4-6-1994

Speech 23

Jesse Mundis

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COMMENTS FROM LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE NATION

Responses to invitation to contribute electronically
to the hearing record of the

Subcommittee on Education, Arts and the Humanities
Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee

Hearing on
Libraries and Their Role
in the Information Infrastructure

April 19, 1994

CALIFORNIA

From: jesse@oes.amdahl.com (Jesse Mundis)
Subject: Senate Hearing Survey
To: alawash@alawash.org
Date: Wed, 6 Apr 1994 09:56:05 -0700 (PDT)

To whom it may concern:
Your survey questions seem to be aimed at library workers in particular, but many people (like myself) who receive the ALAWON email are not directly related to library work. Therefore, I'd just like to take this opportunity to express my fullest support for all of the listed library programs. I've made extensive use of my local library for both research and recreation, and I know many in my community do as well. I feel that libraries play an essential role in educating our public, and are one of the most useful community resources we have.

Jesse Mundis
jesse@amdahl.com

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Jesse Mundis | Amdahl Corporation | Support your right to encrypt bears!
jesse@oes.amdahl.com | 1250 East Arques Ave M/S 338 | (408) 746-4796 | Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3470 | -Dave Carrel
Libraries, especially public libraries, are invited to provide information electronically for the April 19 hearing on Libraries and Their Role in the National Information Infrastructure. The Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and the Humanities, at the request of Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL), is holding the hearing to educate legislators about the NII technology, to find out how libraries are using it, why libraries are important players in the NII, what is needed in telecommunications legislation, and why federal assistance through the Library Services and Construction Act and the Higher Education Act title II is essential. Library Legislative Day participants are encouraged to attend the hearing at 10:00 a.m. in Room 430, Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Please provide brief answers (keep it to no more than three screens) to the following questions, add your name and affiliation information, and respond by April 15 to alawash@alawash.org. The results will be part of the technology demonstrations at the hearing itself, and will be added to the hearing record. Sen. Simon’s staff would like answers to the following questions:

1. What is your library doing now with NII technology?
   Using Internet to access information, communicate with other libraries and colleagues, interlibrary loan.

2. What concrete applications is your library involved in to benefit the community? bulletin boards? lending software? electronic jobs information? electronic government information? other?
   Exchange of information; interlibrary loan; access government information

3. What do you see as your library’s role in the future?
   To continue to provide patrons with access to information, and to teach end users to become wise consumers of, particularly, legal information.

4. Tell your best story.
   I posted a job description on the Internet on Friday afternoon, and had a resume faxed 2000 miles away the next day.

5. What barriers hinder your use of NII technology or applications?
   The costs of the infrastructure, software, and hardware that allows us to
take advantage of new technology and applications, as well as the time needed to retrain.
6. What federal policy changes should be made?
Funding of infrastructure for public libraries. I am seeing levels of access to information based on who is able to pay--and I think this is a dangerous trend.
7. Why is federal funding important to you?
Free flow of information is essential to democratic processes.

Marian Shostrom
Public Services Librarian
University of San Francisco School of Law
San Francisco, CA 94117-1080
(415)666-2252  FAX: (415)666-2345  e-mail: shostrom@alm.admin.usfca.edu

Dear Sirs:

This letter is being sent by e-mail as a reminder that we are living in a wonderful world of electronic information which is more than just rows of 0's and 1's or fuzzy technology: that world is now composed of the very words that make up printed matter. We now have available a vast storage house of knowledge from our libraries that is being processed into digital form. We need your help to make this transformation of information even greater. We call upon you to realize that this transformation is taking place at breath-taking speed on a daily basis, and to also take part in this wonderful move into the Twenty-first Century where all books will be made available not only in our public libraries but also within the electronic world of computers that is being made available on the National Information Superstructure or Ethernet. It is not too difficult to imagine being able to input a few commands and have the world's literatures at one's immediate disposal. That time is here. Please join us.

P. Timothy Ervin
If the Internet is any indication, then the information superhighway will be one, great big, virtual library. There will be a tremendous need, in my mind, for information specialists to assist people in finding valuable information. Like a public library, the info superhighway will have some open stacks and some closed collections. Info hunters will be able to browse and absorb, but there will be a crying need for expert navigators who know where everything is -- i.e., a need for librarians.

Another role librarians could and should play in all of this is to help provide some organization. Currently the Internet is growing very chaotically. There is no consistent organization scheme, only consistent delivery mechanism like gopher, WWW, etc. What is needed is some standards for the organization of content, some equivalent of the Library of Congress classification scheme.

Naturally, libraries will provide the public with access to this brave new virtual world. But many people will simply traverse cyberspace from their homes or offices (or, heaven forbid, from their cars). They won't necessarily drive to a library. But they will have no less need for a librarian. In fact, they will have a greater need. I see the libraries as taking up residence in cyberspace, not just using it.

Regards,

Mike Carroll
In response to the message below, I'd like to mention a few possible suggestions.

First, connect every library in the country to the Internet, and then ask that in return, each one develop at least one dataset or collection or resource listing that is of particular interest to that community, but also of interest to others on the Internet. For example, collecting and making available information about public murals in the area; interviews with anyone of interest in the area; historical data about the area; genealogical records; periodic updates on library materials available for inter-library loan; top-ten lists of fiction and non-fiction books borrowed; recommended reading lists on subjects of particular interest to that community; transcripts of city council meetings; information about special curriculum or educational programs or ideas generated in the area; specific research or reference information about the area; the "best of" student papers from local schools; summaries of local news and events; and lastly, pen-pal lists.

I'm not a librarian, so some of my ideas might be a bit naive in library terms, but I think the important point to make is that if everyone has access, and that access is two-way, not one-way, then publishing information
on the Internet becomes easy, especially with tools like Gopher, WAIS & WWW. This will give communities a chance to communicate with each other and I think the creativity and wealth of applications will be amazing. This does not have to be a commercial network.

Thanks for the opportunity to sound off.

Mike Franks
Social Sciences Computing
UCLA
Internet: franks@ssc.sscnet.ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 206-2109

******************Original Message******************
From: NETTRAIN Moderator <MILLESJG@SLUVCA.SLU.EDU>
To: Multiple recipients of list NETTRAIN <NETTRAIN%UBVM.bitnet@uccvma.ucop.edu>
3. We were forwarded a note from the American Library Association, in conjunction with National Library Week, indicating they would like your email suggestions for library applications on the Information Superhighway, which they can then present to the Senate, April 19. They ask that you send your email to the following address, by the 15th, so they will have a chance to sort it out for presentation.

Please email them at: ALA Washington Office <alawash@alawash.org>

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ILLINOIS
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Date: Wed, 13 Apr 1994 18:58:57 -0500
From: kfogel@phylo.life.uiuc.edu (Karl Fogel)
To: alawash@alawash.org
Cc: kfogel@phylo.life.uiuc.edu
Subject: Libraries, NII, and social questions

[I received a message from the Project Gutenberg mailing list, informing us that alawash@alawash.org was a good address for comments about NII and libraries. So here are some thoughts that have been brewing in my head for a while now. If this address is not the place for such things, please forgive me for wasting your time.]

To Whom it May Concern,
One thing that strikes anyone who spends a little bit of time on the Internet is the uniformly high level of education and income of the other Net denizens. The Net is one of the few places where two people who have never met can safely begin their conversations with literary references -- or references to summer camp experiences from years ago.

Why is this? Because there all the methods of getting Net access these days are the province of well-educated, and usually well-paid, people. Internet access comes from one’s college or university, or perhaps from a technologically-oriented employer, or maybe even through a commercial access service (where, by definition, one is paying at least the cost of access).

If the "Information Superhighway" is set up in such a way that access is determined by income, then this situation will not change. That would be a pity: handing yet more advantages to those who have all the advantages already is a sure way to encourage the two-tiered class system that already seems to be developing in this country.

The advantages of being on the Internet are already quite tangible. For example, I found my present job through the Internet. Or rather, it found me. And interviewed me, and hired me... all prior to my first physical meeting with the people for whom I now work. Knowing one’s way around the networks will soon be as necessary a qualification for most activities as literacy is now.

It is vitally important that, whatever the final form of the NII, it insure that at least some minimum level of access is available to all citizens -- and most especially to children! The simplest way to guarantee that is to provide links to the network from public schools and public libraries. Yet in most debates over the future of NII, discussion of such a policy is conspicuous by its absence. We seem to be most concerned with guaranteeing a high number of cable channels and home-shopping networks, instead of making sure that information (which is, after all, just another word for "opportunity") is available to everyone.

The Internet, or its successor, holds the power to finally realize democracy’s full potential: a community where all have the ability, should they choose to exercise it, to make informed decisions about their future. The word "informed" is terribly important; right now, the information available to people is influenced greatly by their location and their income (two factors which are themselves related). Of course, the Net can never force people to make the "right" decisions, but at least it can fundamentally change the ease with which they can obtain information that might influence their decisions.

A wise policy must insure that all have equal, if not equally convenient, access to this resource. Otherwise, tomorrow’s currency -- measured in megabytes, not dollars -- will remain in the hands of a lucky few. Avoiding that situation is far more important than providing people with ten thousand channels of cable TV.

Thank you,
Karl Fogel

P.S. You can quote me, of course. Below is any information you might want to verify, or include with, a quote:

email addresses:
< kfogel@phylo.life.uiuc.edu >
< kfogel@cs.oberlin.edu >

home address:
2111 Hazelwood Dr.
Apt. 301
Urbana, IL 61801

phone:
217-367-2163

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 94 15:55:53 CDT
From: "Michael S. Hart" <HART@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu>
Subject: Senate Hearings
To: ALA Washington Office <alawash@alawash.org>

To the United States Senate via the American Library Association:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you what I think will be the most powerful application of the Information Superhighway, which also happens to be the least expensive.

Since virtually the beginning of the Internet, (1971), electronic books (Etexts) have been a part of the electronic landscape, with the first freely available Etext, the Declaration of Independence followed by the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution and a whole variety of Etexts relating to the history of the United States in the bicentennial years of the 1970's.

These were followed by the Bible, Shakespeare, Milton, and a host of other materials over the past 23 years, including a children's library containing Anne of Green Gables, Alice in Wonderland, and Peter Pan, among others.

