

# **The Henry Hazlitt Foundation**

## **Summary of Plan for free-market.net**

March 25, 1997

**Chris Whitten**  
President

**Lori Lovejoy**  
Director of Development

“As a libertarian columnist and editorialist at a newspaper in Paraguay (100,000 copies, daily) it is very hard to obtain facts and figures... not long ago writing about deforestation in Paraguay, I tried to obtain information on the Web and could not find any on similar problems and solutions.”

—**Porfirio Cristaldo Ayala**  
Asuncion, Paraguay

Free-market think tanks produce mountains of valuable policy work every year. Local organizations and advocacy groups do important work promoting causes like term limits and school choice. There are thousands of community groups and clubs that promote local issues and gather together to discuss the ideas of liberty.

Yet, when asked, often these individuals do not know of each other's work. Experts have infrequent contact with each other. Often the people who could use the information that is produced — like journalists and students — never find out about it.

The mission of The Henry Hazlitt Foundation is to make free-market individuals and organizations more accessible — and thereby bring the ideas themselves to a wider audience. We seek to provide attractive and inviting ways for people to be introduced to the ideas of liberty, to provide tools for the ideas to grow and flourish, and to create forums and opportunities for free-market advocates to discuss and exchange their ideas — with each other, and with a larger audience.

For this purpose, we are developing free-market.net, an online database and communications center. Building on the success of the current World-wide Web site free-market.com, free-market.net will offer several layers of services to the public and its members. It will offer full-text searches for researching, indexes of information for browsing, personal and professional home pages, e-mail updates, and discussion areas.

The heart of free-market.net will be its online, interactive database. The free-market.net database will include:

- Foundations and institutes
- Organizations, clubs, and local affiliates
- Web sites, e-zines, and other Internet content
- E-mail lists, discussion areas, and chat sites
- Individual members and experts
- Articles, book reviews, studies, and essays
- Press releases
- Products and services
- Events, contests, and scholarships
- Job openings and research opportunities

"I just tried out your new [free-market.com] web search capability. I think it is great. I often find myself wanting to write letters to publications on various topics and it is useful to have facts at my disposal. I read many free market and libertarian publications, but I don't always remember which publication had information regarding a currently relevant topic. Using the standard web search tools generally yields so much noise that it's hard to distill the useful information. I hope that organizations which support freedom will continue to make more information available online and tools such as your web search capability will become even more useful."

—**James W. Howe**  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

By using the output of the free-market.net database, individuals will be able to quickly and easily find everything from Cato's most recent policy study to the deadline and application requirements for an IHS Humane Studies Fellowship. People will know that they can come to free-market.net and find what they are looking for, whether it's from a think-tank on the other side of the world, or from their next-door neighbor.

Because the Henry Hazlitt Foundation will be an independent organization, free-market.net can promote the interests of all the free-market organizations at once. And by specializing in online communications and networking, we will be able to offer services and innovate in ways that would be prohibitive for other independent organizations.

This database and communications center will be meeting a very real demand. Starting in the summer of 1995, thousands of readers have been visiting the existing free-market.com Web site every week. When we conducted a survey of 300 of these readers in December 1996 and January 1997, almost all of them responded with interest and enthusiasm for the planned interactive services and database. Of the 300 polled, 89% anticipated using the site at least once a week.

We believe that the Henry Hazlitt Foundation and free-market.net will help foster interest and energy in an already vibrant and growing international free-market movement.