



An analysis of mailing list of SLA-PAM listserv: What is SLA-PAM doing?

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Introduction

A common question we probably hear from all library and information professionals is that how can I find out what's is going on in other libraries? What are new services been offered in other libraries?

The best answer is

Mailing list: An electronic mailing list is a special usage of email that allows for widespread distribution of information to many Internet users. It is a popular form of communication which distribute messages to larger audience instantly.

Messages can contain valuable information such as:-

- Discussion among information professionals
- Development decisions
- Error reports

(Ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_mailing_list)

SLA-PAM Mailing List

- The Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics (PAM) Division of the Special Libraries Association maintains an electronic discussion group which is referred to as "PAMnet".
- The purpose of PAMnet is to provide a forum for the discussion of library and information resource issues relevant to the fields of physics, astronomy and mathematics.
- **List owner : Thurston Miller : miller.115@nd.edu, University of Notre Dame**
- **PAMnet email members : 630 (as received from Group Owner)**
- **PAMnet Subscribers : 900 (including some duplicates)**

Address to which you send messages: PAMnet@listserv.nd.edu

Archive (starting with August 1998): <http://listserv.nd.edu/archives/pamnet.html>.

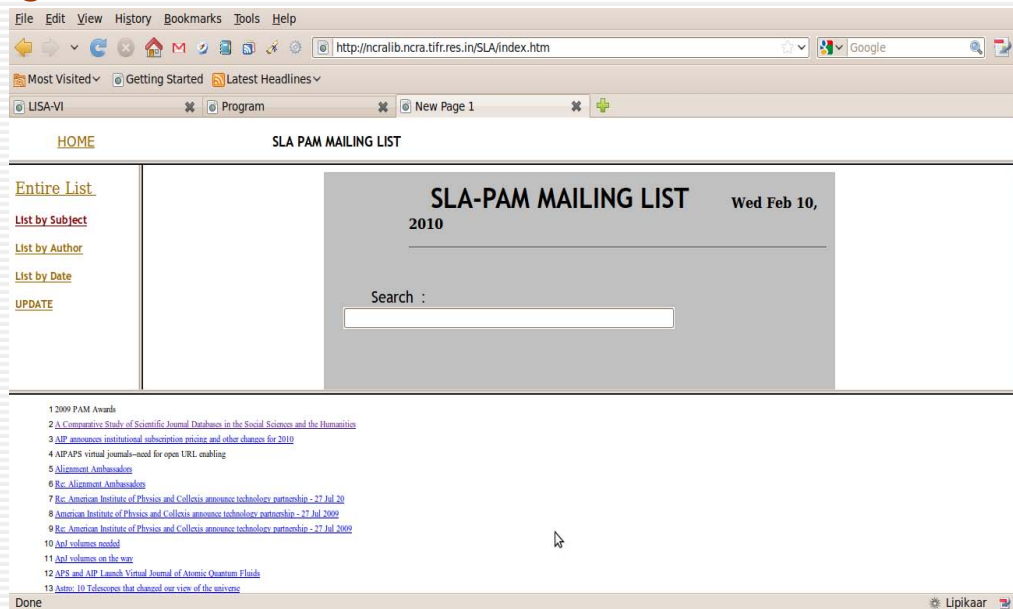
- During 1999, Donna Cromer Presented “PAMnet (SLA Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division, Listserv) Analysis : All posts from August 1 -December 21, 1998” during PAM Wide Round Table at SLA 1999.

- Type of message,
- Day of the week,
- Number of posts per day, month
- Length of the Post,
- Categories of Post,
- Who is posting,
- Membership in PAM?,
- Posts per person,
- What country the poster is in
- The email extension or org type.

- It was then felt that we could analyze the SLA-PAM mailing list in more detail for the decade and find out the trend such as:
 - General Statistics about mailing list usage
 - New Services Initiated by Libraries
 - New Technology Adopted/Discussed
 - New Challenges

Data from PAM Server to MySql Server

- To analyse data from August 1998, a database was created and all the details of each message such as Subject, Author, Date, Year, Country was copied in mysql database from SLA-PAM ListServer.
- From Aug. 1998 to September 2009, there are around 13958 messages.



