<http://www.mediabridge.com/nyc/bids/tsbid/quotes.html>, you can find information for a turn-of-the-millennium celebration to be held in New York City on December 31, 1999 at midnight. On the other hand, at <http://ecuvax.cis.ecu.edu/~pymccart/2000.html> you will find that the first day of the 21st century is January 1, 2001.

Getting Started, What do you need?

Starting with basics, you will need a computer with a modem, an Internet Service Provider (ISP), and a browser. All come in a variety of sizes and quality. A Mac or PC with limited RAM may limit your ability to access applications. A faster modem may increase your enjoyment of Web surfing.

The ISP you select is crucial. The requirements for an acceptable provider include: A local phone number for dial-up access, low rates (about $19.95 per month) for unlimited access time, and technical support during evening and weekend hours. You can find an ISP by visiting the site <http://thelist.com/> and searching by area code; at <http://www.cnet.com/Content/Reviews/Compare/ISP/> you will find ratings for over 500 ISP's. At last check AOL <http://www.aol.com/> was ranked 502 out of the 518 ISP's rated, while EPIX <http://www.epix.net/>, my provider, was listed at 449. The number one ISP as this time is NTR.NET Corporation <http://www.ntr.net/>. The ratings at this site are based on responses by visitors to the site; the numbers provide only benchmarks—the user must provide the interpretation.

Most services provide software that is compatible with their system; this software should include telnet, gopher, and browser programs along with programs to read mail and news groups. Netscape is one of the top browsers on the market and if your service does not provide it, you can download a copy (free to educators) from <http://home.netscape.com/>. Once correctly configured (here is where you may need the assistance of the technical support staff), Netscape can be used to read your mail and newsgroups, browse the Web, and download software.

Where Do I go from Here?

Once you are on-line you will need a few URL's to visit. The shaded box on the previous page is my short list of favorite sites. For the complete list you will need to visit my home page at <http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/~judyann/> where you will be able to click on highlighted text or graphics to access the sites.