

**SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR  
UNIVERSITY OF JOS PROFESSOR MONDAY Y.  
MANGVWAT IN DECLARING OPEN A TWO-DAYS  
INTENSIVE TRAINING ON “DIGITIZING YOUR  
MATERIALS FOR THE WORLD WIDE WEB” ON  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2002, UNIVERSITY  
OF JOS COMPUTER CENTRE**

Principal Officers of the University of Jos,

Our International High-City Expert from the United States of  
America,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the University  
of Jos for the Two-Days Intensive Training on *Digitizing Your  
Materials for the World Wide Web*. There is perhaps no better  
time to discuss digitization, especially in our institutions of  
learning, than now. You are all probably aware that only last

month, the Federal Government announced its plan to embark on a National Virtual Library Project for the country's universities with nine universities selected for the pilot project out of which the University of Jos is one. The thrust of the scheme is to integrate Nigerian academics with their counterparts in other parts of the world in accessing and contributing to knowledge through facilities of the new information and communication technology – the World Wide Web.

Indeed, without gainsaying, it is increasingly becoming difficult to have a meaningful communication – whether for academic, economic, recreation, or other purposes - globally today without an adequate knowledge of the Internet and the World Wide Web. For most of our institutions of learning, private and government organizations in the country, our competency in this new information and communication technology (ICT), when compared to the global trend, is like somebody priding himself in the use of animals (horses, donkeys, etc) as a form of transportation whereas the trend is supersonic jets and trains. It is

therefore for the reason of bringing up our competency, lifting us up from our technological lethargy, and acquiring some measure of skills to ensure these, that I consider this training programme very timely and essential.

I understand that you will be taught topics like: Digital photography, Manipulating digital images, Using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to convert printed materials to editable text, Making basic Web pages, and Integrating databases with your Web site. Please avail yourself of the tremendous opportunity that this Training offers with an international high-city expert from the United States of America and at a comparatively very low cost.

I believe that you will find facilities at the University of Jos Computer Centre adequate. It may please you to know that the University of Jos has direct connectivity to the Internet via a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT). This particular facility should make your training very practical.

You may also take time off to visit the various computer laboratories (- University Library: supported by solar power back up system, Faculties of Education, Environmental Sciences, Law, Medical Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bursary, and Management Information Systems-), which are all part of the vast network on our campus. Only last year, the MIS of the University of Jos was given an award by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology for being the most outstanding unit among MIS units in Nigerian universities.

With all these facilities, I have no doubt that at the end of the training you will have gathered sufficient skills that will enable you to lead our institutions of learning as well as corporate organizations in contributing Nigerian content to the maze of knowledge on the World Wide Web that is presently biased towards the West. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I declare the training workshop opened.

Thank you.