

A Futures Explorer's Guide

to the Internet

21st
Century

22nd
Century

23rd
Century

24th
Century

25th
Century

Version 1

02002

<http://www.futuresedge.info>

The Futures Explorer's Guide to the Internet

The Internet has provided people with an amazing resource for exploring the future. Thousands of sites, packed with information on every aspect of exploring the future, are available at the click of a mouse. Whether your interest is in your personal future, that of your family or area or simply to find out more about thinking about the future and all the issues it contains, the information you will find is staggering indeed, overwhelming, if you haven't learnt some basic techniques of surfing and searching.

This little guide is intended to help you make a start. If you've never used the net before the tips and instructions listed here should be enough to give you the confidence to browse. If you're already an experienced web user, you can skip the "instructional pages" and go straight on to the lists of recommended websites.

The Internet is a vast and sprawling chaos of information. It is unattractive to many people who have traditionally preferred books because it seems alien to what books are about: the pleasure of holding a book in you hand, reading it when and where you want, and the feel of turning the pages.

This guide is not intended to make you like the Internet: it is meant to help you use the Internet, get what you want from it and then get back to a good book! All we can say is try it. It is a great source of ideas and information about the future.

Using the Internet to explore the future also brings people into contact with one of the technologies that is itself shaping the future of our lives.

The Futures Explorer's Guide to the Internet was produced as part of the development of sustainability and Community Planning in Bradford District, the aim of which is to promote people thinking about and contributing to creating a better Bradford District. It supports the 2020 Vision for the District by providing resources for people, groups and organisations to think, discuss and develop their ideas about their own future and the future at large.

In developing our understanding about the rest of the 21st Century to come, we may also be more future-minded and consider the 22nd and subsequent centuries and the lives of future generations.

Index

Towards a futures-orientated society	page 4
How to use the Internet	page 6
Recommended Futures websites	page 8
Your favourite websites	page 11
Futures books	page 12
Futures publications, Sustainability books & Speculative Fiction	page 13
Acknowledgements	page 14

Towards a futures-orientated society

Foresight and the study of the futures is centrally concerned with the issues and opportunities arising from human responsibility for the future and the means of foreseeing, managing and creating the future.

This internet resource guide for '**futures explorers**' has been created to sit alongside Bradford Council's 'The History Lovers Guide' and help people to explore the possibilities of tomorrow and the years yet to come.

We spend our lives in the present, often looking backwards over our shoulders, often busy doing in the now and spending little time thinking critically and creatively about the future.

The future can be seen as being a mix of choices, art and science. We can imagine and explore the multiple possibilities of the future, assess what is likely and choose our preferred future - as well as seeking to avoid the 'worst-case scenarios'.

Most of all, considering the future provides us with a means to think, discuss, share and debate the consequences of what we currently do and consider our legacy to future generations.

Studying the future is not really about trying to predict what will happen, rather it is as de Geus (1999) suggests, about developing our 'memories of the future', helping us be more prepared for what may happen and supporting us in positive efforts to create a viable and sustainable future which maintains and improves our quality of life. By exploring the alternative time paths and options that the future may hold we can develop our individual brains and society to become more future-minded.

This guide provides some resources to help people think about their own futures, those of their children and grand-children, their neighbourhoods, communities, work-places and other issues that shape and impact on the present and future.

We hope that you find this material of use and that your futures explorations capture your imagination and help you help all of us develop our capacity to consider the long-term future and all that it may contain.

[Jamie Saunders—foresight@futuresedge.info](mailto:foresight@futuresedge.info)

[January 02002](#)

How to use the Internet

With the help of this Futures Explorer's Guide to the Internet and a couple of hours of experimentation you should start to feel comfortable about using the World Wide Web.

The next few pages describe the basic techniques needed to get what you want from the Internet without the need for becoming a computer genius.

To get into the Internet **click** onto the Internet **icon** on your computer screen. At the top of the screen there will be a white space titled: **Address**. It is here that you can type the website address to get you to the information stored on websites.