Free of charge, these books have been copied all over the world--and are most certainly among the most popular item of information on the Information Superhighway today, being relayed to virtually every country on the Internet within a few weeks of membership of the Internet community.
Over 30 billion characters (gigabytes) of materials were copied a month ago in March, just from one single desktop computer, one of probably hundreds, or even thousands, of computers carrying these free books around the world.

This is approximately the size of 250,000 Alice in Wonderland’s a month, and the rate increased by 50% over February.

Project Gutenberg is currently releasing eight books per month in 1994, and is scheduled to double each year of the future to 2001, when we hope to arrive at our goal of the 10,000 freely available electronic books which we started towards in 1971.

I have appended a list of the first 127 books we have posted, and there may be 135 posted by the time you receive this message. We hope to have our 200th book posted by Christmas.

These books are also available off the networks via floppy disks, BBS’s, braille and reading machines, and are also available via a CDROM disk made available by several distributors.

We hope to continue this project on the Information Superhighway, as both a symbol of what can be done and also as an effective and free of charge method of improving education and literacy.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Michael S. Hart, Professor of Electronic Text
Executive Director of Project Gutenberg Etext
Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, IL 60532
No official connection to U of Illinois--UIUC

**A Simplified Chronological Listing of the Project Gutenberg Electronic Books**

[This requires an 80 column margin to see it properly]

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<td>The United States’ Bill of Rights</td>
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<td>John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address</td>
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<td>The Mayflower Compact</td>
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The Bible and Shakespeare represented the entire effort for the 1980’s, and the Bible alone is about 1,000 times larger than our first file, the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

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<td>The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne [scrlt10x.xxx]</td>
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Jan 1994 Pudd'n'head Wilson by Mark Twain/Samuel Clemens [phead10x.xxx] 102
Jan 1994 Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne [80day10x.xxx] 103

Feb 1994 Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1st Inaugural ["Fear"] [fdr10xxx.xxx] 104
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Mar 1994 Beethoven's Fifth Symphony [opus 67 in c-minor] [lvb5s10x.zip] 117C
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Apr 1994 At the Earth's Core, by Burroughs [Pellucidar #1] [ecore10x.xxx] 123
Apr 1994 A Girl of the Limberlost/Gene Stratton Porter #2 [limbr10x.xxx] 125
Apr 1994 The Poison Belt by A. Conan Doyle [Challenger #1] [poisn10x.xxx] 126
Apr 1994 The Number "e" ["Natural Log" to 1 million places] [ee710xxx.xxx] 127

The May Etexts should include Les Miserables, a biography of George Sand, and more books by our most popular authors, Arthur Conan Doyle, Jane Austen, with Edgar Rice Burroughs. Mary Wollstonecraft's Maria for Mother's Day.

Phantom of the Opera is being held for a Halloween release date.

<<<<<<<<<  

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 1994 20:53:31 -0400 (EDT)
From: JROSENFELD@delphi.com
Subject: Response on our library and NII
To: alawash@alawash.org
Subject: Libraries' roles in the National Information Infrastructure
From: Rockford (Illinois) Public Library - Joel Rosenfeld

I am pleased to be able to answer questions via e-mail to express my library's status with the NII. We find ourselves waiting at the stoplight on a controlled-access ramp for our turn to enter what looks like chaotic traffic on the information highway.

1. Rockford (Illinois) Public library regularly uses on-line databases through commercial services. We expect to have internet access and training for our staff within two months. I am communicating now through my personal account with DELPHI.

2. Our Library helped establish the Sinnissippi Valley Freenet Association. The mission of this association is to serve the public interest in telecomputing. We are seeking grant funds to establish a public service computer bulletin board. Priority will be given to providing access to local government information; social and recreational services; and employment and educational opportunities. We see internet access to our bulletin board as an essential component.

3. I see as our library's enduring role, making all forms of information useful for the public. The electronic formats present us a far greater challenge than libraries have ever faced due to the sheer numbers of new documents that will be generated, our inability to keep up with the work of providing an orderly structure for access to the contents, and a public that is largely illiterate as to electronic media. I foresee great frustration for libraries and the public. Public libraries will bear the heaviest burden of educating the public, including the community leaders.

4. Our best stories are yet to come.

5. The biggest barriers are general ignorance of the new media, the apparent lack of structure to the body of information, and uncertainty about the physical network and its costs.

6. Governments at all levels will be licensing communications systems that will make a lot of money for their investors. Federal policy should provide that taxpayers will not be gouged over and over again for the same network by paying for its use by their schools and again by their libraries and again by their government offices ad-infinitum. In exchange for licenses and technical
assistance from the government, the communications systems should provide free access for schools and public libraries.

The GPO should be charged with the task of developing and maintaining an efficient and easy-to-use system for electronic access to information from all agencies of the Federal Government.

7. Public Libraries will have a key role in making the NII useful to the general public. They will bear the heaviest burden of organizing the information for practical use in their communities and for educating the public. This important work will not be done as it should unless there is sufficient funds to pay the trained staff to do it. Federal funding for this work is appropriate and it is essential.

From: AXVILKB@UICVMC.BITNET
Date: Fri, 15 Apr 94 08:36 CDT
Subject: Senate Hearing
Reply-To: axvilkb <AXVILKB%UICVMC@UICVM.UIC.EDU>

COMMENTS FOR APRIL 19 HEARING ON LIBRARIES AND THEIR ROLE IN THE NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

COMMENTS FROM: Bridget L. Lamont, Director, Illinois State Library, Springfield, Illinois

WHAT IS YOUR LIBRARY DOING NOW WITH NII TECHNOLOGY?
The Illinois State Library is working with libraries and library consortia throughout the state to promote and provide Internet access to libraries. State grants have been awarded to regional library systems to connect their databases to the Internet, and statewide videoconferences are covering electronic networking topics.

WHAT CONCRETE APPLICATIONS IS YOUR LIBRARY INVOLVED IN TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY?
The State Library's Internet connection became operational earlier this year and will enable the staff to communicate more readily with the libraries throughout the state and will also assist the reference staff in meeting the information needs of state government officials and employees more effectively. Discussions, coordinated by the State Library, are underway to examine how state government information can be made available more
readily through online access. Hundreds of LSCA grants have been awarded to local libraries of all types for the purchase of microcomputers and modems which will enable them to access the National Information Infrastructure.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS YOUR LIBRARY’S ROLE IN THE FUTURE?
A major role is in promoting and supporting widespread access to electronic information through Illinois libraries. Many people cannot afford the technology to access online databases; libraries are the universal access point for everyone.

WHAT BARRIERS HINDER YOUR USE OF NII TECHNOLOGY OR APPLICATIONS? and WHAT FEDERAL POLICY CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE?
Telecommunications costs are a major burden for libraries, particularly in rural Illinois. Telecommunications regulatory reform should include special consideration for libraries and their role as the universal access points to the electronic infrastructure.

WHY IS FEDERAL FUNDING IMPORTANT TO YOU?
With U.S. Dept. of Education funding (LSCA and HEA), electronic networking has advanced rapidly in Illinois. The funding has been an important catalyst in advancing libraries' abilities to provide new services. The funding has been used for many types of automated resource sharing projects and to purchase computer equipment for libraries whose local resources are stretched in providing other library services.

Date: Fri, 15 Apr 1994 13:00:25 -0600
To: alawash@alawash.org
From: John.W.Berry@uic.edu (John Berry)
Subject: Senator Simon Hearing Record

The Importance of the NII to Public University Research Libraries

Submitted by:

Sharon A. Hogan
University Librarian and
Interim Director, Academic Computer Center
The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
April 15, 1994

1. What is your library doing now with NII technology?
The UIC University Library now uses NII technology in many information and resource-sharing applications. Some of the most important follow:

* **GRATEFUL MED**
  In January, 1994, UIC became the nation’s first large university to provide full access to most of the huge information databases created and maintained by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) using a user-friendly interface called GRATEFUL MED via the Internet under a fixed-fee access program.

* **Encyclopedia Britannica (EB)**
  UIC has joined our sister campus at Urbana/Champaign, Stanford, Dartmouth and UC/San Diego as beta test sites to gain access to the three parts of EB, along with the New York Times, and Merriam Webster’s Dictionary by fall 1994. World Wide Web (WWW) using a proprietary search engine makes this an exciting commercial application of the NII technology.

* **U.S. Department of State/NAFTA Documents**
  Our library is close to completing an arrangement with the U.S. Department of State to load on our mainframe computer and make available continent-wide on the 'net, all documents related to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

* **State of Illinois Public Access GOPHER**
  The library is creating a GOPHER consisting of several Illinois State Archives datasets for public access. Public Domain Land Sale data between 1815-1880 is the first data available to be followed by 500,000 marriage records prior to 1917, and Chicago City Council Proceedings files, 1833-1871 in the coming months. These will be invaluable tools for historical and genealogical research for citizens and scholars.

* **ARIEL Workstations**
  A new information delivery technology for electronically sending and receiving journal articles and other research materials across Illinois and beyond. The UIC University Library is working with The Illinois State Library to purchase ARIEL workstations for some 23 academic, public and school libraries across the state.

2. What concrete applications is your library involved in to benefit the community? bulletin boards? lending software? electronic jobs information electronic government information?

* We do all of the above. In addition, one of our library faculty
members edits and electronically publishes the world-wide "AIDS Book Review Journal" (an e-journal) which reviews new materials (books, videos, etc.) in the rapidly changing area of AIDS research. Timeliness is much better than with a traditional "print" journal.

* UIC's Library also makes available daily "Clinical Alerts" from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) to thousands of physicians, clinics and hospitals in the nine midwestern states served by our health sciences library in its role as the regional medical library in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) funded by the National Library of Medicine.

3. What do you see as your library's role in the future?

The UIC Library sees our current and future role as:

* A catalyst for involving academic institutions in creating and changing the patterns of scholarly communication via digital technology on the NII

* Leveraging dataflow to maximize the ease of access to networked information for our faculty, staff, students, and affiliated users

* Being a protagonist in copyright and other intellectual property issues related to digitized information for the academic community

4. Tell your best story.

* One of our staff upon learning of the recent award of a large research grant to a colleague called to talk about the technology and was told by the recipient that he was just glad to be able to connect electronically through the grant with other key research colleagues around the world--so, the network is really about connecting PEOPLE, not just connecting computers.

