

logistics

• That software companies automatically install games or programs promoting human rights to enable youth to be better informed and more aware of the human rights issue.

THE INTERNET AS A COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL

• That NGOs make a concerted effort to reach youth groups such as the Scouts and the YMCA, to make youth aware of the human rights issue, teach them how to counter abuse and hate propaganda, and prevent hate groups from recruiting members.

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• That NGOs such as B'nai B'rith Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Foundation jointly develop and set up an Internet site on the International Symposium on Human Rights and Hate on the Internet.

The last decade has witnessed a remarkable increase in the volume of information on the issue of human rights on the Internet. However, this growth has created a new challenge because, even though the number of sites has increased, few resources have been allocated to establishing measures to organize this surplus of information. As a result, research is difficult, often frustrating and can even be unproductive. It seems absolutely essential to establish mechanisms to facilitate research and guarantee the quality of information.

It was also found that the format used to disseminate information does not always meet clients' needs. Since information can be too complicated for the general public, too detailed for officials (eg. UN) or even too general for the players in the field, it seems necessary to harmonize the format of the information with users' needs.

The Internet's potential sets it apart from traditional media. However, this new technology is often used the same way as radio or television, that is, in a unilateral manner, with the media addressing the user. We must seize the opportunities the Internet offers to make it an interactive tool and move from monologue to dialogue.

The issue of access to information also raises several concerns. The desire to impose specific laws on the Internet and/or to make carriers responsible could hinder the circulation of information. Also, the stringency of the Copyright Act presents an obstacle to the dissemination of information.

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