



FALL 1992 MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE SUMMARY REPORT

To Advance Scholarship
and Intellectual Productivity
1527 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202 462-7849 FAX
202 232-2466

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Introduction

The Fall 1992 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force took place on November 19 and 20 in Leesburg, Virginia.. 400 individuals from over 200 institutions and organizations attended the Meeting. A total of 176 institutions and organizations now belong to the Coalition Task Force, and 88% of them were represented at this Meeting. (?) institutions and organizations attended this meeting as new members of the Task Force.

The Transformational Potential of Networked Information

The Meeting theme, "The Transformational Potential of Networked Information," was introduced by Chuck Henry, Director, Vassar College Library, and co-leader of the Working Group on the Transformation of Scholarly Communication, in the opening plenary session. He noted that He then introduced four individuals who are "true pathfinders and pioneers whose work is breaking new ground in this area of vital importance to realizing the full promise of networks to advance scholarship and intellectual productivity." Peters also noted that the theme for this meeting grew out of an invitational meeting held by the Working Group on Directories and Resource Information Services at Stanford University in June, 1991.

Vinton Cerf, Vice President, Corporation for National Research Initiatives, described his vision of the digital library system and the role of "knowbots" in locating "nuggets" of information on networks. Knowbots are dynamic programs that move around in networks and carry out algorithms or searches. While the knowbot is carrying out a search, it can modify it, for example, by searching another database. The Corporation for National Research Initiatives has developed a prototype knowbot for white pages services and is developing the Abide project which uses knowbots to query multiple databases produced by the National Library of Medicine.

Brewster Kahle, Project Leader, Thinking Machines Corporation, sees a fundamental shift in the way that information services are being delivered in contemporary society. In commenting on the pervasiveness and power of technology and information services to the individual, Kahle noted that he announced the Wide Area Information System (WAIS) project via an Internet e-mail message, and ten months later has 10,000 users of the product. The goals of WAIS, an electronic publishing system, are: to make personal information accessible; to have published information find the user; to be usable anywhere; and, to allow others to use what an individual has learned, if appropriate. WAIS, which is based on the Z39.50 protocol, employs English language query and relevance feedback as its navigational techniques. At present, 100 databases are being served via WAIS in nine countries, and three new databases are being registered per week.

Next, Joyce Reynolds, Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, described user services planning being carried out via the nine User Services Working Groups (USWG) of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). The USWG provides a regular forum for those interested in all user services to identify and initiate projects designed to improve the

quality of information available to end-users of the Internet. They have seven types of objectives: user information; network information services infrastructure; network operational management; education; documentation and distribution; interaction with other IETF areas; interaction with other international user services ties; and, user information. Reynolds highlighted some of the products of User Services, including fourteen "For Your Information" (FYI) publications available on the Network.

The final panelist, George Strawn, Program Officer, National Science Foundation, discussed the current state of the NSF network information centers and the recently issued NSF "Network Information Services Manager(s) for NSFNET and NREN" project solicitation. He stated that the purposes of the solicitation were the regulation of non-military Internet networks; the provision of directory and database services; and, development of an expanded array of information services. He noted that "considerable latitude exists for creative responses" and stressed the NSF's interest in an open and fair selection process.

Project Briefings

Following the plenary panel, attendees had the opportunity to talk in small group sessions with the four panelists and, in addition, to attend project briefings by others involved in transformational projects: Jeurgen Renn, Boston University describing the Galileo Einstein Electronic Archives Project; Richard Lucier, University of California at San Francisco, Robert Badger, Springer-Verlag, Ed Szurkowski, AT&T Bell Laboratories, and Guy Story, AT&T Bell Laboratories discussing the online Journals Project; Stephen Hall, Harvard University and Suart Lynn, Cornell University providing an update on the CUPID Project; Andy Adamson, University of Birmingham, describing the CALABAN Project based on Labanotation; Mike Neuman, Georgeotwn University, discussing the Electronic Peirce Consortium; Wim Jansen, Open Univsity of the Netherlands, discussing multi-media distance education; Richard Entlich and Tim Lynch, Cornell University, describing the CORE (Chemistry Online Retrieval Experiment) Project; Stevan Harnad, Princeton University, discussing Interactive Publication and Human Inquiry; and, Mark Olsen, University of Chicago, describing R&D on the ARTFL Database for French Studies.