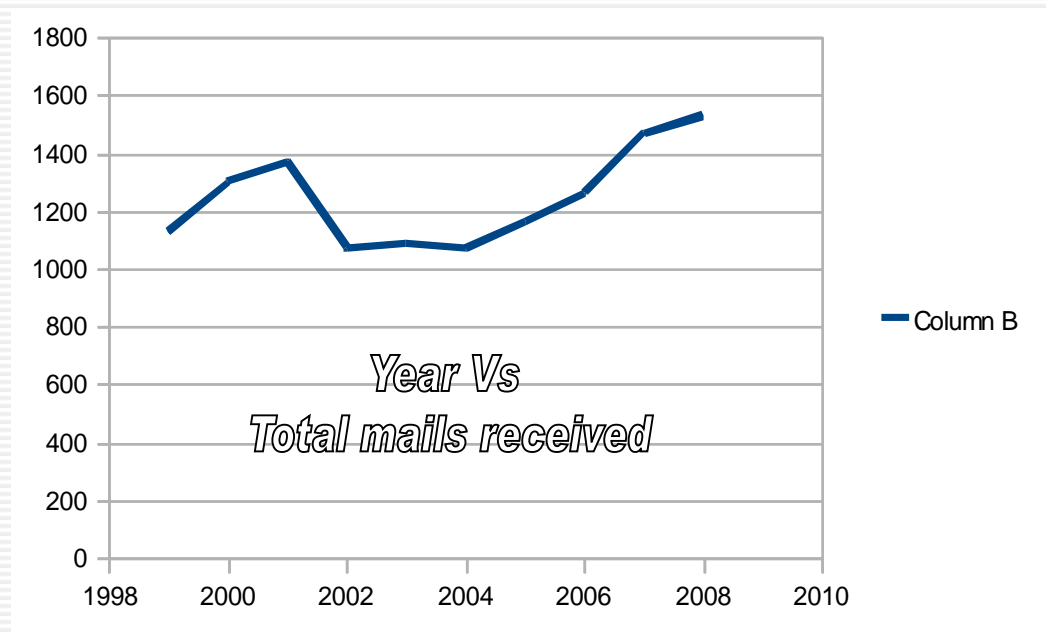
Analysis of Mailing List

- Data from around 13958 mails (from Aug.1998 to Sep. 1999)
- Criteria for analysis of mailing list:-
 - Yearly statistics of total number of mails posted on PAM server
 - Geographical contribution
 - Percentage of response to posted mail
 - PAM server usage by publishers and on publishers
 - Contribution from individual authors (Active authors)
 - Major Topics discussed
 - Discussions on New Technology for Library Services
 - Challenges for Libraries

