Camille's Comments

Computing Equipment Orders
The first round of computing equipment for this fiscal year has been ordered. Cabinet members have received a descriptive summary of the equipment approved for purchase. Following is a list of the microcomputers, printers/scanners, and other systems equipment which are now on order. The Division/Section Heads for the areas indicated will make the final determination regarding the allocation of this equipment in their respective Divisions/Sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Microcomputers</th>
<th>Systems Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gateway P5-133 (staff use)</td>
<td>2GB hard drives for Systems R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway P5-120 (patron use)</td>
<td>8MB upgrades for Systems R&amp;D and Web support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gateway Dimension D5-166 (Pentium 120 with 31&quot; monitor) for use as Instructor's workstation in JD1-107</td>
<td>2 ZIP drives and disks for Systems support/maintenance</td>
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Printers/Scanners

| LaserJet 5SiMX (Adobe Post script, 100,000 pgs/mth, 2,000 sheet paper tray) for use as a networked patron laser printer in the Reference area |
| ScanJet 4C for Web support |
| ScanJet 4C document feeder for ILL's Ariel scanner Requests for a networked laser printer for Admin and a color laser printer for Public Services are still under consideration. |

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Here at UNLV, we will be focusing on developing a user interface for Web-based resources on patron workstations located in the libraries. Patrons who walk into our libraries are considered primary users of library resources. Faculty, staff and students physically located on campus (but

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The Cheyenne Conference
Planning for Internet 2000

On August 8 and 9, FARNET (the Federation of American Research Networks, a non-profit association of technology companies and networks whose mission is advocating Internetworking for the education and research communities) convened a workshop at Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs, CO. Attending were leaders in networking from the higher education community, industry, and government.

All were in agreement that higher education was not being adequately served by the commercial Internet. While higher education was deeply involved with the initial development of the Internet, development now is controlled by the commercial segment. Since "turning off" the NSFnet backbone and allowing the Internet to go commercial, the National Science Foundation has devoted funding and research to the vBNS, high speed networks utilized mostly by supercomputer centers, and not utilized by most higher education entities.

The charge to the Cheyenne attendees was to articulate and refine higher education's networking needs and to begin designing and implementing strategies to fulfill those needs.

One technical proposal for the new Internet, tentatively labeled Internet 2000 or Internet 2, is particularly exciting. Campus ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) networks would connect to GigaPOPs (one gigabit per second switch/router nodes). The GigaPOPs would connect to each other via ATM, and with other Internet service providers as well as the vBNS. This would give enormous bandwidth to the higher education institutions, and would support real time, interactive transmission of text, graphics, audio and video to the desktop, as well as enabling the establishment of true virtual libraries.

Much remains to be accomplished before Internet 2000 becomes a reality, but funding from the NSF could make it a reality within two years. It will be a while after implementation before it reaches down to the level of SCS.

For a rare opportunity to watch the making of a new network that will have a major impact on all institutions, check out FARNET’s Web site at www.farnet.com. Be sure to check out the spiral graphic that was unveiled at Cheyenne; it synthesizes both the history and the future of the Internet.

Kay Tuma

Tech Book Review
Communication Technology Update, 5th Ed. / August E. Grant, editor

This completely rewritten textbook reflects the huge rate of change and gives sound background information on a variety of technologies. Not only is the history, structure and trajectory of each technology outlined in an interesting and intriguing fashion, but a companion homepage was established with the 4th edition, which continues to provide updated information for and from readers. (http://www.fti.com/ctu)

Organized in three sections: electronic mass media, computers and consumer electronics, and telephone and satellite technologies, the categories within each area are analyzed using an umbrella perspective on technology. The amount of research and analysis incorporated into each chapter, as well as the unique opportunity to interact and retrieve more current information online, takes this resource out of the textbook realm and turns it into a valuable reference that anyone committed to developing information and communication access can find useful.

Paulette Nelson
"The time to test such a prototype is before we put it out for patron use."

Comments...

Continued from Page 1

not standing in our libraries) compose an important second group of users. Finally the challenge of providing authorized access to Web-based resources for the campus community and members of the public who wish to search these resources via an Internet service provider comprise the final user group.

We will use NEON 1.2 indefinitely so patrons with slower modems, or who do not have access to PPP or SLIP accounts, can continue to search NEON from home. Also, the character-based NEON 1.2 is much better suited for patrons with sight impairments, as screen enlargers and software that reads the text of a screen to the user are better utilized in a line-by-line, character-based system which we have with NEON 1.2.

John Fox has begun working on a prototype workstation that will utilize Netscape as the user interface. A subcommittee of the Technology Committee will develop a set of HTML screens that will be loaded onto the prototype patron workstation. Reference staff have asked that the prototype workstation be installed at the Reference desk so staff can rigorously test the functionality of the user interface. "The more we run the prototype patron workstation through its paces, the better," said John. "The time to test such a prototype is before we put it out for patron use." Many of our current NEON resources, like Britannica Online, have Web interfaces. Others, like the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District OPAC, are text-based. We will continue to use NEON 1.2 to access these resources.

The libraries involved are UNLV, University of Nevada, Reno, Community College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin Community College, Western Nevada Community College and Truckee Meadows Community College.

Camille Clark Wallin