Type in the address of any site you want to visit, press return and you will be straight there—technology permitting! The second part of this Guide has a list of dozens of websites that should whet your appetite for what it is possible to do with the Internet.

Using a website is easy once you are in there. The cursor arrow will turn to a pointing hand in the places it is possible to click for more information. Websites have icons and underlined or highlighted words which are the means to go onto the next page.

If you make a mistake you can use the **back and forward** arrows which can be found in the top left hand corner of the screen. These allow you to backtrack or go forward to pages you have previously visited.

There will often be grey panels and arrows at the side of pages. These allow you to scroll up and down through information that may be further down the page.

The best things to do is experiment. You can always go back. And it is only through trial and error that you can really get to grips with the internet.

If you want to search for websites that you aren't aware of you can use **search engines**. These allow you access to the Internet's wealth of information via catalogues and search techniques set up by others.

To use a search engine type in its address. One good search engine is:

<http://www.google.com>. Once you are in a search engine you can choose to search via a keyword(s), such as *futures methods*, or via the search engine's own catalogue.

It is always worth clicking onto the HELP service that each search engine offers. This will give you clear instructions on how to use the particular search engine you are using and will save you a lot of time.

Obviously this is a very brief guide. It should be enough to get you started on the Internet. With the pages following this, the help available on the search engines and basic trial and error, you should be able to find your way to the wealth of information that there is about the future, futures studies and foresight on the Internet.

Good luck with your searching and exploring.

Recommended Futures websites

Local futures

Bradford Vision and 2020 Vision
<http://www.bradfordvision.com>
<http://www.bradford2020.com>

Governmental futures work

United Nations - Economic, social and Sustainable Development
<http://www.un.org/esa>

UNESCO - Declaration on the responsibilities of the present generations to the future generations (1997)
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001108/110827eb.pdf>

European Union - Forward Studies Unit
http://europa.eu.int/comm/cdp/index_en.htm

Foresight for regional development—FOREN—A Practical Guide to Regional Futures
<http://foren.jrc.es/>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - International Futures Programme
<http://www1.oecd.org/sge/au/index.htm>
General overview of all OECD work pertaining to Future Studies
<http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-home-10-nodirectorate-no-no--10,FF.html>

UK Government - Sustainable Development
<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk>

Cabinet Office - Performance and Innovation Unit - Strategic Futures Group
<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/innovation/2001/futures/main.shtml>
Futurist's toolkit
<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/innovation/2001/futures/A%20Futurists%20Toolbox%20Methodologies%20in%20Futures%20Work.pdf>

Foresight Programme (DTI and other Government departments)
<http://www.foresight.gov.uk/default800.htm>

Local Government Association - futureswork
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/futures>
Futures toolkit
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/toolkit/index.htm>

Yorkshire Futures - regional intelligence network
<http://www.yorkshirefutures.com>

Futures courses and material

Leeds Metropolitan University MA in Foresight and Futures Studies

<http://www.lmu.ac.uk/hen/benv/fore/fore-in.htm>

Graham May, Principal Lecturer in Futures Research, Leeds Metropolitan University, School of the Built Environment, Brunswick Building, Leeds LS2 8BU. Phone 0113 2831715. Email G.May@lmu.ac.uk

M.S. in Studies of the Future, University of Houston - Clear Lake

<http://www.cl.uh.edu/futureweb/>

M.A. in Public Policy in Alternative Futures, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

<http://www.soc.hawaii.edu/~future/welcome.html>

Educational Network of Futures Studies (REEF, Spain)

<http://www.vrnntt.ua.es/reef/menu.htm>

Short notes on Futures Techniques

<http://ag.arizona.edu/futures/fut/semtech>

American Council for the United Nations University (ACUNU)

http://www.geocities.com/~acunu/millennium/Millennium_Project.html

ACUNU - State of the Future 2001

<http://www.geocities.com/~acunu//millennium/sof2001.html>

Creating Preferred Futures - for children and others

(Creating Preferred Futures a collaborative, interactive learning environment for US students in grades 6-12.)

