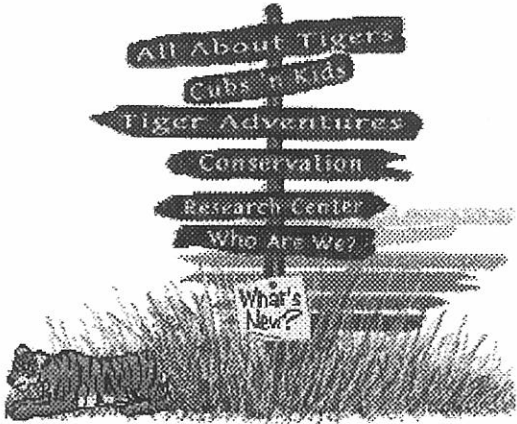


Final Report

The Tiger Information Center Progress Report
December 1, 1998–March 31, 1999



Sponsored by Save the Tiger Fund

Project STF 98-093-062

Tiger Information Center III

Progress Report 12/01/98–03/31/99

Submitted by Janet Tilson

Introduction

Since the report issued November 30, 1998, we have continued to bring our viewers the most up-to-date tiger information available. We subscribe to an online news service and post current news about tigers from international newspapers and wire services in our "News" section on a daily basis. Our viewers seem to appreciate this feature that puts them on the "cutting edge" of tiger information and send us e-mail asking for information about certain stories or alerting us to stories that we might have missed.

Objectives

Our main objective for the 1998–1999 grant year was to increase the interaction between viewers and the site.

- The change in software and service provider allowed for more timely site updates and more advanced and interactive web features, such as the TigerCam—a time-lapse record of the Minnesota Zoo's maternity den.
- Our goal of reaching people in tiger range countries and the rest of the world was enhanced through news updates, and we continue to provide up-to-date reports and articles about tiger conservation.
- Our teachers' mailing list (an e-mail list that allows teachers to request notification from us regarding new educational materials on the site) continues to grow, and we frequently receive letters and artwork from school classes that have used our site.

Individual Responses. E-mail continues to be an important component of the site. Currently, we receive an average of 15 e-mail messages daily from all over the world, requesting information about tigers. The messages come from a wide range of individuals, including students from kindergarten through graduate school, concerned citizens around the world, and other conservation professionals. This interaction tells us what people want to know about tigers, thereby showing us ways that the web site can be expanded and enhanced.

Habitats: Realm of the Tiger. The hit counter on the "Habitats: Realm of the Tiger" page shows that 14,835 visitors viewed this page between September 15 and May 13, 1999; 1,670 people have viewed the order form for the kit.

Other Additions.

The Tiger Legislation Section (under "Conservation") was expanded to include

- ✓ Text of the 1994 Rhino & Tiger Act and the 1998 amendments (Rhino-Tiger Labeling Act)
- ✓ Description of CITES. Text of CITES convention, and link to document on the TRAFFIC site: "Tiger Progress? The Response to CITES Resolution Conf. 9.13"
- ✓ IUCN Information including "What is the IUCN," "What are the Red Lists," and the IUCN Red List Threatened Species Categories

In a continuing feature, 13 tiger-related articles from the most recent "Cat News" 29 (Autumn 1998) were posted.

Other reports from NGOs that were posted or linked to during this period

- ✓ The Annual Report of the Wildlife Protection Society of India
- ✓ Global Tiger Patrol 1997-98 Report
- ✓ EIA's second report on tigers: "The State of the Tiger: India's Tiger Crisis" (posting in progress)
- ✓ Link to Traffic document: "A World Apart? Attitudes Toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and Endangered Species in Hong Kong and the United States"
- ✓ Report from India: "Second Progress Report on the Field Work Carried out During the Period September 1996 to July 1997" (Given to us at Year of the Tiger Conference)
- ✓ Report from India: "Tigers in Panna: Conservation Prospects in a Semi-Arid Habitat in India" (Given to us at Year of the Tiger Conference)

The Tiger Talks Back (area aimed at grades 1-3) segment on white tigers is almost completed.

Public Involvement: Our viewers continue to want to be involved with the site. In addition to enthusiastic kids, who send us artwork, letters (telling us how much they love tigers!) and poems, adults from around the world have submitted material for inclusion on the site. Recently, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) provided us with form letters to the prime ministers of India and Japan so that visitors can copy and mail their protests.

Web Site Evaluation

- As a result of the change in our web host, we no longer receive the site statistical data that was presented in previous reports. We are currently looking for a statistics package

that will meet our requirements. One difficulty is that each week's log file tends to be 35 MB or larger. These files take a long time to download, and the analysis packages we've tried so far have difficulties analyzing more than one week at a time. The following results were produced during a trial use period of a shareware program called FastStats.

Report generated on April 19, 1999 at 03:42 PM

Time Period: September 01, 1998, 10:30 AM to February 28, 1999, 11:59 PM

Log spans a period of 181 days

Item	Value
Hits	4,898,403
Total Data Transferred	36.72 gigabytes
Total Visiting Users	310,942
Average Hits per User	15.75
Average Users per Day	1,717.91
Average Data Transferred per Day	207.72 megabytes
Hits cached by Client	652,215 (13.31%)
Incomplete downloads/file requests	46,935 (0.96%)
Total failed requests	55,452 (1.13%)
Unique IP Addresses	137,905
Average Data Transferred per User	123.81 kilobytes
Average Hits per Day	27,063.00
Average Data Transferred per Hit	7.86 kilobytes
Each user has visited approximately	2 times
Hits on Pages	177,1993
Hits on Files	87,032
Hits on Images	298,3048

Awards

Since we have already received most of the notable awards on the web (!), the number received is gradually diminishing. Nevertheless, we received recognition from the following

As Director of the educational web site, TEACHERS HELPING TEACHERS (www.pacificnet.net/~mandel), I am currently publishing an educational book entitled "Virtual Field Trips in the Cyberage". Within the text of the manuscript, I mention the great benefits of your web site, and list the URL. With your permission, I would like to include your URL in the final copy of the book—Dr. Scott Mandel

Webivore Knowledge Systems values your web site(s):

*Author of Site: Ron Tilson, Janet Tilson, Anne-Marie Alden, Tiger Information Center

*Site Name(s) & URL(s): Tiger basics <http://www.5tigers.org/basics3.htm>

and has included it in our collection of educational web pages (<http://www.webivore.com>). This collection is an index of the best web sites found and reviewed by our content experts and editors to help students and educators find accurate and useful information on the web.

A short review of your web site has been written by our Content Experts and organized in subcategories of subject areas for users to choose from and explore. will correct our records.

Thank you for your time and input and your web site!—Amara Cohen, Webivore Knowledge Systems, LLC

More rewarding are the letters from individual users. Here are just two.

I would like to thank you for providing a very good resource for tiger information. I am a high school sophomore doing a 5 page term paper on Amur tigers for my biology and English II classes. Your site was well organized and by far the most comprehensive site I have visited so far. It is always nice to find a truly reliable source on-line. It has been a great help and I am sure I will be visiting this site often in the near future, as well as after my report is finished because I simply enjoy learning about these impressive and majestic animals.—Stephanie Hiler aka Tyges

Just wanted to congratulate you on an exceptional site. Your Tiger Information Site is very well done. I am both a teacher and graduate student in Instructional Technology. Your site meets all of the criteria for involving students in learning and in problem solving as an instructional strategy. Good Job!—Carolyn Thalman Special Education Teacher, Fairfax County, VA, and Graduate Student in Instructional Technology, George Mason University