5. What barriers hinder your use of NII technology or applications?

There are still many of barriers; among them are:

* money
* expertise
* training
* lack of wide and deep intellectual content on the 'net
* machine capacity (there's not enough)
* bandwidth
* lack of partners with whom to do business (not all have access yet)

6. What federal policy changes should be made?

* We need to reaffirm the concept of "fair use" in the electronic environment
* To develop policies to support and enable easy collaboration among federal agencies and with the public sector
* To facilitate the development of open (non-proprietary) standards.

7. Why is federal funding important to you?

Federal funding is very important to libraries of all types and enables us to:

* Develop and maintain flexibility in the emerging information age
* Experiment with new and better ways to deliver information to the public

John W. Berry
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University of Illinois at Chicago
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Chicago, IL 60680
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(312)413-0424 (FAX)
John.W.Berry@uic.edu

MARYLAND
I learn from the Gutenberg Project mailing list that the private industry is currently challenging the free-basis of the Internet. Concerned, worried, and anxious that this should be the outcome of the current Congressional Hearings, I will like you to consider telling the members of the legislative branch that as our society prepares to transform itself to accept and capitalize on the power of digitized information, our society should at least try to avoid the errors made in the past concerning the unequal representation in our archives of the different cultures that inform the nation.

I speak from my own experience as a student of Latin American literature. Availability of Latin American texts has never been as wide and easy as it promises to be in electronic form. Until now, learning about Latin American literature often becomes reading *only* those texts which are scarcely available in libraries. Factors that include problems faced by small printing presses that do not have the support of an international distribution system account for the limited number of texts that survive. Even at wealthy institutions such as archives sponsored by the Ivy-league universities, the representation of Latin American texts often reflects simply, what Daniel Boorstin calls, the biases of survival. You will recall how Boorstin explains that "The historian can rediscover the past only by the relics it has left for the present...My own experience as a historian has brought me vivid reminders of how *partial* is the remaining evidence of the whole human past, how casual and how accidental is the survival of its relics." (Boorstin, Daniel J. _Hidden History: Exploring Our Secret Past._ New York: Harper & Row, 1987, 4, emphasis added.)

Thus, that if in the past, the diffusion of Latin American books has been partial and almost impossible, it could now be remedy by sponsoring a channel that will allow inexpensive and communal efforts to aid in the preservation and sharing of archives that reflect the broad base of our society. Let the biases that in the past have determined our ignorance of Latin America, stand no more in our search for knowledge.

Sincerely,
Maria Ramos
Hispanic and Italian Studies Department
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Ramos_Md@jhuvm.hcf.jhu.edu
1. What is your library doing now with NII technology? 
   Saugus MA Public Library currently has an Internet collection 
   through our automated system cluster. All full-time staff members 
   and most part-time staff have been trained to telnet to other 
   systems and to use Gopher and Veronica technology.

2. What concrete applications is your library involved in to benefit the 
   community? Our building, suitable for a community of about 
   8,000 pop., serves a town of 25,000. We have no space for CD-ROM 
   equipment, etc. Through the Internet we are able to use terminals 
   whose main purpose is for circulation or online catalog to access 
   databases like FirstSearch and the variety of Internet resources, 
   including government information that we could never dream of 
   purchasing. If we could afford it, we would have no room to store it.

3. What do you see as your library's role in the future? 
   Our library will increasingly be asked to serve those patrons who 
   because of inclination, lack of training or economics have no access to 
   electronic information. Saugus is a blue-collar community with 
   an average age of 36 years. Our schools have few computers, so even 
   our young people have a way to go to reach computer literacy.

4. Tell your best story. 
   A patron was looking for information on hydrated methane, a subject 
   which, to say the least, is not a focus of our collection. Within 
   five minutes our Reference Librarian was able to direct the patron to 
   three or four sources located on the internet.

5. What barriers hinder your use of NII technology or applications? 
   Our library has not yet been able to afford a printer for the 
   terminals which are connected to the Internet. The above patron 
   had to take notes from the Reference terminal screen. The patron 
   was not able to do his own search through lack of skill; our staff 
   member's time and skills were required.
6. What federal policy changes should be made?
Inexpensive access must be available for informational needs. Libraries, schools, and state and local governments must be able to use the Internet both as suppliers and users of information. I have no doubt that commercial interests will look after our entertainment wants. I am worried about the patron who wants to know if congress is holding hearings on a bill and how that s/he can make his/her opinions known.

7. Why is federal funding important to you?
We are struggling to maintain existing library services. While some local funds can be freed up by replacing purchase of hard copy reference materials with online materials, the amount is not significant compared to ongoing telecommunication and equipment costs. (It also will not build us a new building large enough to house the number of terminals we currently need) Our automated cluster depends upon government funding from LSCA passed through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for innovative projects involving technology. To realize the Information Highway as more than a muddy, rutted trail in Saugus, we will need funding for staff training, patron training, equipment and telecommunications.

***************************************************************************
Marjorie H. Oakes  | Saugus Public Library
Director  | Saugus, Massachusetts
moakes@college.noble.mass.edu  | North of Boston Library Exchange*
***************************************************************************

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 1994 14:45:34 -0400 (EDT)
From: C2_LEVLIB@NELINET.ORG
Subject: Contribution to Senate Hearing April 19
Sender: C2_LEVLIB@delphi.com
To: alawash@alawash.org

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 1994 20:40:16 -0400 (EDT)
From: David P Miller <dpmiller@world.std.com>
Subject: alawon query
To: c2_levlib@nelinet.org

In response to the "Invitation to Contribute to Senate Hearing Record", published in ALAWON, April 5, 1994:
1) What is your library doing now with NII technology? At present, we purchase an Internet address through NELINET. We subscribe to four library-related discussion groups and receive several professional newsletters (such as ALAWON). We use personal email for a number of purposes related to running our library, particularly correspondence with potential automated system and database cleanup vendors.

2) What concrete applications is your library involved in to benefit the community? Because we have a single address for which we pay by the hour (and haven't the budget to make publically available), our direct Internet service to our public is limited. We were able to provide useful information and contacts for one of the College's Honors students, by subscribing to a discussion list which was of relevance to his project, and passing the daily digests on to him on disc. We have also retrieved information from the EDGAR database for students (SEC info).

3) Library's role in the future: our campus is now being networked, which will allow for campus-wide Internet access. We will recommend networked information sources to professors and students, help provide training, maintain selected resources as part of our library's "collection," and work with campus computing to select resources for inclusion in a future campus Gopher or CWIS.

4) Best story: probably the Honors student story above. His thesis project is on the subject of Hydrogen as an alternative fuel, and the list we subscribed to was exactly on this subject. He was introduced to his "invisible college."

5) Barriers: at this point, the major barrier is our College's historically recalcitrant attitude toward developing new technology. That is changing, and rapidly. Soon, the major barrier will be that Internet resources are unorganized and unindexed, and that even tools such as Gopher and WAIS are far too crude to allow for rapid *and useful* retrieval. Students expect the Internet to work like a CD-ROM database.

6) Federal policy changes. The NII must not become a video arcade/shopping mall. Policy initiatives which give priority to the concepts of common carriage, universal availability (a la POTS), full interactivity and interconnection are essential.

7) Federal funding will become increasingly important as we get past our first stage of campus technology development. Once we're ready to develop more sophisticated services, we'll need Federal money as a way to leverage scarce private resources.
David Miller
Head of Technical Services, Levin Library
Curry College, Milton, MA
c2_levlib@nelinet.org

MISSISSIPPI

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 1994 14:59:29 +0600 (CST)
From: Carol West <west@mc.edu>
Subject: Hearing - Libraries and Their Role in the NII
To: alawash@alawash.org

I am providing these responses for the April 19th hearing on behalf of the Mississippi Library Commission.

1. What is your library doing now with the NII technology?

The Mississippi Library Commission serves as the hub of a statewide resource sharing network using pc-based interlibrary loan software linked to a CD-ROM union catalog. MLC is the primary interlibrary loan resource for public libraries.


MLC produces the union catalog and manages the Mississippi Booksharing Network including the pc-based ILL software and fax network. As a partial federal depository library, the state document depository library, and the state's only Patent & Trademark Depository Library, MLC maintains a variety of CD-ROM reference products. Dial-in access to MLC collections is also available. A collection of shareware software is maintained.

3. What do you see as your library's role in the future?

MLC would serve to facilitate the development of library telecommunications in Mississippi and coordinate the library network. As the agency designated to assist public, academic and special libraries, MLC would serve as the focal point for implementation of a statewide information network for Mississippi libraries.
4. What barriers hinder your use of NII technology or applications?

Development of Mississippi, in general, and libraries, in particular, is hindered by a lack of funds. Also we lack the necessary expertise to initiate such development independently. The state also suffers from a lack of political leadership in this area and by the lack of a coordinated effort by any other state agencies. We also lack local level staff with the training needed to provide system administration.

Sent on behalf of the Mississippi Library Commission by Carol C. West, member of the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi Library Commission. Prepared by the staff of the Mississippi Library Commission, Mary Ellen Pellington, Director.

Carol C. West
Mississippi College Law Library
151 E. Griffith Street
Jackson MS 39201

e-mail: west@mc.edu
phone: (601) 944-1970

----------NEBRASKA----------

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 1994 22:05:26 -0500 (CDT)
From: Michael Sundermeier <micsun@bluejay.creighton.edu>
Subject: Information superhighway
To: alawash@alawash.org

The most important service that the information network can supply is helping individuals tap into and contribute to the immense riches of information that already exists and is being generated everyday. This requires access (if not free at least no more expensive than local telephone service); organization (the internet's present complexity limits its usefulness); and a constant process of re-creation (the internet itself is a kind of knowledge that must continue to grow in order to manage the needs and visions imposed upon it. The least important service that this network can supply is an infinite replication of situation comedies, soft porn, and shopping shows. The interstate highway system works because it is open to everyone. It has served us well, both commercially and personally. A combination of support, taxes and user fees for the heavy commercial users, and taxes for the rest of us, have worked pretty well. Modest user fees are not an insuperable
problem, but they should be modest. We don’t want the information network to be open only to those with deep pockets and Washington influence. This can work for us all.

