

CONTACT US

The eGranary Digital Library is part of the WiderNet Project, which is a service organization based at the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science. The goal of this project is to improve educational communication systems in developing countries.

For more information and partnership ideas, visit the following Web site:

www.widernet.org/eGranary

The WiderNet Project

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THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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>> Storing the Seeds of Knowledge

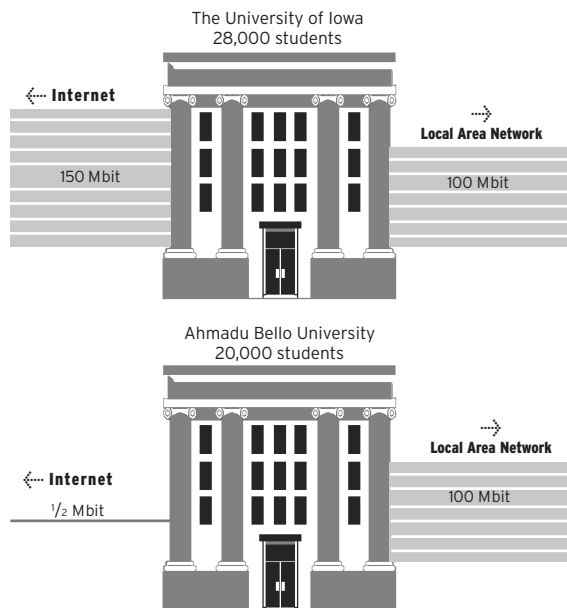


WHY THE eGRANARY

The eGranary Digital Library provides students and scholars in developing countries with inexpensive access to a vast amount of digital educational information available from the Internet and the opportunity to share their knowledge with others around the world.

Through a process of mirroring (copying) Web sites and delivering them to intranet servers inside subscriber institutions, we provide users access to millions of resources over their local area networks at little cost.

Many universities in developing countries do not have Internet connections and, where connections do exist, they are slow, unreliable and very expensive. In most cases, professors and students must pay per minute to be online and, given their slow connections, find it can take days to search a Web site.



Comparing the Internet bandwidth of a typical developing country university to an average U.S. university.

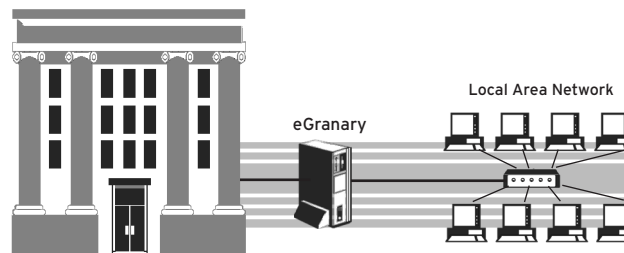
HOW THE eGRANARY WORKS

At its essence, the eGranary Digital Library is an alternative delivery medium for academic Web pages. We do not change the content of the Web pages. We simply deliver a copy so the resources can be quickly accessed and freely shared over the subscriber's local area network (LAN).

Currently, we deliver this information by installing large hard drives on subscriber university servers and update this information by Internet or CD.

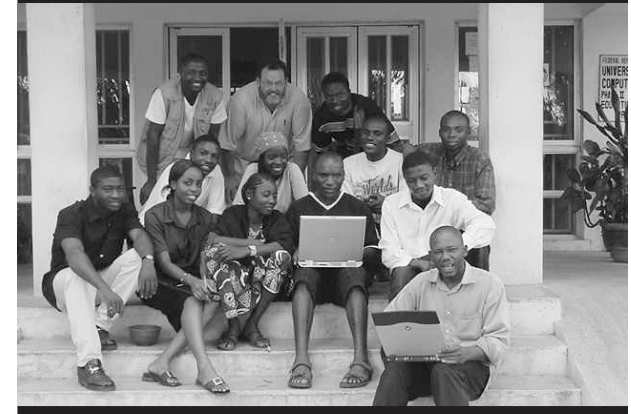
Replacing Bandwidth with Storewidth:

- 500 GB information store inside LAN
- Millions of documents collaboratively collected & maintained
- Multimedia, audio, video at full network speeds
- No bandwidth costs
- Augments a conventional Internet connection



The eGranary gives every networked computer high-speed access to millions of documents and multimedia files – even when the Internet connection is broken.

WHERE THE eGRANARY IS GOING



Currently, the eGranary Digital Library:

- Contains over five million documents.
- Is being used at more than 150 institutions in Africa, India and Bangladesh.
- Represents hundreds of publishers and authors.

By 2006, we expect the eGranary Digital Library:

- To have at least 300 subscribers.
- To be ready with daily satellite updates.
- To contain over 7 million documents.
- To contain many examples of deliverable curriculum.

Our objective is to make the eGranary Digital Library self sustaining in just a few years. For this to happen, we are enlisting the aid of various organizations and volunteers around the globe.

There are a variety of ways that you can be involved with or help support this project including:

- Support hosting the eGranary Digital Library at your favorite institution.
- Provide educational content.
- Share your technical expertise.
- Provide financial support.

Storing the Seeds of **KNOWLEDGE**