Education
Educational Life Research and Reflection
Sharing of Knowledge
Educational Applications
Collaboration IT Skills Technology Watch
Sharing of Expertise
Research and Reflection
Responsible Citizenship Sharing of K
Technology Watch
Experiential Learning
Exchanges and Practices
Technological Culture
Learning community
Educational Life

COLLEGE
EDUCATION

THE INTEGRATION OF *IT* IN COLLEGE EDUCATION

» **GUIDE** to Associations and Organizations
operating with funding and support from the
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport

The integration of IT in college education

Foreword

This Guide presents, in a single document, an overview of the main organizations, associations and services currently addressing the integration of information and communications technologies (IT) within the Québec college system. In addition to providing funding to most of the organizations described here, the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (MELS) also supports the development of the *Profweb* gateway for college educational resources as well as the IT Representatives Network (Réseau des répondantes et répondants TIC).

Representatives of the Fédération des cégeps and of the Association des collèges privés du Québec also work with these organizations through the Comité de concertation sur l'intégration des TIC à l'enseignement collégial (Consultative Committee on the Integration of IT in College Education), coordinated by the MELS.

This first edition of the Guide offers information on French and English services available to the college network. As further services in English are developed by these organizations and associations through funding under the Canada-Québec Agreement, this Guide will be updated.

Association pour la recherche au collégial

ARC Association pour la recherche au collégial

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Days, half-days or "social gatherings" providing participants with information on various research grant programs and on the drafting of grant applications. Workshops for those interested in applied research or research theory, or needing other targeted training. "Research dinners" providing subsidized researchers with the opportunity to share their findings and challenges with colleagues, as well as workshops during which researchers present the results of their work.

» ORGANIZATION OF COLLOQUIUMS
A unique opportunity for researchers, as well as those interested in research, to benefit from the latest data and to discuss the current status and requirements of college-level research.

» PUBLICATION OF VARIOUS TEXTS
Thematic inventories, reports and editorials on topics relative to the development of college-level research.

» RESEARCH SUPPORT
Training in research, development of research questions or drafting of grant applications, in both basic and applied research (mentoring and coaching programs).

» ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE
$35

MEMBERSHIP

Practicing or aspiring researchers, faculty interested in the latest information on college research, members of professional and administrative staff providing support for college research, as well as representatives of grant organizations, partners, sponsors and donors.

OVERVIEW

The Association is primarily a forum for contact and discussion on college research. As a professional association, ARC fosters the development of research throughout the college system, in particular through the dissemination of position papers on research issues, the hosting of research-related activities and conferences, the establishment of research support measures, the awarding of prizes and, more recently, through its contribution to the development of meta-research.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Association pour la recherche au collégial
255, Ontario Street Est, suite A-7.67
Montréal QC H2X 1X6
Telephone: (514) 843-8491
Fax: (514) 982-3448
E-mail: arc@cvm.qc.ca

» http://cvm.qc.ca/arc

Association pour les applications pédagogiques de l'ordinateur au postsecondaire

Association for the Educational Application
of Computer Technology at the Postsecondary Level

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
Guides to training and professional development activities; articles, editorials and dossiers on IT integration in education, available on the Association website.

» PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Activities and events to raise awareness, foster discussion and create opportunities for training and professional development; non-credit courses.

caravane_APOP - Partner colleges whose association creates a learning community to further the use of IT in academic environments, and encourage debate, training and the sharing of knowledge and experience about IT in education.

APOP_mobile - Customized workshops designed to foster the sharing of educational practices in a postsecondary institution and actively encourage the use of specialized software for teaching and learning.

APOP_taxi - Customized programs adapted to the needs of department, program or disciplinary teams for specific subjects and academic applications of IT; individualized support in the development of projects, tools and resources for teaching and learning.

APOP_tour - Activities for the sharing and dissemination of information in other professional communities working towards the academic integration of IT.

Annual E-conference - A conference in synchronous cyber collaboration mode to bring members of the college community together to discuss and share their perspectives, expertise and approaches to the implementation of IT into academic practices.

Online services - A number of APOP_mobile and APOP_taxi activities are available in a cyber collaboration mode using distance synchronous telecommunications tools. Participants have a choice of using their office or home computers, and working within schedules that meet both individual and group needs.

» ORGANIZATION OF NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
Annual consultation meeting of college representatives, and general meeting of members and resource people.

» PUBLICATIONS
BulleTIC, a quarterly newsletter for members; broad distribution of articles, editorials and information relating to the use of IT for academic purposes.

» ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE
$20

MEMBERSHIP

APOP brings together teaching, professional, technical and management staff from Francophone and Anglophone postsecondary institutions in Québec's system of public and private colleges. Its services are intended primarily for these members, but are also available to others interested in using information technology in an educational context.

OVERVIEW

APOP has as its goal to promote the use of IT for academic purposes. The Association brings together users of information technology, as well as those involved in the development of educational applications of IT; it also promotes awareness of the contribution of IT to education; it makes recommendations on how technology can be used in academic contexts; it encourages analysis, research and the circulation of information on educational applications of IT, and responds to the need for information-sharing, training and professional development in the use of IT for academic purposes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Association pour les applications pédagogiques de l'ordinateur au postsecondaire
Association for the Educational Application of Computer Technology at the Postsecondary Level
1660, boulevard de l'Entente
Québec QC G1S 4S3
Telephone: (418) 688-8310, ext. 4602
E-mail: direction@apop.qc.ca

» http://www.apop.qc.ca

Association québécoise
de pédagogie collégiale

Association québécoise
de pédagogie collégiale
aqpc

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» AQPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The annual Conference is the primary forum for teachers, professionals and managers in the Québec college system and encourages debate on practices, research and educational innovation. At the Conference, the Association recognizes an individual who has contributed in a significant way to the educational development of the colleges, and also awards honourable mentions to showcase excellence in work done by college educators.

» PUBLICATION OF PERIODICALS
The magazine *Pédagogie collégiale*, a quarterly publication, features articles on current research and practices in higher learning, and is intended to foster debate on teaching and learning. Abstracts of the articles are provided in both English and French on the Association website and the complete text of several of the documents published can also be accessed there. The *Bulletin*, published three times a year, keeps members informed about Association activities; the Actes (AQPC Conference proceedings) reproduce the texts of presentations and workshops from annual conferences. *Pédagogie collégiale* and the *Actes* are also available on CD-ROM.

» PUBLICATIONS
AQPC has already published ten reference books in French on college education, and initiated the translation of one of these publications into English in 2006. It regularly provides support for new pedagogical texts to be published by *Chenelière-Éducation*.

» PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The Association organizes training activities twice a year, to support the professional development of its members. It also provides information on pedagogical activities taking place in the colleges.

» PROMOTION OF THE WEALTH OF EXPERTISE TO BE FOUND IN THE COLLEGE SYSTEM
In all its different activities, AQPC puts particular emphasis on the wealth of pedagogical expertise to be found in Québec colleges. This has two related impacts: it helps to further the recognition of the role of the colleges in increasing the knowledge base in pedagogy and, at the same time, contributes to the progress of Québec society as a whole. AQPC also plays a proactive role in ensuring that issues relating to pedagogy are central to all public debate on education and the Québec school system.

» ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE
$50

MEMBERSHIP

AQPC currently has over 900 members, including teaching, professional, technical and managerial staff from Québec's public and private Francophone and Anglophone Colleges. Approximately thirty colleges and universities belong to the Association, in an associate member capacity.

OVERVIEW

For more than 25 years, AQPC has supported the development of college education in Québec. It is a major force in the pedagogical life of the colleges; it brings together those involved in higher learning, promotes collaboration and the sharing of knowledge and expertise, supports analysis and research on college education, and works to support the development of a professional identity for college educators.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Association québécoise de pédagogie collégiale
7000, Marie-Victorin Street
Montréal QC H1G 2J6
Telephone: (514) 328-3805
Fax: (514) 328-3824
E-mail: info@aqpc.qc.ca

» http://www.aqpc.qc.ca

Cégep@distance

» **DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**
Cégep@distance offers more than 250 distance education courses in French — all educational material developed for these courses can also be used by faculty to enhance classroom teaching and learning activities. Non-credit online courses are also available, particularly in Office Systems and Administration. In addition, Cégep@distance distributes an Internet research kit, as well as Math study modules, mainly for student use.

» **PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND PRODUCTION SUPPORT**
Work tools — in particular a guide to supervising students in Internet-based courses — to help course designers prepare such courses, and tutors provide the appropriate support to students.

» **PUBLICATIONS**
Contributor to the *Clic* newsletter.

CLIENTELE

Cégep@distance receives approximately 28,000 course registrations each year. A little over half of these are from young College students, who choose one or two courses in order to complete their education more rapidly, or satisfy requirements for admission to a university program. Another portion of the clientele is made up of adults who register in technical programs to acquire specific skills. Others register in non-credit courses at Cégep@distance, or simply take a range of credit courses out of personal interest.

