

5.1.11. NDT LIFE – HOW THE INTERNET IS CHANGING IT

Gilbert D.J., Publishing & Media, The British Institute of
Non-Destructive Testing, NORTHAMPTON, United Kingdom

The World Wide Web was invented only just over 15 years ago but now it pervades all our lives. Our NDT world, which is involved in so many application areas from aerospace to power generation, is part of the lives of a wide range of people, from engineers and technicians, to graduates and academics. The web has changed the expectations of researchers – they want information delivered to the desktop – convenience is the watchword – and they rarely visit the library these days. For technical journals and the like, the shift from print to online is not yet complete, but publishers are changing the way they deliver their messages – and they are adopting new strategies that revolve around giving people the information they need, when and how they need it. Blogs, RSS and reference cross-linking are cases in point. “Web 2.0” represents another opportunity – the term describes a range of web-based services that promote online collaboration and sharing amongst users. Two of the British Institute of NDT’s websites – bindt.org and ndtnews.org – demonstrate how some of the techniques are used to provide all NDT people with knowledge and information efficiently, interactively, timely and appropriately.