purpose in the design of both expert and conventional computer systems.[5]

Acknowledgements

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Announcements

15–18 JULY 1991

Multi-Media Information: The Second International Information Research Conference

Churchill College, Cambridge

Sponsored by the British Library Research and Development Department and the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science

The Theme

Many of the IT systems currently in use owe much of their character to earlier research into the handling of purely textual and numeric data. With the advent of technologies such as CD-I (compact disc interactive), DVI (digital video interactive) and those allowing the digitisation of large archives of data, there are now opportunities to meet the pressing need to merge many types of data: text, numeric data, graphics, sound, and still and moving images.

Research in the early 1980s resulted in the 'hypertext' concept, which affords the user the ability to construct and read text in non-linear fashion. By extending the hypertext principle to other modes, 'hypermedia' systems have been developed. The earliest commercial applications stemmed from the television industry, with the increasing sophistication of interactive video, and from the education/training industry with computer-based packages. The variety of products now available on optical disc indicates that publishers are also becoming aware of the potential of electronic publication using multi-media.

Adding temporal data types to a database system raises a number of fundamental technical problems. The traditional mechanisms for storage, retrieval, delivery and presentation of these types are not easily integrated with current computer technology. Significant progress must be made in all of these areas before sound and motion pictures can be processed with the same ease and simplicity as we now handle text.

The Audience

Research into multi-media is of interest to anyone concerned with the creation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information in science and technology, arts and humanities, education and training, entertainment, creative leisure, the work environment, and the home environment.

This conference is aimed at promoting serious discussion between researchers, providers and users of information including those working in computer, communication and library sciences. The conference will consist of formal papers and syndicates with ample time for discussion. There will also be an exhibition with the facility for poster sessions.

To ensure effective interaction between delegates, the number of participants will be restricted to 100. The conference proceedings will be published as soon as possible after the event.

Are You Interested?

Would you like to give a presentation on:

● the theory or concept of multi-media information
● organising information for multi-media use
● the impact of the technologies on the research process

● future applications in commerce, industry, science and education
● policy implications for decision makers and researchers?

If so, please send a detailed abstract (100–200 words) upon which your 20-minute presentation would be based, by **16 January 1991**. All authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by **late February 1991**, and those whose papers are accepted will be given a discount of £100 on the delegate fee.

Would you like to take part in the exhibition or present a poster session? If so, please register your interest as soon as possible.

Would you like to attend the conference as a delegate?

The Venue

The conference will be held at Churchill College in the university city of Cambridge, easily accessible by road, rail and air. The College, built in the 1960s as a memorial to Sir Winston Churchill, was the first major work of modern architecture in Cambridge. It has excellent conference facilities with accommodation in single study-bedrooms and is set in grounds of some 42 acres.

Enquiries

For further information on any aspect of the Multi-Media Information Conference, please contact:

Ms Karen Merry, Multi-Media Information Conference, the British Library R & D Department, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH, U.K. Tel: 071 323 7050; fax: 071 323 7251.