OVERVIEW

The role of Cégep@distance is to develop and offer college level courses through distance education. Cégep@distance has expertise in the design and delivery of print-based correspondance courses or multimedia and online courses. It develops these activities in close cooperation with other institutions and organizations of the college system.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Cégep@distance
7100, Jean-Talon Street East (7th Floor)
Montréal QC H1M 3S3
Telephone: (514) 864-6464; 1 800 665-6400
E-mail: infoscol@cegep@distance.ca

» **http://cegepadistance.ca/en**

Centre collégial de développement de matériel didactique

» **DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**
Distribution and marketing of CCDMD products.

» **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Support to users of its software products.

» **PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTION SUPPORT**
Calls for project proposals; administrative, technical, financial and educational support for authors whose proposals are selected for publication or production.

» **PUBLICATIONS**
Correspondance; contributor to the *Clic* newsletter.

» **SUBSCRIPTION COST FOR INSTITUTIONS (COMPUTER-ASSISTED MATERIALS ONLY)**

Annual fee: $300 + $0,07 per student

Additional campus: $100
For a nominal fee, students can also obtain individual copies of software.

CLIENTELE

CCDMD assistance programs are aimed primarily at teachers within the college network wanting to produce print, digital or online materials for their students, or to use these materials.

OVERVIEW

Managed by the *Collège de Maisonneuve*, the CCDMD is a centre specializing in the production of educational materials. The *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* has given the CCDMD a mandate to ensure that faculty and students from Québec's public and private Francophone and Anglophone colleges have access to quality educational materials in fields of study not covered by publishers.

To fulfill this mandate, the CCDMD supports the development of various types of educational materials such as manuals, software, and websites, including resources for improving French and English language skills. Priority is given to needs not met by publishing houses.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Centre collégial de développement de matériel didactique
6220, Sherbrooke Street East, Suite 416
Montréal QC H1N 1C1
Telephone: (514) 873-2200
Fax: (514) 864-4908
E-mail: info@ccdmd.qc.ca

» **http://www.ccdmd.qc.ca/index_en.html**

Education
Research and Reflection
Sharing of Knowledge
Educational Applications
Collaboration
Sharing of Expertise
Responsibility
Technology Watch
Experiential Learning
Exchanges and Practices
Technological Culture
Learning Community
Educational Life

PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

CENTRE COLLÉGIAL DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE MATÉRIEL DIDACTIQUE (CCDMD)

CÉGEP@DISTANCE

DOCUMENTARY RESOURCES

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

ASSOCIATION POUR LA RECHERCHE AU COLLÉGIAL (ARC)

CENTRE DE DOCUMENTATION COLLÉGIALE (CDC)

PLATEFORME COLLÉGIALE DECCLIC

TEACHER

JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

INTEGRATION OF IT IN COLLEGE EDUCATION

ASSOCIATION QUÉBÉCOISE DE PÉDAGOGIE COLLÉGIALE (AQPC)

ASSOCIATION POUR LES APPLICATIONS PÉDAGOGIQUES DE L'ORDINATEUR AU POSTSECONDAIRE (APOP)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

VITRINE TECHNOLOGIE-ÉDUCATION

PERFECTIONNEMENT ET FORMATION DES MAÎTRES AU COLLÉGIAL (PERFORMA)

PROFWEB

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

COMMUNITY OF SHARED PRACTICE

IT REPRESENTATIVES NETWORK

Centre de documentation collégiale

» **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DOCUMENTARY RESOURCES**
ÉDUthès: thésaurus de l'éducation (a unique Thesaurus in the field of education): 27,000 documents available for loan; an index of articles in periodicals ; the ProQuest tool, providing links to databases such as ERIC, CBCA (formerly the Canadian Education Index) and Education Journals, covering more than 1,000 titles, 850 of which are unabridged (password available upon request), as well as REPÈRE and Biblio Branchée (Francophone newspapers and periodicals — onsite consultation only); consultation of encyclopedias, dictionaries, guides and other educational reference works; research reports, theses, articles (where deposited and available).

» **DISSEMINATION OF TEXTS OF VARIOUS KINDS**
PAREA research reports, as well as articles from the magazine *Pédagogie collégiale* and *Actes* (Conference proceedings of *AQPC*); handbooks and companion guides specializing in education.

» **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Guides for documentary research.

CLIENTELE

The clientele of the CDC is made up of students, faculty members, professional and management staff from Quebec's public and private Francophone and Anglophone colleges, as well as organizations and associations connected with the college system.