Synergy Sessions

These informal sessions provide an opportunity for Coalition members to convene a small group discussion on topics of their choice. Synergy sessions held at this meeting were: Robert Heterick, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, describing the Blacksburg Electronic Village; Vinod Chakra, VTLS and Richard Thompson, National Agricultural Library, describing Accessing Multimedia Information over the Network Using a Scholars Workstation; Paula Kaufman, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, leading a discussion on Future Generations of Information Systems; Tom Kirk, facilitating a discussion to share experiences of Teaching Faculty to Use Networked Information Resources; Barbara Lockett, leading a discussion on Engineering Information in the context of an Engineering Foundation / Council on Library Resources Conference on a National Engineering Information Service; and, Katherine Jackson, Texas A&M University, describing Remote Database Access via FirstSearch - the First Year.

Aesthetics of Visualization

In an after-dinner multi-media presentation, Donna Cox of the National Center for Supercomputer Applications, gave a visually exciting and inspiring view of the potential of visualization techniques to transform researchers' abilities to use data. She described in words and images how visualization assists individuals to communicate, explore, and represent ideas.

For example, when a scientist has a billion numbers in a research database, visualization techniques can assist in making sense of them. While the goal of early computer graphic efforts was to take what we see optically and make it graphic, new initiatives by the Center for Supercomputer Applications and others, work towards understanding physical phenomena, projecting images into the future, and developing virtual reality environments. Cox emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts. In closing, she stated, "We're on a fantastic journey and it's only going to get better. The only thing that will stop us is the speed of light." Architectures for High-Performance Networked Information Resources and Services

NREN Public Policy Framework

In the closing plenary session panel devoted to updates and information on policy issues and initiatives pertaining to the development of networks and networked information resources and services, moderator Richard West, Associate Vice President of the University of California and Chair of the Coalition Steering Committee, noted that The panel presented perspectives on the likely directions that the Clinton / Gore administration will take on networks and networked information policy issues, and represented the needs and interests of various network constituencies. The panelists and the issues they identified were:

% Rick Weingarten, Computing Research Association, described an NREN Workshop, held in Monterey, California on September 16-18 to assemble groups of stakeholders to address the specific questions raised in the High Performance Computing Act (HPCA) of 1991 and on which the Office of Science and Technology Policy is to report by the end of this year. Eighteen groups prepared papers presenting the views of their constituencies on both broad NREN issues and the six questions identified in the HPCA. Weingarten felt that there was a great deal of consensus among the wide spectrum of representatives from public information groups, information providers, communication companies, researchers, and government agencies who attended the meeting. Looking at the future of the NREN, he stated that there is a need for an NREN defined as a "user network,; that NREN politics are at a critical stage but we should not expect too much from the new administration, that the networking community needs to take the lead in NREN development and should look to the government for partnership, not leadership, and that the NREN process should not be adversarial since there is a shared vision among many stakeholders.

- Ken Kay, Computer Systems Policy Project (CSPP), described his group which consists of the CEOs of the thirteen top computer firms. CSPP has encouraged the government to develop a more cohesive program in high performance computing and to stimulate the development of grand applications in addition to identifying grand challenges. He reached out to the various communities represented at the Coalition Meeting and stated that we need to work together on a shared vision. He encouraged the networking community to find better ways of "telling the story" of the benefits of networked applications. He feels that we need to build a political constituency for high performance networks and communicate to Congress, by identifying specific benefits and applications, how networks and networked information will benefit constituencies.
- Jane Bortnick Griffith, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, discussed issues on information policy in the 103d Congress and pending issues which will be addressed in the next Congressional session. She emphasized that there will be a new political environment, not only as a result of the election of the Clinton / Gore administration, but as a result of the large number of new members of Congress and the shifting of membership on committees. Griffith said that recent discussions confirm that the Information Infrastructure bill (Gore II) will be reintroduced in the next session of Congress and that it will focus on leveraging research and development efforts to

benefit communities. Major applications, including library applications, can be used to demonstrate the utility of high performance computing. Other topics which will receive attention in the next Congressional session are: GPO WINDO / Gateway, emphasizing the use of existing networks for access to federal information; Telecommunications Policy, which still does not have a clear trajectory; Funding for networks and networked information initiatives; Role of government vis-a-vis the role of industry in the development of networks and networked information resources and services -The need for new or different organization of these activities within the federal government Overall, Griffith feels that a positive development has been that information policy issues are now being seen in a related context of the underlying dynamic of what networking can mean.

