



The  
**Art**  
of

# **Internet DATING**

The Definitive Practical Guide

D. L. Jones

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many thanks go to Sharmane for all her advice, early proof reading and ideas.

To the countless thousands of people (known and unknown) I have chatted to, emailed, corresponded with, and met in real life from the Internet- a big thank you. This book would not have been possible were it not for all of you.

Last but certainly not least, to my Nicole, for everything ☐

# **THE ART OF INTERNET DATING**

**THE DEFINITIVE PRACTICAL GUIDE  
TO INTERNET DATING**

**BY DAVID L. JONES**



**The Oracle Press**

PUBLISHED BY FUSION PUBLISHING  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ORACLE PRESS  
MONTVILLE, QLD. 4560  
WWW.ORACLEPRESS.COM.AU

Copyright © David L. Jones, 2001

All rights reserved. No part of this publication, either in part or in whole, may be reproduced, transmitted or utilised in any form, by any means, electronic, photographic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage system, without permission in writing from the author, except for brief quotations embodied in literary articles and reviews.

National Library of Australia

ISBN 1 876494 54 9

**[www.art-of-internet-dating.com](http://www.art-of-internet-dating.com)**

# CONTENTS

Introduction	6
The Basics	9
Getting to Know Someone the Virtual Way	18
The Numbers Game	22
What to expect	24
Special Interest Groups	31
Staying Anonymous	34
Documentation	37
Methods of Meeting	40
Preying on the un-expectant	49
Other types of relationships	52
Choosing A Personals Site	57
Writing your profile	64
The Photo	84
Getting Maximum Exposure	95
Cheating	101
Searching Profiles	111
Automated match reports	115
Interpreting Profiles	117
Responding to a Profile	120
What to do when you get a reply	124
What to do if you don't get a reply	128
Getting to know your potential date	131
The Date	134
After Date Etiquette	149
The Future of Internet Dating	153
Glossary	156

## INTRODUCTION

Have you exhausted all the usual avenues for finding your soulmate?

Are you too busy to get out and meet people?

Tired of the club/pub meat-market scene?

Do you find it difficult to approach someone face to face?

Or do you simply find that you can't get a date?

Maybe you would just like to meet some new and interesting people or would like to make new friends locally and from around the world.

Or would you just like to try something new and exciting?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, or anything remotely like it, then Internet dating is definitely for you. In fact it's for everyone!

Internet dating is growing in popularity at an exponential rate, and rightly so. It's fast, efficient, completely safe, and is suitable for everyone and anyone no matter what your background, who, or what you are looking for.

Literally *millions* of people all over the world have been using the Internet to meet others for friendship and relationships since the mid 90s. Now it's more popular than ever as it becomes more widely publicised and accepted. It is no longer considered 'weird' to have met someone from the Internet, and is so common and socially acceptable that it barely raises an eyebrow in today's communication driven society.

Internet dating rewrites the rules for meeting people in today's society. It has become another method of meeting people, over and above the usual avenues of family, friends, work, school, and social

outlets among others.

In the past, Internet dating has usually been a hit and miss affair. Pioneers who simply made it up as they went along drove the first few years. But now, Internet dating has evolved into a whole new approach and a socially acceptable way to meeting people. Now with this book there is no longer any reason to stumble blindly through the world of Internet dating.

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is the *definitive* practical guide to the Art of Internet Dating.

Just *why* there is a need for such a book I hear you ask?

Finding someone and getting a date via the Internet, let alone finding your soulmate, is nothing like you will have ever experienced before. Many aspects of communication and body language that you have grown up with and are used to are either no longer relevant in, or must be modified for an online world. You will quickly find that your regular pickup lines won't work, and there is no body language or eye contact to fall back on. On top of that, your charm, wit and humour are now viewed on an entirely new level.

If you jump into Internet dating blindly then you are putting yourself at the mercy of chance and 'the numbers game'. Most new Internet daters are either mauled by the more experienced competition, or become a victim of their own inexperience.

Whilst there are many similarities between Internet dating and meeting people through traditional social channels, the medium of the Internet puts everyone back onto an equal playing field. It is definitely an art in a whole new world with a different set of rules.

This book has been written by someone who's been Internet dating from the earliest days. Someone who has seen and played the Internet dating game from all perspectives, and made all the mistakes along the way so you don't have to.

