

CHAPTER THIRTY

NET-BASED DISSEMINATION OF e-RESEARCH RESULTS

No publications, no funds; no funds,
no job. Jeremy Flower-Ellis, 2001

The dissemination phase of e-research is the climax of the research cycle, and it occurs when researchers share the results of their important research studies with the world. Unfortunately, it is this stage that is fraught with indecision and unhealthy bouts of procrastination. In some cases, the funders of the e-research set deadlines that serve to motivate and pace the researcher through this final sprint. However, all too often in academic research, the dissemination phase comes after the defense of a formal thesis or major project, when the grant money has been spent, and in both cases, energy may be low. The result is that too often the outcomes of significant research studies remain hidden in a bound thesis resting on a dusty library shelf or filed as a completed research report in a bureaucrat's office.

We begin this chapter with an overview of the reasons why the dissemination process is important and worth putting forth the energy that is involved. We then provide an overview on the selection of the networked tools best suited for this task and end with tips for effectively and efficiently disseminating the findings of a research project.

WHY PUBLISH YOUR RESULTS?

In academic circles it is easy to answer the question of why publish—it relates directly to success, as aptly characterized in the familiar ultimatum to "publish or perish." However, the greatest and most compelling reason to publish is that you have something