

Internet Mathematician

<http://www.eevl.ac.uk/vts/maths>

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Virtual Training Suite - www.vts.rdn.ac.uk - is a series of free “teach yourself” tutorials delivered over the Web for students, lecturers and researchers who want to learn what the Internet can offer in their subject. They are supported by the Resource Discovery Network (RDN), of which MathGate is a part. From the 8th of May there will be 27 new tutorials to go along side the existing 11. One of the new tutorials in the suite is the Internet Mathematician. The Internet Mathematician is also available from the MathGate site.

There are four main sections to the tutorial - TOUR, DISCOVER, REVIEW, REFLECT. At the end of each section there is a quiz designed to reinforce the information that has just been presented. As the user is going through the tutorial they are able to add links to their “shopping basket” in order to visit them after completing the tutorial (the user is able to “opt out” of the tutorial at any stage by using the navigation buttons on the left hand side).

Tour

This section aims to provide the user with an overview of the range of materials that are available to them over the Internet. The tutorial takes the user through the types of resources that are available over the Internet and then provides examples of actual sites sorted by these resource types. General tips concerning use of the Internet such as getting the best out of your time are included.

Discover

The Discover section aims to assist the user in making the better use of the Internet to actually find resources for themselves. This includes looking at search engines (e.g. Google) and subject-specific resource catalogues (e.g. MathGate and MathGuide) and anything else in between (e.g. mathematics areas of Yahoo). Users are provided with tips on how to refine searches to improve their results as well as tips on when to use general search engines or mathematics subject guides, and the differences between them.

Review

Upon getting results when using the Internet it is important that the results are assessed by the user for quality. This section of the Internet Mathematician provides tips on how to do this, such as authority (who wrote it?) and age (how old is it?).

Internet Mathematician

WELCOME TO INTERNET MATHEMATICIAN

A free "teach yourself" tutorial on Internet information skills for mathematicians.

The Internet is a rich source of information and resources for students, lecturers, researchers and professionals. This tutorial covers the key information skills for the Internet environment. Learn how to use the Internet to help with your coursework, literature searching, teaching or research.

Tour key Internet sites for mathematicians

Discover how to improve your Internet searching

Review the critical thinking required when using the Internet

Reflect on how to use the Internet for studying, teaching or research

Let our experts guide you to the best of the Web...

Internet Mathematician has been written by Greig Fratus and Steve Hewett of MathGate, based in Information Services at The University of Birmingham. It is one of a set of free tutorials within the RDN Virtual Training Suite, created by subject-specialists from universities and professional organisations across the UK. MathGate is part of EEVL - the Internet guide for Engineering.

Reflect

Scenarios of researchers, students and lecturers making use of the Internet are provided in this section. These scenarios are examples of how each of the aforementioned group may make use of the Internet to assist them in their role.

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References

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