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Internet Capabilities

The Internet is a loosely configured, rapidly growing global web of 25,000 corporate, educational, government, military, and other networks. It provides communication and resource-sharing services to students, scholars, librarians, and researchers, and the general public. In the United States, the National Science Foundation Network (NSFnet) provides the "backbone" or the main artery for research and education (non-commercial) data traffic.

Internet has evolved dramatically from a small R&D communications network created by the Defense Department in 1969 and, starting in the late 1980s, has grown exponentially. The number of users on the network is doubling every year.

The demonstration will include LC MARVEL, an Internet system created by Library of Congress staff which is based on "gopher" software developed at the University of Minnesota. LC MARVEL combines information by and about the Library with easy access to diverse electronic resources available over the Internet, all organized in an easy-to-navigate hierarchical menu structure.
DEMONSTRATION TWO

Image Scanning and Processing

Image processing, or "imaging," is the process by which digital pictures of any sort are captured, processed, stored, transmitted across networks, retrieved and redisplayed. Digital images can be captured either directly using a digital camera or indirectly with a digital scanner. These images can then be processed digitally to correct colors, crop edges, or to make artistic or creative enhancements. Digital image-processing techniques can also be used to create a composite product by combining two or more images.

The demonstration will include images taken with a digital camera, images scanned from conventional photographs and images scanned directly from paper originals. Several software tools for processing digital images will be demonstrated, as will both color printer output and screen display output. Images reproduced during the demonstration will include pictures from restored murals in the Library's Jefferson building as well as materials from the Library's collection that were included in the current African American Mosaic exhibit.
DEMONSTRATION THREE

Video-conferencing and Television Capture Techniques

Communication systems capable of distributing television signals via ordinary telephone wires are very economical in today's environment. Recently developed systems can do this for short distances and also can integrate television signals with personal computers. Using this combination of computer, television and telecommunication technology, either still images or video clips can be captured by a personal computer and converted to digital form for further processing. By adding an inexpensive camera to each station, two-way video conferencing is possible.

This demonstration will include multi-channel video distribution, two-way video conferencing, video capture and image capture from video over ordinary telephone wires using both personal computers and ordinary television sets. An additional component which allows full-motion video to be displayed from digitally stored data also will be demonstrated.