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Newsletter

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

AVI Web site – The First Seven Months

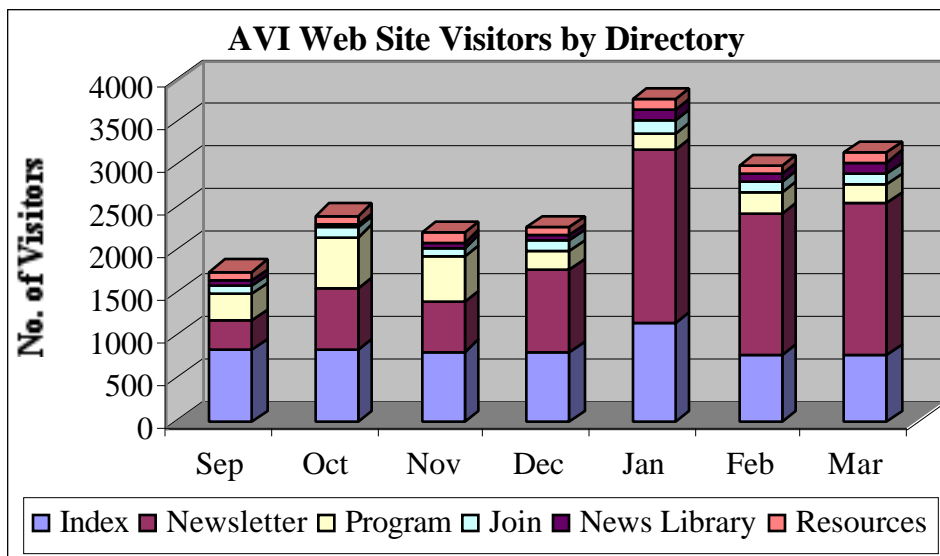
By Web Person Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd

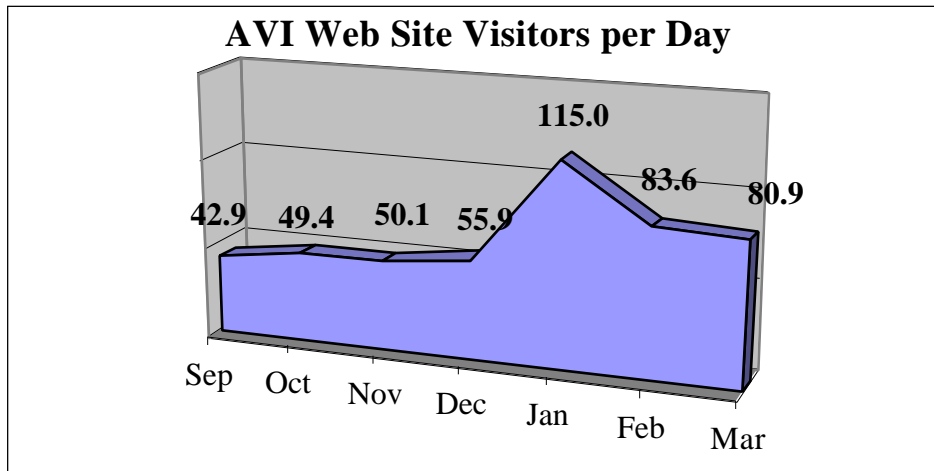
The AVI web site continues to have an increasing number of visitors. The Visitors by Directory graph shows the six most popular Directories (folders), i.e., which buttons visitors clicked on most often in the first seven months of operation. The Visitors per Day graph shows the average number of visitors during the first seven months. (Average hits per day ranged from 649 in September to 795 in January.) The spike in visitors per day in January was driven by a doubling of the number of visitors to the Newsletter directory.

Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd at starrchi@earthlink.net

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Index	840	829	825	823	1168	789	786
Newsletter	351	736	580	968	2021	1661	1784
Program	301	606	541	215	179	243	214
Join	99	102	100	126	166	116	117
News Library	73	53	63	65	125	112	147
Resources	102	97	101	78	115	95	118
Total	1808.9	2472.4	2260.1	2330.9	3889	3099.6	3246.9

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Visitors per Day	42.9	49.4	50.1	55.9	115.0	83.6	80.9





How to Contact AVI

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check payable to the AVI, should be sent to:

Dr. Robin M. Starr; Secretary Treasurer, AVI;
31575 Griffin Drive, Conifer, CO 80433
Phone: 303/674-5231; FAX: 303/674-9717;
e-mail: starrchi@earthlink.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.avinformatics.org/>

Dr. Starr is responsible for distribution of the hardcopy version of the AVI Newsletter.

