HOTSPOTS AS AN ELEMENT OF INFORMATION AREA IN THE CITIES

In the information age, providing fast and public access to the information, especially to services available through the Internet becomes a new necessity. At the current stage of development of information technology the access can take a diversified form, where traditional and wireless techniques are the most basic criteria of fragmentation.

Many observations indicate, that recently more and more places appear where wireless Internet is available. All cell phone operators in Poland provided their customers with such an option. Another way of supplying such an access is creating so called hotspots. A hotspot is a venue that offers wireless access to the Internet. The public can use a laptop equipped with a network card to connect to the Internet through radio frequency. In the end of 2005 there were 600 hotspots, most of them were located in big cities. Wireless internet accessibility allows certain urban areas to gain a new advantage which is important to individual and institutional network users.

The paper described a diversified use of this kind of connection in Polish cities, particularly a detail hotspots’ locations in Łódź.

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