

National Research Institute Canada – National Institute for Nanotechnology

The NINT of Canada offers a wide variety of articles and information concerning nanotechnology and its uses. Most of the content on the site leads one to think that the government site could be like most other centers which do research on the topic. This organization is a little different and is very comparable to a business. They offer mostly content concerning what their scientists are working on concerning nanotechnology and offer some basic knowledge on what nanotechnology means.

The articles that are located within the site showcase some of the scientists' achievements globally as well as some of their newest research that they have completed. Other sections of the site include opportunities for employment, contact information to give funding, and an overview of their facilities which are located at the University of Alberta. One of the most interesting sections is the “Innovation Centre” which consists of fifteen rental spaces each comprised of lab and office space. Tenants will also be able to negotiate for scientific, technical or consulting services or enter into research and development agreements that could include services to scientists, engineers or technicians at NINT, NRC or the University of Alberta.

Biases

The information located within the site is very pro-nanotechnology and there is very little if any information on the possible harms that could be a result of products containing nanoparticles. The one idea that comes closest stems from their saying that nanotechnology takes a long time to create safe products and it is also a very expensive endeavor.

Longevity

Established in 2001, it is operated as a partnership between the National Research Council and the University of Alberta, and is jointly funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and the university.

Presentation of Information

The search opportunities are very small within the site's search engine. Most of the articles in the news section highlight what scientists' who work for the institute have received as far as recognition and further employment, as well as some showcases on new developments within the laboratories. The site is not as great as what its title may appear to insinuate and it really just appears to be a national R & D organization for Canada.

Who does this information appeal to?

The NINT site appeals mostly to people are looking to give money or be hired as a scientist within the organization. Most of the concern with the NINT is research oriented and also emerging nanotechnology with industry more rapidly. They have a section on businesses who can create partnerships in order to use the facilities provided at the University. There is also easy contact information (phone numbers) in regards to investor relations.

How does the general public get to the site?

The general public may not be as interested in the site as other governmental sites, such as the NNI. If one were to be wondering what other countries are saying about nanotechnology and they were to search on Google for "Nanotechnology Canada", this would be the first link to pop up along with several others links that offer articles regarding the Canadian institute. The following is the hyper link that would result from that search:

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&lr=&q=Nanotechnology+Canada&btnG=Search>

What can we not get from this site?

We cannot get a lot of information from this site pertaining to the risks and benefits of nanotechnology. There is a good deal of content that pertains to new scientific breakthroughs that are arising at the institute. Another thing that can be seen from this site is how easily businesses are merging with governmental organizations to foster these new technologies.

Is the information positive or negative?

Everything on the site is very positively oriented to nanotechnology and the breakthroughs that are coming out from it. Basically there are no negative aspects shown on the site because the institutes goal is to foster research in the area of nanotechnology and to offer a place for businesses to conduct research themselves in an environment where there are many hands and eyes.

Resources

<http://nint-innt.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/>

http://nint-innt.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/innovation/index_e.html