

## Thoughts on the Computer and Internet

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1. Some major historical journals in the U.S.A. have already begun publishing on the www. Others are considering doing so. The most serious problem is to secure the journals and the articles therein so that only subscribers can access them. This is a problem that can be solved.
2. I predict that within a decade many important scholarly journals will be published only on the www. Print publication will be a thing of the past. Therefore, www will be the only way our students will be able to have access to the most recent scholarly work.
3. This development will be driven by three things above all:
  - a.) cost of paper
  - b.) cost of mailing
  - c.) lack of library space in many if not all university libraries makes it imperative that this will eventually be done. Already many U.S. university libraries are becoming "hi-tech" and provide more room for computers than books.
4. Of course ethical issues are involved with computers and the internet. No detailing of these is necessary here. But there have been many unethical books or unethical uses of book in the last 500 years.
5. Our fear of the new, of the unethical, and even of English-language dominance of computers will not stop them. I am sure people had many similar fears when printed books began to compete with manuscript books. By 1550 very few manuscript books continued to be produced. I think the same thing will happen in the competition between computers and the www/Internet, on the one hand, and textbooks and journals, on the other. Books for vacation and beach reading will continue until computers are small enough to take to Deauville and Coney Island and their batteries can last long enough to get a respectable sun tan!