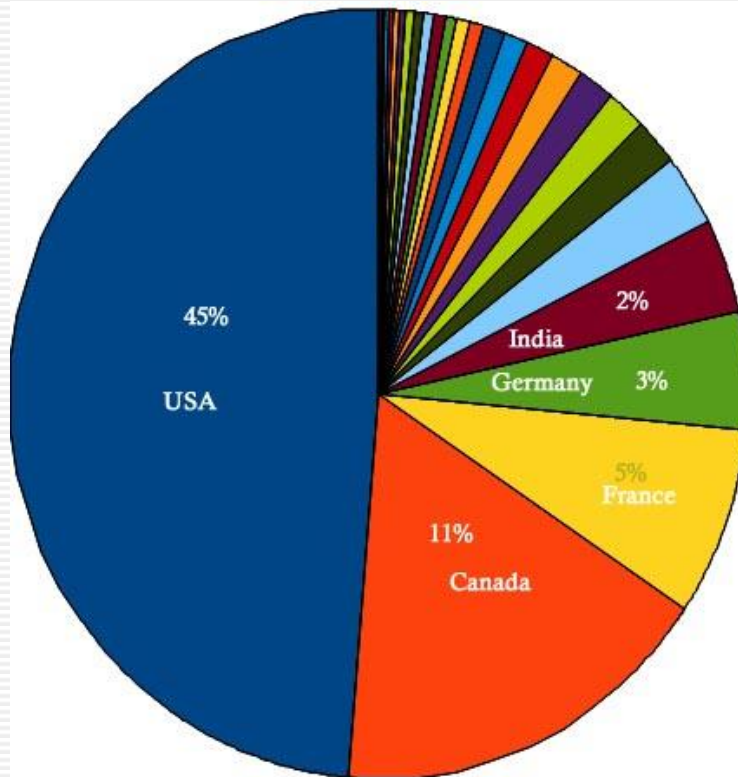
Yearly Statistics

The statistics of mails received yearly on PAMnet mailing list

- Year vs Total mails
- 1998 278
- 1999 1128
- 2000 1299
- 2001 1369
- 2002 1072
- 2003 1089
- 2004 1069
- 2005 1165
- 2006 1264
- 2007 1470
- 2008 1529
- 2009 1247



Geographical Contribution

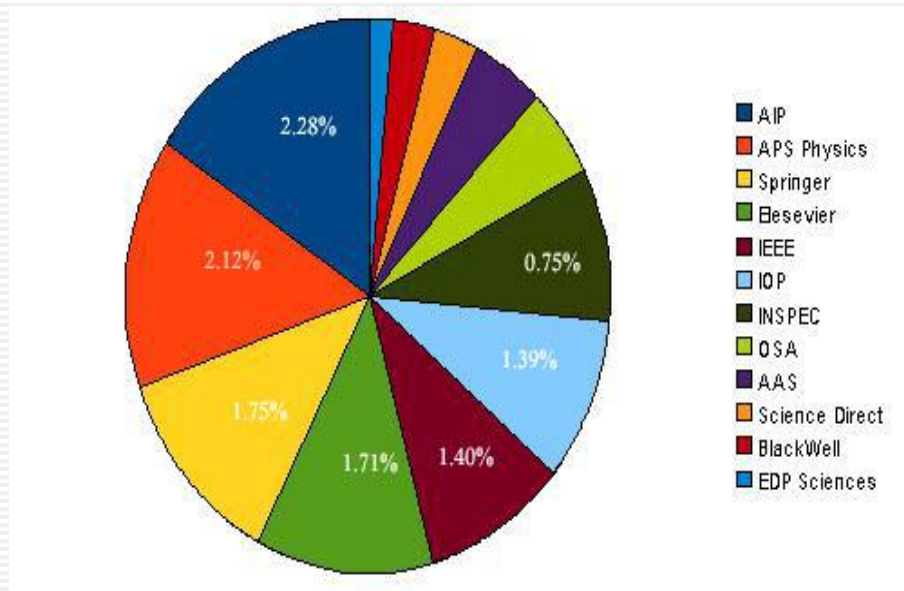


- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| United States | Italy |
| Canada | Sw eden |
| France | Czech Republic |
| Germany | Egypt |
| India | South Africa |
| Australia | Belgium |
| Netherlands | Pakistan |
| Sw itzerland | Austria |
| Finland | Ethiopia |
| Georgia | Bangladesh |
| Argentina | Denmark |
| Chile | Brazil |
| Japan | Taiw an |

Percent of Mails on/by Publishers

PAM Mailing List Usage by Publishers and on Publishers

- AIP 2.28%
- APS Physics 2.12%
- Springer 1.75%
- Elsevier 1.71%
- IEEE 1.40%
- IOP 1.39%
- INSPEC 1.31%
- OSA 0.75%
- AAS 0.71%
- Science Direct 0.43%
- Blackwell 0.41%
- EDP Sciences 0.23%



Active Authors

Authors	Total Number of Mails	Year	Institute
Robert Michelson	734	1998-2009	Northwestern University Library
Liz Bryzon	651	1998-2009	Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope
Carol Hutchins	425	1998-2009	New York University
Joe Kraus	419	1998-2009	University of Denver
David Stern	387	1998-2009	Kline Science Library
Molly White	269	1998-2009	University of Texas
Dana Roth	269	1998-2009	Millikan Library Caltech
Gerry McKiernan	237	1998-2009	Iowa State University Library
Jane Holmquist	205	1998-2009	Princeton University