You will learn all the ins and outs, the unwritten rules (until now), and the secret tips used by successful Internet daters. There is advice for males and females on how to place and respond to profiles, how

to get and organise dates, things to do, and more importantly the things *not* to do. Many important technicalities specific to online personals are also explained. Almost every conceivable aspect of Internet dating is discussed, dissected and analysed, to help you get the most out of it. There is something for everyone, from the Internet dating novice to the well-seasoned veteran.

Unlike other 'Internet dating' books, this one is purely a practical guide designed to increase your chances of meeting Mr or Ms Right. There are no stories or anecdotes about the author's Internet dating triumphs, you don't need to know any of that. Whilst these stories might make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside, they won't help you to find the love of your life or get a date, but good practical advice and insight most definitely will.

The focus will be on using the Internet to find a romantic interest, soulmate or date, be it casual or permanent. But it also has relevance for those looking for pen pals, friends, business contacts, activity partners, and those who just want to spend their life chatting to people around the world.

## **STEP BY STEP**

There are an endless number of ways to approach Internet dating, but by and large there are some basic steps that are followed by most successful Internet daters. The chapters in this book follow this general pattern. The first eleven chapters give you an introduction and overview of the various means available and what you can expect. From then on it's step-by-step through the Internet dating process using the primary Internet dating tool - on-line personals.



# THE BASICS

## WHAT IS INTERNET DATING?

To put it simply, Internet dating is all about using the Internet as a means to find and make contact with someone. Be it a pen pal, friend, sporting partner, casual date, relationship or your soulmate. It's all possible, and there are a literally millions of people out there right now in every corner of the globe just willing and waiting.

You may have heard stories in the press about people meeting, falling in love and even getting married on the Internet in 'virtual weddings' without having met. That's the world of the uninformed misguided media; in reality things couldn't be more different.

So you aren't some computer geek, and you don't want to meet some computer geek right? "*Heck, I don't even own a computer*" I hear you saying. Well that's ok, you don't need to own a computer, and the vast majority of the people on the Internet today are 'normal' people, just like you. That wasn't how it was just a few very short years ago, but now the Internet has grown to be almost as ubiquitous as the telephone, and people from every facet of life are using the Internet.

The Internet is fast becoming one of the easiest, most popular, and surprisingly to most, one of the safest forms of meeting people. Read on and you'll find out why.

## ASSUMPTIONS

This book is written assuming that you know at least what the Internet is and how to use it in a basic sense. For example, you should be conversant with using a web browser and email at a minimum. If you don't know anything about these things then there

are countless books and courses out there that will get you started. Once you have this basic understanding you are ready to tackle Internet dating.

Also, this book will not go into detail about how to use certain features of products mentioned, like ICQ, newsgroups, chat clients and so forth, as each one would need (and have) a book in their own right. But in most cases you will be directed to web pages to find out more about them. The focus will be on the techniques and the best way to make use of each product for the purposes of Internet dating.

## **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

To start meeting people on the Internet you need three basic things:

- 1) An Internet connection to the World Wide Web (www)
  - 2) Spare time
  - 3) This book for the best advice on how to go about it
- You already have #3, that's a great start.

#2 is up to you. The more time you have to spend on Internet dating, the greater the potential. This free time will not only include using the Internet itself, but making time available to actually meet your dates in real life, which of course is what it's all about.

## **WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO I NEED TO BE?**

*Anyone* can succeed in the world of Internet dating, you don't have to be a certain kind of person, nor have any particular type of personality. You don't need to be a social recluse or have a degree in computer science. People using Internet dating are as diverse as can be imagined, so no one will be out of place.

## **TYPES OF INTERNET CONNECTION**

There are 4 basic ways to get an Internet connection:

- At home with your own Internet connection
- An Internet connection at work
- A friend's Internet machine

- A public access Internet terminal such as in a library or Internet cafe.

By far the best thing to have is your own Internet connection at home. You will be able to take all the time you like in the privacy of your own home.

If you are going to use a machine at work to access the Internet then there are several things to watch out for. For starters, most companies have policies against using company computers for non-work related activities, and if you get caught it could mean losing your job. If, on the other hand, your company is happy for you to use it for such a purpose and they know about it, then you can expect to be hassled by everyone in the office wanting to know the outcome of every email and date that you have!

