

# Local information content & access: Nepalis' Perspective

*Think global act local*

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5-8 April 1999  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

# Why Nepalis use Internet?

- **Nepa Digest- first e-zine, 1992**
- **Nepal list-first mailing list, 1995**
- **Mostly for Email, Browsing, Information Retrieval,**
- **News, Business, Entertainment, Browsing**
- **Discussion list/Mailing list**
- **Information have and havenot.**
- **Computer entered not for research or for univs/colleges but for counting the number of heads, today boast to have latest technology atleast in IT with ample space for harnessing.**

# Barriers to Access

- **Hi cost of equipment and telecom usage**
- **Lack of local content**
- **Lack of local Info-place**
- **Available information are not available.**  
**Knowledge industry who generate, process and disseminate information holds info or are not trackable**
- **Language barrier - English based net**
- **Cultural barrier - technopobia, resist new ideas**

*Easy access is the key.*

# **Nepali Content On-line**

- **Help to be in the news. Small country dilemma is avoided.**
- **Media**
  - **Newspapers, Magazines, Radio**
  - **The Kathmandu Post is the 1st newspaper from South Asia**
- **Business**
  - **Travel trade/Hotel <brochureware>**
- **Organizations**
  - **INGOs/NGOs/GOs/Schools/Embassies**
- **Few CSP: south-asia.com**

***Content is the King.***

***There's no place like home.com.***

# Info-Sharing

- **NepalNet**

- » launched in 17 Sep' 98, 35 orgs, IDRC funded, ICIMOD's tech support, Internet base
- » share available human, technical and information resources in socioeconomic, agriculture, environment and sustainable development

- **HealthNet**

- » SatelLife of US, communication and information services to health workers, 500 members

- **Indreni (The rainbow)**

- » an on-line information service, hosted by Nepal IUG, offering web based information relevant to Nepal, at the price of a local phone call....



# Introducing NIUG

- **Founded in 1997**
- **NGO Serving the IT Sector**
- **Non Commercial, i.e. Not for Profit**
- **Promoting Internet Technologies, Intranets and information sharing in Nepal**
- **Benefits**
  - Regular meetings, events, and opportunities for shared learning**
  - Access to Free or low cost training services, and resources**
  - Web-site access and members pages**

# Nepal IUG Services

<i>Training</i>	<b>Web Design LINUX Internet Use and Searching E-Mail</b>
<i>Events</i>	<b>Special Workshops and Seminars</b>
<i>Projects And IT Advocacy</i>	<b>Focussed on development sector information sharing, e.g. Indreni – the Nepal Intranet</b>
<i>Web Hosting</i>	<b>Hosting web sites on Indreni for access locally in Nepal</b>

# **Harnessing Internet**

- **Create Info-places: NIC/NCA**
- **Reduce cost : NTA fix usage cost for ISP?**
- **Improve quality: Telco/ISPs**
- **Support urban users**
- **Create awareness: CAN/NIUG**
- **Internet in education:  
Schools/Colleges/Univs**
- **E-commerce: Local/Global**

# **Harnessing Internet**

- **RICs**
- **Easy PC<Nepali Initiative>**
- **Internet Policy**
- **Training**
- **Mobilize VDCs**
- **Multi Lingual Content**
- **Content ratings/updates**
- **Political/Social will and commitment**

# Regional

- **Regional network: Fiber Optic/Power grid**
- **Multi-lingual content: Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu**
- **SINET <SAARC Information Network> based in SAARC Secretariat in KTM**

*Lets get networked.*