

**COALITION FOR
NETWORKED
INFORMATION**

To Advance Scholarship
and Intellectual Productivity
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PROGRAM STRATEGY*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.

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Thematic Strategy

- *Incentives and disincentives in research and education communication*

The Coalition strives to elucidate the complex system of incentives and disincentives that both enables and constrains existing research and education communication processes. It also strives to analyze this system and to investigate alternative systems that foster the creation of and access to networked information resources.

- *Architectures of and infrastructures for networked information services*

The Coalition strives to conceptualize architectures and infrastructures that model and support cost-effective interoperation of distributed digital libraries which house rich collections of research and education information. It also strives to facilitate the realization of these architectures and the implementation of these infrastructures.

- *Information exchange among projects seeking to advance the state of the art*

The Coalition strives to organize information about experiments and demonstration projects that progress the state of the art in the application of advanced networks and high performance computers to research and education communication processes. It focuses on efforts undertaken by its members but also monitors efforts undertaken by other institutions and organizations.

- *Environments for testing and evaluating service and product innovations*

The Coalition strives to orchestrate the identification and management of suitable testing and evaluation environments for service and product innovations that are ready to be subjected to the rigors of field conditions. It also strives to establish effective working relationships with change agents and risk takers who research, develop, and promote such service and product innovations.

- *Codes, policies, and practices that clarify rights and duties*

The Coalition strives to represent the interests of authors, readers, and intermediaries who seek full and equitable participation in research and education communication processes that depend upon networked information. It also strives to promote norms of responsible and ethical behavior that ensure the greatest possible social utility of networked information.

- *Professional and user education for effective access to and management of networked information*

The Coalition strives to identify, categorize, and develop the broad range of new skills that are essential to effective access to and management of networked information. It also strives to design and promote training opportunities that are appropriate to user as well as professional communities at its member institutions and organizations.

ARL / CAUSE / EDUCOM
Coalition for Networked Information

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Organizational Strategy

- The Association of Research Libraries (ARL), CAUSE, and EDUCOM comprise the Coalition which functions as an activity of ARL that takes direction from CAUSE and EDUCOM through their chief executives.
- The Coalition carries out its work through a Task Force of institutions and organizations that pay its assessed dues, actively engage in its program of work, and are governed by its leadership.
- The Coalition Task Force is composed of the senior administrator of libraries and the senior administrator of information technologies of higher education member institutions and comparable leaders and officers from other member institutions and organizations.
- The positions assumed and activities undertaken by the Coalition and its Task Force are coordinated by a nine person Steering Committee appointed by the chief executives of ARL, CAUSE, and EDUCOM with each executive naming three members.
- The Steering Committee charges and forms Working Groups to focus the attention of the Task Force in general areas or on specific tasks in which collaborative thought, planning, and action are necessary to pursue the mission of the Coalition or to achieve one or more of its goals and objectives.
- The Task Force meets for two days and an evening each March in order to establish the general terms of reference for its program and budget and for two days and an evening each November to advance progress on specific tasks and to update information on specific projects.

Investment Strategy

- A secretariat directs the affairs of the Coalition by (a) articulating and advocating its mission, goals and objectives, (b) orchestrating its planning and consensus building, and (c) managing and representing its program and assets.
- A networked information server enables the Coalition to pursue its mission and to manage its program in a manner that is consistent with the vision that inspires its members and to provide access to the products and services that result from its activities. The Coalition relies upon the publications of ARL, CAUSE, and EDUCOM, among others, to disseminate information about its plans and activities in printed form.
- Facility, meal, and refreshment expenses that result from meetings of the Coalition Steering Committee, Task Force, and Working Groups, as well as from other Coalition meetings and activities, are recovered from member dues and sponsor contributions rather than from registration fees. Travel and housing expenses that result from such meetings are generally covered by the member institution or organization with which a given individual is associated.
- Travel and housing expenses of experts and other parties invited to Coalition meetings and activities, in those cases in which such support is necessary to secure the participation of a key individual, are also recovered from member dues and sponsor contributions. Honoraria are sometimes provided to those invited experts and other parties who are not associated with a member institution or organization and who make significant contributions of time and effort.