ARL / CAUSE / EDUCOM

COALITION FOR NETWORKED INFORMATION

To Advance Scholarship
and Intellectual Productivity

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MISSION

- The mission of the Coalition for Networked Information is to promote the creation of and access to information resources in networked environments in order to enrich scholarship and to enhance intellectual productivity.

- The Coalition pursues its mission by seeking to realize the information distribution and access potential of existing and proposed high performance computers and networks that support the research and education activities of a wide variety of institutions and organizations.

- The Coalition accomplishes this realization by undertaking activities, on its own and in partnership with others, that formulate, promulgate, evaluate, and promote policies and protocols that enable powerful, flexible, and universal access to networked information resources.

- The Coalition directs the combined intellectual, technological, professional, and financial resources of its members according to a shared vision of how the nature of information management is changing and will continue to change through the end of the 20th Century and into the beginning of the 21st.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To inspire, by promulgating vision statements that (a) project the future characteristics and capabilities of high performance computers and advanced networks, and (b) analyze those characteristics and capabilities in terms of their likely impacts, both positive and negative, on research and education communication.

- To inform, by identifying, endorsing, supporting, and coordinating projects that (a) are collaborative, (b) seek to advance the understanding of or the state-of-the-art relative to the vision statements, (c) recognize the need for open architectures and standards, and (d) fully disclose their objectives, methods, and findings.

- To influence, by advocating principles, guidelines, and positions that address the behavioral, social, cultural, and economic processes and structures that both enable and constrain the use of high performance computers and advanced networks as infrastructures for research and educational communication.

- To integrate, by providing opportunities for senior administrators of libraries and senior administrators of information technologies in higher education institutions to work with comparable administrators from other institutions and organizations in a common enterprise directed toward a shared future.

PRIORITIES

- **Modernization of Scholarly Publishing**

  The conversion of page-oriented publications from storage and transmission on paper to storage and transmission via networks.

  - Economic analyses of networked information distribution, access, and delivery, and of the life-cycle costs of printed information distribution, access, and delivery.

  - Understanding how networks can be used as media for access to and distribution of existing scholarly publications, and of alternative models

for networked information distribution, access, and delivery.

- The potential of site licenses and related agreements between creators and users of published works to catalyze the formation of the market for networked information.

- The potential of high-volume, networked printing (imaging) facilities, and related technologies, for shifting from a just-in-case to a just-in-time information access and delivery system.

- An examination of issues related to advertising on the Internet, including concerns related to privacy, copyright, government regulations, content, social implications, and technical issues.

- An approach to data gathering and analysis that will insure that the most important questions about networked full-text projects (such as TULIP) and their experiences are asked and answered in a manner that allows different approaches to be contrasted and compared so that the lessons that are learned are known to as wide a group of interested institutions, organizations, and parties as possible.

• **Transformation of Scholarly Communication**

The genuinely innovative potential of the network medium for scholarly communication and publication and the architectural requirements of collaborative, iterative, and derivative works and compound information objects that contain images, video, sound, executable algorithms, and associated datasets in addition to traditional text.

- Lowering the barriers and otherwise improving the climate for the creation and utilization of high-performance information resources and services.

- The promises and challenges of networked information for scholarship and pedagogy in the humanities, arts, and social sciences as well as the sciences and professions.

- The capture, storage, and utilization of theses and dissertations via networks.

• **Directories and Resource Information Services**

Tools and services that facilitate navigation by network users, develop the ability of navigators, and otherwise contribute to the organization and comprehension of networked information resources and services.

- The need for open systems, standards, and, therefore, interoperable products and services based upon a distributed architecture of servers that draw upon a common or at least comparable set of data elements.

- A (printed and networked) directory of directories and resource information services that provides qualitative (consumer) as well as descriptive information.

- The Library of Congress effort to enhance the MARC formats to account for the cataloging requirements of networked resources and services.

- The need for a "X.500 Service Developers Exchange" to focus and cross-fertilize the X.500 implementation efforts of the Coalition constituency and to place those efforts in their proper context as defined by the programs of other related agencies, principally the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

• **Architectures and Standards**

Concepts, models, and protocols that enable the interoperability of systems that provide networked information resources and services.

- A consistent and complete mechanism for linking bibliographic, abstracting, and indexing files to files of their associated source materials.

- A single standard for the transmission of bitmapped image files.

- Protocols for handling networked requests for delivery of source materials.

- Mechanisms for inter-organizational authentication, accounting, and billing.

- Lessons drawn from the experience of pilot projects that exercise networked printing utilities.

- An "interoperability testbed" to specify, implement, and test advanced functions for Z39.50 to accelerate the pace and to ensure the quality of standardization efforts in this area.

- **Legislation, Codes, Policies, and Practices**

  Findings and agreements of various types that frame and address the national, social, and behavioral issues arising from the use of networks for information access and delivery and for knowledge production, distribution, and utilization in general.

- A (print and networked) clearinghouse for and a register of statements from organizations with positions, principles, codes, statutes, etc. pertaining to networked information.

- Model principles, policies, and practices pertaining to the social, professional, and legal structures and processes that define networked scholarly publication and communication.

- Principles, policies, and practices pertaining to (a) asocial (such as hateful speech and predatory or criminal behavior) and other "responsible use" behaviors in networked environments, and, (b) balancing the need for both confidentiality (even anonymity) and security in networked environments.

- Participating in the NREN / NII public policy process.

- **Teaching and Learning**

  Promoting the use of networks by teaching and learning communities, the projection of networked information resources and services to such communities, and assisting and promoting efforts to educate users about networks and networked information resources and services.

- Exemplary models of educational, rather than research, networking.

- Information packets for specific "new user" communities of school administrators, distance learning professionals, community college officials, public librarians, publishers, museum executives, and others.

- Promoting the creation of learning communities, particularly those involving partnership efforts between service providers (librarians and information technologists) and faculty using networks and networked information resources and services.

- Collecting and disseminating resources available to help faculty use networks and networked information resources and services to enhance their teaching, particularly in collaboration with EDUCOM's Project Jericho.

- Reviewing models of workshops that introduce faculty to networks and networked information resources and services and developing a prototype(s), particularly in collaboration with EDUCOM's Project Jericho.

- Relationships with other associations and organized groups with comparable interests and activities.

- Making the National Research and Education Network (NREN) into a resource for educators.

- A series of inter-university seminars via computer networks.

- **Management and Professional Development**

  How to manage institutions and organizations that generate and use networked information resources and services, and, in particular, how to educate professionals in such institutions and organizations.

- Development of a packet of information for use in formulating and addressing institutional and organizational issues arising from the emergence

of a national networked information infrastructure and environment.

- Assessment measures for comparing institutional excellence in networked information access, management, and delivery.

- Workshops and other facilitating events and materials pertaining to the surfacing, managing, and leveraging of cultural differences between information technologists and librarians.

- Assisting and influencing regional accrediting associations in their efforts to review the ways in which they assess libraries and computing.

- Cultivating a strategic vision of professional roles in the networked information infrastructure and environment.

- Use of the Internet as as a vehicle for distance / distributed training for professionals concerned with information resource management.

- **Access to Public Information**

  The use of networks to improve access to and delivery of public information at all levels of government and in all sectors of society.

- Envision the future of access to and delivery of networked federal information.

- Improve GPO depository library connectivity to and programming of networked federal information.

- Establish a Visiting Program Officer to work with federal agencies for networked public information.

- Identify and locate networked federal resources.

- Arrange for a modem service for remote access to Washington, DC area-based dial-up services.

- Establish a group to coordinate the making of existing electronic government informtion available over the Internet.

- Promote education and provide information about access to and delivery of networked federal information.

- Revision of OMB Circular No. A-130 "Management of Federal Information Resources."

- Promoting knowledge of and access to the results of state and local government efforts.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

- The Rights for Electronic Access to and Delivery of Information (READI) Project.

- The TopNode for Networked Information Resources, Services, and Tools.

- The Z39.50 Interoperability Testbed.

- The Information Policies Compilation.

- The Use of Networked Information Resources and Services to Improve Teaching and Learning Scholarship Program.

- The New Networking Users and Constituencies Information Packet.

- The Institutional and Organizational Issues Briefing Packet.

- The Access to Public Information Program

- The Capture and Storage of Electronic Theses and Dissertations Project.

ENDORSED PROJECTS

- **College Library Access and Storage System (CLASS) Project**

  Commission for Preservation and Access, Cornell University Library, Cornell Information Technologies, and Xerox Corporation

- **Knowledge Management: Refining Roles in Scholarly and Scientific Communication**

  Laboratory for Applied Research in Academic Information, Welch Medical Library, The Johns Hopkins University

- **New Pathways to a Degree: Annenberg/CPB Project**

  University of Maine at Augusta on behalf of the Community College of Maine, the Oregon State System of Higher Education, West Virginia University, College of St. Catherine, Indiana University - Purdue University of Indianapolis, Northern Virginia Community College, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

- **Consortium for University Printing and Information Distribution Serving the Community of University Publishers and Information Distributors (CUPID) Project**

  Harvard University, California State University System, Cornell University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, University of Michigan, Princeton University, Pennsylvania State University, Duke University, University of California at Davis, and Xerox Corporation

- **Scholarly Communication in the Network Environment: Principles, Policies, and Practice**

  Center for Science and International Affairs, Science, Technology and Public Policy Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

- **The National Engineering Education Coalition**

  Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, University of California at Berkeley, Cornell University, Hampton University, Iowa State University, Southern University, Stanford University, and Tuskegee University

- **The Reserve Publishing Project.**

  This project is in the process of being organized by

the National Association of College Stores and the ARL with the assistance of the Coalition.

- **Project Jericho: A National Strategy for Helping Faculty Use Information Technologies to Serve the Educational Goals of Colleges and Universities.**

  This project is in the process of being organized by EDUCOM with the assistance of the Coalition.

- **Developing National Strategies for Managing Scientific and Technological Information.**

  This project is in the process of being organized by ARL with the assistance of the Coalition.

- **The BRS Search / Z39.50 Development Project**

  This project is in the process of being organized by BRS Software Products / Maxwell Online with the assistance of the Coalition.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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