

Societies geared to specifics

There are many well organized resources on the Internet and using them strategically can help you keep up in today's world. For profes-

sional concerns, including the debate on specialization and certification, professional organizations across the country would be a first resource.

The University of Waterloo's Scholarly Societies Project <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/society/overview.html>

This site will lead you to a large number of professional organizations and scholarly societies in many different fields including engineering—both

national and international. Some of these may already be familiar, but there are many you may not know. In any case, it's a convenient entry point and you can search by geographic region, by subject, by type of society, etc. Bookmark the sites that are most important and check regularly for news, newsletters, new publications, etc. A small number of them offer electronic mailing lists or 'listserves' which may be worth signing up for. Listserves take communication a step further by permitting group communication in a bulletin board fashion. Some users hate them but most people, even those who complain about the hundreds of messages they receive, would not want to give them up. The best listserves are regulated, managed, monitored and organized

to serve specific purposes. Choose carefully, keep the information they send you nearby and don't hesitate to "unsubscribe" if a site does not meet your needs.

Scholarly and professional organizations mailing lists

<http://www.kovacs.com/directory/>
This site is a good source for mailing lists done by scholarly and professional organizations. It's not a commercial directory, but is published by a consultant. The directory is excellent because of careful selection, and searching it is free.

Canadian Government Information on the Internet (CGII)

<http://cgii.gc.ca/index-e.html>
Government websites are another vast source of information for professional engineers. The CGII site is one of the easiest collections to navigate for Canadian information. Another notable feature about this collection is the useful annotation for each website. Select "Distribution/Discussion Lists." Scroll down to Canadian Council of Environment Ministers, where you'll find a listserve for discussion of environmental topics. Scroll down further and you'll find Strategis Headlines.

National Academy Press

<http://www.nap.edu/>
Information about broad issues in many fields including science and engineering is provided here. Click on "Browse categories" on the top right, or for a good read try the National Academy Press collection (US National Research Council). All books are available to read online, although they can also be purchased. Try a search on "engineering" or "innovation" to get a sense of what is available. Recently added titles include "Environmental Effects of Transgenic Plants: The Scope and Adequacy of Regulation".



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