IweTel: the Spanish (electronic) connection

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IweTel is the first electronic forum for information professionals launched in Spain. It was launched by *Information World en Español* on 2nd November 1993. The forum is hosted by *Sarenet* and sponsored by *Swets & Zeitlinger.*

Information World en Español is a Spanish newsletter   published and distributed by *Learned Information*, Oxford (UK) and New Jersey (USA). The editorial board in Spain is presided over by Francisca Garcia-Sicilia (*Dialog Spain*), Tomas Baiget (*Institut d'Estadistica de Catalunya*) and Pedro Hípola (*University of Granada*).

Sarenet (formerly *Spritel*) is a Spanish-based telematic network and gateway to electronic services, including national and international ascii databases and videotex systems.

The company also offers list servers and full acces to Internet services. *Sarenet* services may be accessed via telnet to *pas.spritel.es*.

Swets & Zeitlinger is an international subscription agency, based in the Netherlands. *Swets* supplies subscriptions to more than 100,000 different journals, including cd-rom editions. *Swets* also offers additional services, such as *DataSwets* (online access to the *Swets* database), *SwetScan* (the scanning of contents pages of 14,000 journals) and *SwetDoc* (supply of copies of articles from journals). Further information on *Swets* may be obtained from *nuriam@swets.nl*.

IweTel evolution

The volume of e-mail messages and subscribers managed by the list has been continuously increasing. At present more than 600 users from more than 40 countries receive more than 160 messages each month. Figure 1 presents the volume of the messages sent to IweTel. This volume only decreases during vacation periods.

Figure 1: Messages sent to IweTel

Subjects covered in the forum are represented in Figure 2. As may be seen an important part of the postings are on Internet topics: functionalities, applications, seminars...

Figure 2: Subjects covered in IweTel

The users of the list

IweTel was first created as a service only offered to the *Sarenet* customers. At that time there weren't many Spanish librarians and information professionals on the Internet. Some months later a distribution list software was implemented and more and more users -from Universities, public libraries, information centers, etc.- joined the forum. In June 1994 the manager of the list sent information on IweTel to some Internet forums. Then the list became international. People from more than 40 countries are receiving IweTel messages.

As it is usual with electronic forums the participants on the various discussions are only a small part of the subscribers. Figure 3 presents the procedence of the messages sent to IweTel. Most of the messages are written in Spanish.

Figure 3: Procedence of the messages

How to participate

Anyone interested in receiving further information on IweTel may send an e-mail message to *phipola@ugr.es*. The subject line should read: "Information on IweTel".

If you want to subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to *iwetel-request@gorbea.spritel.es*. You should include in the body of the message: "subscribe iwetel <your name>".

The contributions for the forum may be sent to: *iwetel@euskom.spritel.es*. A copy of all the messages sent to the list may be found in *gopher://ganeko.spritel.es*.

Spanish electronic directory

A directory of the e-mail addresses of the Spanish information community is being prepared starting April 1994. The directory is updated by Tomás Baiget and Pedro Hípola.

You may obtain the last version of the directory by sending a message to: *mailserv@infoserv.rediris.es*. In the body of the message you must write: "send iwe-list.txt".