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A distance learning course from NNC

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NNC have launched a distance learning course "From Internet Surfer to Webmaster". The target group for the course is future web-masters at Scandinavian libraries.

The course is now up and running, being nearly fully booked (45 participators).

It started Monday 30. September with an kick-off event at DTV, Lyngby. During the succeeding eight weeks the participants receive lectures via WWW and e-mail. A special mail conference has been set up in order to maximize the communication between the participants and teachers.

NORDINFO have financed the participation - including a pre-course - for six librarians from the Baltic countries.

More information about contents of the course can be found at URL:
<http://www.nnc.dk/courses/distance.html>

Outline of the elements of NNCs Distance Learning Course:

Target group: Librarians in charge of networked information structures at Nordic public- and research libraries.

Goals: After the course the participants will be able to:

- Set up an information structure on WWW/Internet
- Co-ordinate the daily maintenance
- Achieve general knowledge about technical possibilities and economics

Qualifications: Familiar with WWW, knowledge about basic HTML. Access to computer with Internet connection, a graphic WWW-browser, and personal e-mail.

Contents of the course: The course is divided into blocks according to the topics that libraries offer (local interactive services, local catalogues, commercial services via the library, Internet resources).

A part of the course will cover aspects of organizing/structuring information on WWW. Moreover the course offers a general overview of basic technologies, multimedia, electronic conferences and electronic publishing. Each block consist of the following elements:

I. Fundamental technology aspects

- II. Development trends
- III. Economics
- IV. Organizational aspects (within the library)
- V. Exercises

How the course is run

The course takes advantage of the freedom from common physical presence by all participants during the course, amongst other things by using instructors from both DTV and LUB - NNCs two mother organizations.

The course is carried out through extensive use of network technologies. The education takes place via WWW-pages, and the contact between participants runs via E-mail, both on a personal level and by a special electronic conference. The conference acts as a forum for discussion, and questions of broader interest are raised and answered here. The conference is archived directly in WWW - at an area only accessible by the participants.

The participants uses their own libraries for the exercises, present the results via WWW and have them discussed by teachers and participants throughout the conference.

A freeware library of useful programs for the exercises has been established for the course.

The course started with a one day introduction. The introduction comprised a presentation of the course, including a presentation of the technology that is needed to complete the course. Furthermore the kick-off event offered time for teachers and participants to get to know each other, in order to facilitate and effectuate the succeeding WWW-communication. This last element was the main argument for spending time and money on this meeting.

The implementing of the course have confirmed that this was a good idea; impressions regarding the high activity on the con-ference, also amongst the participants in the form of comments and advice confirms the anticipation, that if people know each other on beforehand, a more smooth and enriching dialogue will be the result.