Introducing the newest informatics gopher hole!
THE IMIA GOPHER

The International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) now has a gopher to provide Internet users around the world with information about medical informatics.   In its early stages, the focus of the gopher will be IMIA itself and educational programs in medical informatics. The gopher is intended to be a resource for students, educators, researchers, health care practitioners, employers, and planners.

- extensive, full-text information about educational programs in medical and health informatics worldwide
- information about IMIA, its member societies, and its working groups
- a calendar of events and information about upcoming conferences around the world
- pointers to informatics resources at internet sites everywhere: useful files, archives, databases, ftp sites, electronic journals, etc.

What is (a) Gopher?

From the Gopher FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions file), available by anonymous ftp from stout.atd.ucar.edu in /pub/FAQs:

"The Internet Gopher client/server provides a distributed information delivery system around which a world/campus wide information system (CWIS) can readily be constructed. While providing a delivery vehicle for local information, Gopher facilitates access to other Gopher and information servers throughout the world."

Gopher enables you to find and see information stored on machines all over the Internet, without having to know where the information is before you find it. You can browse through text files, download shareware programs, read the archives of topical discussion groups, and visit campuses and institutions all over the world, all through a simple, menu-driven user interface.

What You Will Find in this Gopher

IMIA. Information about IMIA, including contact names and addresses for the member societies, the MIA newsletter, descriptions of the Working Groups, notices of upcoming IMIA events, and administrative matters, will all be available through the gopher.

Educational Programs. The Database of Educational Programs in Medical Informatics, an initiative of IMIA Working Group 1 (Information Science and Medical Education), is still under construction. When complete, it will contain extensive information about schools and institutions offering degree programs in medical informatics, as well as information about non-degree and continuing education programs.

We will make available as much material as schools provide to us...everything from prerequisites and program requirements to curriculum vitae of the faculty, career paths of the graduates, and descriptions of current research projects underway. It's up to the schools to contribute the data, but we are working to make sure that we can provide at least the basic contact information for every school with an informatics program.

For people without access to gopher or telnet, we will be making the database available via email. Information on access should be available by January, 1994.

Announcements/calendar. The gopher will have announcements of interest to the informatics community, including a calendar of informatics events around the world, calls for papers, and (under consideration) a "positions available" notice board.

Pointers. The gopher includes pointers to information about informatics in general, and to informatics resources around the world. These resources have been gleaned from many sites on the internet; we encourage you to let us know if there are useful sources we have missed.

HOW TO ACCESS THE NEW IMIA GOPHER
AND THE
DATABASE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN MEDICAL INFORMATICS

To browse the material in the IMIA gopher, follow these simple steps:

A.   If you have a gopher a your campus or institution already

  1.   Get on to your local gopher. The usual way to do this is by typing *gopher* at your
          system prompt or selecting gopher from your local menu.
  2.   Select *Other Gopher and Information Servers* or a similar menu choice. This item is
          present on most gophers. You should get a menu whose first option is *All the Gopher
          Servers in the World.*
  3.   Select *North America;* select *USA;* select *Maryland;* select *University of Maryland at
          Baltimore*
  4.   Select *International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) [TEST]* from the UMAB
          Gopher menu.

B.   If you do not have a local gopher

  1.   Telnet to consultant.micro.umn.edu (134.84.132.4) at the University of Minnesota, and
          log in as *gopher;* follow the instructions in #2, above, or
  2.   Telnet to trout.ab.umd.edu (134.192.1.6) at the University of Maryland at Baltimore,
          and log in as *gopher;* select *International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)
          [TEST]* from the UMAB Gopher menu.

C.   If you need additional information or help

          Send email to Miriam Jaffe at mjaffe@trout.ab.umd.edu, or call 1-410-706-2004 (at the
          University of Maryland at Baltimore).

HOW TO GET YOUR SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION INTO THE DATABASE

Pick up an information packet at the IMIA booth at SCAMC...
Or send email to Miriam Jaffe (mjaffe@trout.ab.umd.edu) to receive an information packet
after the conference. Please include your institutional affiliation, your email address and your
postal address in the body of the letter, and specify whether you would like to receive the
packet by email or by postal mail. If you do not have electronic mail, send a letter or a fax
to:

Miriam Jaffe
University of Maryland at Baltimore
Information Services
100 North Greene Street, Room 514
Baltimore, MD 21201-1502 U.S.A.

Telephone: +1 410 706 2004
Fax: +1 410 706 8459

The gopher exhibited at SCAMC is a prototype version. We welcome your comments and
suggestions!

Disclaimer: With the exception of the information in the IMIA menu, the material in this gopher
was provided to us by schools, organizations, and individual informaticians around the world, and
IMIA assumes no responsibility for its completeness or accuracy. Contact information for the
providers should be included in each file; please contact them directly for verification or
clarification.

