



Activity 2c



Although the Internet is a 'dynamic' medium, and up-to-date information is being added daily, teachers and pupils can benefit from this wealth of information by communicating with 'experts' via email.



Many web sites of scientific interest give people access to 'experts' in a particular field by providing an email communication link directly from the web site.



You will be asked to visit a particular web site and communicate with a particular 'expert'.
The trainer will have set up a dialogue with a particular 'expert' and arranged for 'real-time' enquiries to take place.



Outcomes



The practical session should be followed by a discussion, which should focus on the following questions:

- What are likely to be key issues when pupils are searching for information?
- How easy did you find it to search for very precise information?
- What might be the problems in creating a database from a search such as this?
- How easy is it to stay on task?
- How can good search strategies be encouraged?
- How can support materials help pupils of different age groups and abilities to search and to record their information?
- What are likely to be key issues when pupils communicate directly with 'experts'?



Having discussed these specific issues related to carrying out this type of activity in the classroom, now consider the following broader issues:

- What is the source of the information on either the CD-ROM or the Internet?
- How reliable is this information?
- Is the Internet a static 'library resource' or is it more dynamic?
- What are the implications of having instant access to so much information?

