

CUC 2001



**Using the Internet in International
Educational Activities:
A Case Study**

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Developments in Distance Education



Long tradition:

- 1800s, Europe and U.S. – correspondence courses for women and farmers.
- Many technologies facilitate DE:
postal service, radio, TV, cable TV.
- In the shadow of mainstream, face-to-face education in physical classrooms.

E-learning and International Education



- 1990s – widespread use of Internet, creation of the Web.
- Emergence of e-learning.
- Challenges to traditional premises of institutional learning.
- Opportunities for wider incorporation of international dimensions in learning.

The Case Study



Context:

- A course in business information resources offered on-site at GSLIS, UT-Austin, U.S.
- Course website developed with Prometheus (www.peometheus.com) web courseware.
- 30 students from the U.S. were taking the class.

The Course Website

The screenshot displays a web browser window showing the course website for LIS 382L.19. The browser's address bar is empty, and the page title is "UTwireD prometheus". The website has a dark blue header with the "UTwireD prometheus" logo and navigation icons for help, search, and exit. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with "SYLLABUS" and "DICTIONARY" buttons. The main content area is titled "Information Resources In Business" and contains sections for "General Course Information:", "Instructor Information:", and "TA Information:". The left sidebar contains a menu with options like SYLLABUS, OUTLINE, ASSESSMENT, GRADE BOOK, LECTURES, FILES, MESSAGES, DISCUSSIONS, CHAT, UTILITIES, COURSES, and PORTAL. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications, with the system clock displaying 11:56 AM.

UTwireD prometheus

LIS 382L.19

SYLLABUS

DICTIONARY

EDIT SYLLABUS EDIT READINGS

Information Resources In Business

General Course Information:

LIS 382L.19
Information Resources in Business
Tuesday, 12-3:00
SZB 468

Instructor Information:

Sanda Erdelez
Office Address: SZB 562K
Telephone Number: (512) 471-6432
E-mail: serdelez@gslis.utexas.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3:00 p.m. and by a

TA Information:

Start | Do... | RE... | P... | Pla... | Inb... | CU... | No... | Usi... | Pr... | Ins... | 11:56 AM

The Project Description



The students' task was to act as “consultants” to a fictional entrepreneur interested in starting a Web information service about foreign investment opportunities in Croatia.

Logistics



- Six project groups were created.
- Each group was assigned a student from Croatia (From Zagreb and Osijek) to assist with translation, explanation of relevant terms, and the review of literature not available online.
- Groups were provided collaborative work area on the course website.

Student Collaboration



- All groups used direct e-mail communication.
- Three groups did not use el. discussion lists at all.
- All the groups used the file sharing tool.
- Opportunities and challenges of time zone differences.
- Group dynamics and cultural differences in educational experiences.

An Example of File Sharing

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the UTwired Prometheus website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.utwired.com/prometheus. The website has a blue header with the UTwired logo and the word "prometheus" in a smaller font. Below the header, there are two tabs: "FILES" (which is active) and "DICTIONARY".

On the left side of the website, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: SYLLABUS, OUTLINE, ASSESSMENT, GRADE BOOK, LECTURES, FILES (highlighted), MESSAGES, DISCUSSIONS, CHAT, UTILITIES, COURSES, and PORTAL. Below this menu is a "MORE INFO" link.

The main content area displays a list of files under the heading "Group: Group 3 Last updated: Aug-26-01". Each file entry includes a title, a posting date and time, the author's name, and a brief note. The files listed are:

- 2 emerging industries**
Posted: Nov-28-00, 9:46 AM by Barbara Berdahl
Notes: I could only find 2 promising ones . . . the environmental consulting was a bust. Shannon and I decided to go with the top 3 markets. Hope that's ok.
- Annotated websites**
Posted: Nov-27-00, 12:48 PM by Barbara Berdahl
- Country Report 0799**
Posted: Nov-15-00, 12:26 AM by Melanie Harshman
Notes: A very detailed Country Report on Croatia from L-N. Some info may be outdated, but we can probably use a good deal of it.
- Damir's links annotated**
Posted: Dec-02-00, 5:30 PM by Barbara Berdahl
Notes: Here are some annotations to Damir's links. Unfortunately, most of the sites are in Croatian with no English translation. Do we want to include these anyway?
- Facts & Figures 0699**
Posted: Nov-15-00, 12:25 AM by Melanie Harshman

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including Microsoft Word, Outlook, Internet Explorer, and various utility programs. The system clock in the bottom right corner indicates the time is 11:53 AM.

