



To Advance Scholarship
and Intellectual Productivity
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FALL 1991 MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE SUMMARY REPORT

We encourage you to use this report to provide information to other individuals in your organization or institution and to prepare articles for local newsletters or entries in local reports.

Introduction

The Fall 1991 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force took place on November 21-22 in Washington, DC. Close to 300 individuals from over 200 institutions and organizations attended the Meeting. A total of 150 institutions and organizations now belong to the Coalition Task Force, and 85% of them were represented at this Meeting. Eighteen institutions and organizations attended this meeting as new members of the Task Force. A special effort was made to invite representatives of the university press community to this Meeting, and over a dozen were in attendance, including Peter Grenquist, Executive Director of the American Association of University Presses.

Catalyzing the Flow of Networked Information

The Meeting theme, "Catalyzing the Flow of Networked Information," was introduced by two speakers in the opening plenary session, Richard Katz and Czeslaw Jan Grycz, both of the University of California, Office of the President.

Katz's talk, "Academic Information Management at the Crossroads: Time Again to Review the Economics," stressed the need for information managers to come to grips with the current economic, political, and higher education climate. He encouraged the audience to turn its attention to ways that both publishers and academic information managers could prosper by organizing a new infrastructure to lower total "life cycle" costs without hurting the publishers' ability to get a fair return on their investment. He also outlined the parameters for the "base case," a simplified economic model of the flow of information to and through academic libraries, that could be used to determine and compare the price and cost of printed and networked information more accurately.

Grycz reported on continuing progress with developing and evaluating models for the flow of information in the networked environment, a Coalition priority since the meeting it sponsored in this area in Monterey earlier this year. He called special attention to a double issue of *Serials Review* devoted to these subjects that will appear early next year. Grycz recommended that the Coalition codify a suite of prototypes based on specific criteria designed to provide publishers, brokers, and distributors of information with factual analysis of pricing and distribution schemes. He also recommended a study of behavioral changes evidenced by end-users in the the networked environment.

Further elaborating the Meeting theme, a panel examined issues related to new approaches to copyright and intellectual property in the networked information environment. Paul Evan Peters, Director of the Coalition, led off with an introduction of the new Rights for Electronic Access to and Delivery of Information (READI) Program, that is being developed by the Coalition to encourage thought and discussion about whether contract law, in the form of licenses and related agreements between creators and users of published works, can be employed within the context of copyright law to facilitate the flow of networked information. The goal of the proposed READI Program is the licensing of printed and electronic materials, such as scholarly journals and books, so that they can be made available over networks by and to READI Program participants.

Brian Kahin, Director, Information Infrastructure Project, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, focused on non-commercial publishing by exploring how the fundamental distinction between a "work" and a "copy" of that work changes when moving from the print to the networked environment. He proposed a number of core library functions for the electronic era: for instance, aggregating the use of hardware, pooling purchasing power, and providing in-person support and service.

John Garrett described some of the findings of a forthcoming report from the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), where he is Director of Information Resources. Observing that librarians and publishers constitute mutually dependent communities, the heart of this report develops four scenarios for digital libraries, examining structures, stakeholders, and how copyright could be managed in each. The report finds that the current copyright framework is adequate for the transfer of rights in the electronic environment and that improved licensing schemes, within an international framework, are needed. He emphasized that however these issues evolve, there must be consensus and he praised the Coalition's role in bringing together the various stakeholders.

Paul Gherman, University Librarian, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Chair, ARL Scholarly Communication Committee, sounded an alarm that copyright issues are control issues and asked the audience to consider who will control the production and distribution of knowledge on networks. He observed that in the networked environment, the creators, gatekeepers, disseminators, intermediaries, and archivists of scholarly information will likely all change and that this will change control structures and processes. He concluded that we will continue to have trouble imagining and building a new infrastructure for scholarly communication until all players agree upon a common set of purposes for scholarly communication.

Perspective of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

In a spirited and provocative address on the state and prospects for networked information resources and services in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, Douglas Greenberg, Vice President, American Council of Learned Societies, called for information technologists and publishers to focus on problems of "access" rather than those of "excess" in the current system of scholarly communication and publication, and to recognize the importance of retrospective conversion of the literature record for a wide range of scholarly and pedagogical endeavors. He also contrasted the funding fortunes and prospects of the sciences and professions with those of the humanities, arts, and social sciences to substantiate his view that in matters of technological change in Academe, we get what we pay for and reward.

