Opportunities in internet-supported active aging for retired professors

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The question is how digital technologies, online networks, and knowledge platforms can be leveraged to stay engaged professionally, cognitively, and socially — as well as contribute expertise to society.

1. Online Knowledge Sharing & Collaboration Networks

Professors Emeriti / Retired Professors Networks
Professors Emeriti Network and similar associations create online collaboration spaces (Zoom, forums, video channels) where retired professors can discuss current issues, share research, and work on collective projects from anywhere. These often include recorded lectures and panel discussions accessible on platforms such as YouTube.
Opportunities:

Lead or participate in virtual seminars, webinars, and interdisciplinary discussions.

Share expertise through recorded talks or expert panels.

Collaborate with peers on e-projects, publications, or policy discussions using online tools.

2. Digital Platforms for Active Aging Engagement

eCollaboration Initiatives
There are initiatives specifically aimed at using digital technologies to support active aging, which encourage older adults — including retired academics — to stay involved in digital society and share their expertise. These initiatives often emphasize maintaining access to institutional IT post-retirement (like university email and resources).
Opportunities:

Advocate for continued access to university digital infrastructure, facilitating ongoing research, emailing, and participation in academic networks.

Engage in online projects that bridge generations (e.g., mentoring students or younger professionals through online platforms).

Join or co-create interlinked academic and community websites to foster wider collaboration.

3. Lifelong Learning & Teaching Online

Online Courses & Virtual Teaching

Retired professors can both take and teach digital courses online. Platforms for lifelong learning (e.g., MOOCs, university continuing education portals) are increasingly popular among older adults and allow retired professors to:
Refresh skills or learn new ones (e.g., digital tools, AI, online pedagogy).
Design and deliver online courses or guest lectures based on their subject expertise.
Opportunities:

Offer online master classes or short courses for other retired professionals or the general public.

Join international online teaching platforms that focus on adult education.

4. Community & Public Engagement via Internet

Events & Workshops Promoting Digital Inclusion
Various calls and initiatives (e.g., in Slovenia and across the EU) fund or support events where older adults — including retired professors — can lead or host digital literacy workshops, seminars, and community learning events.
Opportunities:

Apply to organize events that teach digital literacy or highlight the role of knowledge and technology in aging.

Use online platforms to disseminate educational content that helps other older adults improve digital competence.

5. AI & Emerging Tech Engagement

Digital & AI Literacy
Retired professors can engage with AI and other emerging technologies — both as learners and contributors:
Use AI tools to enhance research, writing, and idea exploration.
Participate in discussions about technology's role in society and aging.
Opportunities:

Conduct or publish thought pieces or online lectures on the ethical, educational, or societal impact of technology.

Offer AI & digital literacy training sessions for peers in their communities.

6. Research & Civic Technology Projects

Digital tools and online platforms enable retired professors to contribute to research or community projects aimed at improving the lives of older adults (e.g., AR/VR tools for learning, crowdsourcing platforms for civic engagement). Academic literature highlights how technologies can support meaningful activities and participation for older adults.
Opportunities:

Collaborate with research teams on participatory technology design for older populations.

Mentor graduate students in digital ageing research via remote collaboration tools.

7. Consulting & Advisory Roles

Because of decades of expertise, retired professors can work as online consultants or expert advisors:
Serve on virtual advisory boards for nonprofits, research groups, or startups focused on aging technologies.
Offer remote consulting on policy, education, or digital transformation.

8. Potential Funding & Project Support

Even if specific programs target broader older adult participation or workforce engagement (e.g., Project Support to companies for extending work activity - ASI+ 2025–2029 in Slovenia supports continued activity and skills training for older workers), retired academics can often participate or be invited to contribute as trainers, speakers, or evaluators in such funded projects.
Opportunities:

Get involved as trainers or content experts in project-funded programs that enhance digital and lifelong learning skills for seniors.

Help shape project curricula or evaluation frameworks through remote collaboration.

Examples of networks and associations

Here are examples of networks, associations, and groups that support retired professors and academic engagement online and internationally — useful for active aging, collaboration, continued scholarly activity, networking, and community impact:

International & Continental Networks

1. Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE)
A major international network linking retiree/emeriti associations and academic retirees across higher education institutions.
Offers resources, webinars, and networking focused on engagement, volunteerism, advocacy, and lifelong contribution.

2. European Association of Professors Emeriti (E.A.P.E.)

A Europe-wide association welcoming retired professors from European and international universities.
Facilitates collaboration in research, publication, and scholarly exchange across disciplines.

3. Professors Emeriti Network
A global, mostly Europe-based online network organizing regular Zoom meetings and discussions on topics relevant to retired academics.

Shares recordings, collaborations, and interlinking of emeriti associations websites to foster digital engagement and knowledge exchange.

4. Network of eCollaborating Retired eAcademics
A community within the Professors Emeriti Network focused on digital collaboration, IT use, and online engagement among retired academics.
Connects members interested in using e-technologies for continued scholarly work and societal contribution.

University & National Retiree Associations

5. California State University Emeritus & Retired Faculty and Staff Association
A US state-level nonprofit that supports emeritus faculty and staff, including networking, newsletters, advocacy, and member services.

6. University of Manitoba Retirees Association (via Emeriti & Senior Scholars)
Offers online and offline programming, mentorship opportunities, newsletters, and shared resources for emeriti scholars.

7. ACADEMICUS – Club of Retired Professors, University of Rijeka
A university-based club promoting intergenerational dialogue, forums, and lectures for retired professors connected to the University of Rijeka, Croatia.

8. Utrecht Society of Professors, Emeriti and Partners
A community for professors and emeriti at Utrecht University, The Netherlands organizing lectures and cultural events that sustain academic ties.

9. Retired Professors Society (Nepal)
A society bringing together retired professors from various universities, offering workshops, seminars, and intellectual engagement in social and academic topics.

Broader Academic Associations (Including Retired Members)

These aren’t retired-only groups but often have sections, emeritus membership, or are very useful networking platforms for retired scholars:

10. International Political Science Association (IPSA)
Global scholarly association supporting political science research and collaboration; retired professors often stay involved as members or contributors to panels and publications.

11. Various University Retirees Associations (North America & Beyond)
For example, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) is part of wider emeriti networking and offers forums, events, and publications.

How These Networks Can Help

International Associations (e.g., AROHE, E.A.P.E.)
Connect retired professors globally, webinars, shared resources, scholarly collaborations

Online Academic Networks
(e.g., Professors Emeriti Network). Virtual discussions, e-collaboration, digital engagement opportunities

University & Local Retiree Associations Community events, mentorship programs, continued access to academic resources
General Scholarly Societies. Publication, conference participation, interdisciplinary networking.