Using a friend's Internet machine is similar to using an office machine. If you can get away with using it without your friend looking over your shoulder, then great, otherwise they can tend to get very nosy. On the other hand, having a friend to encourage you and provide a bit of unbiased advice can be a great advantage. Why not both of you try Internet dating together and see who can get the most or best dates?

Public access terminals should be used as a last resort for three major reasons. You generally can't spend too much time on them, which limits what you can do. Secondly, you tend to get people looking over your shoulder, which can be a tad embarrassing. Third, they are relatively expensive. However, if this is all you have access to then that's ok, you can certainly make do.

## **IS INTERNET DATING SAFE?**

**YES!**

It's that simple, Internet dating is as safe as you want it to be, you are in complete control. This cannot be stressed enough.

Most people out there are genuine and nice. In fact they are generally much nicer than someone you will meet in a pub or nightclub after they have had one too many to drink.

Most Internet dating 'horror stories' are along the lines of the

person they met was totally different to who they thought they would be, and they never contacted again. A waste of time, not a big deal. You get better horror stories about meeting people at the local bus stop.

The great thing about the Internet is that it allows you to pick and choose, and sort out most of the people who aren't suitable without ever coming face to face, giving your phone number, or even emailing. You get to decide who to contact, when, and how much information to give out, whether or not you meet, and where and when you meet. You can't possibly get any safer than that.

The Internet is for all intents and purposes anonymous until you decide that you want to take it further. So come on, don't be afraid, be cautious if you like, but get out there and give it try, you will be pleasantly surprised.

## **IS IT EASY TO MEET THE PERSON OF YOUR DREAMS?**

Unfortunately not, just like in real life. In most cases it comes down to perseverance and luck. The Internet, however, does give you the benefit of a huge group of potential single people to choose from and few of the usual social barriers, so your chances of meeting the right person are greatly improved.

Sure there are many people who have fallen in love with and married the first person that they have met via the Internet, so it does happen for some people, but almost certainly will prove a bit harder for the majority of people. Just as in real life, you meet various people, have fun, and have the odd heartbreak along the way before (hopefully) meeting your soulmate. In fact, technically the Internet vastly improves your chances of meeting and falling in love with the first person you meet; such is the power of the information available to you via the Internet. There are no guarantees, except for one; if you don't give it a try you won't succeed.

For the more introverted people out there, the Internet is a godsend. It's not uncommon to date ten times as many people from

the Internet as you have met in normal social settings, and turn down even more than that.

## **WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE WILL I MEET?**

One of the great aspects of the Internet is the seemingly limitless variety of people you can meet. Anyone from the boy/girl next-door type, Elvis fanatics, astronauts, fellow stamps collectors or worm farmers, and it's not unheard of to find the occasional supermodel or celebrity. This is generally in stark contrast to the normal club/pub/social circle routine in which you will mostly meet the same kind of people from the same social set again and again.

Although the world of Internet users is almost infinite in scope, when it comes to Internet dating here are few 'personality types' you might encounter. By no means take this list seriously; it's just a light-hearted look at some generalisations.

### **THE AVERAGE INTERNET DATER**

Just your average person, with an average job, a normal social circle and a well-adjusted lifestyle genuinely looking for Mr/Ms Right. The vast majority of people on the Internet personals scene fall under this category. Maybe they are just like you?

### **THE SERIAL DATERS**

These people just need to have someone to go out with every night of the week. Most of them are just out for fun and like meeting people to the extreme.

### **THE SWINGERS**

These people are after a good time plain and simple, and they usually won't be shy about it in their profile. Casual affair, fling, call it what you will; if this is what you are looking for then you'll find no shortage of takers on the Internet. You will be able to spot them a mile away, they won't be afraid to tell you what they want.

### **THE CHAT FREAKS**

These people live their lives in a virtual world; they spend their entire day and night in chat rooms, and will generally only meet in real life at chat room social functions, often organised by them. The world of Internet chat rooms is their domain; enter at your own risk. They generally ignore newbies anyway.

### **THE CONTACT COLLECTORS**

These types of people never want to meet; they just want to have as many people on their email list as possible. A lot of times they won't even return email, they will just add you to their list. Can usually be spotted by the phrase, "I like making new email buddies," in their profile.

### **THE CYBERERS**

Are just after cyber sex. You will find them lurking in seedy chat rooms, and they'll usually send you a chat request saying, "*wanna cyber?*" or, "*what are you wearing?*" Each to their own. Entertain them or just plain ignore them, it's your choice.

