

Supercourse Newsletter
20 June 2006

www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm
www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm
www.pitt.edu/~super1

Dear Friends,

Great news, Mita has had a pretty baby girl, Rucha.

Building a new Supercountry: It is time that all of you on the Supercourse should consider having another baby or two. If all 40,000 has 2 children, and if all your children become epidemiologists (which they should), we can markedly improve the health of the world. Also, we can start a small country and call it "Supercountry". The passport into the country will be a lecture. It would be quite noise as you walked down Bridgebrook Lane, in New Country, you would hear Ali preaching about earthquakes, Bayu would be talking in the next house about hemorrhagic fever, Drora would be having a major discussion in her living room about micronutrients, and Titik would be exciting "Supercountry" residents about Malaria. Hmmmm, maybe this is just a little TOO much epidemiology!! From the Supercountry we go to:

Supercoursing: Rania Azmi from Alexandria Egypt came up with an wonderful concept...that of "supercoursing". It is defined as a concept that implies collaboration and international understanding...It is far beyond lectures. It is the concept of building a culture of collaboration across countries and religions in which one could use the Supercourse to collaborate together world wide on the Internet.

In other words, Supercoursing is a synonym representing collaborating, contributing, cooperating, coordinating, friendship, understanding and sharing information and knowledge for the benefit of human beings in all countries.

Supersizing: In the US MacDonalds came up with the concept of "Supersizing" that is increasing a lunch meal from 1000 calories to 3000. It has been wonderful for fattening the world. Supercoursing is a much cooler concept, that of global prevention collaboration, rather than building global "chubbets". Please use the concept of "Supercoursing" freely in your conversation but avoid Supers!!!

Legacy: Do something worth remembering...Elvis Presley

Legacy Lectures: We have been talking with archivists around the world to try and figure out how to keep the legacy lecture and the Supercourse 700 years. It is not an easy task. We could find no archivist who were focusing on lectures. We have had some excellent ideas. Paul Lasewicz from IBM was especially helpful He is involved with digital preservation. One approach is to have the lectures upwardly compatible, thus for each more forward in the technology, the data are transformed into the new technology. A difficult is that each transformation is not perfectly compatible. After years, the files will most likely be incomprehensible. Another approach is to use a standard approach that can be used for the ages, once again, who know if we can maintain a standard approach. What is interesting is that still the channel most likely to be retained in paper. We can print out the lectures on paper. Another approach that we are looking into is to move the power point files to microfilm, as this is cheap, and likely to be around for a while. From our perspective the key has to be redundancy, redundancy, redundancy, where the lectures are in multiple channels, and in multiple locations across the world. Isn't it amazing that to of the major archival have been in the Vatican and the Library of Alexandria? We would love your thoughts of how we could store the lectures to the year 2525.

A Robin Redbreast in a cage
Puts all Heaven in a Rage.
~William Blake, *Auguries of Innocence*

Lecture of the week

Are we all going to die from avian flu? If you want to find out more about this area and hear the expert's opinion, you may want to visit updated version of Dr. Rachid Chotani's lecture on Avian Flu, accessible through the Supercourse at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec21431/001.htm> In addition to the English version of the lecture, you will be able to access Russian version. This lecture is a part of our Just In Time (JIT) lecture series, designed to alleviate people's fears about health conditions and disasters that you hear about on TV. Please, contact us with any questions on JIT series and let us know if you would like to participate in this effort.

Best regards from Pittsburgh: Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Soni, Ali, Superman, Rania, Benson, Ronald Mc., Julia, Rashid, Alice

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