

## Internet Access to Research Results—A Challenge

EAS researchers want to make the results of their investigations available for use by stakeholders—their scientific peers, policy makers, K-12 teachers, private industry, or other groups. Increasingly we all seek access to information on the internet. Whereas publication of scholarly papers in research journals remains a major means of making results available, much of the published literature is available only to those with access to a well stocked research library. While copyright laws protect the financial investments of publishers, those laws make it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for researchers to provide internet access to their published results.

Professor Muawia Barazangi wished to make the decades of research results of his research group widely available via the internet, but confronted a daunting problem of learning the copyright policies of all the agencies and commercial firms who have published their papers.

With the help of former graduate students Melissa Stephenson and Carrie Brindisi, technical advice from Steve Gallow, and advice on copyright laws from Cornell's Acting Associate Librarian John Saylor, Barazangi undertook a major effort to make the Institute for the Study of the Continents (INSTOC) website on the Middle East and North Africa complete and in compliance with

copyright laws. This endeavor required extensive research to better understand what materials can be posted on an academic website.

Barazangi is pleased to report that the mission has been accomplished, and more than 70 publications in leading scientific journals are now available on INSTOC's website (<http://atlas.geo.cornell.edu/>). John Saylor views this accomplishment as a "shining example of how things should be done." In addition, all of INSTOC's electronic information has been included on DSpace, Cornell's digital repository, the most permanent and comprehensive system for digital archiving.