NREN Public Policy Framework

In an address highlighting the potential economic importance of the NREN and electronic networking, Lewis Branscomb, Albert Pratt Public Service Professor and Director of the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, advocated the view that NREN public policy focus on diffusion-oriented processes rather than on mission or producer-oriented ones. Dr. Branscomb acknowledged that the public policy framework that he recommends is not as established in the United States as those with which he contrasted it, but he noted that it is well established in Europe and Japan and that it is a most appropriate framework given the research and educational productivity objectives of the NREN. His talk had a particular sense of immediacy as the NREN legislation was being debated on the floor of the Senate as he spoke.

Other Meeting Activities

Meeting participants also attended sessions of the Coalition Working Groups and convened or participated in Synergy Sessions and Project Briefings. The sixteen Project Briefings sparked particular interest and enthusiasm as they demonstrated how far so many working prototypes of networked information resources and services projects have advanced since the Spring Meeting. It was widely remarked as well that all of the Working Groups are now clearly engaged in a variety of concrete projects that will yield tangible benefits.

Calls for Statements of Interest and Experience

Three *Calls for Statement of Interest and Experience* were issued at the Meeting, providing a new approach to identifying and recruiting individuals and institutions who are prepared to contribute to specific Coalition projects.

- The *Rights for Electronic Access to and Delivery of Information (READI) Program Call* solicits institutions and organizations that have experience with licensing print and electronic published works and who are prepared to engage in a relatively intense series of discussions and meetings.
- The *TopNode for Networked Information Resources, Services, and Tools Call* seeks individuals, institutions and organizations who are prepared to participate in the cataloging of resources for and editing of a directory of directories, catalogs, and other lists of networked information resources, services, and tools.
- The *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 Call* searches for individuals prepared to author sections in 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.

Coalition Internet Server

It was announced that the new Coalition Internet server, made possible by a grant from the Digital Equipment Corporation, is now operational, and Craig Summerhill, Coalition Systems Coordinator, led a Synergy Session in which he presented the proposed services that this server will support. It was also announced that BRS Software Products, a division of Maxwell Online, will provide BRS/SEARCH and related support services to the Coalition under an agreement signed in November. BRS Software Products is the fifth Task Force member to make a special contribution to the Coalition.

Information Policies Compilation

Information Policies: A Compilation of Position Statements, Principles, Statutes, and Other Pertinent Statements was distributed to Meeting attendees. Compiled by Coalition Steering Committee member Susan Brynteson of the University of Delaware under the auspices of the Working Group on Legislation, Codes, Policies, and Practices, this compilation is an attempt to bring together in one convenient place the original text of official statements and laws related to information policy. The initial scope of this compilation is policy statements developed by United States-based professional associations in the library and information service and technology community, supplemented by United States laws and other relevant materials. This compilation was developed in response to an increasing need for librarians, information technologists, and administrators to address situations and questions where information policy issues are at stake, often leading to development of institutional and organizational policies related to such issues. It is intended to assist such individuals by providing a resource that they can consult while formulating such policies.

1992 Task Force Meetings

It was announced that the Spring 1992 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force will be held in Washington, DC on March 24 and 25, immediately preceding the National Net '92 conference, and that the theme for this Meeting will be "Network Navigating and Navigators." It was also announced that the Fall 1992 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force will be held in Washington, DC on November 19 and 20, and that the theme for this Meeting will be "Architectures for Innovative Network Communication and Publication."

Further Information

Additional information about the Fall 1991 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force, and the various talks presented, documents distributed, and *Calls* issued at this meeting, can be obtained from Joan Lippincott, Coalition Assistant Director, by phoning the Coalition office or by sending electronic mail to joan@cni.org.

Director's Postscript

The Fall 1991 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force was in every respect an exhilarating and gratifying event. The Coalition Steering Committee and staff came away from this meeting with a sense of accomplishment and a desire to maintain momentum. The Coalition exists to assist its member institutions and organizations in their efforts to effect a historic transformation of how information is accessed and delivered, efforts that are being undertaken during extremely difficult economic and demographic times. The Coalition encourages individuals in the broader networking community as well as in its member institutions and organizations, to bring needs and issues to its attention and to contribute to its program of work. Indeed, the Coalition depends on it!