<http://dev.planet-tech.com/cpf/>

Other resources

World Future Society (WFS)

<http://www.wfs.org/index.htm>

World Future Studies Federation (WFSF)

<http://www.worldfutures.org/>

Millennium Project - Global Futures Studies and Research

http://www.geocities.com/~acunu/millennium/Millennium_Project.html

The Long Now Foundation

<http://www.longnow.org>

Chatham House - Scenarios

<http://www.chforum.org/index.html>

Institute for Alternative Futures

<http://www.altfutures.com/>

Global Business Network -scenarios and developing and using them

<http://www.gbn.org/>

Jim Dator -futurist

<http://www.soc.hawaii.edu/future/dator/datorindex.html>

Richard Slaughter— Australian Foresight Institute

<http://www.aboutforesight.org/>

Wendy Schultz - futurist - Infinite Futures

<http://www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/~wendy/if.html>

BBC Leviathan - back to the future

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/special_report/1999/12/99/back_to_the_future/default.stm

Sunday Times - Chronicle of the Future to 2050

<http://www.chronicle-future.co.uk/>

BT Technology Calender (1997)

http://www.labs.bt.com/library/archive/btI_97_1/index.htm

The Wisdom of the World - 1,000 Messages for the New Millennium Compiled by Bruce Lloyd

<http://www.wfs.org/Q-intro.htm>

The Tomorrow Project

<http://www.tomorrowproject.net/>

Sustainability North West

<http://www.snw.org.uk/>

UK Futurists Network

The Centre For Future Studies [mailto:knowledge@futurestudies.co.uk]

Centre for Future Studies, Stelling Minnis, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6AQ

<http://www.futurestudies.co.uk/cfs.php?page=network>

Your favourite websites

Address:
Details:

Address:
Details:

Address:
Details:

Address:
Details:

Address:
Details:

futures books

Barbara Adams	<i>Timescapes of modernity</i> , 1998
John Adams	<i>Thinking today as is tomorrow mattered</i> , 1999
Daniel Bell	<i>The Coming of Post-Industrial Society</i> , 1973
Yorick Blumenfeld	<i>Scanning the Future</i> , 1999
Stewart Brand	<i>The Clock of the Long Now Time and Responsibility</i> , 2000
Nik Brown et al (ed)	<i>Contested Futures</i> , 2000
James Carse	<i>Finite and Infinite Games</i> , 1994
Arthur C Clark	<i>Profiles of the Future</i> , Millennium Edition, 2000
Richard Cooper & Richard Layard	<i>What the future holds</i> , 2002
Hugh Courtney	<i>20/20 Foresight: Crafting Strategy in an uncertain world</i> , 2001
James Dator & T-C Kim	<i>Co-Creating a Public Philosophy for Future Generations</i> , 1999
Arie de Geus	<i>The Living Company</i> , 1999
James Gleick	<i>Faster</i> , 2000
Jay Griffiths	<i>Pip, Pip: A sideways look at time</i> , 2000
Ronald Higgins	<i>The Seventh Enemy, The Human Factor in the Global Crisis</i> , 1980
Eric Hobsawm	<i>The New Century</i> , 2000
Thomas Homer-Dixon	<i>The Ingenuity Gap</i> , 2000
Michio Kaku	<i>Visions How science will revolutionize the 21st Century and beyond</i> , 1999
Paul Kennedy	<i>Preparing for the 21st Century</i> , 1994
Jennifer James	<i>Thinking in the future tense</i> , 1998
Graham May	<i>The Future is Ours</i> , Adamantine, 1996
Jonathon Margolis	<i>A brief history of tomorrow the future past and present</i> , 2001
Geoff Mulgan	<i>Connexity</i> , 1998 & <i>Life after Politics (ed.)</i> 1997
Nicholas Negroponte	<i>Being Digital</i> , 1996
Ziauddin Sardar	<i>Rescuing all our futures: the future of futures studies</i> , 1999
Peter Schwartz	<i>The Art of the Long View</i> , 1992
Richard Slaughter	<i>The Knowledge Base of Futures Studies</i> , 1997
Richard Slaughter	<i>The Foresight Principle Cultural Recover in the 21st Century</i> , 1995
Edward Tenner	<i>Why things bite back</i> , 1997
Alvin Toffler	<i>Futureshock</i> , 1991
Guinness World Records Ltd.	<i>Guinness Book of Amazing Future</i> , 1999

