(individual research paper)

Contact:
Jørgen Burchardt
Nyborgvej 13,
DK-5750 Ringe

+45 62 62 36 17

jbur@post1.tele.dk

450 words

Key words:
Science portal, electronic publishing, virtual university, research community and scholarly resources.

A Researchers Paradise
High Quality Services on the Internet

Services for research are still in their early days of development and adoption by scholars. Over the next years many new methods will emerge. These new scholarly resources may be very different in form and function than their current manifestations.

This paper is a preliminary attempt to map out some of the key contexts within which they will exist. I will examine the emerging role and fit of the different services in scholarly scientific practice, the range of dimensions that shape their usage and provide value for scholars, and the larger impact on scholarly practice. In the final section I presents insights on the adoption, and implications for the future.

Through electronic publishing, science portals and virtual universities the scientific community will soon be well established in the WWW. For instance has the amount of information potentially available for the researcher grown exponentially in recent years. Most of this information is available on-line, but efficient and exhaustive use of it is rendered problematic by the way in which it is organised. The researcher is often confused by the quantity of information and by the lack of quality control of that information.

The services therefore have a strategic role to play in the orientation of the researcher's choices.

In order to meet the users' needs, a portal service may be able to supply, in a systematic if not exhaustive manner, indications and suggestions to those searching for information on the Internet.

Features, functionalities and content for researchers will be

- living electronic publications
- discussion forums
- pre-publications with open peer review
- bibliographies
- conference proceedings
- information about events, seminars and conferences
- news
- virtual conferences
- current Web events
- reference resources

The paper will focus on structured knowledge sharing. In each scientific field there can be build online communities as a strategic initiative and public service through designing learning portals and virtual campuses. It will function in an integration of research and education for lifelong learning. Therefore is it necessary to rethink the basic skills in adult education. At the same time it will re-shape the culture of research by making new forms of organising. It will develop a community of practice in the design of effective corporate communities where a high degree of democracy is built in. It will change society as well as each single organisation when students can have the same information as the teachers and the common citizen the same as the researchers.

The paper will present the 'best practice' within the field. Among this examples from the scholarly portals 'Nyt om arbejdsliv' (www.nyt-om-arbejdsliv.dk) and 'Teknik @ Kultur' (www.teknik-og-kultur.dk) edited by the author.