An Example of EL Discussion List

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the following elements:

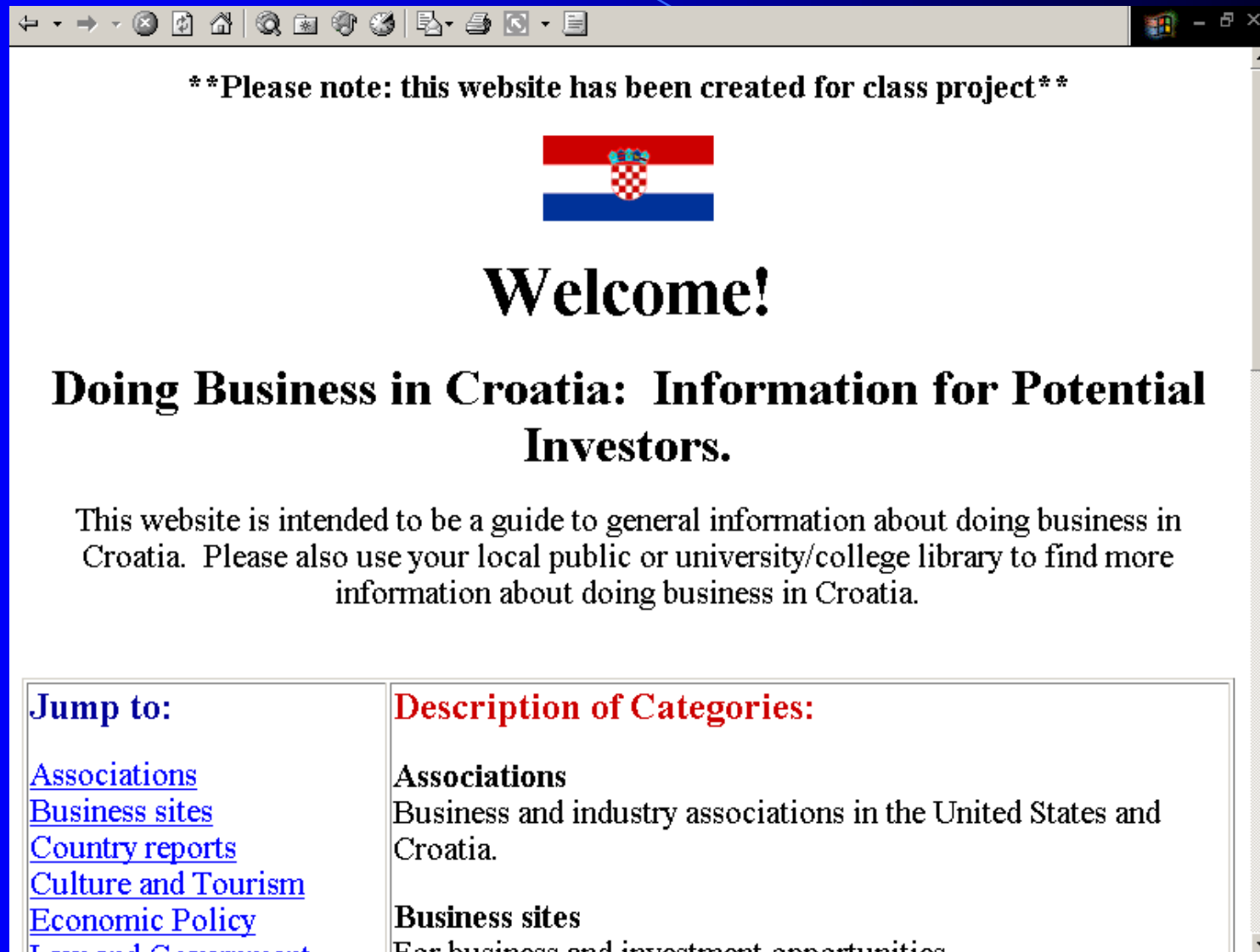
- Browser Title Bar:** Shows navigation icons and the system tray with the time 12:03 PM.
- Page Header:** Features the 'UTwired' logo and 'prometheus' text. On the right, there are icons for help, search, and exit, along with a 'DICTIONARY' button.
- Left Navigation Menu:** Lists various course components: SYLLABUS, OUTLINE, ASSESSMENT, GRADE BOOK, LECTURES, FILES, MESSAGES, DISCUSSIONS (highlighted), CHAT, UTILITIES, COURSES, and PORTAL. A 'MORE INFO' button is located at the bottom of this menu.
- Discussion List:** Titled 'Group 3', it contains a list of discussion threads:
 - Use this discussion thread** (20 replies, 21 unread) - Posted: Nov-21-00 at 9:15 PM by Shannon Jarrett
 - News** (0 replies, 1 unread) - Posted: Nov-21-00 at 12:42 AM by Melanie Harshman
 - Q3 - how to maintain currency?** (1 replies, 2 unread) - Posted: Nov-21-00 at 12:01 AM by Melanie Harshman
 - Printing the Outline** (0 replies, 1 unread) - Posted: Nov-20-00 at 5:18 PM by Melanie Harshman
 - dept of commerce** (1 replies, 2 unread) - Posted: Nov-19-00 at 7:58 PM by melinda johnson
 - Website** (0 replies, 1 unread) - Posted: Nov-17-00 at 12:52 PM by Amy Gannon
 - Emerging Markets in Croatia** (1 replies, 2 unread) - Posted: Nov-15-00 at 11:47 PM by Barbara Berdahl
 - RE: Emerging Markets in Croatia** - Posted: Nov-21-00 at 12:03 AM by Melanie Harshman
 - Lexis file postings - country reports, etc.** (0 replies, 1 unread) - Posted: Nov-15-00 at 12:32 AM by Melanie Harshman
 - examples of other business information websites** (0 replies, 1 unread)