Most if not all of these books can be either ordered via

<http://www.amazon.co.uk> or <http://www.wfs.org>

futures publications

foresight® is an international and interdisciplinary journal concerned with the study of the future.
<http://www.camford.co.uk/>

The Futurist
<http://www.wfs.org/futurist.htm>

Sustainability

World Commission on Environment and Development	<i>Our Common Future</i> , 1987
Diane Warburton	<i>Community & Sustainable Development, Participation in the Future</i> , 1998
Duncan McLaren et al	<i>Tomorrow's World, Britain's Share in a sustainable future</i> , 1998
Thomas Prugh et al	<i>The Local Politics of Global Sustainability</i> , 2000
Paul Hawken & Amory Lovins	<i>Natural Capitalism</i> . 2000
Paul Hawken	<i>Ecology of Commerce</i> , 1994
John Elkington	<i>Cannibals with Forks</i> , 1999 & <i>Manual 2000</i> , 1998
Ian Christie & Diane Warburton	<i>From Here to Sustainability</i> , 2001
Fritjof Capra	<i>The Web of Life</i> , 1997
Janine Benyus	<i>Biomimicry</i> , 1998
Doug Aberley(ed.)	<i>Futures by Design</i> , 1994
Bill Mollison	<i>Permaculture A designers manual</i> , 1988

Speculative Fiction

- **to provoke futures thinking and wild ideas...**

John Brunner	<i>Stand on Zanzibar</i> , 1999
Ernest Callenbach	<i>Ecotopia</i> , 1990
William Gibson	<i>Neuromancer</i> , 1995 & <i>Iduro</i> , 1997
James L Halperin	<i>The First immortal</i> , 1998
Aldous Huxley	<i>Brave New World & Island</i> (re-issued 1994)
Ursula K. Le Guin	<i>Always coming home</i> (re-issued 2001)
William Moriss	<i>News from Nowhere</i>
George Orwell	<i>1984</i> , 1948
Marge Piercy	<i>Woman on the Edge of time</i> , 1990
Kim Stanley Robinson	<i>Pacific Edge</i> , 1990, <i>Gold Coast</i> , 1989 & <i>Wild Shore</i> , 1984 trilogy
Olaf Stapleton	<i>Last and First Men</i> , 1930
Neal Stephenson	<i>Diamond Age</i> 1998 & <i>Snow Crash</i> , 1994
George R Stewart	<i>Earth Abides</i> , 1948
A E Van Vogt	<i>The Voyage of the Space Beagle</i> , 1950
John Clute	<i>Science Fiction The Illustrated Encyclopedia</i> , 1995

Acknowledgements

This booklet has been prepared by Jamie Saunders, currently Sustainability Co-ordinator, Bradford Council.

It is supported by

- Graham May and Steve Rennie who lead the MA in Foresight and Futures Studies at Leeds Metropolitan University.

If you've come across futures websites which you'd like to bring to the attention of other enthusiasts email your suggestions to

foresight@futuresedge.info and the library will make them known to its many internet and futures readers.

This Future Explorer's Guide was inspired by the History Lovers Guide to the Internet prepared by Staff at Bradford Council's Library Service. Thanks to them for inspiring me!

Feedback and suggestions for improving this guide should be sent to

foresight@futuresedge.info

<http://www.futuresedge.info>

Last revised: 30th January 02002