Michael Sundermeier
Creighton University
Omaha, Nebraska

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 94 17:53 EST
From: "Kenyon F. Karl" <0001771813@mcimail.com>
To: American Library Association <alawash@alawash.org>
Subject: RE: April 15th Superhighway Hearings

Handling:

I am responding to the following request (EXCERPTS):

--------------------
Date: Wed Apr 13, 1994 9:40 pm EDT
From: Project Gutenberg Email List
EMS: INTERNET / MCI ID: 376-5414
MBX: GUTNBERG@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu
Subject: April 15th Superhighway Hearings

Actually the hearing is the 19th, during National Library Week, but they requested your notes be sent to:

alawash.alawash.org <American Library Association>

by April 15th so your comments can be included in their Senate Report.

I fear that 1994 may end up being the year of the Superhighway Steamroller, which will flatten all of us little people and turn the highway over to the megabyte and megabuck maniacs who feel that gigabytes being sent over some multimedia systems should have priority over sending a few megabytes of Etext to the whole world free of charge to improve education and literacy.
The best that I can do is to echo Professor Hart's concern about the fate of the Internet as we know it today!

We DO have a public library in the small mountain town of Wentworth, NH But because of the limited resources of the town, it is only open on three days per week for a few hours at a time.

It has an impressive collection of books for a town of our size. But in a world of ever increasing technological change, its collection of books is hopelessly obsolete. Interlibrary loan helps somewhat, but the State Library van only comes to town once a week!

Last but not least, handicapped folks STILL have great difficulty using the resources of this tiny library for reasons that range from sheer inability to leave the house to an inability to read traditional books.

Electronic mail seems to be the lowest common denominator of our current 'Information highway'. Internet E-mail reaches well beyond the limits of the TCP/IP system that is the core of the Internet, to reach a wide variety of sometimes ancient and sometimes proprietary mail systems. Thus, Internet E-mail also includes the Bitnet network (many colleges), the UUCP network (many Unix systems).

But very important, the major consumer online systems like CompuServe and Prodigy are now including E-mail from the Internet as a low-cost extension of their low-cost basic services package.

If you happen to live in a major metropolitan area or even a small city, a mere $10-15/month will purchase basic news, weather, and even a variety of consumer reference services, as well as a generous allowance for E-mail usage. Unfortunately, rural and small town users must make expensive long-distance phone calls to utilize these services. Note in particular that Compuserve can be used with ANY personal computer and modem, even those that are hopelessly obsolete!

MCI Mail is an obscure E-mail service offered by the well advertised Long Distance phone company with the similar name, and marketed primarily to business people. But surprisingly enough, MCI Mail is a low-cost E-mail service that is available on a toll-free basis in EVERY telephone exchange of the continental
US. But even better yet, MCI Mail can likewise work with ANY personal computer and modem. Unfortunately, the business world seems to prefer the simplicity of FAX machines.

Because E-mail is on the 'trailing edge' of technology, the high tech folks find it rather 'boring'. Thus it has become the most neglected part of our current system. For instance, most major FTP archive sites (public and private) simply REFUSE to accommodate requests submitted by E-mail. Conversely, the last time that I tried the one FTP-by-mail service that is publicly available, the machine was so overwhelmed that it took 5 days to respond to my request. For some reason, I can’t even persuade MCI Mail to add FTP-by-mail to their other E-mail services!

However, I believe that it is this 'trailing edge' of information technology that has the best chance of serving those folks that had used the traditional public library in previous generations.

It is the one service that 'computer backward' folks have the best chance of understanding. It is the one service that poor people can use AT HOME with the hopelessly obsolete machine that they bought at a yard sale. It is the one service that handicapped people have the best chance of using AT HOME with their special adaptive equipment. Last but not least, it is the one service that CAN still be delivered to the most rural parts of our great nation!

Wealthy people certainly have the money to support the PRIVATE initiatives into the leading edge technologies of 'Multi-media'. Beyond question, fat wallets are a prerequisite for acquiring and constantly updating the fancy computers required for these leading edge technologies. But the rich clearly have the money to purchase whatever PRIVATE services might strike their fancy. The rural rich can even afford expensive long distance calls to reach those services offered primarily to urban folks!

Professor Hart's 'Project Gutenberg' produces ordinary texts in common ASCII format. It is just one of an incredible variety of reading materials' that are now available by 'ordinary E-mail' to both the rural and urban poor and even the handicapped at very low cost. Thus, I think that we must be very careful to insure that our 'Superhighway funds' support and improve ordinary E-mail, JUST because it is the most widely available and easiest to use part of our emerging 'Information Superhighway System'.

NEW YORK

Date: Thu, 7 Apr 1994 14:14:09 EDT
Reply-To: CNYBERG@law.uiuc.edu
Sender: UB Libraries Distribution List <UBLIB-L@UBVM.cc.buffalo.edu>
Comments: Resent-From: ellen gibson <LWLELLEN@UBVM>
Comments: Originally-From: "Nyberg, Cheryl" <CNYBERG@law.uiuc.edu>
From: ellen gibson <LWLELLEN@UBVM.cc.buffalo.edu>
Subject: FW: Internet Stories for Hearing
To: Multiple recipients of list UBLIB-L <UBLIB-L@UBVM.cc.buffalo.edu>

1. What is your library doing now with NII technology?

The staff of HSL at UB perform a good percentage of their daily work via email on the internet, connecting with staff in HSL, staff in the rest of UB's libraries, and staff across the U.S. and the world through participation in discussion lists such as MEDLIB-L (we have subscribers from Slovenia) and ANTHRO-L (subscribers from Russia, Australia, New Zealand, etc.). We set meeting dates, forward relevant information for all to see, send minutes of meetings, and keep informed about what is happening in our field. In addition, we have access to ftp sites to download government documents and other information.

2. What concrete applications is your library involved in to benefit the community? bulletin boards? lending software? electronic jobs information? electronic government information? other?

HSL is a partner with the UB Medical School and the affiliated Teaching Hospitals in HUBNET, a local LAN system which provides no-charge access for our patrons to full MEDLINE, CINAHL, Health Planning and Admin. Database, full-text journals, expert systems, internet-gopher access, and email. The benefit to those involved in direct patient care is enormous, and has direct impact on issues in health care reform vis-a-vis cost savings.

3. What do you see as your library's role in the future?

Continued expansion and use of electronic resources to directly assist in the delivery of health care to the citizens of the U.S. As HUBNET expands, more and more full-text will be available immediately to users at their offices, hospitals, and homes. In addition, we expect to take advantage of internet resources to provide "maps" via bookmarks using gopher, veronica and archie (and mosaic for graphic) software to further expand the information universe. Liaison with academic departments will become closer, as lines between educators and librarians (who are after all educators ALL the time) blur and information retrieval becomes a necessary skill.

4. Tell your best story.

HSL's Information Dissemination Service provides document delivery to area non-affiliated institutions and individuals, frequently hospital based physicians and researchers. More than once, a physician has called the
department with a document request WHILE A PATIENT WAS IN THE EMERGENCY
ROOM OR ABOUT TO UNDERGO SURGERY. The request in each case was delivered
by fax to their location within the hour, resulting in radically different
treatment regimens based on the information, with concomitant improved
results for the patient in question. The value of this kind of information
delivery CANNOT be overstated!

5. What barriers hinder your use of NII technology or applications?

Dollars and training opportunities. Staff shortages in libraries continue
to overburden existing staff who must constantly tread water, rather than
be able to stroke steadily towards enhanced information retrieval skills.

6. What federal policy changes should be made?

Libraries are critical to the information network in teaching and learning.
The current Clinton plan to freeze indirect costs received by universities
should not be implemented! Library support is one component of indirect
costs, and as universities across the country lose a percentage of public
support they must increasingly rely on grant funded dollars. In addition,
federal support for National Library of Medicine IAIMS projects should be
increased.

7. Why is federal funding important to you?

Although I have worked in libraries for over 25 years, I am just completing
my MLS, and anticipate a glorious career in the new electronic information
environment as part of a health care delivery team. With the advent of
health care reform, and a brightening future for information truly being
available to all at the push of a button, I very much want to have the
opportunity to be part of that future. Federal funding is critical to
maintaining the health of the existing library infrastructure, and with
increased support, can allow medical libraries to develop to the full potential
that the American public expects and deserves.

<<<<<

Date: Tue, 12 Apr 94 22:08:44 EDT
From: "Dr. C. M. Pyle" <CMPGC@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU>
Subject: Library Funding
To: American Library Association <alawash@alawash.org>

To bolster your requests for funding of United States libraries (of all types),
let me suggest that nothing less than the future of the country depends on two
things: education and libraries. The latter are clearly a function of the former. The decrease of reading levels and general levels of education over the past 50 years is a danger, which has already begun to operate in this society. Young people whose brains are like sponges before puberty are given no food for thought. The idleness and meaninglessness generated by this enormous void feed crime and mischief. Libraries are a crucial element in the training of the minds of young people. People without trained minds become subject to the wills of others with trained minds. This is the ground for the development of tyrannical forms of government, the antithesis of the ideals on which this country was founded. Other needs filled by libraries include the sustaining of research, which provides new ideas and shapes old ones according to scientific standards of determining truth by critical evaluation of written thought. They also include the solace given to people of some education who are no longer active in their professions or jobs. Libraries, in short, are the life-blood of the human mind, and consequently of society. Any view less comprehensive than this is short-sighted and can be based only on infantile immediate gratification, financial or political. Yours truly, Dr. C. M. Pyle.

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 94 15:31:03 -0500
To: ALAWASH@alawash.org
From: "Joshua Cohen" <ny000862@mail.nyser.net>
Organization: MHLS
Subject: LIBRARY'S ROLE

1. Because of the Mid-Hudson Library System's TeleCat project people from five counties can locate resources such as books, videos and periodicals with a PC and modem. They can even see if a book is on the shelf. The Mid-Hudson Library System serves as a resource center and a coordinating organization for sixty-five public libraries in New York State located between New York City and Albany. The TeleCat project makes it possible for users to search the holding of all sixty-five libraries, the Audio-Visual collection and a state database of films and videos. By building on this we can become an Internet gateway and provide a gopher with local information so that libraries, businesses and individuals in the region will have inexpensive access to local, nationwide and international information.