% of Response

Year	Total Mails Posted	Replies Received	% of Response
Jan-Sep 2009	725	502	69%
2008	945	584	61%
2007	906	564	62%
2006	839	425	50%
2005	624	441	70%
2004	737	332	45%
2003	711	378	53%
2002	770	302	39%
2001	908	461	50%
2000	843	456	54%
1999	769	359	46%
Jan-Aug.1998	230	46	20%

Hot Topics Discussed

2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Another Nature journal starts from April 2009 (15 messages)2. <u>e-only journals & backup (8 messages July 2009)</u>4. <u>web of science (15 messages Apr. 2009)</u>5. <u>Speaking of INSPEC (26 messages Mar. 2009)</u>6. Astros: IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT OUR 40-YEAR-OLD DREAM (10 messages, July 2009)
2008	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Math: M. S. El Naschie (19 messages Nov. 2008)</u>2. <u>Services to faculty - ideas? (15 messages Nov. 2008)</u>3. <u>SPIE Proceedings (peer reviewed?) (11 messages Sep. 2008)</u>4. <u>sla-leadership:Centennial Celebration] (26 messages July 08)</u>5. <u>AIP conference proceedings e-books (9 messages June 2008)</u>6. Instructor's Guide in the catalog (22 messages- May 2008)7. Use of Landolt Bornstein (11 messages Feb 2008)

Hot Topics Discussed

2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><u>1. GENERAL: accuracy of Thomson data (20 messages- Dec. 2007)</u><u>2. SCOAP (10 messages-Nov. 2007)</u><u>3. Online journal non-usage??? (29 messages-Apr-Mar. 2007)</u><u>4. Math: moving books to remote storage (17 messages- Sep-2007)</u>
2006	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><u>1.AIP titles moved to Springer (10 messages Feb. 2006)</u><u>2.Q's and musings re encyclopedias (13 messages Mar. 2006)</u><u>3.Criteria for reviewing e-book vendors (5 messages Sep. 2006)</u><u>4. Federated Searching (7 messages June 2006)</u>
2005	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><u>1. Nature Physics (20 messages Dec. 2005)</u><u>2. Reining in Google (10 messages Nov. 2005)</u><u>3. Bibliometric Question (14 messages Jan 2005)</u>
2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><u>1. UM, Google, and copyright (13 messages Dec. 2004)</u><u>2. YAAAG (Yet another article about Google) (10 messages Apr. 2004)</u><u>3. Onwards a New Economic Model for Electronic Publishing" (4 messages Aug. 2004)</u>

Mining the mailing list

Article needed/Article Request/ILL	: 7.13%	Award / Nomination	: 1.72%
Conference / Meetings and Workshop	: 6.50%	Publishers announcement / publication related issues	: 1.51%
E-Journals & Backup / E-Journals Pricing / e- journal Access / E-Archives	:5.53%	Google Patents / Google Scholars Citation / Google Books	: 1.08%
Librarians Issue / Librarians access / Librarians Involvement with vendor / Librarian Position / Reading Material Survey / News	: 4.26%	Translation of Articles	: 1.02%
Help- Article / Translation / Locating references / Searching / Bibliographical / Personal / Citation / Cooperation	4.02%	Copyright	: 0.88%
Job Opening / Advertisement / Position	: 3.83%	History of subject, institution, person etc.	: 0.64%
Resources Discussed: Mathscinet / IEEE, JASIST , Science Direct etc	: 1.83%	Usage Statistics / Books, Citation statistics	: 0.40%
		Impact factor	: 0.38%
		General Subject like Earthquake/eclipse	: 0.30%
		Institutional Repositories	: 0.24%

