



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994

BACKGROUND

The Coalition for Networked Information was founded in March 1990 to help realize the promise of high performance networks and computers for the advancement of scholarship and the enrichment of intellectual productivity. The Coalition is a partnership of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), CAUSE, and EDUCOM.

The Coalition pursues its mission with the assistance of a task force of one-hundred and ninety-one institutions and organizations that provides focus and resources which are crucial to the ability of the Coalition to articulate and explore shared visions of how information management must change in the 1990s to meet the social and economic opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. Members of the Coalition Task Force include higher education institutions, publishers, network service providers, computer hardware, software, and systems companies, library networks and organizations, and public and state libraries.

INITIATIVES

- **Intellectual property and the economics of networked information.**

The Coalition's lead initiative in this area is the Rights to Electronic Access to and Delivery of Information (READI) Project. In the upcoming year, the READI Project will produce a guide to issues, positions, and business logics pertaining to licensing networked information resources and services, will produce a draft license for buyers and will promote discussion of public interest issues and provisions as regards such licenses. The Coalition will issue a white paper on life-cycle management, with particular attention to cost and value generation, of both networked and printed information. In addition, the Coalition will promote discussion of various ways and means, and of the relative benefits and drawbacks of each, for incorporating advertising into networked information resources and services.

- **Network and networked information navigation and navigators.**

The Coalition's lead initiative in this area is the TopNode Directory of Network Directories and Resource Guides (TopNode) Project. In the upcoming year, the database resulting from the TopNode Project will be made available to the Internet community via BRS Search, gopher, and WAIS, and the TopNode Project will promote collaboration among library and information technology groups (e.g., MARBI and IETF) regarding data elements, tools, and services by which to describe and locate networked information resources and services. The Coalition will also produce a white paper on trends and issues regarding networked directories and resource information services, and will develop a professional development program on network and networked information navigational skills, tools, and services that will be offered via the Internet itself.

- **Networked information architectures and standards.**

The Coalition's main interest in this area is the wide implementation and rich enhancement of the Z39.50 inter-system information search and retrieval protocol. In the upcoming year, the Coalition will pursue this interest through its support of the Z39.50 Implementation Testbed and participation in the Z39.50

Implementor's Group. The Coalition will also produce a white paper on the architectural and other challenges and barriers of networked multi-media document delivery and information resources and services, and will promote cross-fertilization and coordination among experts who work under auspices of IETF, NISO, and other relevant standards developing organizations.

- **Access to networked public information.**

The Coalition's lead initiative in this area is the Access to Public Information Program (APIP), announced this past March. In the upcoming year the Coalition will take the first step(s) in each of the seven components of the APIP Program: envisioning the future of access to and delivery of networked federal information; improving depository library connectivity to and programming of networked federal information; recruiting a visiting program officer to work with federal agencies; identifying and locating networked federal resources; arranging for a modem service for Internet access to DC-area federal dial-up services; coordinating the making of existing electronic information available over the Internet; and, promoting education and providing information.

- **Institutional networked information readiness, policies, and strategies.**

In the upcoming year, a number of Coalition initiatives will focus on the broad and crucial area of institutional readiness factors, institutional operating structures, processes, and policies, and institutional change issues and strategies. The Coalition will develop a check-list of ways to prepare for and to cope with occasions when problematic network situations occur, will develop a regional workshop for building productive relationships between information technologists and librarians that recognize and manage important differences between their respective cultures and approaches to problem-solving, will call attention to projects that demonstrate the innovative use of networks and networked information to improve the administrative functioning of institutions and organizations, and will disseminate one set of modules of information that can be used when formulating and addressing institutional issues and a second set of modules of information that can be used when introducing selected new communities to networks and networked information.

- **Teaching and learning, and the humanities, arts, and social sciences.**

In the upcoming year, the Coalition will promote the full realization of the promise of networks and networked information throughout the entire research and education enterprise by highlighting exemplary programs that use networked information resources and services for teaching and learning, by exploring effective means to stimulate and facilitate faculty use of the Internet, and by developing a new initiative to promote creation and use of networked information resources and services in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

CAPABILITIES

In the upcoming year, the Coalition will promote the use of and understanding of networked information resources and services through its own Internet server(s), will facilitate collaborative projects undertaken by its members, will stimulate and assist cross-sector communication among individuals and organizations who hold stakes in the use of networks for communication and publication, will convene two meetings of its Task Force, will hold at least one open-registration regional briefing, and will promote general communication and understanding via the publications, meetings, conferences, and public policy activities of ARL, CAUSE, and EDUCOM.

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