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Recent and Emerging Trends in Information Brokering

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What impact has the rapid change in information technology and resources had on information brokers?

- ◆ Explosion of the Internet, particularly commercial sites
- ◆ Loss of privacy and security on the Internet
- ◆ Internet culture – electronic anarchy, resistant to fee-based Net services
- ◆ Need for information NOW, not next week, not tomorrow
- ◆ Shrinking of the world – dramatic increase in need for international information
- ◆ Awareness of the availability of open source information
- ◆ Competing sources of information - commodification of information
- ◆ RIFs and downsizing means fewer people having to do more with less
- ◆ Need for added-value by information brokers - no more rip-and-ship

What trends will have the biggest impact on information brokers over the next 5 years?

- ◆ Internet, where the only constant is that it's constantly changing
 - staying on top of rapidly-changing protocols
 - explosive growth of traffic means sites are down and response time is slowed
 - concerns about security and viruses
 - "I already looked on the net... where else would I possibly need to go?"
 - "Why does your research cost money? Isn't the Internet free?"
 - "I'm sure the information's there. I found info on breeding pot-bellied pigs so *everything* must be on the Net."

- ◆ Emergence of "information on the desktop"

- ◆ Niching of online services

- ◆ Not everything will ever be available online

- ◆ Dumbing-down of online services

- ◆ Copyright issues – who owns RAM-space? How do you protect copyright?

Where will information brokers shine in the next 5 years?

- ◆ Synthesis of information – transforming data into knowledge

- ◆ Creating order from Net chaos

- ◆ Serving as a hired gun... you pay only for what you need

- ◆ Serving as local expert – do what you do best and hire the rest

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