

A15 Strengths and weaknesses of the Internet

Table A.15 Strengths and weaknesses of the Internet

'Strengths'	'Weaknesses'
• Up to date, recent information	• Overdose/overkill of information (especially when using search engines)
• Additional information, which is not available chaotic and unsystematic	• Besides overlap, there are also gaps: Internet is elsewhere
• Fast means of communication: the wiki-society (quick correction of mistakes through peers)	• Finding relevant information may be complicated
• Easy way to get in contact with people/ organizations	• Information may not be up to date (no regular updating of information; links out of order)
• Contact is often informal	• Availability (information can be removed from a site or payment may suddenly be required)
• Easy way to get information on a particular subject (discussion lists, chat boxes)	• Relevance is often unclear
• Links provide easy access to other sites	• Reliability can be doubtful: it depends on the source (who provides the information and why); in the wiki-formula it is increasingly difficult to exclude vandals and manipulation
• Democratic: no major barriers to entry	• Wiki volunteers may be biased in their interest and ideas
• May give good insight into the way organisations themselves	• Bias for actual information and against historic would like to present information
• Cheap	• English dominance of search engines and main users.
• Environmentally-friendly	• No clear rules about copyright
• More fun	

Source: based on Kolk (1997)