
REVIEWS

Anne B. Keating with Joseph Hargitai. *The Wired Professor: a guide to incorporating the World Wide Web in college instruction*. NY: New York University Press, 1999. 256p.

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In this day of on-line, quick-access information and research through the World Wide Web, the busy professor may often feel out of sync with the rest of the rapid information world. Through use of the guidelines and suggestions by Dr. Keating, the time-challenged professor can appear knowledgeable and up to speed with a modest time investment.

The Wired Professor is written for the professor who has limited knowledge and experience with the Internet. It is a combination of Internet history, the mechanics of using the Internet, building one's own Internet tools, and a resource of solid suggestions for the Internet's use in instruction. The companion website to the book is also a valuable source that contains additional information and materials, such as examples of faculty websites and links to many of the resources discussed in the book. With this book the professor can build his/her own website for classroom use which may include such elements as syllabi, links to important resources, appropriate graphics, and e-mail links.

The book is a user-friendly resource. The progression from pre-internet computer history to current Internet use gives the reader a brief but clear picture of what the Internet really is and what can be accomplished through it. The book is well-organized, making it easy to find topics, resources, tips, and definitions of terms. Important terms are clearly defined. Keating's manner of writing is clear, well thought out, and witty. Some of the information is very technical, but is explained in such a way that the technologically-challenged professor is able to understand and follow the guidelines. The questions and tips throughout the book are invaluable tools one should consider when building one's own website. As the user gets more proficient in his/her use of the tools provided, more advanced tips and suggestions are included so one can create an even more elaborate webpage with more sophisticated graphics and links. Keating has included invaluable research links, resources, tools, shareware, freeware, and download sites. Having this

information at hand is well worth the price of the book, even if one chooses to have someone else do the actual construction work of the webpage.

The biggest challenge in using this book is that one must still invest a modest amount of time and effort to achieve the goal of a finished product. Although it is very possible to build one's own webpage/site from the step-by-step guidelines in this book, one must invest time digesting the information and then putting it into practice.

I found this book to be a most helpful guide in setting up a webpage, simply through the thoughtful questions and suggestions that are included. For those who follow along and construct their site and for those who already have one, *The Wired Professor* and its companion website will continue to be valuable resources. ✱