

# **Listservs®, Message Boards and Forums on the Internet**

By

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One of my favorite discussion points is that the Internet can be one of your most competent sources for current awareness information and continuing professional education. To accomplish this we will utilize resource(s) that have been on the Internet for literally years in fact many have been available for over 20 years!! These resources are known as Listservs®, Message Boards and Forums.

I will take each of these excellent resources one at a time and discuss the various resources that are available on the Internet and how you can use these resources to make your business more productive or to expand your professional continuing education.

## Listservs®

At the current time there are approximately 500,000+ mailing lists on the Internet with many powered by the original software call Listserv®. Over the years many folks have called these mailing lists Listservs® named for the software that powers the list. There are mailing lists that you can freely subscribe to covering almost any subject that you can think of. These lists are created around a single specific subject and everyone that belongs to the mailing list will receive emails from other subscribers either requesting information or disseminating new information about the single specific subject to all members of the list. I currently belong to over 150 lists and much of the current happenings information as well as current awareness information that I receive come from these lists! I call it my “real time” continuing and ongoing professional education directly from the Internet through eMails. One of the better overall resources that explains in detail Listservs® and related information is available at the following site:

Internet Mailing Lists Guides and Resources  
<http://www.ifla.org/I/training/listserv/lists.htm>

I consider the above resource to be one of the most competent available from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. It covers all aspects of Internet mailing lists and give many excellent resources.

There are also a number of directories that list the many Listservs® that are available to freely subscribe to and are available at the following URLs:

Catalist – The Official Catalog of Listserv® Lists

<http://www.lsoft.com/lists/listref.html>

Directory of Scholarly and Professional E-Conferences

<http://www.kovacs.com/directory/index.html>

eScribe – The Mailing List Archive

<http://www.escribe.com/>

List-Resource: The Email List Resource Directory

<http://www.list-resources.com/>

Liszt – The Mailing List Directory

<http://www.liszt.com/>

JISCMail – UK Higher and Further Education Communities

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/>

PAML - The Publicly Accessible Mailing Lists

<http://paml.alastra.com/>

PostMasterDirect®

<http://www.netcreations.com/>

The Mail Archive

<http://www.mail-archive.com/>

Tile.Net – The Reference to Internet Discussion and Information Lists

<http://www.tile.net/lists/>

Yahoo! Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/>

By using the above resources you will be able to quickly discover and locate a Listserv® mailing list that you can subscribe to and begin to receive the latest information including the current happenings on your single specific subject! In fact if you cannot find one then you can freely create one by going to the following resource and follow the easy instructions on how to set up an email list group. Just click on “Start a New Group”:

Yahoo! Groups

<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/>

ListSers® are truly the Internet’s best kept secret and even today many many folks do not either understand or use these very valuable resources that can keep you current and at the head of your professional continuing educations class! All this and no browser required!! Subscribe to one of these freely available mailing lists today!!

## Message Boards

Message Boards have also been available on the Internet for many many years and allow you to both access selected specific subject message boards as well as to post a message that others through the global Internet can read and respond to. Most message boards on the Internet are straight forward and very easy to access and post to. The examples of Internet based message boards are:

Board Reader™ - Connecting Message Board Communities™

<http://www.boardreader.com/>

Health Boards

<http://www.healthboards.com/>

Lycos Active Boards

<http://clubs.lycos.com/live/Annotation/BoardsHome.asp>

Open Directory – Message Boards

[http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/On\\_the\\_Web/Message\\_Boards/](http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/On_the_Web/Message_Boards/)

QuickTopic – Free Message Boards and Collaborative Document Review GroupWare

<http://www.quicktopic.com/>

Yahoo! Message Boards

<http://messages.yahoo.com/index.html>

Also my Internet column of June 2002 titled “International Trade Message Resources” gives a comprehensive list of message boards used in the international trade arena. The column is available from my column archives reachable at the following URL:

Zillman Columns 2003 and Archives

<http://www.zillmancolumns.com/>

## Forums

Forums are also popular on the Internet and there are a number of subject specific forums that you can freely visit and find information. You may also create your very own forums on the Internet from a number of the following resources:

Delphi Forums

<http://www.delphiforums.com/>

Internet.com Forums

<http://www.internet.com/forums/>

Network 54

<http://www.network54.com/>

Open Directory – Forums and Message Boards

[http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/Web\\_Design\\_and\\_Development/Message\\_Boards/](http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/Web_Design_and_Development/Message_Boards/)

Yahoo! Chats and Forums

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers\\_and\\_Internet/Internet/Chats\\_and\\_Forums/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/Chats_and_Forums/)

ZDNet Community Central

<http://www.zdnet.com/community/>

All of the above resources (Listservs®, Message Boards and Forums) will open your eyes to sources that have been available on the Internet for years and continue the ability to keep you current and competent in your profession or business career! As you begin to use these excellent resources you will quickly discover how extremely important they are to your ongoing quest to stay current and to discover new knowledge.

I have recently created a number of new sites that expand upon the various resources that I continue to contribute to the Internet community. Please feel free to visit and bookmark:

listen to marcus™

<http://www.listentomarcus.com>

Watch Marcus™

<http://www.watchmarcus.com>

2003 Zillman Columns

<http://www.zillmancolumns.com/>

Marcus P. Zillman's Personal Blog

<http://www.zillman.us>

Virtual Private Library™

<http://www.VirtualPrivateLibrary.com>

Create your private personal or corporate virtual library to stay current and up to date on Internet resources? Let my professional Internet MiniGuides™ be your single source to accomplish it! To obtain additional information:

<http://www.internetminiguides.com/>