2. Currently the system is supporting several projects which benefit the community, and the ability to provide electronic access to these resources will greatly enhance their effectiveness. Three such projects are:

HELPING PEOPLE FIND JOBS
The EJICs offer career and educational information to people. Electronic
capability being implemented this summer will allow users to access job banks and training information directly.

PREVENTING DISABILITIES
Forty percent of disabilities can be prevented. The Growing Together project provides information about pre-natal and early child care as a means for prevention or lessening of disabilities through recognition and early intervention. By providing electronic access people could easily find ways of recognizing symptoms and locating community support.

FIGHTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE
The SAVE project provides video titles for information on health related issues. The ability to access these titles quickly would be an asset to people planning programs.

3. Will libraries be included? That is the question regarding the future of libraries. We see two possible futures for libraries. One is that libraries will not be able to afford to play a significant role in the NII. If this occurs libraries will fade into the background of our communities and struggle to survive. The other is that libraries will be key components of the NII, not only providing access, but also collecting, organizing and disseminating information.

4. Image receiving news before the media from across the country. The Woodstock Library has received requests via internet for information regarding the upcoming Woodstock II festival. In response the library will be posting regular new releases. Internet users will be able to find out the latest news before the media. They will also answer any questions about the festival, the area, tourist needs, etc. all through the public library. The Seattle Public library will be reposting these messages.

5. Three barriers that we face are:

LACK OF NEW FUNDING for the role libraries should play in the NII. Library funding has remained stable, but this has been used for the traditional services which still are vital to our communities.
*The cost of books has risen above the rate of inflation.
*more titles are being published every year.
*new formats for information such as video and CD have been added.

These forces have stretched our budgets, and they do not include NII technology or applications.

TRAINING. This new world of information has created new technologies and techniques for classifying, storing and retrieving information. Card catalogs are
disappearing and with them the traditional concept of subject classification. Keyword searches and boolean logic are concepts that this technology has made possible changing the traditional methods of information retrieval. Searching the Internet using gophers, Veronicas and Jughead, World Wide Web and WAIS, mosaic and other methods still in development all require new navigational techniques for librarians.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES about libraries. Many people still consider libraries as the place for story hours and after school homework. This still is true and should always be true, but the public has not recognized the value of libraries in this information age. The ability of libraries to support businesses, hospitals, human service organizations, and cultural organizations has not received the recognition and credibility they deserve.

6. Will the NII cost more than is necessary? The answer will be yes if the federal government fails to recognizes the value of libraries as cost effective information providers. Federal policy regarding libraries must change from one of support for special programs to one of insuring libraries role in the NII. The ability of libraries to locate material nationwide has existed for many years without recognition. When the Vice President speaks of a nationwide infrastructure he is referring to something libraries have been developing for years. Federal policy should recognize and include the groundwork libraries have provided.

7. What is wrong with connecting libraries to the NII? When the President and Vice President speak about connecting libraries, hospitals and schools to the NII they are missing a significant point. Hospitals and schools use information, libraries classify, store and disseminate information. This is an important distinction. Libraries need to be included in NII development rather than simply be connected: We have an important role to play. Libraries can insure equity of access, libraries can prevent censorship, and libraries can help organize the information in useable ways. Federal funding is needed to insure libraries can play these roles.

Joshua Cohen
Mid-Hudson Library System

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To: alawash@alawash.org
From: "Tom Terefenko" <TTEREFNK@newschool.edu>
Date: 15 Apr 94 12:17:21 EDT
Subject: Senate Report about NII
RE: Senate Report
National Information Superstructure

ALA

I am writing both as an interested library employee and as a perennial user of libraries and as a relatively new user of the Internet through my affiliation with the New School for Social Research here in New York City. Certainly you know and the Senate should be mindful that the decisions made today will have far reaching effects for generations to come. What can be done with the free flow of information and in particular Etext, is enormous and awesome and should not be monopolized by commercial interests. Commercial enterprises have their places and deserve compensation for the services they may provide as needed. But a good citizen is an informed citizen.

In the past I have always counted on libraries, public libraries, school libraries, and private libraries to be there to help me with my need to know and to understand and to experience what is available on stored leaves from the tree of knowledge. To me the Information Highway can be an extension of that need to know in still to be discovered dimensions.

What we are putting in place here is the groundwork. It is important that public access be maintained. And it is important that public works remain public for the seeker and do not become fodder for some kind of moneymaking scheme that ignores the public interest.

Sincerely,

Thomas Terefenko
Assistant to the Librarian
Raymond Fogelman Library
New School for Social Research

tterefnk@newschool.edu

OHIO

Date: Sun, 17 Apr 1994 11:25:25 -0400 (EDT)
From: Bob Carterette <BOB@clevxd.cpl.org>
To: alawash@alawash.org
Cc: BOB@clevxd.cpl.org
Subject: Public Libraries and the NII

1. What is your library doing now with NII technology?
Cleveland Public Library and its associated institutions (CLEVNET) have been using Internet connectivity to deliver information services directly to patrons since 1989. The CLEVNET system currently includes 18 public libraries in 7 Northern Ohio counties, including urban, suburban, and rural populations.

2. What concrete applications is your library involved in to benefit the community? bulletin boards? lending software? electronic jobs information? electronic government information? other?
Telnet to Library.Cpl.Org to visit the Cleveland Public Electronic Library. Direct access to hundreds of information resources are available, both those obtained freely and others for which the libraries buy access. A list of current offerings is appended.

3. What do you see as your library’s role in the future
To continue to provide the best public access to information resources, to find ways to merge access to electronic and traditional library resources, and to become a network publisher of information, when appropriate.

4. Tell your best story.
Instead of my best story, some typical comments E-mailed to us by users are appended.

5. What barriers hinder your use of NII technology or applications?
Providing network access over a large geographic range (even as large as a city) is extremely expensive. Ongoing telecommunications costs are the single greatest deterrent to the fullest use.

6. What federal policy changes should be made?
There should be preferential telecommunications rates for libraries and schools; copyright laws need reform so that libraries can provide electronic access to material publishers have let fall out of print.

7. Why is federal funding important to you?
It will be important in providing startup monies to develop demonstration projects proving the worth of networked information, and exploring the role libraries may have in insuring Everybody has access.

Bob Carterette
Automated Systems Manager
Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114 USA
VOICE: (216) 623-2810
FAX: (216) 623-7120
INTERNET: bob@library.cpl.org
APPENDICIES:

1) E-MAIL COMMENTS FROM USERS:

TO ELECTRONIC LIBRARY STAFF
I READ WITH TREMENDOUS INTEREST YOUR PLAIN DEALER ARTICLE THIS WEEK, AND
WITHIN DAYS I HAD A NEED. I ALREADY CALLED A MAJOR COMPANY FOR INFORMATION C...THEN I CALLED THE LIBRARY COMPUTER, AND I HAD THE INFO I NEEDED IN MINUTE FOR THE PRICE OF A LOCAL CALL!!! THIS SERVICE IS GREAT!!

I have to say that the new interface is _way_ cool. It actually makes me happy to see the tax dollars going for something good. That’s why I vote for every library levy.

...I’ve been using the CPL since I was 6 years old. This is the most fun I’ve had since the Old Quincy Library stoped doing Story Hour.

I really appreciate the additional services you are offering on line with your new system...In my more recent experience, I have accessed the Federal Register and found information pertinent to my business, in which I deal with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Thanks to the information I obtained, I attended a hearing in Washington regarding suggested changes in the U.S. patent laws to effect INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION...in the patent laws.

A FEW MONTHS BACK I DOWNLOADED THE COAL OVERVIEW FROM THE ENERGY STATISTICS. I WANTED TO UPDATE THE FILE AND HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DOWNLOAD THE INFORMATION AGAIN, BUT KEEP GETTING AN INSUFFICIENT DISK SPACE ERROR MESSAGE. CAN YOU PROVIDE ANY HELP?

Dear Electronic Library Staff,
We are 6th graders at Willowick Middle School. 
We are studying how to use the Dial Up Access. 
Strange things have happened. 
Ms. XXXX, our librarian, still doesn’t know how to download 
off of the Clevenet. Is she computer illiterate or what? 
Please send us a present.

There’s a book I want that I found using the Library of Congress Catalog. How can I go about submitting an electronic request for an inter-library loan using service?

I would like to comment about your electronic library service. 
I think that this is fantastic. As a youngster I spent many many hours in both the school library as well as the public library. I am finding that I am doing the same now, with your electronic library service! Keep up the excellent work. 
P.S. My favorite is Ready Reference! The online databases in First Search are truly an excellent resource.

2) CURRENT CONTENTS OF THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC ELECTRONIC LIBRARY:

CLEVELAND PUBLIC ELECTRONIC LIBRARY
DIRECTORY OF SERVICES
April 13, 1994
(Items marked with an * are available to registered borrowers only)
(Items marked with a "==>" are new resources)

Cleveland Public/CLEVNET Libraries Catalog
Cleveland Public/CLEVNET Libraries KEYWORD Catalog
Cleveland News Index
About this service and Help -- README!
Arts and Humanities
==> The All-Music Guide
American Music Resource
American Folklife Center Publications
*Art Index
*Arts & Humanities Search
Digital Tradition (Folk Songs)
Ethnomusicology Digest
*Humanities Index
*Modern Language Association Bibliography (MLA)

Movies

Popular Music

The AC/DC FAQ alt.rock-n-roll.acdc
Alternative Media Alternative Music
AM/FM (British Radio)
American Pie Lyrics & Annotation
Beatle's Novelty Items List
Best 150 Jazz Recordings
Billboard Top Ten
Book of Metal (from UMN)
collins.phil
Derivations of Rock Band Names
Discographies by artist (from wiretap.spies.com)
Family Tree of Rock
Fender Stratocaster FAQ
Grateful Dead
Japanese Pop Listing
Led Zeppelin FAQ
Live 105 Top 300 Modern Rock Songs
MTV Gopher
New Music
Notes on Various Beatles Songs by Alan Pollack
Progressive Rock Magazines List
Satan, Drugs, and Rock & Roll
Screams of Abel (Christian Music Journal)
Wedding Songs
Worst 100 Singles of last 25 Years

