Introduction

The growth of NSFNET in the last few years has brought the benefits of networking to researchers at hundreds of academic, government and industrial sites. Network users have improved access to research tools, and there are greater possibilities for collaboration among members of the research community. But in order to take maximum advantage of more widespread and improved connectivity, users have to be aware of the resources that are available to them.

Our goal in publishing the *Internet Resource Guide* is to provide a service which, by increasing the visibility of resources accessible via NSFNET and other parts of the Internet, will expose users to those facilities that will help them do their work better. We are depending on the population of resource providers to furnish us with the information for the guide. We expect and hope that as copies of the guide are distributed throughout the community, representatives of organizations that maintain resources we haven't yet mentioned will submit descriptions for inclusion in the guide.

How to Use and Maintain This Guide

The *Internet Resource Guide* is intended to inform Internet users about the services available to them on the network.

Similar resources are grouped together in sections. Each resource has a separate entry that describes the resource, identifies who can use the resource, explains how to reach the local network via the Internet, and lists contacts for more information. For example, Section 1 lists special computing resources on the Internet, such as supercomputer centers and centers for parallel computing. Thus, researchers interested in using a supercomputer can browse through the entries in Section 1 in search of a supercomputer center that can accommodate their needs.

Users interested in locating a particular service can check the tables of contents at the start of each section. In the future, the NNSC expects to provide an index that allows users to locate services based on keywords.

Maintaining the Guide

The resource guide is designed to be kept in a loose-leaf notebook, to make it easy to add or replace sections of text.

The guide is distributed electronically by the NNSC. If you wish to receive the guide, send a note to <resource-guide-request@nnsc.nsf.net>. Each section (new or updated) is sent in an individual message, which contains both a plain-text and a Postscript copy of a resource description. (The text in both versions is the same; the Postscript version is generally easier to read when printed). Users can then add the new section, or replace the existing section with the new copy.

If you prefer not to receive the guide via electronic mail, you may **ftp** the chapters that are currently available via anonymous **ftp** from nnsc.nsf.net (in directory *resource-guide*). We are maintaining a separate mailing list of people who wish to know only when a chapter becomes available for **ftp**. If you wish to be on this list, please send a message to <resource-guide-request@nnsc.nsf.net>.