Information about IMIA was provided by the IMIA Board of Directors.
Support for the gopher project is provided by the Office of the President of IMIA,
Dr. Marion J. Ball. Dr. Ball is vice president for Information Services at the University of
Maryland at Baltimore, and can also be reached at the above address.

THE NEW IMIA GOPHER

Database of Educational Programs in Medical Informatics
Degree-Granting Programs

How to get your school or institution into the gopher:

When users want to see the information for your school or institution, they will do so by selecting the name of your school from a menu. They will then see another menu, giving them various files to choose from. These files can be called anything you want them to be called, as they will contain the information as you provide it to us, but it has been suggested that we standardize the file names and their contents as much as possible.   Some possible file names are:

Basic Information
Course of Study Details
Faculty Information
Careers of Graduates
Research Opportunities
Student Theses and Dissertation Topics
About <Your School>
About <Your City>

The suggested contents of these files are detailed below.   The more information you provide, the more users of the database will know about your program.

Also, if we can get the information formatted consistently, it will be easier for the users to find what they need as they browse the files.

You need not provide all the information suggested below; feel free to use this outline as a guide and submit whatever you have available. You can add to your file or change the material in it whenever you like.

The best way to get your files to us is to send us a diskette with the files saved AS ASCII TEXT. Please review the files before you send them, to make sure that they are well formatted. Remember that charts and graphics don't save well as ASCII and usually need to be reformatted. If your files are short, you may email them to the gopher account: infrmatx@trout.ab.umd.edu.   If you must mail us hard copy text we will make every effort to scan it in for you.

Send diskettes (Mac/DOS) and postal mail to:

IMIA GOPHER/Miriam Jaffe
University of Maryland at Baltimore
Information Services
100 North Greene Street, 5th floor
Baltimore, MD 21201-1502 U.S.A.

Telephone: +1 410706 2004
Fax: +1 410 706 8459

Gopher's email address: infrmatx@trout.ab.umd.edu
Miriam Jaffe's email: mjaffe@trout.ab.umd.edu (for questions)
Alternate contact: Judy Douglas, judy@umab.umd.edu

Support for the IMIA Gopher project and for the Database of Educational Programs in Medical Informatics is provided by the Office of the President of 1M1A, Dr. Marion J. Ball. Dr. Ball is vice president for Information Resources at the University of Maryland at Baltimore and can also be reached at the above address.

The **_"Basic Information"_** file would contain all of the items requested by the members of the informatics community who have worked so hard to lay the foundation for this project. Most of you already provide this information in your program catalogs. The following list summarizes the information thought to be important:

Institution
Name of the university/institution in which the program is housed (eg. University of Utah)

Faculty/School
Name of the faculty or school in which the program is housed (eg. Faculty of Medicine)

Department (if applicable)
Name of the department in which the program is housed (eg. Department of Medical Informatics)

Director or administrator of the program
Name
Title
How to contact

Program contact person (may be different from director)
(The person who will be responsible for responding to inquiries about the program.)
Name
Title
Mailing Address
        Room #, Building, Address
        City, State, Postal Code, Country
Telephone numbers
        Phone #, Fax #, with international codes
Electronic mail address (Internet, Bitnet, etc.)

Language of Instruction (primary)

Year Created
Year when students first admitted for degree program
Number of major curriculum revisions

Program accreditation
By whom, when

Degrees/Certificates awarded
Degree abbreviation and full name
When each degree was first awarded

Program Length (average) in years and fractions thereof
For each type of degree awarded
Based on previous preparation, if that is relevant

Program philosophy, objectives, focus
(This may end up being a separate file from the other program attributes.)
Mission
View of information/informatics
Educational goals
Program tracks/concentrations
Primary research efforts
Healthcare environment
Types of occupations students may hold upon graduation

Program costs
      Tuition/fees
      Full-time vs part-time
      In state/country vs. out-of-state/country
      Financial aid available
            Teaching assistantships
            Research assistantships
            Fellowships
            Co-op employment
            Grants
      How/when to apply for financial aid
      Financial aid available to foreign students

Other information for foreign students

The *"Course of Study Details"* file will include as much information as you can provide about the program's courses, the course sequencing, cross-listed courses, as well as course syllabi if you choose to provide them.   Note: please define any abbreviations (eg. CMSC = Computer Science, IFSM = Information Systems).

Required courses within the department
Other required courses
Elective courses
Recommended courses other departments/schools
Program tracks or concentrations
Typical course/courseload sequences

Feel free to send us your program's entire course catalog.