Business, Economics and Labor

Agricultural Market News
*Business Organizations
Business News (from Singapore) (Journal)
*Wilson Business Periodicals Index
*Commerce Business Daily

Archive of Past Issues
Most Recent Issues
Current CBD Class Codes
Notices of Contract Awards
Notices of Foreign Government Standards
Readers Guide
Requests for Procurements
Search Commerce Business Daily (45 days) by Keyword
Special Notices
Surplus Property Sales
Country Reports: Economic Policy/Trade Practices -- UM-St.Louis
*Disclosure Corporate Snapshots
Economic Bulletin Board

==>
Economic Conversion Information Exchange
Exporting: A Basic Guide to Exporting (NTDB Version, From UM-St. Louis)
GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)

==>
Gross State Product Tables from US Bureau of Econ. Analysis (UMi)
==>
Industrial Outlook 1994 (UMich)
International Business Practices Guide (UM-St. Louis)
Management Working Paper Archive
NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)
Overseas Business Reports (OBR) (UM-St.Louis)
Security & Exchange Commission Filings (EDGAR)
Small Business Administration Industry Profiles (UM-St. Louis)
Small Business Administration (SBA) State Profiles (UM-St.Louis)
Trade News (Journal)
U.S. Industrial Outlook - 1993 (NTDB Version, From UM-St. Louis)
*Wilson Business Periodicals Abstracts
*Disclosure/Worldscope Snapshots

Government and the Law
1995 Proposed Federal Budget
Americans With Disabilities Act Regulations
Browse the Proposed US Budget for 1994
Budget FY 1995 (Proposed)
Budget of the United States Government
Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1995
Bureau of Justice Statistics Documents
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
Congressional Committee Assignments for 103rd Congress (UMich)
Congressional Directories
Constitution
Economic Reports of the President: 1992-1993 (UM-St. Louis)
Executive Branch Addresses
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Reserve Banks Publications
Federalist Papers
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Guide to Use
General Accounting Office (GAO) Reports
*Government Printing Office Catalog
Job Openings in the Federal Government
Legal Bytes (Computer Law) (Journal)
Legi-Slate Gopher (Bill and Federal Register Info - 103rd Congress)
Multilateral Treaties (courtesy of Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University)

NASDAQ Financial Executive Journal
National Archives of the U.S.
National Information Infrastructure (NII)
National Institute of Justice
National Health Plan
National Health Reform Plan
  Health Care Reform Agenda
  Health Security Plan: Executive Summary
  Preliminary Health Plan Summary
  President’s Speech: as delivered
  President’s speech: as prepared
  The Need For Reform
National Performance Review - Reinventing Government (browse)
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress
Office of the Vice President -- Available Information
Search Supreme Court Decisions
Social Security Administration
State of the Union Speech 1994 (as delivered)

=> SuperFund Reauthorization Bill Proposal
Supreme Court
Supreme Court Decisions (WWW)

=> Treaties and Other International Covenants

=> U.S. Copyright Office
U.S. State Department Releases
UN Criminal Justice Country Profiles
United States Federal Register
USDA Statistics (Via Cornell University Gopher)
U.S. Federal Budget 1993

=> West’s Legal Directory via WAIS
White House Frequently Asked Questions
White House Information Service (Texas A&M Univ.)
World Constitutions
Selected Internet Resources on the U.S. Congress

Literature, Theater, Film, Library studies
ALAWON (American Library Assoc. Washington Office Newsletter)
Aesop’s Fables
Barrie, J. M. Peter Pan.
*Book Review Digest
Bronte, Emily, 1818-1848. Wuthering Heights.
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. Poems (1844).
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. Sonnets from the Portuguese.
Carroll, Lewis. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
Carroll, Lewis. Hunting of the Snark.
Carroll, Lewis. Through the Looking Glass.
Cather, Willa. O Pioneers!
Cather, Willa. Song of the Lark.
Chapman, George, trans. 1857. The Odysseys of Homer.
Dickinson, Emily. Poetry.
Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass.
Fiction Digest (Book Reviews)
Gilman, Charlotte Perkins Stetson. Herland.
Grimm, Jacob. Grimms’ Fairy Tales.
Hardy, Thomas. Far From the Madding Crowd
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. Scarlet Letter.
Henry, O. Gift of the Magi.
Keats, John. 1884. Poetical Works.
Lantern, The (Newspaper from OSU Journalism School)
*Library Literature
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Song of Hiawatha.
Melville, Herman. Moby Dick.
Millay, Edna St. Vincent. Renascence and Other Poems.
OSU Electronic Magazine
Poe, Edgar Allan. Works.
Postmodern Culture (Journal)
Shakespeare, William. Complete Works
Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft. Frankenstein.
Sophocles. Oedipus Trilogy.
Stevenson, Robert Louis. Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.
Wells, H. G. Time Machine.
Wells, H. G. War of the Worlds.
Wilde, Oscar. 1881. Poems.
Yeats, William Butler. Selected poetry.

1994 Winter Olympics

Other Library Catalogs
Bowling Green State University
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland State University
College of Wooster
Cuyahoga County Public Library
John Carroll University
Kent State University
Kenyon College
Lakewood Public Library
Library of Congress Information System (Washington, DC)
Oberlin College
Porter Public Library (Westlake)
*WorldCat (OCLC Database)

Ready Reference
1994 World Cup Soccer Schedule
Acronym Directory (WWW)
ACRONYMs dictionary

== > Airlines- Tollfree Phone Numbers to Airlines
American English Dictionary
*ArticleFirst Periodical Index
*Biography Index
C-SPAN Gopher
Congressional Committee Assignments for 103rd Congress (UMich)
Congressional Directories
*Consumers Index
*Contents1st Periodical Index
Destination Discovery - Discovery Channel Magazine
*Concise Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia
*EventLine
*A Matter of Fact
French Language Press Review
Historical United States Documents (ie Freedom Shrine)
Local Times Around the World
*Newspaper Abstracts (UMI)
Occupational Outlook Handbook (From UM-St. Louis)
Online Career Center
*Periodical Abstracts (UMI)
Public Dialup Internet Access List
Radio Free Europe news
*Readers Guide to Periodical Literature
*Readers Guide to Periodical Literature Abstracts
Recipes
CENSUS: Selected Ohio Census Data
Somalia News Update
Sports Schedules: Major League Baseball
Sports Schedules: National Basketball Association
Sports Schedules: National Football League (93-94 season)
Sports Schedules: National Hockey League
TLC Monthly - The Learning Channel Magazine
Today's Events in History
US Info Agency - East Asia/Pacific Wireless Files
CENSUS: United States Census Data -- Text Files
US Government Agency Phone Directories
U.S. Telephone Area Codes
VOA News and English Broadcasts Wire Service
VOA Program and Frequency Schedules
WEATHER: Canada
WEATHER: Cleveland
WEATHER: Miscellaneous data
WEATHER: Ohio
Weather Underground
WEATHER: United States
WEATHER: Cleveland Climatology Report
Webster's Dictionary (login as "webster")

> West’s Legal Directory via WAIS
> World Telephone Code Information (Melbourne)

Science and Technology
Agriculture
*Agricola
Search Agricultural Market News
Bean Bag: Leguminosae Research Newsletter
Biological & Agricultural Index
Search Cover-Crop Handbook
PenPages (Agriculture, Food & Nutrition)
Search Showcase of Sustainable Agr. Info. & Education Materials
Search Sustainable Agr. Research & Education (SARE) Projects
Search Water Quality Database from US Cooperative Extension System

Ecology and Environment
ACCESS EPA (login as "public")
Access EPA
Clean Car Agenda Information
Conservation Online (CoOl)
Delta (Canada Global Change Program)
Energy Info
Energy Ideas
Environmental Fact Sheets

E_Magazine
Rachel’s Hazardous Waste News
Tiempo (Global warming and the Third World)

Gardening and Horticulture
Master Gardener Information
U of Missouri Horticulture Guides

Health and Medicine

43
AIDS Related Information
AIDS Tx News
AIDS News
CDC Daily Summaries
CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse
CDC Statistics
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)
National Commission on AIDS
NIAID Press Releases
Study Recruitment Information
UCSF FOCUS: A Guide to Research and Counseling
Veterans Administration AIDS Information Newsletter

AIDS Book Review Journal
**Biological Digests
**BIOSIS
CancerNet Information
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Newsletter

= = >
Computers and Health
Daily AIDS Summaries from the Centers for Disease Control
Drug & Alcohol Information
General Health Information
Genome Project
  DOE - BioInformatics - Draft, version 2.0
  DOE Human Genome Program Report
  Educational Resources in Genetics: Organizations and Databases
  The Genome Data Base (GDB)
  Human Genome News
Health Infocom Network
Human Radiation Experimentation Information
LymeNet Newsletter
**MEDLINE

= = >
  National Toxicology Program (NTP)
  NLM Publications...
  Repetitive Stress Injuries (Newsletter)
= = >
  Wisconsin "Health" Directory [gopher.adp.wisc.edu]

Physical Sciences
ALICE - CERN Databases
*Applied Science and Technology Index
Computer Underground Digest
Earthquake Information
Edupage
*Concise Engineering and Technology Index
Federal Information News Syndicate
*General Science Index
The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is pleased to submit the following in response to the
questions posed by Sen. Paul Simon and his staff.

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH AND THE NII

Recognizing the importance of global electronic information, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
established our own Internet node in April of 1993. Since that time we have provided access
to local, national, and international resources for our staff, the staff of The Carnegie Museums,
and that of 31 independent municipal libraries throughout Allegheny County, PA.
The Internet allows the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh branches and small public libraries access to government information in a timely manner that would otherwise be much more difficult for them to obtain. It equalizes access for libraries in outlying areas and allows them to locate hard to obtain resources for their patrons. It gives the financially strapped public library access to some of the most up-to-date medical information (specifically CancerNet). This is an extremely important information source when you consider that the American Medical Association directs libraries to weed out all medical information that is more than 3 years old. Through "Online Careers" and federal job databases, our Internet access allows our Job and Career Education Center to obtain up-to-the-minute job postings for an area hard hit by unemployment.

