

Cooperatives and the Internet (1997)

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Co-operatives and The Internet

There are more and more resources on and for co-operatives Available on the Internet everyday. Here is a summary of some of the ICA's online resources, followed by some highlights of co-operative resources available on the Internet. It is by no means an exhaustive list. Explore the ICA web site for more links and resources, and feel free to contact ICA to suggest additional internet and web sites for co-operators.

New ICA Web Site Announcement - <http://www.coop.org>

The International Co-operative Alliance is proud to present the new ICA web site. The increasing amount of information presented on the web site led the Communications Department to improve the overall structure to facilitate navigation and enable users to easily download relevant information, informing them at all times of their location within the site.

The largest section of the site contains the information in English, and has been separated into four main chapters. Each chapter has an index page which you can reach by clicking on the images at the top of each page. The four chapters and their contents are as follows:

The ICA: information concerning the International Co-operative Alliance

Co-op Info: information related to the co-operative movement and other co-operative organisations.

Outreach: information related to the Internet, to the Co-operative Gopher, to Newsgroups, to relevant business sites and international organisations.

New!: regularly updated new information. Any new additions to the web site will be included in this section, and eventually placed in their relevant chapter.

This section contains a link to a new site called Co-ops for Kids (see below).

The ICA also contains information in other languages, including French, German, Spanish, Swedish and Portuguese. At present, this information is limited - any additions to this part of the site or translations of the original English information would be gratefully received in any language. Each language section contains an index page accessible through a flag on the home page, or at the top of each language page.

You can return to the ICA home page at any time by clicking on the ICA logo at the bottom of each page. You will also

be able to search the ICA web site by using a search engine. The Communications Department would appreciate any feedback concerning the recent changes.

Co-ops 4 Kids <http://www.coop/kids/index.html>

ICA is going to be launching a new part of our web site entitled "Co-ops 4 Kids" in September 1997, which will introduce children and young people to the co-operative movement.

To make Co-ops 4 Kids both fun and informative, the site will emphasise interactive elements and will encourage input from young people (articles, pictures, photos, etc.), communication and networking with other kids and co-op members around the world.

The site will provide basic information on the the co-operative movement, educational resources, and will also include links to online games and fun sites. By teaching kids about co-ops, we hope to encourage them to become co-op members, consumers and leaders in their own communities.

Comments, feedback and volunteers to help build this site and From teachers or schools interested in participating in the project are appreciated.

The Cooperative Gopher
<gopher://wiscinfo.wisc.edu:70/11/info-source/.coop>

An ever-growing inventory of co-operative information, the Gopher is the product of a joint effort between ICA, Geneva and The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC) in Madison, Wisconsin. Essentially a large database of text from various co-operative resources including newsletters, articles on specific topics such as board trainings and co-op history, and publications, the Gopher is a comprehensive, and internationally accessible source of information about co-operatives.

COPAC Web Site
<http://www.copacgva.org>

The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) now had its own web site. COPAC is a successful and on-going partnership between representatives of the cooperative movement together with farmers' and workers' organizations, and the United Nations and its agencies. Members work together on equal terms to promote and coordinate sustainable cooperative development through policy dialogues, technical cooperation and information, and concrete collaborative activities. The web site contains sections on COPAC's mission and structure, service and activities, member organisations and publications.

Society for Co-operative Studies

<http://www.coop.org/scs/coopstudiesintro.html>

Information on the Society for co-operative Studies based in the UK is now available on the Web through a site linked to the co-op education section of the ICA Web site. The Society is an independent voluntary organisation committed to public education on all aspects of the movement. It aims to commission, identify and publish research on the co-operative movement, and actively promote the exchange of information and experiences of co-ops through research and publication. Co-op members, employees, managers, specialists and academics from overseas as well as the UK are welcome. The society convenes an annual conference (this year's will be held on 20-21 September on the theme "Working

Towards a Stakeholder Society), publishes the quarterly Journal of Co-operative Studies, and maintains the International Register of Co-operative Research. In May, the ICA established a searchable data base for the Register. At present, entries coming via the internet and those received through completed questionnaires are being processed by Dr Peter Davis, from whom further information can be obtained at fax : (+44 116) 252 3949,
E-mail : pd8@leicester.ac.uk

Working Group on Trade and Communications Web Site

<http://dief106001.usask.ca/wg/wg.html>

ICA Communication Committee Working Group on Trade and Communication Network Technology now has its own web site. This included information on the group's projects, resources, background papers, members, and links to other related sites.

The Working Group also maintains a list called ICN, which all interested co-operators are invited to subscribe to. Just do the following:

1. send an e-mail message to : ICN-request@usask.ca
2. include no subject in the subject line of the message
3. in the body of the message include the following: SUBSCRIBE ICN
4. do not enter any other text and turn off automatic signatures, if you use them.