Plagiarism Detection Services



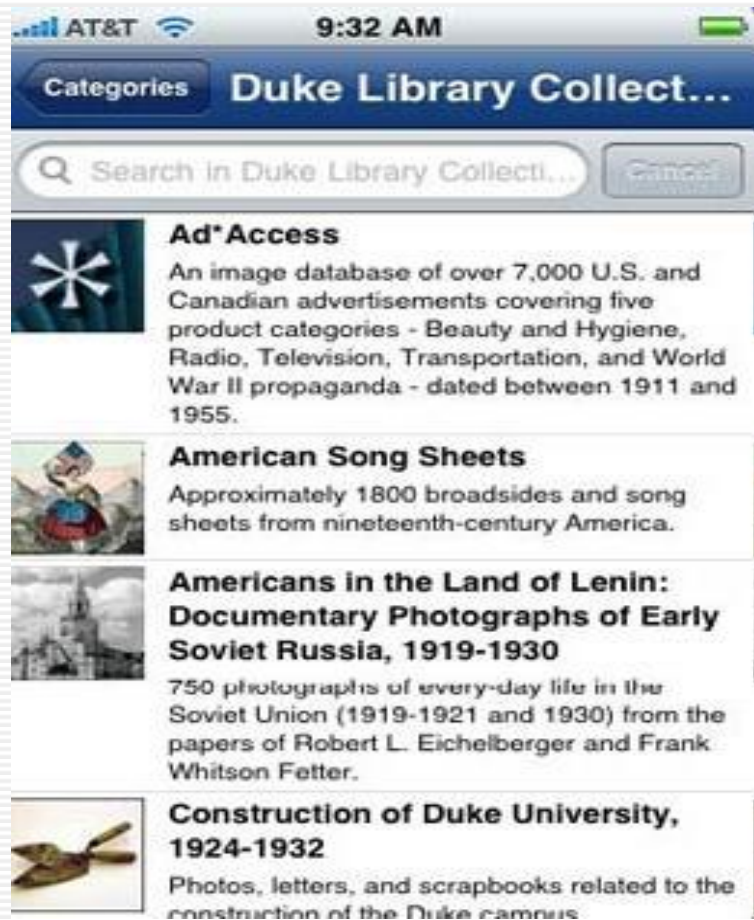
Plagiarism:

the act of presenting another's work or ideas as your own.

- **Plagiarism Detection Services**

- The following online services search the Internet and company databases for plagiarized material. Many schools and Universities have adopted these techniques to keep academic honesty.
- **Eve2** **CopyTracker (Open Source)**
- **Glatt Plagiarism Services** **Anti Plagiarism (Open Source)**
- **Turnitin.com** **Mkhoster Document Plagiarism Checker**
WordCHECK
- **KeyWORLD Software**
- **Plagiarism.org**

Digital collections on iPhone



- With the launch of Duke Mobile 1.1, the Duke University Libraries managed comprehensive university digital image collection specifically formatted for an iPhone or iTouch device.
- Duke University Libraries offer mobile users digital materials from 20 collections about 32,000 images overall covering women's history, early American sheet music, Duke history and other topics. The libraries will add new collections regularly as they become available.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHK3E4N7w6o>

RSS feeds for Journal Contents



- **Feeds for Current Awareness**
 - Feeds allow to bring together the latest table of contents (TOCs) of favorite journals, or saves database searches.
- **Why use feeds?**
 - Don't need to register separately at numerous sites
 - The TOCs have links directly to the articles on the e-journal site
 - One can look at TOC alerts whenever you like
 - The feed reader will indicate whenever you have unread TOCs available
 - It is much easier to unsubscribe from a feed than from an email alerting service
- RSS feeds can be used to post up-to-date information from Library web pages.

Open Access Publishing

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Interface:** Includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, Tools, Help), a toolbar with navigation icons, and an address bar containing 'http://scoap3.org/about.html'. There are also search and refresh icons in the top right.
- Navigation Menu:** A vertical purple sidebar on the left contains the following links: Home, About SCOAP³, Who is SCOAP³, Scientists opinion, News, Fund-raising, SCOAP³ in the U.S., FAQ, Publications and talks, and They say about us.
- Page Header:** A purple banner at the top of the page reads 'SCOAP³ - Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics'. Below it, a green banner reads 'Towards Open Access publishing in High Energy Physics'.
- Main Content:**
 - About SCOAP³**: A section header followed by a paragraph: 'The Open Access (OA) tenets of granting unrestricted access to the results of publicly-funded research are in contrast with current models of scientific publishing, where access is restricted to journal customers. At the same time, subscription costs increase and put considerable strain on libraries, forcing them to cancel an increasing number of journals subscriptions. This situation is particularly acute in fields like High-Energy Physics (HEP), where pre-prints describing scientific results are timely available online. There is a growing concern within the academic community that the future of high-quality journals, and the peer-review system they administer, is at risk.'
 - Text:** 'To address this situation for HEP and, as an experiment, Science at large, a new model for OA publishing has emerged: SCOAP³ (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics). In this model, HEP funding agencies and libraries, which today purchase journal subscriptions to implicitly support the peer-review service, federate to explicitly cover its cost, while publishers make the electronic versions of their journals free to read. Authors are not directly charged to publish their articles OA.'
 - Text:** 'SCOAP³ will, for the first time, link quality and price, stimulating competition and enabling considerable medium- and long-term savings. Today, most publishers quote a price in the range of 1'000–2'000 Euros per published article. On this basis, we estimate that the annual budget for the transition of HEP publishing to OA would amount to a maximum of 10 Million Euros/year, sensibly lower than the estimated global expenditure in subscription to HEP journals.'
 - Text:** 'Each SCOAP³ partner will finance its contribution by canceling journal subscriptions. Each'

