
GLOBALIZATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CHANGING VALUE OF WATER

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HELPING INTERNET USERS FIND WATER INFORMATION

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ABSTRACT: The World Wide Web is an enormous resource for water information - but you have to find the information first. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is building Gateway to the Earth to enable a diverse community of users to find, get, and use natural science information. This paper describes some of the key elements of Gateway to the Earth: (1) an enhanced thematic searching based on a USGS thesaurus; (2) a geospatial search engine to find information by state, town, or watershed; and (3) a multi-path browse tree to meet the needs of different users. Examples show how Gateway to the Earth will make USGS water information much easier to find.

KEY TERMS: World Wide Web, Internet, information.

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