

Outline for “Heinlein Fandom Online” July 6, 2007 8:00 p.m. -9:00 pm.

"Heinlein Fandom Online"

GENie. Prodigy. AOL. Alt.fan.heinlein. SFF Net. There are no doubt many others, but if you're interested in how sharing how you first found another cobbler or are still keeping Heinlein's memory alive via regular posts somewhere, this is an hour for you--the fan with the 2400 bps modem in the closet and WiFi on the new laptop.

Introduction—little bit about me; any other panelists; go around the room and ask for name, and any current online groups. Offer up a “mailing list” signup for exchanging information mentioned in this panel.

Timeline/History—concentrating on English-language (U.S.) fandom.

“Community Memory”— Lee Felsenstein—the first Heinlein Fan online? (1970s)

Pre-online services—dial-up BBSes. ???

The WELL (1985-)

CompuServe 80s -- present

Prodigy—1984-1999

GENie (the SFRTs) 1985-1999 (Dueling Modems / SFF Net 1996-present)

America OnLine 1991-2005

Alt.fan.heinlein (1994-present) (Ahasuerus?)

Delphi 1983-present

What’s Out There now?

Alt.fan.heinlein (use newsreader or <http://groups.google.com>)

SFF Net: sff.discuss.robert-a-heinlein, sff.discuss.heinlein-forum via <http://webnews.sff.net>

Heinleinsociety.org board: <http://www.heinleinsociety.org/cgi-bin/discus/discus.cgi>

AIM Heinlein Readers Group (information on <http://www.heinleinsociety.org>)

The Nitro Forum (via Jim Gifford’s site):

<http://www.nitrosyncretic.com/rah/srah-nitroforum.html>

Waternest: <http://community.livejournal.com/waternelst/>

Illustrated Heinlein <http://www.storypilot.com/sf/heinlein.html>

Quotable Heinlein: www.quotableheinlein.com

heinleinblog: <http://heinleinblog.blogpeoria.com/>

Robert A. Heinlein, Dean of SF Writers: <http://www.wegrokit.com>

What’s not represented?

Online criticism/scholarship (Heinlein Journal, Panshin, UC Santa Cruz: Heinlein Papers collection)

the Heinlein Prize Trust.

Other, less-specific SF fandom sites, of which there are many.

Where is Online Fandom going? Is it worth it?

Great Debates of Fandom past: