



COALITION FOR NETWORKED INFORMATION

To Advance Scholarship and Intellectual Productivity
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NEWS RELEASE

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ARL, CAUSE, AND EDUCOM

announce the

COALITION FOR NETWORKED INFORMATION

"Making full and effective use of emerging networks requires a new partnership among libraries, computer and technology experts, and concerned constituencies."

Thus remarked David Roselle, President-designate of the University of Delaware, speaking at the close of The National Net '90 Conference and announcing the formation of the Coalition for Networked Information.

Founded by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), CAUSE, and EDUCOM, the Coalition for Networked Information will promote the provision of information resources on existing networks and on proposed interconnected networks. The linkage of libraries to these networks and, thereby, to each other and their respective constituencies, is an important early priority of the Coalition.

The National Net Conference provides an annual forum in which a strategic partnership among education, government, and industry is being forged in pursuit of the National Research and Education Network (NREN), an advanced computer network which has been proposed to interconnect more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and research organizations. The Conference focuses on ways and means to realize NREN's goals of advancing research productivity and technology transfer, broadening collaboration of the nation's leading scientists, and improving educational access and quality.

The rich information environment enabled by NREN requires a major collaborative effort by those with the knowledge, skills, and resources to address the policy questions and the technical, operational, and economic challenges implicit in a national electronic information infrastructure. The Coalition for Networked Information will address these challenges along with a host of related public policy issues such as intellectual property rights, standards, licensing, servicing arrangements, charging algorithms and cost recovery fees, and economic models.

These efforts are inspired by a vision of a future in which researchers will use computers and networks to access a vast array of information resources which will function as a "virtual library". The improvement of the current technological infrastructure promised by NREN is an absolutely essential step toward this compelling future. Other factors influencing the need for NREN include:

- The growing emphasis on access to information resources -- It is no longer possible for any one library to build a comprehensive collection. Cooperative resource sharing among libraries -- enhanced by use of the NREN -- will provide researchers with access to a comprehensive collection.
- The availability of information resources regardless of the location of either the user or the resources -- A number of cooperative programs are striving to identify, organize, and provide access to information resources nationally and even internationally. NREN will allow the results of these programs to be expressed as an electronic directory to the virtual library.
- The integration of campus information resources -- There is a growing appreciation for the need to coordinate campus library resources and capabilities with information technology resources and capabilities, particularly computing and networking. Network development provides an important avenue by which to focus and integrate efforts.

The work of the Coalition will be accomplished through a Task Force composed of members of ARL, CAUSE, and EDUCOM, affiliated organizations, and sponsors each of which will appoint two individuals, anticipated to be in most cases one senior administrator representing libraries and one senior administrator representing information technologies, to coordinate its participation.

Nearly sixty institutions and organizations (see attached) have already committed to joining the Coalition for Networked Information. The Coalition also has already received generous leadership contributions from four sponsors: Apple Computer, Digital Equipment Corporation, IBM, and Xerox.

Parties interested in joining the Task Force of the Coalition for Networked Information or in simply staying informed about the Coalition and its activities are encouraged to contact ARL, CAUSE, or EDUCOM.

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

already committed to joining the

TASK FORCE

of the

COALITION FOR NETWORKED INFORMATION

Brown University
California State University System
Carnegie-Mellon University
Cornell University
Duke University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
Lehigh University
Library of Congress
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Michigan State University
National Agricultural Library
National Library of Canada
New York Public Library
New York State Library
OCLC, Inc.
Ohio Library and Information Systems
Oklahoma State University
Pennsylvania State University
Queen's University
Research Libraries Group, Inc.
Rice University.
Rutgers University
Smithsonian Institution
Southern Illinois University
at Carbondale

Stanford University
State University of New York at Buffalo
Syracuse University
Texas A & M University
University of California System
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
University of Delaware
University of Illinois -- Urbana
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska -- Lincoln
University of Oklahoma
University of Pittsburgh
University of Western Ontario
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
West Chester University
Wright State University

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

The Association of Research Libraries is an organization of the major research libraries in the United States and Canada. ARL became an active participant in the NREN arena early in 1989 with the co-sponsorship of National Net '89, the "annual forum in which the NREN partnership among education, government and industry is being forged." Telecommunications and networking were targeted as new portfolio issues for the Association in 1989. The ARL Task Force on Telecommunications was approved by the Board in May 1989 and appointed soon thereafter. The task force is charged to examine and evaluate the implications of the NREN for research libraries. It has planned two sessions for the upcoming EDUCOM Net '90 program, met with key congressional staff on telecommunications issues, and is preparing an ARL statement on the role of libraries in the emerging network infrastructure. ARL staff (Prue Adler) and some ARL task force members participated in the EDUCOM Networking and Telecommunications Task Force (NTTF) discussions of the design and development of NREN. Impetus for the Coalition grew out of these discussions.

CAUSE

CAUSE, the association for the management of information technology in higher education, has historically addressed issues of networking and telecommunications in its publications, conferences, and information exchange activities. The CAUSE National Conference, each year for many years, has included a special track with presentations on management issues regarding networking and telecommunications on campus. In addition to regular articles on related topics in the association's quarterly magazine, *CAUSE/EFFECT*, entire issues have periodically been devoted to networking and telecommunications. The CAUSE Exchange Library includes many strategic plans for telecommunications contributed by CAUSE member institutions. In 1989 and in 1990, CAUSE co-sponsored EDUCOM's National Net Conference, and in 1989 joined the NTTF with Jane Ryland, CAUSE President, identified as its representative. More recently, issues involving library automation, especially the converging interests of libraries and information technology organizations, have prompted special seminars, conference sessions, and *CAUSE/EFFECT* articles.

EDUCOM

EDUCOM is a nonprofit consortium of colleges, universities, and other institutions founded in 1964 to facilitate the introduction, use, and management of information technology in higher education. EDUCOM has played an active part in the development of campus networking for over twenty years. In addition to publications, seminars, and conferences, it created and operated EDUNET in the late 1970's and early 1980's as a means for institutions to share computing resources and applications. In 1985, a number of university members of EDUCOM formed the Networking and Telecommunications Task Force (NTTF) to address common interests in the evolution of computer-based-networks and telecommunications systems. In 1987 testimony to Congress, EDUCOM proposed the creation of a National Research and Education Network (NREN). This concept, which was independently under development by federal agencies, has been adopted and is contained in pending federal legislation. Drawing on the experiences of NTTF member schools, EDUCOM published "Campus Networking Strategies" in 1988. Beginning in 1988, EDUCOM has organized and co-sponsored a series of annual conferences devoted to the national network. EDUCOM's interest in forming the coalition was shaped by the work of its NTTF Network Resources committee and its educational uses of technology program.