

EXPERIENCE OF AN ASSOCIATION AS “RECIPIENT” OF INFORMATION MATERIAL PROVIDED THROUGH COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS BASED ON E-TECHNOLOGIES

Cyril Roussel, Institut de l’Ecologie en Milieu Urbain (IDEMU), France

The IDEMU, or Urban Ecology Institute was created in 1995 as a non profit association to contribute to the development of training and information on the know-how related to environment and energy in urban areas. In this context, IDEMU assists communities, enterprises, and the public at large of the Ile de France district in mastering energy consumption. The staff of 50 is spread over 10 locations in the district, which requires e-technologies to coordinate the missions and distribute information. The Institute has had to set up a system of internet watch to keep up with evolutions in relevant domains.

Different watch types are being conducted on the web:

- Technological
- Commercial
- Legal
- Social / societal
- Institutional /political
- Computer

Information collection rests upon a documentation research system, or watch, which can be “active” or “passive”, the latter covering the reception of the information by a worker without his intervention, and the former consisting in an active approach led directly by him.

- Among the various tools used for **active research** :
- Research and meta research motors
- Specialised press (especially in energy and environment)
- General press (main daily press and news digests, and use of filters)
- Newsgroups (on specific research led by expert groups)
- Import of the full content of selected websites
- Forums with data exchange
- Events agendas (invitations, seminars, conferences)

As regards tools for **passive research**, i.e. the whole range of available means for a worker to get information or to keep aware of developments without a direct action, the following tools are identified:

- RSS flux (integration into specialised softwares of news from websites)
- Newsletters (regular information feed to IDEMU of news from its partners)
- E-mails (a source of information from exchanging mails at family, school, enterprise level,...)

Treatment and archiving is necessary to properly benefit from the information watch. Four sorts of tools are used:

- Web navigators (Firefox)
- Client mail (Thunderbird)
- Portable Document File (pdf)-generating software, and tags insertion
- Intranet archiving (via File Transfer Protocol- FTP)