

Report of Group 1

REVIEW OF THE ONEFISH COMMUNITY DIRECTORY FOR THE PURPOSE OF USER EDUCATION ([HTTP://WWW.ONEFISH.ORG](http://www.onefish.org))

By

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oneFish is a web based knowledge management system being developed and implemented by the Support unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR).

Speed of Loading

The speed was easily high enough to be able to offer a user-education session using the database online, rather than having to previously prepare an offline session.

Screen Layout

The layout of the initial screen was felt to be the biggest problem with the system. It is difficult for the first time user to understand what is being offered, as there is too much available in one place, with insufficient explanation of either the search functions or the underlying data. The review team felt that the inclusion of either a site map or a downloadable help file (perhaps in Acrobat format?) would have gone a long way towards remediating the problem. The result is that a lot of work would have to go into preparing user guides locally. On a positive note, the very professional look of the interface is likely to give end-users confidence in the validity of any retrieved data.

On-Screen Help

As mentioned already, there is no help available from the initial screen, but subsequent searches provide a 'help with searching' link below the new search box. The help provided here does not have internal hypertext links, which would help to solve specific problems, we felt. One point that we did like, however, was the provision of information about retrieved items using "alt" tags, so that a description appeared when the mouse hovered over a link.

Usefulness of Links

The links were felt to be logical, but too few. A consistent set of navigation buttons would have been appreciated.

Contact Information

We appreciated the presence of an e-mail link to the editor of each retrieved topic.

Range of Search Facilities

It was difficult to fully appreciate the range of search facilities, as they were all pushed onto the same screen with little attempt to explain what they all were. The review

team was not always certain what it was that we were searching. Retrieved search results appeared to be automatically grouped by category, which was helpful.

Relevance of Search Results

The results were mostly relevant, and we were impressed with the range of 'knowledge objects' that could be retrieved.

Display of Search Results

Clear and simple.

Other Comments

The one thing that we felt would have made the system easier both to use and to teach would have been much more provision of online or downloadable help.