OVERVIEW

The mandate of the Centre is to provide services, free-of-charge, to all public and private colleges. The CDC is the only library service specializing in college education; its collection of over 27,000 documents (books, magazines, articles, research reports, electronic documents, websites, etc.) has been inventoried and selected to meet the specific information needs of practicioners and researchers in the colleges. Its research interface is available in both French and English.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Centre de documentation collégiale
1111, Lapierre Street
LaSalle QC H8N 2J4
Telephone: (514) 364-3320, ext. 241
Fax: (514) 364-2627
E-mail: infocdc@cdc.qc.ca

» **http://www.cdc.qc.ca**

PERFORMA
(PERfectionnement et FORmation des MAîtres au collégial)

PERFORMA
Perfectionnement et
formation des maîtres
au collégial

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Among the activities available at each of the member institutions, some are offered online and several deal with topics relating to the use of IT for academic purposes. All the activities come under one of the following programs:

- Master's of Education (M.Ed.) (45 credits)
- Graduate Diploma in Teaching (30 credits)
- Graduate Microprogram for Professional Integration in College Teaching (15 credits)
- Undergraduate Certificate for Professional Development in College Teaching
- Bachelor's degree in Careers or Vocational Education

» DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Various IT projects developed through the financial contribution of la Délégation collégiale PERFORMA.

CLIENTELE

Faculty in Québec colleges.

OVERVIEW

Within each member institution, PERFORMA works through a local resource person to fulfill its mandate of supporting the professional development of college teaching staff and the educational development of the institution.

For over 30 years, PEFORMA has offered professional development programs in college teaching. Its unique character lies in its commitment to developing made-to-measure training programs to meet needs identified by academic staff working in the institutions of the PERFORMA network. This approach has had a significant impact on faculty, students and the institutions themselves.

The programs offered are based on an experiential learning process and require the active involvement of participants. PERFORMA activities take place as workshops or laboratories focusing on pedagogical approaches and the development of teaching tools. These activities help to foster the development of new professional relationships between faculty members and contribute to increased cooperation between teachers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PERFORMA
Faculty of Education
University of Sherbrooke
2500, boulevard de l'Université
Sherbrooke QC J1K 2R1
Telephone: (819) 821-8000, ext. 67424
E-mail: performa@usherbrooke.ca

» http://www.usherbrooke.ca/performa

Plateforme collégiale DECclic

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

»DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
Access, in whole or in part, to 19 online courses in Philosophy, French and Science, including formative and summative evaluations. The platform interface is also available in English.

»PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
A selection of abridged or full-length professional development activities, in-class, online or in a format that combines both.

»ANNUAL ASSESSMENT DAY
An assessment day is held each spring, offering resource people and faculty in the colleges the opportunity to compare their experiences and to discuss development issues.

PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTION SUPPORT
A new evaluation tool, *Exam Studio*, available in English and French, provides teaching staff with support for the development of questionnaires and tests fully integrated into the DECclic platform.

PUBLICATIONS
Nouvelles de DECclic, a newsletter that keeps local resource people informed about changes made to the platform, as well as activities available to their institution.

» MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR INSTITUTIONS

Number of Students	Annual Cost
Under 2,000	$2,000
2,000–3,000	$3,000
3,000–4,000	$4,000
4,000–5,000	$5,000
5,000–6,000	$6,000
Over 6,000	$7,000

The annual fee is calculated on the basis of the number of full-time students in the regular education sector. It includes the use of the platform and of the *Exam Studio* evaluation module, training for teaching staff and online support.

CLIENTELE

• Faculty members wanting to better support their students and enhance their own evaluation and assessment methods.

• Colleges wanting to create links between their campuses, reach students spread across a wide area, and collaborate with other institutions.

• Students looking for individualized courses, collaborative work environments, and flexible schedules.

OVERVIEW

Created in 2004, corporation Plateforme collégiale DECclic is composed of all the institutions using DECclic. It has a dual role: (1) to maintain and develop the software for its online educational platform and (2) to act as a driving force for the DECclic community through permanent online support, professional development and networking activities. The DECclic II program was developed using open code.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Plateforme collégiale DECclic
10555, de Bois-de-Boulogne Avenue
Montréal QC H4N 1L4
Telephone: (514) 332-3000, ext. 6021
Fax: (514) 332-0083
E-mail: pierre.seguin@bdeb.qc.ca

» http://www.decclic.qc.ca

Profweb

Profweb
pour l'intégration des TIC

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» **DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**
Resource catalogues, dossiers on specific topics, accounts of pedagogical experiences, educational scenarios and professional development activities.

» **PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PRODUCTION SUPPORT**
Possibility for college faculty to have their own personal space on an Internet server so they can post on the Web a selection of resources to be used for teaching and learning purposes.

» **PUBLICATIONS**
Contributor to the *Clic* newsletter.

CLIENTELE

Priority is given to teaching staff in the college system, but contributors to IT integration are also served.

