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SIGNET NEWS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

What's New on the DFAIT Research Page

In the past month, there have been significant additions to The DFAIT Research Page (DRP) designed to make the tool easier to use. These additions include a menu bar at the top of each page in the DRP system, a new "HQ Info Resources", new features on the main menu and a user-friendly feedback mechanism.

- The menu bar allows easy navigation from one section of the DRP to another without having to navigate back to the main menu. On the menu bar you will also find a handy English-French and French-English dictionary.
- The "HQ Info Resources" provides access to the Library's on-line catalogue, Ottawa News (click on the newspaper on the steps of the building), Ottawa and world weather forecasts (click on the clouds), press releases and more (click on the appropriate window).
- The main menu has also had a face lift. The disclaimer is now accessible by clicking on the icon in the upper left of the screen. It no longer appears automatically, which saves time if you've already read it.
- For feedback to the DRP Webmaster, you can access a user-friendly on-line form to complete and send in. Users having access to the Internet through SIGNET will not, however, be able to take

advantage of this feature. SIGNET users should contact Clancy Coughlin or Rick Dossett, Information Resource Services (SKS) via e-mail with their contributions or comments.

“
The concept that one person
with a computer
is just as good as ten people
is wrong.
”

Kathryn McCallion, Chairman
Ad Hoc Committee
on the Study of the Political-Economic Stream

Hint of the Month

Have you done any Netscape house cleaning lately? To ensure best performance, we recommend that you clear your disk cache and memory cache periodically. The cache memories are used by Netscape to enhance performance by not having to download a page or graphic every time it is accessed in a session(s). While this is a useful feature, it can become overloaded, and when it does, performance will be reduced. In addition, if a page has been updated you may not be viewing the updated version of the page. For example, we discovered that a user was still viewing a Christmas page in late January when the page had actually been removed after Boxing Day!

To clear the cache memories in Netscape:

1. Click on Options.
2. Click on Preferences.
3. Choose Cache and Network.
4. Click on Clear Memory Cache Now and Clear Disk Cache Now.
5. While in this section, check to see that the Verify Documents is set to Every Time.

Clearing the cache may take some time if the PC has not been recently cleared. It may give the impression that the system is "hung" or frozen, so patience is required, especially with older PCs.

Note: you will also need to perform this procedure if you keep receiving a WWW page with the same errors.

Site of the Month

1. **Alta Vista.** A new search engine created by the Digital Equipment Corporation, Alta Vista is one of the best search engines on the Net. It has indexed 21 million Web pages with 10 billion words! The site can be found under "Search" or "Search the Net" in the DRP.

-Ray Zwicker, Corporate
Communications Division (BCC).