

Foreword

The history of long-distance communication, from message sticks, smoke signals, pony riders, semaphore (with the world's first Internet in western Europe two centuries ago), telegraph, telephone, and radio, has led to the modern Internet. This history has converged with that of the knowledge repository, from cave drawings, clay tablet collections, manuscript libraries (notably the famous library at Alexandria), university libraries, the lending libraries associated with the rise of popular literacy, to the very recent World Wide Web and its parasitic search engines, which are based on the Internet.

Now the Net and its Web are being extended by mobile telephones and commercialized by media companies. Will all this become just an extension of the telephone, newspaper and television industries?

There are those who hope not, among them Professor Hai Zhuge who, with his China Knowledge Grid Research Group, is aiming to show that formal knowledge classification and storage combined with disciplined knowledge sharing is possible, practical and beneficial.

This book gives a view of their broad ideas about a future interconnection environment, and a description of the methods and models they are already using at this early stage of development of the Knowledge Grid.

I can only wish for the Group, and for this book, the success they deserve.

Neville Holmes
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