Newsletter items can be sent to:

Dr. Ronald D. Smith, Newsletter Editor, AVI;
UI College of Veterinary Medicine; 2001 South Lincoln; Urbana, IL 61801.
Phone: 217/333-2449
FAX: 217/333-4628
E-mail: rd-smith@uiuc.edu

If you are an AVI member and would like to be on the AVI Newsletter electronic distribution list, send an e-mail message to the Newsletter Editor. The electronic (PDF) version is faster, searchable, easier to store and retrieve, and environmentally friendly.

Current and past issues of the AVI Newsletter are also available on the Web at:

<http://www.avinformatics.org/>

SUMMARY OF VIDEO OVER IP CONFERENCING CAPABILITIES AT VETERINARY SCHOOLS

**Prepared by Cheryl R Dhein, Washington State University
Feb. 2001**

An e-mail survey was conducted to get an idea of how many schools have equipment for IP-based videoconferencing. Answers to the following questions were sought and compiled by the author:

1. Do you have IP based videoconferencing equipment?
2. What brand of equipment are you using? (e.g. Polycom)
3. Are you interested in participating in future conferences with other veterinary schools?

4. Are there topics that someone at your school is willing to present using videoconferencing?

One of the reasons for conducting the survey was to explore the possibility of sharing instructional content via videoconferences. I'm sure all schools have a plethora of student clubs dedicated to various species and disciplines that are looking for speakers. We could pool our speaker resources by having these clubs sponsor videoconferences at several schools at once

Attached is a summary of the results of the survey. If anyone can fill in the ??, it would be appreciated. If I made any errors please let me know.

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School	In College	Equipment	Comments
Auburn	yes	Polycom	
California	??		
Colorado State University	no		
Cornell	no		Don't currently have in the veterinary college, but do have available through the central campus.
Florida	no		
Georgia	no		
Illinois	yes	They just ordered a Polycom unit	and are equipping a room dedicated for video conferencing.
Iowa State University	no		ISDN based
Kansas State University	yes		Using Net-meeting
Louisiana State University	no		
Michigan	no		looking at ordering a unit, but not currently available
Minnesota –	no		Not through the college, yes through the university
Mississippi	??		
Missouri	yes	Polycom	
Montreal			Canadian consortium that currently includes three Canadian veterinary

			schools.
North Carolina	yes	Polycom H.323	Also have a multipoint conferencing unit
Ohio	??		
Oklahoma	yes	Team station running net meeting.	
Ontario/Guelph	yes	Polycom FX	Canadian consortium that currently includes three Canadian veterinary schools.
Oregon	no		Yes through University, No through College
Pennsylvania	??		
Prince Edward Island –	yes	Polycom FX	Canadian consortium that currently includes three Canadian veterinary schools.
Purdue	??		
Saskatoon	no		Not in the veterinary school, but available to the university for a fee
Tennessee	yes	Polycom	
Texas	??		
Tufts	yes	Picturtel	and in the process of looking at a Tandberg 800
Tuskegee	yes		with CU See Me
Virginia Tech	no		ISDN based videoconferencing using a V-tel system. This company is based in Austin, Texas.
Washington	no		not in college, yes at university
Wisconsin	no		Not in college, yes at university

PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

Biostatistical Software

From: Paul Johnson <p.johnson@prodigy.net>

I have just completed a CD-ROM of "Biostatistical Software" as advertised on the Internet. If anybody is interested visit

<http://pages.prodigy.net/johnsonp12/biostat.html>

The software includes:

i) Clinical trial software, ii) Model selection, iii) Quality control, iv) Bootstrap, Monte Carlo, EM algorithm, and Box-Cox transformation, v)

Pharmaceutical and nonparametric, vi) Time series and wavelet analysis, vii) Environmental and Ecological statistics, viii) Distance measure, degree of agreement and various tests, ix) Statistical analysis package and a Distributional library, x) Randomization and Analysis-of-Mean Type tests, and xi) Regression, Estimation and sample size determination.