The *"Faculty Information"* file will include as much as you care to provide about your faculty and professional staff. Feel free to provide faculty CV's if they are available. Once the database is fully operational, this area may be used by researchers, people in industry looking for collaborators, students seeking mentors, etc. We hope to have the data indexed as well.

Name
Degree(s)
Where degrees were earned, and when
Title
Educational Background (subject area of degree)
Research interests
Other institutional affiliations
Publications
Direct contact information (mailing address, phone #s, email)

The *"Careers of Graduates"* file will include as much as you care to provide about your graduates.

Date degree awarded
Degree Research area
Current employer

Also names and contact information if any graduates would like to be listed in the database.

Program demographics

      Number of students admitted per year
      Total current students
      Number full-time/part-time
      Number male/female
      Minority representation
      Number foreign student
      Average age
      Ratio of admitted students to applicants
      Average scores on entrance exams
      Typical backgrounds of students (work experience, etc)
      Any other demographic information

Program Structure

      Typical starting month(s) for classes
      Semester/Trimester/Quarter system?
      Number of units/courses/hours required as minimum
      Definition of unit/course/hour as used above
      Practicum or co-op required?
      Thesis or dissertation required?
      Part-time available? (define part-time)
      Evening classes available?
      Off-campus study available?
      Co-op programs available?
      Non-degree enrollment available?
      Any other details of program structure or course sequencing
      Any differences between program tracks/concentrations

Program technology

      Hardware
      Operating systems
      Applications software
      Miscellaneous (communications, conferencing, etc)

Program faculty (numbers; details are in another file)

      Number of full-time faculty
            (Number of academics actively involved in the program and whose primary
            occupation is devoted to teaching, research or administration in the program.)
      Number of part-time or adjunct faculty
            (Number of individuals who teach in the program but whose primary
            appointments are elsewhere.   May include a statement as to the cooperating
            institutions, eg. hospitals, who are actively and regularly involved in the
            program.)
      Number of professional staff people

Program graduates (numbers; details are in another file)

      Number per year (for each type of degree)
      Total number (for each degree) since degree award began
      Number of males/females
      Other demographic details of graduates

Application requirements

      Entrance requirements
            Math, science, programming requirements
            Degree/grade point average requirements
            Recommendation letters
            Applicant information
            Required tests/scores
            Interview required?
      Application deadlines
      Application fees
      How to get an application
      Special admission requirements for foreign students

The *"Research Opportunities"* file will include as much information as you would like to provide about current (and past) research projects at your institution.

Name of project
Principal researcher, other researchers
Source of funding, size of grant
Whatever else might be of interest to other researchers

The *"Student Theses and Dissertation Topics"* will include as much as you would like to provide about student research in your program.

The "*About <Your School>*" file will contain general information about your school or institution.   This information is most likely available in your school's catalog.

The **"*About <Your City>"*** file will include general information about the city in which your school or institution is located.   This information is most likely available in your school's catalog.

IMIA GOPHER: Sample menu tree, subject to revision!

1. READ ME!.
2. "What Is Medical Informatics?".
3. International Medical Informatics Assoc. (IMIA)/
   1. General information about IMIA.
   2. IMIA National and Corresponding Members/
   3. IMIA Publications.
   4. IMIA Working Groups/
   5. IMIA Newsletter/
   6. IMIA Forthcoming events, including MEDINFO '95/
   7. Addresses of IMIA member societies.
   8. New IMIA Administration.
   9. New IMIA By-laws.
   10. New IMIA Strategic Plan.
4. DATABASE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN MEDICAL INFORMATICS/
   1. READ ME!
   2. How the database is organized.
   3. Degree or certificate (academic) programs/
      1. Sorted by geographic region/
      2. Sorted by name of school or institution/
              1. School A/
                 1. Basic program information/
                 2. Admissions information/
                 3. Curriculum details and course descriptions/
                 4. Program faculty/
                 5. Program graduates/
                 6. About School A/
              2. School B/
      3. Sorted by type of degree/
      4. Sorted by language of instruction/
   3. Continuing education programs (short courses)/
   4. National Library of Medicine training programs (USA)/
   5. How to add, delete, or change information in the database.
   6. About education in medical informatics.
   7. Career paths for people trained in medical informatics.
5. Announcements and calendar of upcoming events/
   1. Announcements.
   2. Calendar.
   3. Calls for papers.
   4. Positions available.
   5. Detailed info about upcoming conferences and events/
6. Pointers to other useful information/
           (All kinds of pointers to other informatics resources, ftp sites, listservs, etc., mostly
           other gopher holes around the world)

menutree.wp5/october 31, 1993/miriam jaffe/university of maryland at baltimore/mjaffe@trout.ab.umd.edu