### **THE FAKERS**

Are not who they appear to be. They use a fake name, fake photo, lie on their profiles, and just enjoy being someone else. These people are a hindrance to serious Internet daters. Luckily they can be spotted, and very rarely agree to meet in real life.

### **THE WINDOW SHOPPERS**

People who place a profile 'just for the fun of it'. They like seeing who will reply, but have no real intention of ever meeting or taking it further. These can include people who are 'just curious', and want to check out what it's all about before getting serious.

## **INHIBITIONS GO OUT THE WINDOW**

You will quickly learn that on the Internet people are much more open and willing to reveal almost anything. The feeling of being behind a computer screen tricks your subconscious into revealing

much more than you would under normal circumstances. This is most often the case within chat rooms when people are thinking and typing in real time. They really let their hair down and give little thought to what they are actually revealing.

This can have its benefits and it's pitfalls. It's great for you in that you can potentially find out a lot of additional information about people, which can help decide if they are the one for you. On the other hand you can accidentally reveal personal information about yourself that you may never have intended to. It can happen to anyone, beware.

Use this to your advantage to find out as much as possible about the person you are talking to. You can never have too much information when you are looking for Mr/Ms Right.

## **CREDIT CARD SECURITY**

Serious Internet dating will often require a credit card and a willingness to use it online. Many people will be naturally scared at such a prospect, but in reality this is completely unfounded. Quite simply, credit cards are safer than cash.

Virtually all websites that accept credit cards online are securely encrypted and run by large reputable businesses, and the chance of your credit card number being stolen is almost non-existent. However, even if your credit card number is stolen (a very remote possibility), you have little to worry about. You are usually *not* liable for any costs incurred if it is stolen. The merchant (the company supplying the goods or services) is usually responsible for all debts incurred with stolen credit cards. This is why you hear that 'Credit Card fraud is costing the industry millions per year'. The key word there is that the 'industry' loses, you the consumer do not lose a cent, except maybe for an increased cost in goods due to factors like credit card fraud.

All you have to do is check your statement each month and report any transactions that you know you did not make. Note, however, that your credit card will most likely be cancelled and you will be issued with a new number, so it is an inconvenience at worst.

If you have any doubts concerning credit card security, contact your credit card supplier. Many people (myself included) have a separate credit card that they use specifically for use online. It can be used to pay for your Internet service provider, Internet dating costs, and online shopping. This way if your credit card number is stolen then it is only your online activities that are inconvenienced and not your regular credit card bills and day-to-day lifestyle. A separate card also makes it easier to track what you have spent.

If you are willing to pay for Internet dating then you will have more success.

## **MISCONCEPTIONS**

Misconceptions about Internet dating abound due to the media, early social stigma, and incorrect assumptions from people who know nothing about Internet dating.

By and large, most of these misconceptions are all but buried, and Internet dating is pretty much accepted in today's modern society. In fact, it is now at a point where it is relatively uncommon *not* to know someone who has had some experience with Internet dating, or has already met their partner via the Internet.

## **THE MALE/FEMALE RATIO**

It was only a few years ago when the Male/Female ratio on some Internet dating sites was 90% or more in favour of males. Males had to fight tooth and nail for the few females brave enough to enter. It was not uncommon for a female to receive hundreds of emails on the very first day that she placed her profile, or to be swamped by chat requests as soon as entering a room.

I'm glad to report that things are now totally different, and the Male/Female ratio is closer to 50/50 on most large sites. In fact, on some sites the women complain that there aren't *enough* decent guys. But, as with real life, guys are generally always on the back foot and have to work much harder to get a date. Girls have it much easier than guys when it comes to just getting a date, but quality dates are an each-way bet.



## TECHNIQUES OF SUCCESSFUL INTERNET DATERS

Successful Internet daters love competition online, and actually use the unsuccessful and inexperienced people to their advantage.

How do they do this?

For starters, they have their technique down pat, and it makes them look really attractive. In contrast, inexperienced people can appear unattractive, which in turn makes the successful people look and sound even better than they really are!

There are a few rules to being successful at Internet dating:

- Don't do, say or show anything that makes you look generally unattractive or stupid.
- Know who and what you are looking for, and don't be afraid to say it.
- Be persistent, and play the numbers game.
- Stand out from the competition

Sounds easy and obvious, but this whole book is about getting it right. The detail that can go into getting it right will amaze you.