Within the next six months, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will extend access to the public, so that the Internet information resources are accessible in the homes, workplaces, and schools throughout our area. We will also launch the "Three Rivers Free-Net", a local public telecomputing network of locally created community resource databases. Both the Internet access and the Free-Net were partially funded by LSCA grants. The LSCA grants have provided the funding needed to get these projects off the ground. Without LSCA funds our ability to connect to the Internet would have been severely curtailed.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh sees its role as the primary information provider for the community with the responsibility to ensure that most information, but particularly government information, is accessible to all patrons and not just to those who can afford it. We take our role as the creator of an informed citizenry very seriously, believing, as the Vice President does, that it is the lifeblood of a democracy. As more and more information becomes available electronically, it is vital that the library be capable of providing access to it. all public libraries must adapt to accomplish this. Federal support for public library technology and training is absolutely essential for us to meet these goals yet even minimal funding is being eliminated. The Administration says it is committed to providing hospitals, libraries and educational institutions with connections to the data highway at educational institutions with connections to the data highway at low cost. The connection will not be of much use without the equipment, training and staff resources to take advantage of it.

Dan Iddings Assistant Director
Automation and Technical Services
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Phone: 412/622-6502
Fax: 412/622-6278

SOUTH CAROLINA

Date: Fri, 15 Apr 1994 10:05:00 EST
Tri-County Technical College is participating in the National Information Infrastructure in several ways: (1) through participation in the APPNET consortium of public and technical college libraries to share access to resources and expand availability of information to the public, (2) by using the Internet to locate and retrieve for students information which would otherwise be unavailable, (3) to support students experiences not otherwise available, and (4) to support faculty scholarship and research through the same means.

We are now using electronic communications to facilitate location and retrieval of information for students and faculty. Faculty are using e-mail to communicate with peers, to retrieve data and software, and to subscribe to electronic journals, many of which are not available in any other form.

In the future, our library will become the information broker for our students and faculty, as well as for our community. We will be one point of access to the National Information Infrastructure for those citizens without home computers. Our role will, increasingly, be to explain and facilitate access to electronic communications.

Our best story is of developmental education students who are corresponding with similar students elsewhere in the Nation and the world. These students are learning writing skills by corresponding electronically with their peers in France. They are improving math skills by comparing the cost of living (of products of interest to the age group,) calculating means, medians, etc. and charting the results. The College is new to the Internet, and this connection to the world has excited and refreshed students and faculty alike.

The major impediment to our full use of the National Information Infrastructure is adequate availability of appropriate equipment. We are also greatly concerned about the possibility that the "electronic superhighway" might be privatized. While the College has budgeted for our institutional connection to SURANET, connect-time charges would almost certainly eliminate access to the resource for our students and faculty.

We would like to see federal policy support access to the NII for libraries of all types, so the the College can work in conjunction with
the public libraries to make this resource available to our citizens. Learning doesn’t stop when our students leave the campus, and it’s important that access to the NII be widely available.

Please continue federal funding for NSFNET, the backbone of the National Research and Education Network (NREN.) As I mentioned earlier, connect-time fees for use of the Net, in the current climate of decreasing state and federal support for higher education, would almost certainly cut off access to our students and faculty.

Dr. Steve Walter, Dean  
Academic Support Services  
Tri-County Technical College  
P.O. Box 587  
Pendleton, SC 29670-0587  
803/646-8361 ext. 2253  
FAX 803/646-8256  
swalter@tricty.tricounty.tec.sc.us

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To: alawash@alawash.org  
Subject: Information Superhighway  
Reply-To: jbednar@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu  
From: jbednar@slip1.telesys.edu (James A. Bednar)  
Date: Thu, 14 Apr 94 17:58:10

Regarding:

Sender: Project Gutenberg Email List <GUTNBERG@VMD.CSO.UIUC.EDU>  
From: "Michael S. Hart" <HART@VMD.CSO.UIUC.EDU>

3. We were forwarded a note from the American Library Association, in conjunction with National Library Week, indicating they would like your email suggestions for library applications on the Information Superhighway, which they can then present to the Senate, April 19. They ask that you send your email to the following address, by the 15th, so they will have a chance to sort it out for presentation.

Perhaps the most useful function for the Senate with regard to the threatened Information Superhighway is to have the courage not to jump
in and start organizing things. Someday, maybe, once everything is sorted out, there could be some opportunity for the government to make a further improvement by smoothing out some of the rough edges of the institutions that develop. Until that day arrives, if it ever does, I can’t imagine the government accomplishing anything positive through legislation.

Jim Bednar
The University of Texas at Austin

Date: Sat, 16 Apr 94 13:17:29 CDT
From: "brian" <bjackson@mail.utexas.edu>
To: alawash@alawash.org
Subject: "Information Superhighway"

I don’t know if this is too late, but I didn’t have a chance to check my mail for the past few days, and I just saw the message today.

I really don’t care about selecting the movie I want at any time I want (as the AT&T commercial states) if it means I have to give up the other resources on the net. I can understand the need to go "commercial", but not at the sacrifice of the other information.

I see the internet on the verge of becoming a really useful tool here in the near future. I know it is already useful, but the possibilities are much greater than most people can think of. As a future LIS grad student, I foresee a service which will allow online texts in a matter greater than the Gutenberg Project can provide. While there is a lot of information on the net, the majority just points to where a hard copy is attainable. The existence of a true library computer, will not only provide information about the books a library has in its collection, but allow a service which will allow the actual books to be available online. If a library has acquired a work, I think they should be allowed to provide that work to the same people who can use the library as regular patrons. Just because you have a library card, doesn’t mean that you have to check out the actual book. That limits the number of users of the reference to one (unless multiple copies exist), but with online texts, it allows a greater population to have access to the work.

AT&T had an "Information Superhighway" show at my university a few months ago. They had a system which had online, searchable journals which an organization could subscribe to for $10,000 plus the cost of the journals.
I can see why they would charge for the service, but I don’t see why a library couldn’t have electronic copies of their journals and magazines available for the patrons to use. I believe there can be a better way to handle the distribution of resources throughout the internet. The library could restrict access only to their patrons. Only people associated with the University of Texas-Austin and have an identification card can access the online encyclopedia we have on our libraries computer.

I just think there is a better way around the Big Companies clogging the net with stuff and charging outrageous fees for the services they wish to provide. I feel libraries should work with publishers on developing a standard format for the information they publish, so libraries are available to offer the work to more of the patrons. I know I have repeated myself a few times, but I just feel that the people who have been providing us with information for decades (libraries) shouldn’t be held back with the emergence of the new technology and should continue to provide the information regardless what media it comes on. I think we are in a transition period right now with information access, and we shouldn’t jump on the first thing that comes along. The information will get out, but we have to think about how we want to provide that information. The process has to be looked at carefully, the technology is not cheap, we (also the Congress or whoever) has to look into the future and see what technological changes and advancements lie ahead of use. Thank you for the time. I just hope this gets in before everything is compiled.

brian---
bjackson@mail.utexas.edu
bjackson@utxsvs.cc.utexas.edu
Brian Jackson

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WASHINGTON
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Date: Fri, 15 Apr 1994 08:23:22 -0700
From: "Gerald W. Edgar" <gwe3409@halcyon.com>
To: alawash@alawash.org
Subject: Testimony for National Information Infrastructure Hearings
Cc: gwe3409@atc.boeing.com

I wish to have the following entered into the record as testimony on the National Information Infrastructure hearings.
I name is Gerald W. Edgar, I live in Wasington State. I want to say that I consider it very important for all people to have access to the information infrastructure developed in this country. I take the saying by Jefferson - "that information is the currency of democracy", to be very important. My son, who turned seven this year, is learning this "currency of democracy". He is using the current beginnings of the National Information Infrastructure. The range of information - from astronomy to weather maps is very interesting to him. The range of reading and other material is important to me. I am sending this note from my personal "internet" account. To me the information provided is important and this results from the free and open access to it. I would be disappointed were the promise of this communications medium to be under the control of a few special interests. The free and open access to the medium has a flavor that in my eyes comes to approximate the free and open access to speach and communications people in this country experienced in the first few years - in the time of Jefferson, Adams and Thomas Paine. There are a number of issues to deal with in developing the National Information Infrastructure, and I'm sure there a number of people who are interested in these other aspects, but I am interesed most in the free and open access to it, and I'm looking forward to seeing my son benefit from it as he grows.

As a technical note I and my son have internet access from home using a personal computer using World Wide Web. Even if my son is only seven years old, he has no trouble in starting the computer and accessing the world of internet and the promise it has now.

I am, Sincerly yours,

Gerald W. Edgar
351 Bronson WY NE
Renton, WA 98056

<<<<<<<<<<<MISCELLANEOUS<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 1994 08:54:28 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Keith H. Reeves" <kreeves@CLASS.ORG>
Subject: National Information Superstructure
To: alawash@alawash.org
I want to express my concern that the internet not be overrun by commercial sources. What we have is a wonderful system whereby information is freely available (emphasis on free). Whatever else happens, I do not want to see that changed.

Thank you.

Keith H. Reeves, Ph.D. (kreeves@class.org)
Department of Religion and Philosophy
Azusa Pacific University

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 94 13:45:08 EDT
From: pam@workgroup.com (Pamela Shannon)
To: alawash@alawash.org
Subject: Project Gutenberg

I want to add my voice to others who support Project Gutenberg. It and other Electronic Public Library resources should be preserved.

I think it is important for Email to be readily available to all individuals.

Pam Shannon

Hi; I hear from the Project Gutenberg people that you’re looking for suggestions. The most important thing I can think of is that libraries (preferably *all* the libraries) connect their electronic card catalogs to both the internet (if you’re familiar with Mosaic, it’s a *great* interface), and via dial-in lines. If I could call my local library branch and see if they have a certain book, or if not, who does; that would be great.

