AARNET PROJECT SUBMISSION

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Computer Centre
Electronic Communication Group

Proposal for AARNet Project Funding

April 1991

"Production of a Training Video for Promoting Access
to Computer Networks Via the Australian Academic and Research Network."

Objective

To promote the use of computer networks and the facilities which are available, both within and outside the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. The principle objective is to produce a training video which can be used by students and staff as a introduction to using mail, news and file transfer capabilities. A consequential by-product of this video will be the promotion of the Australian Academic and Research Network. The video while based upon RMIT will be broadly based and suitable for use by other organisations.

Introduction

The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology has had a long involvement in wide area computer networking dating back to its central role in VICNET, one of the first wide area networks in Australia. In addition, RMIT has a significant reputation for its production of professional quality video training material (attachment 1) through its Communications Services Unit. The coupling of RMIT's experience in computer networking with this major capability in video production provides an ideal environment for the production of technically based video training material.

The key motivation for producing a training video highlighting computer networking and the facilities available has been the continuing demand from non-technical users at RMIT for information relating to using RMITs own internal network and AARNet. Due to limited resources it has been difficult to satisfy this demand beyond providing training seminars and printed instructional material. Experience gained by the Educational Research and Development Unit at RMIT has indicated the value of video material, particularly in the area of Tutored Video Instruction. It is intended that the proposed video should not stand completely alone but should be used by the Human Development Unit at the time of staff induction and for subsequent staff development programmes which are offered through this unit. Printed material would also be produced which would directly complement and reinforce the video material.

Scope of Proposal

An initial structure has been developed in consultation with the producer and script writer from the Communications Services Unit. The following sections and sub-sections represent an initial framework with which the script writer will develop the overall story board.

1. An introduction to Computer Networking
   - i.   Local Area Networking at RMIT - The Local Area Network Development Project
   - ii. Networking in Australia - The Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet).
   - iii. World Wide Networking - The Internet, US and European Networks.

2. An Overview of the Services Available
   - i.   Remote Access - Across RMIT, Australia and the World
   - ii. Electronic Mail
   - iii. Electronic File Exchange
   - iv. News

3. Getting Started
   - i.   Gaining access to the network - Obtaining a User Account
   - ii. Accessing a network host
     - * Using a standard terminal
     - * An IBM or compatible networked PC
     - * An Apple Macintosh
   - iii. Logging On - Basic UNIX Commands
   - iv. Using Mail Command - Sending, Receiving and Saving Mail.
   - v.   Transferring files from a remote site.

4. Summary and Related Issues
  i.   Network Potential
  ii. How to find people - Directory Services
  iii. Library Services
  iv. Help Services.

Costing

To fund the production of the training video the sum of $5000 is requested from the AARNet educational, promotional and development fund. This sum will be spent internally within RMIT using the facilities of the Communications Services Unit (CSU). The CSU provides a range of media services to the RMIT community; these include printing, graphics, desk top publishing, photography, and television production. The television facilities include two large broadcast quality standard studios and editing suites. The Communications Services Unit operates on a full cost recovery basis, however, the costing detailed below for the production of the proposed video is modest in comparison with commercial rates and production costs. The production costs associated with producing the video are:

Scripting			$ 240
Videoing	Labour	$ 520	
	Video Tapes	$ 230	
	Equipment	$ 350	
			$1100
Editing			$2500
Tapes and Music Copyright			$ 320
Announcer (proposed voice over)			$ 340
Contingency			$ 500
		Total	$5000

It has been indicated at pre-production meetings that the use of computer graphics would be highly desirable. The contingency identified in the above costing is an estimate of the cost associated with the production of a simple animated graphic sequence. This sequence will be produced on a Silicon Graphics Iris Workstation which is currently available through the Graphics Department of the Communications Services Unit.

Conformance to Guidelines

Based upon the general guidelines for AARNet Project funding the above proposals falls primarily into the area of education and promotion. The video is of national benefit in that it will not be RMIT specific due to the general nature of the information presented. The provision of complementary printed material (to be funded by RMIT) will provide an ideal and cost effective instructional package which can be distributed widely within the AARNet Community.

Contacts

Graeme Knox

Manager

Computer Centre

Phone 660 2292

E-mail rxxgjk@minyos.xx.rmit.oz.au

Allan Young

Head

Electronic Communications Group

Computer Centre

Phone 660 2799

E-mail rcoay@possum.ecg.rmit.oz.au

Dr. Jim Beck

Head

Communications Services Unit

Phone 660 2025

Postal Address

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

GPO Box 2476V

Melbourne, 3001

Victoria, Australia

Attachment 1.

Communications Services Unit

1.Staff

The Communications Service Units the media design and production centre for RMIT. The Unit employs 60 persons full-time and in video there are 4 media consultants/producers and a technical support staff of 6.

2. Facilities

All video material is recorded on 3/4" BVU high band. There are 2 VHS off-line editing suites and 2 on-line editing suits. One on-line suite controls production in a large television studio. Supplementing the large studio are 2 professional audio booths with multi-track recording facilities.

3. Awards

The Unit has proven expertise in the development of telecourses, documentaries and teleconferences and has been a regular contributor to SBS National Television for three years.

The Communications Services Unit has won 4 ASET (Australian Society of Educational Technologists) awards in recent years viz:

> Fish Retailers - Do It Right 1983
>
> The Plasterboard Story - 3 Part Telecourse 1990
>
> A Mind For Maths - Documentary 1990
>
> Take Care - Chronic Transfusion (Applied Science) 1990
>
> A training Package for Medical Laboratory Scientists and Red Cross Staff

4. Video Productions

The Unit has produced over 500 original titles in video and slide tape, many of which are training videos. Of special note are:

> Mobile Radiography
>
> Digital Imaging
>
> Mammography Workshop
>
> High Resolution Ultrasound
>
> Computer Tomography
>
> Tracheotomy Procedure
>
> Transport Management
>
> Assertive Management
>
> Overseas Marketing
>
> Management Accounting - 20 part telecourse
>
> Slipform - Technique for High Rise Construction
>
> Information Technology
>
> Bay in Crisis (Toxicity studies of Port Phillip Bay)