OVERVIEW

The *Profweb* gateway of educational resources is made available to faculty in the colleges, to promote the integration of IT in teaching and learning.

Profweb has two components:

• access to products and services supporting teachers in their integration of IT. As *Profweb*'s different partners develop English language resources, these will be made available on the *Profweb* site.

• personal space on an Internet server where individual faculty can post a selection of resources (sites, applications, files, etc.) for teaching and learning purposes.

This gateway makes it possible to ensure the widest possible dissemination of products and services from partner associations and organizations involved in IT integration in education: Association pour la recherche au collégial – ARC; Association pour les applications pédagogiques de l'ordinateur au postsecondaire – APOP; Association québécoise de pédagogie collégiale – AQPC; Cégep@distance; Centre collégial de développement de matériel didactique – CCDMD; Centre de documentation collégiale – CDC; PERFORMA; Plateforme collégiale DECclic; IT Representatives Network (Réseau des répondantes et répondants TIC); Vitrine Technologie-Éducation. By its easy access and by showcasing and sharing resources, *Profweb* contributes to the development of an extensive and valuable educational heritage. It also furthers the professional development of teachers by providing resources teachers are encouraged to share, along with their experiences in IT integration.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Profweb
Centre collégial de développement de matériel didactique
6220, Sherbrooke Street East, Suite 416
Montréal QC H1N 1C1
Telephone: (514) 873-2200
Fax: (514) 864-4908
E-mail: info@profweb.qc.ca

» http://www.profweb.qc.ca

IT Representatives Network

Réseau des répondantes et répondants TIC

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- Meetings at which IT representatives from colleges share their opinions on the role and goals of the IT Representatives Network they form, and participate in workshops on the use of IT for academic purposes.
- An online collaborative worksite where documents can be drafte dand information structured and circulated.
- A distribution list that facilitates the timely exchange of information.

» DISSEMINATION AND SHARING OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
Access through the IT Representatives Network website to "best practices" developed by IT representatives, as well as to documents produced by the various committees of the IT Representatives Network.

CLIENTELE

People with responsibility for the educational integration of IT in their respective colleges — usually IT pedagogical counsellors designated as local IT representatives.

OVERVIEW

The IT Representatives Network is made up of IT representatives from the college system and constitutes a community of shared practice. This community's role is to assist IT representatives who interact with faculty in their respective colleges to provide support for the use of IT for academic purposes.

In a spirit of collaboration and of sharing of knowledge specific to a community of shared practice, IT representatives develop different tools and resources that can be used for teaching and learning. The members of the IT Representatives Network, as a whole or in smaller groups, also work to address specific needs. The results of their work are shared across the entire college community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

IT Representatives Network
Fédération des cégeps
500, Crémazie Boulevard East
Montréal QC H2P 1E7
Telephone: (514) 381-8631, ext. 2387
E-mail: reptic@fedecegeps.qc.ca

» http://www.reptic.qc.ca

Vitrine Technologie-Éducation

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

» **DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**
Eurêka (http://eureka.ntic.org/), a catalogue containing thousands of teaching and learning resources; annual publication of the *Internet and Education Guide*; electronic version of the *Clic* newsletter.

» **TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**
Software licensing for college staff (Microsoft, Adobe, Corel, Network Associates, etc.).

» **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Courses or course modules on the academic use of IT, credit (PERFORMA) or non-credit, online or onsite.

» **PUBLICATIONS**
Contributor to the *Clic* newsletter; weekly updates (*Portail des TIC*, by subscription-based E-mail, or through RSS on several college websites); bi-weekly English-language electronic news bulletin.

» **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**
Institutions with fewer than 500 students: $350
Institutions with more than 500 students: $700

MEMBERSHIP

Originally created for the Québec college system, the Vitrine Technologie-Éducation currently serves 46 public colleges, 14 private colleges, both Francophone and Anglophone, some Québec universities, private Francophone institutions outside Québec, and School Boards.

OVERVIEW

Québec's *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* has mandated the Vitrine Technologie-Éducation to promote and support the integration of information and communications technologies in the education sector.

The Vitrine Technologie-Éducation negotiates software licensing programs, maintains a technology watch in education and provides support to faculty wishing to integrate IT into their educational practices. By contributing to the dissemination of teaching and learning resources, the Vitrine Technologie-Éducation plays a crucial role in the development of a comprehensive educational heritage for Québec.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vitrine Technologie-Éducation
10555, de Bois-de-Boulogne Avenue
Montréal QC H4N 1L4
Telephone: (514) 332-3000, ext. 6025
Fax: (514) 332-0083
E-mail: info@ntic.org

» **http://ntic.org**