One more thing: all the libraries should use the same user interface, so I don’t have to learn a new one every time I connect to a different library. The interface should be screen-oriented, and understand a wide variety of terminal types.
Taxpayers all, we have paid for the development of the information exchange universe and now will be denied the access our underwriting deserves. Instead, having developed this virtual frontier by inhabiting it and integrating it into our daily work and leisure, we face the prospect of seeing what has become a part of our lives transformed into a commodity, owned by corporations profiting from what we, in good faith, had welcomed as a part of the public technological commons. Should this SuperTollRoad become reality, it will constitute nothing less than the basest political betrayal of the commonweal—a betrayal motivated by greed that will inevitably prove more costly than we as a nation can afford. As surely as day follows night, when elected politicians function as hacks for privateers of the net, the net will become the site of escalating _vertical interdiction_ by a growing force of hackers with an arguably just cause. In turn, this will precipitate increased corporate net security (and the loss of ours) with costs of all passed along to us. This is not about free access versus paid access; this is about freedom versus the totalitarianism born of greed.

rmcdonell@ucsd.edu

COUNTRIES

Australia

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 1994 10:56:20 +1000 (EST)
From: Paul W McRandle <pwm613@huxley.anu.edu.au>
Subject: Info Superhighway
To: alawash@alawash.org
To whom it may concern,

I'd just like to add my support to Project Gutenberg's efforts to create etexts freely available to all with internet access. The more that technophilia infects the library system the more that user-pays mentality creeps into library policy - with the accompanying belief that the user should pay for what Microsoft or some other software company has created since these are such handy products. Project Gutenberg should receive the support and funding appropriate for its efforts to get the world's literature out to the world; its idealism is praiseworthy at a time when the world-wide connection of computers only means a vastly increased market to most involved.

Paul McRandle
ANU

Canada

From: Andrew KUCHLING <fnord@binkley.cs.mcgill.ca>
Subject: NII Statement
To: alawash@alawash.org
Date: Thu, 14 Apr 1994 20:31:36 -0400 (EDT)

Good day!

I would like to submit the following as a statement for the ongoing Senate hearings. If you would like to request clarifications or changes to any portion of it, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you very much.

Andrew Kuchling
fnord@binkley.cs.mcgill.ca

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I believe too much attention is being to the flashier aspects of a National Information Infrastructure (NII), such as interactive television and teleconferencing, but two more important issues are being neglected:

1) Too much emphasis is being placed on audio and video data, which requires very costly networks to transmit. Audio/video is more expensive to transmit for two reasons: first, the amount of information in a single second of music or a single frame of video is very large. Data compression will help somewhat, but still, very high-speed networks are required to
transmit information quickly enough. Secondly, the network must operate in real-time; it cannot delay packets of data for half a second, because this will mean a half-second pause in the audio/video. This requires cleverly designed protocols and more elaborate equipment. The current structure of the Internet is fairly simple, mostly because it doesn’t attempt to provide real-time data transfer. Instead, you know that the data will get to its destination eventually, depending on how heavily used the network links are at the moment, but you have no guarantee as to how much time it will take.

But surely audio and video is the most important form of data we can send over the network? I’m not convinced of that. Plain text is very inexpensive to transmit, because it can be compressed to about 30-40% of its original size with little difficulty, and because it doesn’t need to be sent with real-time constraints. In addition, the current form of the Internet can easily transmit text faster than a human can read; rates of 1000 characters/second are easily attained (and are, in fact, slower than the achieved average), and you can sometimes get results of 20000 characters/second or more, even across the continent. Indeed, if we wanted to give every person in North America Internet access, while still keeping the network’s performance at current levels, it wouldn’t be too difficult; we’d simply have to buy more backbone machines and build more connections between them. Little _new_ development would need to be done; current technology would be quite capable of handling it. Audiovisual data, however, requires a leap to new levels of performance, that may not be attainable except at exorbitant cost.

Plain text can be used for almost any kind of document, and is more efficient for many of them. (One cannot imagine sending a copy of Shakespeare’s plays, or a table of census data, in video format; text is the natural medium for this sort of thing.) Plain text’s major advantages are:

* It’s portable; any computer can handle ASCII text, while there are numerous incompatibilities between the formats in which different machines encode floating point numbers, bitmapped graphics, and audio data. Any computer can search, display, and print ASCII text easily using a text editor, word processor, or a textual database program; manipulating more specialized forms of data requires special software (and possibly hardware).

* We can define custom markup languages, which extend the power of pure text greatly. For example, we could define a markup which would indicate italicized text by the following: \textit{Italic text} We can define markups for typographical enhancements (such as italics, boldface, etc.), mathematical formulae, indices, references, footnotes, hypertext-style references, and even simple line drawings. Software running on the receiving computer could then translate the markup into italics, equations or drawings for display purposes. (A well-designed markup language may even be quite readable in its raw, unprocessed state.) It isn’t useful to define a markup language to encode music, photographs, or paintings, because the information content is too great; it’s more efficient to transmit a digitized image or melody. (One solution is to include a markup reference to a digitized film or performance, which neatly links the domains of audiovisual data and textual data.) This doesn’t limit the possibilities of marked-up text very much: works of fiction; mathematics, chemistry, and physics textbooks; tables of census data;
directories of people, places, things; all could be elegantly encoded as plain text, in a suitable
markup language, and transmitted much faster than corresponding audiovisual data.

* ASCII text can be produced with a word processor or text editor, on even the simplest,
cheapest computers. Audio and video requires recording equipment such as video cameras and
microphones, and fairly great skill in their use. This means that private individuals will find it
much easier to produce textual data than audiovisual data, which will remain the province of
corporate entities and a few of the wealthier individuals. It's relatively easy to sit down and type
out a good short story or a well-written essay; it's much harder to make a videotape, and to
make one that can compete with commercial offerings is practically impossible. Ignoring the
possibilities of plain text is to ensure that the users of the NII will remain mostly passive
observers.

* Because of the ease of producing text, it's also more common to find text documents
that are freely redistributable. For example, consider the Gutenberg
Project and the Online Book Initiative, two informal volunteer groups that aim to provide
electronic copies of useful texts (such as the Bible, Shakespeare, the works of Mark Twain...).
The goal is to provide a collection of books which can be read, modified, and can be freely
given away to others. Another example are the Frequently Asked Questions lists for the various
Usenet newsgroups, which are collections of useful information; they can be freely copied, with
no significant restrictions. Much of the usefulness of the Internet comes from the vast quantity
of software and text that is accessible, and that has been made freely redistributable by its
authors. If plain text is not an important component of the NII, then such useful collections
of public domain information will not exist; all the data will have been copyrighted by some entity,
and thus will not be legally copyable.

2) Another important issue that has been mostly ignored is that of searching and indexing
the information available. If the NII is operated in the same way that television is, there will
only be some small number of information providers, and each of them will produce catalogs
of their offerings. Third parties can also produce complete listings of everything offered by all
the providers (think of _TV Guide_ magazine).

This model fails utterly for public domain information. There are too many providers,
because every single user is potentially a provider. Let's say I write an interesting document,
such as a collection of poetry, an algebra textbook, a novel, or a book on the natural history of
the area where I live. Let's assume that you would find this document interesting. How will
you find out about it? Corporate providers will not be interested in telling people about my
document; they have their own wares to sell, and won't want to promote my work at their
expense, possibly damaging their own sales of similar offerings. Perhaps third parties will offer
a service similar to the classified section of the newspaper; for a fee, they'll maintain a listing
of my work for some set time. People could come across my listing, and, if interested, they
could go about getting a copy. If I have no money to pay a third party service, however, no one
will learn about my work. If there are many such third party services, you may not hear about
my work because you didn’t look in the right places. Imagine going to the library to look for a book and not finding it, and learning that this is because you didn’t look in the special Catalog of Natural History Books, which is kept completely separate from the library’s main catalog, and isn’t even in the same room!

We need a single master index of the available information. It may not necessarily be centralized, but the effect should be the same: a single place where I can search for pointers to relevant information. Some work is proceeding on this front: Internet services such as Gopher and the World Wide Web are steps in this direction, but searching for information is still a chore in which success is more dependent on experience and luck than the power of the available indexes; also, making people aware of the information I have to offer is not easily done. I do not believe enough attention is being paid to this issue; what’s the point of having megabytes of information available if you can’t locate the data you need? The NII may end up being a huge unstructured mess of random bits of data, which would render it effectively useless for serious use (as opposed to idle amusement).

Date: 15 Apr 94 14:57:22 EDT
From: Jason Scheide <73552.3124@CompuServe.COM>
To: American Library Association <alawash@alawash.org>
Subject: NII Suggestion

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my suggestions about the NII.

I agree with Mr. Hart of project Gutenberg that the individual is likely to be shadowed by companies and governments on the information superhighway.

To fix this problem I think each individual home should be a node of this network. I mean that all the individual’s information will be at his or her home only so that he or she has total control over access to it.

This is impractical for some information but not all. Information that is kept out of the individuals home should only be accessible through the individuals home node. For example if a creditor wants to access a credit history on the person the creditor must go through the person’s home node to do so.

Furthermore, the NII should be setup in such a way that individuals are in control of the network and not large business and governments. Don’t forget about "We the people..."

Thank you.

Sweden
Date: Fri, 15 Apr 94 08:32:12 +0200
From: ath@linkoping.trab.se
To: alawash@alawash.org
Subject: Re: Info Superhighway library applications
Cc: ath@linkoping.trab.se

Dear ALA,

I just see in a e-mail note from Michael Hart, Project Gutenberg, that you want email suggestions for library applications on the Information Superhighway.

Here's mine:

* Developing catalogue coverage

At least, provide the same level of library catalogue coverage that exists just now. Having Library of Congress and the major university library catalogues on-line is an incredible resource for net users.

However, the current state of affairs - lots of separate services - can't continue for very long. Some kind of 'information packetizing' will be necessary.

Some kind of net-based union catalogue would thus probably be the next logical step. At a first glance it seems such an effort would provide very valuable research into how to provide other 'union' services to net users, no matter if the basic service is library catalogue information or anything else.

* Digital microfilm

I've seen somewhere that Library of Congress (?) have started working on 'microfilming' documents electronically rather than photographically by using scanners instead of microfilm cameras.

I hope I'm right about this. If not, perhaps they should start ...

Anyway, since this information is digital, it could easily be made available both on CD-ROMS (which I think was the medium mentioned in the article), as well as over networks. It seems the Information Superhighway would be just the right distribution medium for this kind of information.
It would probably *also* require that e-text copyright philosophy need be researched, as well as e-text royalty mechanisms for networking, both of which areas will be fundamental to a working Infobahn.

Hope this is of any help to you. Good luck with your presentation!

Anders Thulin       ath@linkoping.trab.se     013-23 55 32
Telia Research AB, Teknikringen 2B, S-583 30 Linkoping, Sweden