Byron Henderson, Director of communications of the Center for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan would be pleased to answer any questions you might have about the Working Group or about electronic commerce for co-operatives. Contact him by e-mail at hendersb@duke.usask.ca

Co-op Listservers

The "Cooperative bus":

Sponsored and maintained by the University of Wisconsin Center for Co-operatives, the listserve is an electronic bulletin board intended to facilitate discussion about strengths and weaknesses of co-operatives in solving people's economic and social needs. The Co-op bus is probably the largest co-op listserver, and many subscribers are based in the U.S., but co-operators from around the world also subscribe. To subscribe, send email to listserver@relay.doit.wisc.edu, with the message: subscribe cooperative-bus [your name]

Co-operative - 1:

A source of news from and about co-operatives, with subscribers providing news releases and full articles or edited abstracts from the newsletters. Cooperativen-1 is committed to promoting co-operative philosophy and principles. The list is maintained by Co-operative Energy Ltd. of Victoria, Australia. To subscribe, send email to majordomo@peg.apc.org with the message: subscribe cooperativen-1.

Co-opNet:

Co-opNet is a new initiative set up by the Southampton Co-op Network in the UK to promote co-ops in their area and to encourage communication, networking, and positive discussion about co-ops and co-operation. Subscribers are mostly UK-based, but are welcome from all parts of the world. Discussion often focuses on the European movement and on worker co-ops. The list is maintained by Total Coverage, a co-operative graphic design consultancy in Southampton. To subscribe, send email to Listserver@total.tco.uk, with message: subscribe co-opnet.

ICA Member Web Pages Service

ICA is pleased to announce a new service for its members. Beginning in September 1997, individual pages for each ICA member organisation will be added to the ICA web site. This will make information on all members organisations accessible electronically,

whether or not members have set up their own web sites. This new service is an effort to give priority to members, and to facilitate information dissemination between ICA member organizations, and to their own members, and vice-versa. Links will be provided for those organisations that already have their own sites. Each member page will contain the co-op's logo, mission statement, Basic contact information and, when available, e-mail addresses. Please send us any specific information you wish to be included - either by mail, on computer disk, or by e-mail.

Just two years ago, there were no ICA members on the World Wide Web. Now over 10 percent of the total membership have its own websites, in addition to the thousands of other co-ops on the web.

ICA Members Already on the Web

Confederacao Brasileira das Cooperativas de Energia Telefonica e Desenvolvimento Rural (CONBRAC)
<http://www.conbrac.com.br>

Organizacao das Cooperativas Brasileiras (OCB)
<http://ocb.org.br>

Unimed do Brasil Confederacao Nacional das Cooperativas Medicas (UNIMED)
<http://www.unimed.com.br>

Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA)
<http://www.cca.usask.ca/CCA/CCA.Home.html>

Statsvejviseren: F3/4llesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB)
<http://www.si.dk/sam/dod/249119.htm>

Confederation Nationale du Credit Mutuel (France)
<http://www.creditmutuel.fr/>

Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives, Japan (JA-ZENCHU) (CUAC)
<http://www.rim.or.jp/ci/ja/ejahome.html>

Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger (FDB)
<http://www.si.dk/sam/dod/249119.htm>

Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU)
<http://www.co-op.or.jp/>

Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives (KFCCC)
<http://www.kfcc.co.kr/kfce-m1.htm>

National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, Korea (NACF)
<http://www.nacf.co.kr>

Instituto Antonio Sergio do Sector Cooperativo, Portugal (INSCOOP)
<http://www.inscoop.pt/>

Folksam Insurance Group
<http://www.folksam.se>

HSB: Riksfoorbund (Union of Housing Co-operatives)
<http://www.hsb.se>

Koopertiva Forbundet (KF)/Swedish Co-operative Union
<http://www.kf.se>

Lantbrukarnas Rikforbun (LRF)/Federation of Swedish Farmers
<http://www.lrf.se>

Riksbyggen, Sweden (Co-operative Housing Union)

<http://www.riksbyggen.se>

Coop Suisse

<http://www.coop.ch/f/>

Co-operative Bank plc, UK

<http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk>

Cooperative Insurance Society

<http://www.cis.co.uk/>

Co-operative Union Ltd., UK

<http://publish1.co-op.co.uk/UKCM/Union/>

Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., UK

<http://www.co-op.co.uk>

Plunkett Foundation, UK

<http://www.co-op.co.uk/UKCM/plunkett/index.htm>

National Cooperative Business Association, USA

<http://www.cooperative.org>

Nationwide Insurance, USA

<http://nationwide.com>

Confederacion Uruguaya de Entidades Cooperativas
(CUDECOOP)

<http://www.chasque.apc.org/cudecoop/>

[ICIC Home](#) •

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