

PNC; where we have been and
where we are (probably) going

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PNC at the beginning

- No world-wide web
- “Internet” as a (small) set of academic and government research networks
- Users dialed into a timesharing computer to use email and share files
- No search engines – you needed to know the address and filename of what you wanted
- No standardization of email or file types
- Access from Asia only via telephone services

Bangkok 1995



Changing goals of PNC

- At first: connection!
- Share information on existing resources (manual file catalogs)
- Coordinate technical standards
 - Text encoding
 - Text structure
 - Database structure
 - Geo-encoding
- Coordinate and publicize projects

2002 Osaka meeting



From 海印寺 carved during the
Mongol Dynasty (元朝)



What's next?

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan

A stately pleasure-dome decree:

Where Alph, the sacred river, ran

Through caverns measureless to man

Down to a sunless sea.

- I can read a book from when Kublai Khan was emperor of China.
- I cannot read many of the CD's from the early days of PNC
- Will our work flow “down to a sunless sea” in 20 years?