

LIN's Knowledge Collection



Our Mission

The Lifestyle Information Network (LIN) exists to help individuals and organizations that care about individual and community well-being, parks recreation, sport, and culture use Internet technology effectively to exchange knowledge.

LIN fulfils this mission by providing knowledge management services to the leisure sector and by fostering on-line knowledge exchange. We actively collect, archive and disseminate knowledge relevant to practitioners, volunteers and the general public in partnership with other organizations. LIN defines the leisure sector as the community of individuals, organizations and agencies that have an interest in the development of healthy individuals and healthy communities throughout Canada.

LIN approaches both knowledge collection and knowledge dissemination in four ways:

Passively Actively Reactively Proactively

Our Collection Methods

Passive Collection: LIN staff monitors dozens of listservs, e-bulletins and wire services. LIN also subscribes to information services through which knowledge profiles created by our Information Specialists automatically scan the content from over 400 Canadian print, television, radio and wire services as well as from national and international publications and journals for the latest research and new resources.

Active Collection: LIN staff regularly checks a selection of web-based knowledge sources that our Information Specialists have identified as credible and relevant to the leisure sector. LIN also actively solicits grey literature (reports, manuals, policies, etc.) from practitioners, policy makers, and agencies.

Reactive Collection: LIN staff responds to questions and issues raised by listserv subscribers, partners and clients - a particular request will cause LIN to adjust our knowledge profiles, add to the sources we actively check, and locate new content sources. Staff may also send the request out to appropriate listservs. LIN partners with organizations and consultants to carry out meta-analyses and knowledge scans and/or develop bibliographies on particular topics, in the process updating and adding to our core knowledge collection.

Proactive Collection: Information Specialists continually evaluate our knowledge collection to identify gaps and out-of-date resources. Knowledge partners, sources and projects are then selected that will close the gaps and update the knowledge collection. From time to time LIN conducts informal surveys and polls to clarify the knowledge needs of the sector: the results direct our collection enhancement efforts.

Our Dissemination Methods

Passive Dissemination: In addition to the growing list of websites LIN hosts and supplies with content, LIN maintains a searchable archive of the knowledge exchanged through our bulletin boards and listservs. This kind of “tacit” knowledge is invaluable because it tracks informal knowledge exchange that is not captured in any other format. LIN also uses metatag techniques that make our websites search-engine friendly so that “webcrawlers” can capture relevant and accurate listings.

Active Dissemination: LIN ensures our knowledge collection is available to the public through the National Recreation Database (NRDB). LIN “pushes” knowledge to the organizations and individuals in our “network of networks” through listservs and email bulletins. Staff delivers tailored knowledge snapshots in presentations to conferences, seminars and other audiences.

Reactive Dissemination: In response to specific requests and listserv or bulletin board postings LIN staff locate relevant resources in the NRDB and forward that information appropriately.

Proactive Dissemination: Knowledge that LIN captures through our work with one partner or client that is relevant to other organizations and individuals in our “network of networks” is identified and shared in accordance with copyright and knowledge profile practices.