The CD-ROM costs \$12.95 which includes shipping and handling to anywhere in the world (so basically at cost).

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Quality Online Education

Education consulting firm WorldClass Strategies recently conducted a survey of 110 college and university faculty members engaged in online learning projects and studied 100 online courses. WorldClass Strategies President Lee Alley, formerly a college professor, said the study revealed that such programs have a great deal of progress to make. "We found the great majority of courses online are not very high quality pedagogically," he said. Online programs seemed to be paying more attention to how the sites looked and functioned than to how

they worked as vehicles for instruction. In other words, Alley said, faculty members were being asked to be Web masters, not educators. He pointed to a number of ideas that educators must grasp if the online learning phenomenon is to grow. First, educators must accept that online learning will, for the most part, be self-directed by students. Also, educators must be willing to engage online students at a different level, treating them more as "cooperating instructors." Finally, Alley stressed the importance of piloting these types of programs before introducing them to a general audience. (Online Learning, March 2001)

MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Richard B. Talbot Symposium on Veterinary Informatics – 7/15/01; 138th AVMA Annual Convention; Boston, MA

<http://avinformatics.org/symposia/talbot01/talbot01.htm>

AVMA General Informatics Sessions - 7/16-18/01; 138th AVMA Annual Convention; Boston, MA

<http://avinformatics.org/symposia/talbot01/talbot01.htm>

SUGGESTED READING

The History of Online Learning

The Internet and Higher Education journal recently presented a special issue on the history of online learning. The issue contains articles concerning a variety of perspectives on on-line learning. Titles include: "Shift Happens: Online Educa-tion As A New Paradigm in Learning,"

"The Instructor as Manager: Time and Task," and "Moving Beyond the White Cane: Building an Online Learning Environment for the Visually Impaired Professional."

For more information, visit <http://www.sbe.nova.edu/ihe>

CLOSING BITS

Foot-and-Mouth Believed to be First Virus Unable to Spread Through Microsoft Outlook

Researchers Shocked to Finally Find Virus That Email App Doesn't Like

Atlanta, Ga. (SatireWire.com) - Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Symantec's AntiVirus Research Center today confirmed that foot-and-mouth disease cannot be spread by Microsoft's Outlook email application, believed to be the first time the program has ever failed to propagate a major virus.

"Frankly, we've never heard of a virus that couldn't spread through Microsoft Outlook, so our findings were, to say the least, unexpected," said Clive Sarnow, director of the CDC's infectious disease unit.

The study was immediately hailed by British officials, who said it will save millions of pounds and thousands of man hours. "Up until now we have, quite naturally, assumed that both foot-and-mouth and mad cow were spread by Microsoft Outlook," said Nick Brown, Britain's Agriculture Minister. "By eliminating it, we can focus our resources elsewhere."

However, researchers in the Netherlands, where foot-and-mouth has recently appeared, said they

are not yet prepared to disqualify Outlook, which has been the progenitor of viruses such as "I Love You," "Bubbleboy," "Anna Kournikova," and "Naked Wife," to name but a few.

Said Nils Overmars, director of the Molecular Virology Lab at Leiden University: "It's not that we don't trust the research, it's just that as scientists, we are trained to be skeptical of any finding that flies in the face of established truth. And this one flies in the face like a blind drunk sparrow."

Executives at Microsoft, meanwhile, were equally skeptical, insisting that Outlook's patented Virus Transfer Protocol (VTP) has proven virtually pervious to any virus. The company, however, will issue a free VTP patch if it turns out the application is not vulnerable to foot-and-mouth.

Such an admission would be embarrassing for the software giant, but Symantec virologist Ariel Kologne insisted that no one is more humiliated by the study than she is. "Only last week, I had a reporter ask if the foot-and-mouth virus spreads through Microsoft Outlook, and I told him, 'Doesn't everything?'" she recalled. "Who would've thought?"