

## JOHN KURANZ

### E-PSYCHE - MISSION, FACTS, FEATURES & FUTURE

This letter is in response to an article written by Dr. Eveline Pipp in the December 2001 (Nr. 71, pp 3-12) issue of "Online Mitteilungen" titled [e-psyche - "die umfassendste, kostengünstigste und aktuellste Datenbank im Fachbereich Psychologie"???](http://www.uibk.ac.at/sci-org/voeb/om/om71ep.pdf) (<http://www.uibk.ac.at/sci-org/voeb/om/om71ep.pdf>)

Dr. Pipp and I met in Augsburg and Innsbruck to discuss her findings on the *e-psyche* database. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all the diligent work she did to accurately report the status of our database at the time of her article. What follows is a clarification of our mission, where we are with the database to date, some key features of *e-psyche* and our plans for the future.

#### ***e-psyche* Mission**

When we launched *e-psyche* into the marketplace 18 months ago, our stated objective was to build a premier psychology and related behavioral sciences database. We designed and developed *e-psyche* to meet the information research needs of practicing professionals, students, faculty and the general public. By converging web technology, electronic publishing, powerful browser interfaces and state-of-the-art linking we are meeting our goal. The *e-psyche* database will be the most comprehensive, current and cost effective research tool in the field of psychology and related behavioral sciences.

The field of psychology is expanding and the edges between psychology and complementary areas such as medicine, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, statistics, sociology, biology, etc. are not clearly defined, and, in fact are increasing in overlap. Our source selection strategy at *e-psyche* has taken advantage of this fact, generating a target journals/publications list of over 3,600 titles <<http://www.e-psyche.net/jsrclist.html>> spread over 1100 publishers <<http://www.e-psyche.net/psrclist.html>>.

Along with the objective of being the most comprehensive product in the marketplace includes depth of coverage. Our initial contact with publishers provided some titles going back to 1993, others only to 1998 and others only back 12 months. In order to provide a consistent depth of coverage within the *e-psyche* database during the early stages of development, as well as in the future, it was decided to include all bibliographic reference citations, if available, back to 1970.

By utilizing web technology in partnership with our participating publishers and our expanded definition of the behavioral sciences, we will meet our stated goal of being the most current and comprehensive database in the psychology field for one-half (1/2) the price of our competitor.

#### ***e-psyche* Facts**

As of May 15<sup>th</sup> 2002 this is where we stand in our building of the *e-psyche* database:

1390 Journals/Publication titles <<http://www.e-psyche.net/journals.html>> contracted and being processed, 857 available on distributor platforms. Note: The most current material from publishers is being processed first.

405 Publishers contracted and being processed, 260 <<http://www.e-psyche.net/publishr.html>> available on distributor platforms.

81,777 (1993 to present) bibliographic records.

27,640 author email addresses.

4,500 new bibliographic records added each month.

812,715 citation references (bibliographies/footnotes) linked to article titles and reference citations.

#### ***e-psyche* Features**

The following are some unique and powerful features of the *e-psyche* database:

*Author email addresses*

Our inclusion of all authors, their affiliation and hot linked email addresses has allowed searchers to easily communicate with authors. Besides asking for additional information from the authors', searchers have been requesting full-text copies of articles.... and getting them!

#### Publisher & Full-text Links

A primary goal of an "Abstracting & Indexing" database is to get the user to the original publisher as well as to the full-text. By including the unique ISSN, publisher contact information (address, phone, fax), subscription email address and web site URL, we give the searcher the ability to contact and communicate directly with each source publication.

In addition, our plan is to link all database records to full-text. Presently we are using a variety of methods. In some cases we are linking directly to the publishers' site, in others, to a third party the publisher has designated, and in a few cases, directly to the full text via the DOI. In addition, our distributors have numerous mechanisms for linking to the full-text of the article.

#### Web site links

We have launched a process by which we are identifying web sites pertinent to the parameters of the *e-psyche* database. These will become records in the database similar to the [sample record \(http://www.e-psyche.net/sample4.html\)](http://www.e-psyche.net/sample4.html) shown on our web site. The record will be multi-layered, meaning that it will link not only to the web site home page, but also, in some cases to individual sections, departments or documents within the web site. The basic criteria for inclusion is that the originator of the web site must be a reputable source, political agendas are avoided, personal or ephemeral sites are avoided and the link must provide immediate access to the desired information.

#### Pre-prints

Preprint use has been particularly important in the sciences and locating these works has a high value in the research community. Preprint archives address the problem of the length of time it takes for scholarly research to enter into print publication. We will locate preprint archives that contain information pertinent to the *e-psyche* database and create records similar to the [sample record \(http://www.e-psyche.net/sample2.html\)](http://www.e-psyche.net/sample2.html) shown on our web site. Links from the *e-psyche* record to the full-text document will routinely be checked to assure accessibility.

#### Reference Citation Linking

References (bibliographies or footnotes) within journal articles have always been the method by which authors acknowledge the ideas, findings, advancements and results from which their new work proceeds. Giving credit to a previous researcher for a prior achievement (citation) constitutes a judgment as to the previous research that authors' themselves view as the most significant and useful.

We have built a powerful research tool for the searcher using the *e-psyche* database by cross-referencing and linking all citations and article titles. By tracking papers that are cited numerous times a searcher can obtain a concrete and objective view of the publishing authors, as well as the subject matter they are covering. Therefore, often-cited works can lead a searcher to the most significant research, as well as influential researchers and their methodology.

#### ***e-psyche Future***

The *e-psyche* database has now been available for 18 months and we thank our loyal subscribers to date. Our plan is to have complete coverage of the 3,600 source publications by March 2003 which will bring the database record count to 150,000 with over 1,000,000 reference citations. At that time we should have a monthly update volume of 6,000 articles, which will increase the database size by 72,000 records per year. We will also continue to cover web sites, pre-prints and dissertations. Our commitment will be to process incoming source material in 12 days, keeping the *e-psyche* database the most current in the field.

Again, we at *e-psyche* appreciate the honest and accurate comments given by Dr. Eveline Pipp. We have built *e-psyche* based on customer feedback and will continue to do so with your help. Please feel

free to comment on any of our database features, as well as provide suggestions on how we can make *e-psyche* a more comprehensive and cost effective research tool for you.

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