

Index

<i>Preface</i>	7
<i>Foreword</i>	9
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	10
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	10
1. <i>Introduction</i>	11
2. <i>Usenet Newsgroups, a major online resource until the advent of the World Wide Web</i>	13
3. <i>Methodological foreword</i>	17
4. <i>Research method and sources</i>	19
4.1. <i>Sources: previous literature on the subject</i>	20
4.2. <i>Sources: astrophysicists</i>	24
4.3. <i>Sources: the digital archives</i>	26
5. <i>In the beginning: net.astro and net.astro.expert (November, 1983)</i>	31
6. <i>The Great Renaming (1986) and the birth of the unified sci.astro</i>	41
7. <i>A new worldwide scenario: globalization, specialization and need for moderation in the 1990s</i>	43
7.1. <i>The birth of sci.astro.research (1994)</i>	45
8. <i>Elements for a contextual understanding of net.astro, sci.astro and of their specialistic counterparts</i>	55
<i>Bibliography</i>	73