Final Project Presentations




- Part 1: 30 min. synchronous audio and video communication between group members in Austin, Tx and Croatia (Zagreb and Osijek).
- Part 2: 30 min. broadcast- type presentation of project objectives and outcomes by the course instructor.
- Part: Group presentations – video taped for video streaming from the class website.

Sample Report



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a white background. At the top, there is a navigation bar with various icons. Below the navigation bar, the text reads: ****Please note: this website has been created for class project****. In the center, there is a flag of Croatia. Below the flag, the text reads: **Welcome!** and **Doing Business in Croatia: Information for Potential Investors.** Below this, there is a paragraph of text: **This website is intended to be a guide to general information about doing business in Croatia. Please also use your local public or university/college library to find more information about doing business in Croatia.** At the bottom, there is a table with two columns: **Jump to:** and **Description of Categories:**. The **Jump to:** column contains a list of links: [Associations](#), [Business sites](#), [Country reports](#), [Culture and Tourism](#), [Economic Policy](#), and [Law and Government](#). The **Description of Categories:** column contains two entries: **Associations** with the description 'Business and industry associations in the United States and Croatia.' and **Business sites** with the description 'For business and investment opportunities'.

****Please note: this website has been created for class project****



Welcome!

Doing Business in Croatia: Information for Potential Investors.

This website is intended to be a guide to general information about doing business in Croatia. Please also use your local public or university/college library to find more information about doing business in Croatia.

Jump to:	Description of Categories:
Associations	Associations Business and industry associations in the United States and Croatia.
Business sites	Business sites For business and investment opportunities
Country reports	
Culture and Tourism	
Economic Policy	
Law and Government	



IT Resources Used

- IT support: CARNET centers in Zagreb and Osijek; Information technology staff at UT-Austin.
- High-speed Internet connection.
- Prometheus courseware, served from UT-Austin.
- Microsoft NetMeeting and NetShow.

Technical Issues



- Successful use of all asynchronous tools, especially document sharing.
- Difficulties with system compatibility and synchronization among the three locations.
- Flexibility with last minute equipment changes.



Lessons Learned

- Adjust the learning tools to the scope of the educational task.
- Give the participants a choice of e-learning tools.
- Develop e-learning activities that support the international nature of participants.
- Pay attention to cultural difference in educational experiences.



Other Issues to Consider

- Selection of instructional activities that are by nature international.
- Selection of information technology tools appropriate for the overall model of international e-learning.
- Provision of localized logistical support (e.g., local assistant-instructors).

Final Remarks



- The project provided an insight into technological, pedagogical, and logistical issues involved in international e-learning via the Internet.
- Resource and time commitment to experimentation with new technologies is essential for development of successful international e-learning programs.