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Social Policy Digest Goes Online

Readers will be aware that one of the *Journal of Social Policy's* regular features, the Social Policy Digest, is being relaunched as a web-based publication.

The rapid growth of the internet in recent years has led to a revolution in the way information is published. Most source material used for the Digest – including nearly all government publications – is now accessible online. It has been clear for some time that the Digest needs to change to keep pace with these developments.

At the same time the website format offers enormous benefits to the Digest itself – freeing it from space constraints, making it possible to update the Digest much more quickly, and dramatically improving access to the information it contains.

The scope and purpose of the Digest – to keep users informed about significant current developments in the social policy field – will remain unchanged. However, we hope the new website format will enable a greatly enhanced service to all SPA members. A further benefit is that space will be released within the *Journal of Social Policy* itself for additional articles.

In future the Social Policy Digest will be updated on a monthly basis. SPA members will be able to ask for automatic notice, by e-mail, whenever each new monthly update is posted in the website's 'What's New' section.

All the website material will be organised according to broad subject area and related topics. This means that users interested in particular topics will be able to browse the material collected on them, arranged in date order, by viewing the relevant pages. There will be a fast and efficient search facility.

One of the major benefits of the new site is that it will allow users to link directly to source materials on other websites. This will very often mean direct access to an original document, and/or a summary of it.

Material will be included on the website relating to May 2002 onwards. All material added to the website will be retained there indefinitely, eventually

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allowing an invaluable and unique archive of references on social policy developments to be built up.

The Digest can be found via: http://uk.cambridge.org/journals/jsp. Access is restricted to SPA members and other JSP subscribers, including institutions, and is controlled using the same username and password system as that for JSP full-text articles.

We are confident that these changes will lead to the Digest becoming a much more useful, and useable, resource. We welcome any ideas for improving the website, and we need to know if you experience any problems using it. You can contact us using a feedback facility within the website.

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