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows 'Done' on the left and the 'Lipikaar' logo on the right.

Patron Driven (or Demand Driven) Acquisition model

ebrary is coming out with a Patron Driven (or Demand Driven) Acquisition model for ebooks.

As part of the pilot, participants are given access to selection of approximately 100,000 e-books and other authoritative titles from the world's leading publishers such as Wiley, Elsevier, and McGraw-Hill. Purchases are automatically triggered based on usage measured by page views, copies, and prints.

The screenshot displays the ebrary website interface. At the top, the ebrary logo and tagline "Knowledge Unbound." are visible. Below this is a navigation menu with options: Home, Technology, Products & Services, Support & Training, Company, Order, and Request Trial or Info. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text: "Information can easily be organized and managed through ebrary's bookshelves and folders." To the right of this banner is a search bar and a list of categories: All Documents & Annotations, Travel, Business, Programming, Personal Interest, and Writing. Further right, there are several book covers and titles, including "Sustainable Enterprise: When It All Comes to an End" and "Using the Engineering Literature". Below the banner, there is a section titled "Patron Driven Acquisition for Libraries" with a sub-section "Products & Services" listing options like "for Libraries", "Content", "Subscription", "Academic Complete with DASH!", "Perpetual Access", "Patron Driven Acquisition", "SaaS", and "SaaS.Plus". To the right of this section are two buttons: "Preview Content: Academic" and "Preview Content: Corporate & Government", and another set of buttons: "Discover ebrary's Technology Advantage" and "Request Trial or Info".

E-books and print-on-demand technology

Print on Demand technology, or POD, allows books to be printed as they are ordered. Every book is printed to order and shipped directly from the printer.

Amazon.com group of companies, announced agreements with several international publishers who are using print-on-demand technology to distribute content in the U.S. market on www.amazon.com and other channels. More than 100 international publishers are now participating in the program.

In India as well there are many publishers who have come out with Print On Demand service.

Libraries and Social Networking Sites

- Social Networking Sites can be used for Library related programs and services.
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
 - Blogs
 - Podcasts
 - MySpace
 - LinkedIn
- Some libraries are providing reference services by making use of Facebooks.

E-Journals and Print Journals

The biggest concern in e-journals is e-versions of journals does not contain everything the print copy does.

Sure the articles are there, but what about announcements, advertisements, high resolution cover art, news, letters to the editor, etc. But as publishers become inherently e-only themselves, this will disappear because print won't be available to anyone.

Important Topics

- 1. Online-only subscriptions vs. paper vs. paper and online**
- 2. Use of Web 2.0 Technologies in providing various Reference Services**
- 3. Pay-per-view use in collection development**
- 4. RFID virus**
- 5. Online Journals Non-Usage**
- 6. E-Journals Backup (Portico and LOCKSS represent two methods for permanence of backup of electronic journals. But they are not yet explored.)**
- 7. Archiving one copy of print journal nationally/research institutes**
- 8. Discarding print volumes of A&A, PROLA**

Conclusion

- Mailing list act as a powerful research tool to find trends in any particular group.
- This analysis also helps to know how active is the Listserv.
- Most of the valuable information can be shared through mailing lists.

Thank You

