



Getting Connected

By Fran Watson

With technology improving by leaps and bounds the cost of computers declining rapidly , more and more homes have access to a personal computer and the Internet. 6 Years ago I paid \$2500 for my computer. That same amount of money now would buy approx 4 times the computer – more RAM, more gigabytes, more options, just MORE!!

The resources available on the Internet are almost endless. You can spend a great deal of time wandering from site to site unless you know what you are looking for and how to look for information. A good place to start is Toastmasters home page www.toastmasters.org. The newsgroup for Toastmasters is alt.org.toastmasters or freenet.Toastmasters. You access these by sending an email. There is a link on this site:

<http://home.ecn.ab.ca/~johnf/tistuff/worldlink.html#Newsgroups>

There are various search engines you can use, and you may need to use more than one to find the information you want. Try checking out one or more of the following:

www.google.ca, www.yahoo.com, www.lycos.com , www.webcrawler.com,
www.excite.com, www.askJeeves.com.

If you are looking for a speech idea, you can go to one of these search engines, type in the topic you want to find out about and you are on your way. You may, however, have to set a timer in order to limit your time as you may end up with 1000 hits on your topic. Once you have your topic, you can check out additional background info at the Library or Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/> among others.

For quotations to enhance your speech, check out <http://www.bartleby.com/100/>, <http://www.quotationspage.com/> or <http://www.bartleby.com/quotations/> which has a quotation of the day archive.

Once you have your speech written, you may need some assistance with your grammar. Look no further than <http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/> or <http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/index.cfm>.

If you find that you are repeating the same words over and over, you may find a Thesaurus helpful. Try Roget's at <http://www.bartleby.com/62/> or the very interesting Plumbs visual Thesaurus at <http://www.plumbdesign.com/thesaurus/index.html>

Not sure about the proper spelling of the words you are using, just hurry on over to Webster's Dictionary at <http://www.a-z-dictionaries.com/websters-dictionary.html>

Once you are finished, why not check out some of the professional speeches to see how yours compares. Just go to the Bank of Montreal site

http://www2.bmo.com/speech/article/0,1233,contentCode-667_divId-4_langId-1_navCode-128,00.html to view the archived speeches, or The Commonwealth of Learning's site <http://www.col.org/resources/speeches/> .

The plastics industry has tips on making speeches at www.plasticsindustry.org/outreach/howto/makingspeeches.htm

If you have an audio card, you can listen to Martin Luther King and others at www.Webcorp.com/civilrights/mlk.htm

Inspiration can be found at <http://www.motivateus.com/> , <http://www.toinspire.com/> or by subscribing to some ezines such as:

Jill Kosmenschky - Inspire Me Today <http://www.inspire-me-today.com/>

As a Man Thinketh <http://www.insightoftheday.com/referral.asp?aid=1002>

Bob Scheinfeld <http://www.invisiblepath.com/insight.html>

If it is your turn to be the Jokemeister of the evening, you may find what you are looking for at <http://www.cleanjokes.net/> , <http://www.ahajokes.com/>, <http://www.golfjokes.co.uk/> or http://www.ahajokes.com/golf_jokes.html or perhaps in an ezine such as Crosswalk <http://www.crosswalk.com/fun/> or Rodney and Cathy's Joke a Day <mailto:join@jokeaday.com>. There are many others to be found just by typing in a category on one of the search engines.

Up to date News articles can be found at www.cnn.com or www.usatoday.com or www.reuters.com and you can check for a particular newspaper at www.yahoo.com/news/newspapers while www.eneews.com leads to free net magazines.

Some other ezines I subscribe to that I have found to be extremely helpful include:

Tom Antion – Great Speaking <http://www.antion.com/ezinesubscribe.htm>

Changing Course <http://www.changingcourse.com>

Howto4U_ <http://www.howto4u.com/pw6.htm>.

Jim Rohn www.jimrohn.com

Brian Tracy www.briantracy.com

You can get really creative at www.ozemail.com.au/~caveman/Creative a fabulous site. The alphabetical index lists hundreds of sites including one of my favourites <http://www.cre8ng.com/> .

There are many more sites for those who have the time and the inclination to “surf”. Perhaps we can include some sites in our newsletter once we have it up and running, or post them to our webpage when it is operational. I would encourage you to share with fellow members any sites you have found interesting and helpful.