All three panelists were cautious in their views of what the change in administration will mean for networks and networked information resources and services. They all concurred that the networking community can have an impact on policy issues, particularly by assisting with the identification of specific initiatives which will benefit various constituencies.

Working Groups

Meetings of the Working Groups focused on issues and activities identified in the Program Overview, distributed to Meeting attendees and available from the Coalition office. Issues and projects discussed in each group are identified below.

Modernization of Scholarly Publishing: discussion of the Draft Preliminary Findings of the Rights for Electronic Access to and Delivery of Information (READI) Project, discussion of a proposed survey of research / experimental networked full-text projects; a report on the copyright network discussion forum, and a discussion of ways and means for incorporating advertising into networked information resources and services.

Transformation of Scholarly Communication: follow-on discussion from issues raised in the opening plenary session, and a report on the Capture and Storage of Electronic Theses and Dissertations Project.

Architectures and Standards: reports on the Museum Computer Network and the Computer Interchange of Museum Information Committee, Computer Interchange of Museum Information Committee, Text Encoding Initiative, Joint Technical Committee 1 of the International Standards Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission's work on multimedia and hypermedia; and, discussion of the proposed position that standards developing organizations should distribute their standards without cost to users and implementors.

Directories and Resource Information Services: reports on progress made on the TopNode Project, the "navigation and navigators" preconferences offered at EDUCOM '92 and CAUSE '92, and discussions among tool / service developers and implementors with particular attention to tool / service differentiation and interoperability and data element issues.

Legislation, Codes, Policies, and Practices: Update on the National Research and Education network (NREN), with particular attention to the 1992 NREN report; discussion of responsible use, anonymous access, and institutional liability, and a report on EDUCOM's Bill of Rights for Electronic Citizens Project.

Access to Public Information: Update on the GPO WINDO / Gateway initiative, with particular attention to the joint project with the American Library Association regarding

systems models and cost / benefit studies; discussion a a proposed Visiting Program Officer for Networked Public Information Program; discussion of actions that should be taken to coordinate and facilitate access to networked federal agency information and data; and a discussion of needs and priorities at the state and local government levels.

Teaching and Learning: Review of draft sections of an information packet for new constituencies; a report on the Teaching and Learning program at the EDUCOM '92 conference; discussion of EDUCOM's proposed Project Jericho,; and discussion of K-12 networking.

Management and Professional and User Education: Review of draft sections of a briefing packet on management issues and strategies; discussion of actions that should be taken to frame and address accreditation iddues; discussion of programs or prejects that could promote collaboration among information technologists and librarians; discussion of needs for projects related to user education; and, discussioon of a proposed project to use networks and other multimedia techniques for distance education for librarians and information technologists.

Project Big Ideas

Coalition Networked Communication

Paul Evan Peters, Executive Director of the Coalition, announced the availability of a series of electronic forums focusing on the program activities of the Coalition. Discussion forums are available in each of the eight areas of the Coalition's program as well as on other topics such as copyright. In addition, the Coalition has developed a broadcast list, cni-announce, which will carry information on Coalition activities, such as Calls for Statements of Interest in new projects, project reports, and Task Force Meeting reports. For information on these lists, send an e-mail message to LISTSERV@CNI.ORG and type HELP as the message.

Upcoming Task Force Meeting

The Spring 1993 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force will be held on March 22 and 23, 1992 in San Francisco. The theme for the Meeting will be "Big Ideas that Make a Difference."

Further Information

Additional Information

Additional information about the Spring 1992 Meeting of the Coalition Task Force, and the various talks presented and documents distributed at this meeting, can be obtained on the Coalition ftp file server at <ftp.cni.org> in the directory `/CNI/tf.meetings/1992b.fall` or from Joan Lippincott, Coalition Assistant Executive Director, by sending electronic mail to joan@cni.org or by phoning the Coalition office (202) 232-2466.

DirectorUs Postscript