CGI Application for Automated Creating and Updating of Subject-Oriented Internet Resources Databases

Xiwen Zhang, Pfau Library, California State University, San Bernardino, U.S.A.
xiwen@csusb.edu

Mark Hoskins, Computer Science Department, California State University, San Bernardino, U.S.A.
mhoskins@mrhm.com

Abstract: A directory of Internet resources by subject is an important section of any academic library's Web pages. A common problem faced by many libraries is the difficulty of updating such a page. At CSUSB library, we have developed a large "Internet Resources by Subject" database. Fourteen quick-launching Perl CGI scripts have been written to create a user-friendly interface to update the database, allowing all subject specialists to participate easily. Without HTML experience, a librarian can create or delete directories or sub-directories, add or delete Internet links, and add or change descriptions. The librarian just copies and pastes the URL and the description, then clicks the "Submit" button. The CGI script executes and generates new HTML pages dynamically. Files can be edited far more quickly than by traditional methods of HTML editing and FTP publishing.