



Internet Scout Project
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A Brief History of the Internet Scout Project

The Internet Scout Project (Scout) is a research center dedicated to developing better tools and services for finding, filtering, and presenting online information and metadata. Founded in 1994, Scout is based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a part of the College of Letters and Sciences in the Department of Computer Sciences. Because of its location, the Internet Scout Project has enjoyed access to highly educated content specialists and a world-class array of computer science and library resources.

The inaugural issue of the *Scout Report*, the Internet Scout Project's flagship publication, reporting on new online resources of interest to the education and research communities, came out on September 9th, 1994. Published every Friday via both the web and e-mail subscription, the *Scout Report* has become one of the Internet's oldest and most respected publications. From September 1997 through May 2002 Scout also published bi-weekly subject specific *Scout Reports in Business & Economics, Science & Engineering* and *Social Sciences & Humanities*. Since 2002 the Internet Scout Project has published bi-weekly *Scout Reports in Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Math, Engineering & Technology* for the NSDL (National Science Digital Library), a project funded by the National Science Foundation.

In addition to electronic publishing, the Internet Scout Project has a history of open source software development - creating turnkey packages that allow groups or individuals to collect, catalog and share their web-based resources. Scout's best-known software, the Collection Workflow Integration System (CWIS), began development in 2002 under a grant from the National Science Foundation. This open-source software was created specifically to help build collections of science, technology, engineering, and math resources for the NSDL, but is also being used by many outside of the NSDL community. The work on CWIS leveraged off prior work at Scout funded by the Mellon Foundation in 2000 to create the Scout Portal Toolkit (SPT). SPT was developed to allow groups or organizations with scarce technical resources or expertise develop and share their online collections.