

EARN EXECUTIVE

Proposal for the control of the use of lists

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1 The misuse of lists

There has been much adverse comment that several of the lists in use on EARN do not fall within the EARN Charter and Code of Conduct.

It is difficult to differentiate between legitimate use of EARN and misuse. The "jokes" distribution list is clearly unrelated to any research activity that we know of. On the other hand the "genealogy" list is for research of a private nature or perhaps for hobby purposes.

It may well be appropriate to attempt to draw this fine distinction but currently the author is not able to do so.

2 Proposal

It is proposed that:

* The EARN manager be asked to examine the list of lists and extract the ones in EARN which appear to be unrelated to legitimate activities.

* A letter will be sent to the relevant node management asking them to justify the existence of the list in terms of the EARN Charter and Code of Conduct.

* The EARN president tells BITNET of our concern on the use of lists and asks what steps they are or intend to take with a view to having a common approach.