While CAUSE, like thousands of other organizations, has been very busy setting up a World Wide Web server, to date we have received few article submissions for CAUSE/EFFECT related to the management and use of the Web to deliver campus services. Perhaps the rapid proliferation of this technology has taken even information resources professionals by storm, and you have been so busy “just doing it” that you haven’t yet had a chance to reflect on and share your Web experiences through formal publication.

While there are hundreds of resources about the Web on the Web, it is nonetheless important for practitioners’ journals such as CAUSE/EFFECT to publish articles about networked information issues and experiences, from the familiar management perspectives that have been our hallmark for more than fifteen years.

Thus we are pleased to feature Carl Jacobson’s article about the use of Internet tools to access administrative data at the University of Delaware—an innovative approach to providing “open, public, and wide-reaching” campus services, recently spotlighted in the Chronicle of Higher Education. What is especially appropriate about this article is the simultaneous publication on the CAUSE Web server of an HTML version of the story provided by the author, complete with links to demonstrations and other relevant resources that could not be included in the print version. Similarly, Christine Quinn’s viewpoint article offering some do’s and don’ts for building a World Wide Web site can also be explored as an HTML Web presentation.

In addition to summarizing three major themes that emerged from CAUSE’s Northeast Regional Conference on OSF’s DCE—one of which is that DCE can be used to enhance the Web—the article by Shull, Arzt, and Updegrove refers to some selected resources about DCE in higher education, which have been synthesized and presented through a page on the CAUSE Web server.

Uniform resource locator (URL) addresses are provided in each of these articles, but you can also easily find these “linked” resources in CAUSE/EFFECT Online, a service we began offering with the Fall 1994 issue. This is found under Publications on the CAUSE Web server (http://cause-www.colorado.edu/).

In the past twelve months, we have experimented with a number of ways of presenting our contents in digital form. As an association with a great deal of diversity in our membership, we face the challenge of providing network services to member representatives whose desktop computing configurations and capabilities run the gamut, from character-based terminal emulation access to high-powered workstations, running different software and with varying levels of technical support available. We’ve tried to provide not only ASCII text files, but choices of word-processed files including graphics, and, more recently, versions in portable document format (PDF).

Having been impressed with the capabilities of software that produces PDF files—such as Adobe’s Acrobat™—we began offering the entire magazine in this format with the Spring 1995 issue, including Hypertext linkages within the full-page layout presentation. For those who do not have this software, the “reader” is free and can be downloaded to your desktop. While you may need some technical assistance to be sure you configure this correctly for your system, the time it takes to mount this software is well worth it—there is an increasing amount of information being made available on the Internet in this attractive and convenient format.

One final logistical note for this issue of CAUSE/EFFECT: we asked authors who did not write HTML versions of their articles to provide us with URLs for links to supplementary material. So the online Acrobat version of this issue offers HTML-like connectivity to supporting documents for readers who want to pursue these experiences in more depth.

While we explore ways to leverage network capabilities to deliver CAUSE publications and other services more effectively, we want to remain sensitive to the needs of our members who may not be able to (or perhaps prefer not to) access such information online. At the recent CAUSE Board meeting, both the Publications Committee and the Information Resources Committee recommended that as our association moves aggressively toward the digital information future, we be mindful of the needs of less technologically advanced members.

As we continue to deliver your print subscription to CAUSE/EFFECT as well as experiment with and plan for new, Web-based publications, we will appreciate your feedback on these efforts. You can use our interactive online forms, send e-mail to jrudy@cause.colorado.edu, or send a fax to 303-440-0461. But please let us hear from you!

Julia A. Rudy, Editor