

**School of Information
Information Technology Vision Plan
FY 2003-2004**

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Executive Summary

The FY 2003-2004 Vision Plan describes nine projects and continued infrastructure improvements for a total request of \$155,350 including the permanent allocation of \$63,000.

IT Expenditures

A financial report detailing IT expenditures was submitted to Dan Updegrave, V.P. for ITS in January 2003. A copy of this report is attached with this document.

IT PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING 2001-2003

CLASSROOMS: PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL

1. Teaching Consoles in Physical Classrooms

By the end of this fiscal year two iSchool classrooms and one seminar room will be fully equipped with teaching consoles and ceiling mounted projectors. Consoles and projectors can be moved to prospective new quarters in PCL. Both classrooms (SZB 468 and 464) will be outfitted with automatically locking and unlocking doors that enhance security in as well as control access to these rooms.

2. Distance Education and Learning at a Distance

In the Fall 2002 semester the faculty of the School of information voted to discontinue admitting students to its distance-learning program in El Paso due to a drop in El Paso area enrollment and increased expenses in the delivery of such services. Nonetheless, frequent use has been made of a high-end telephone conferencing system to bring in "guest experts," as well as the occasional out-of-town student. ISchool faculty members have developed approximately five unique mostly Web-based courses including multiple sections of Information in Cyberspace (LIS312).

3. Digital Asset Management Collaborations

Several collaborative projects continue as "works in process" at the time of this report. The Texas Legacy Project, a Texas Conservation Oral and Video History has been mounted on the iSchool servers and several classes are making use of the collection for 1) projects in digitization and 2) usability testing and design. Please see <http://www.texaslegacy.org/> for more information. Work has also begun on a video and Web documentation project of the history of the Web at UT.

PERSONNEL

During fiscal year 2002-2003 the primary funding source for IT staff salaries came from a combination of IT Vision and IT Fee accounts. This included moving the expense of one-half of IT Lab Teaching Assistant salaries and fringe benefits to Vision funds. The permanent allocation of \$63,000 from ITAC is crucial to supporting the technologies and projects discussed in this report. With the appointment of Rice-Lively as Associate Dean, many of her IT-related responsibilities cascaded to the two senior IT staff, Quinn Stewart and Shane Williams. Making their positions critical to the overall functioning of technology-based instruction, computing and networking technology services in the School. The positions include: Sr. Network Analyst (Systems Administration); Information Analyst (Day-to-day tech support for faculty, staff, and IT lab); Computer Systems Development Specialist (Technology and instruction, management of IT Lab, Web-based instruction for Undergraduates); Microcomputer Application Specialist (20/week Web manager.) The School completely revamped its Web site, as well as retrofitted the site to reflect the new name of the School and the new domain name (ischool.utexas.edu).

PROJECTS: INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Created a soundproofed multimedia production room from a long narrow closet.
2. Replaced servers for online tutorials and lab PC software images.

3. Created a server room out of a storage room formerly used for student files.
4. Upgraded classroom demo machines and projectors.
5. Increased number of digital video cameras and digital still cameras for the use of students in Multimedia Design and Production as well as "Information in Cyberspace" classes.
6. Upgraded demo equipment and classroom setup in the Collection Deposits Library for the Preservation and Conservation Studies Program.
7. Shared cost of new switch for College of Education for Gigabit Ethernet.

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR FY 2003-2004

The proposed projects listed below are provided in priority order.

Project	Estimated Cost
Digital Video Library	\$6,500
Document Cameras	\$7,500
Portable Usability Lab	\$20,000
Photo and Text Digitization	\$4,500
Network Attached Storage	\$20,000
Voice Recognition	\$1,650
Sound preservation	\$14,700
CDL Wireless	\$2,500
Film to Video Conversion	\$15,000
Permanent allocation	\$63,000
TOTAL REQUEST	\$155,350

1. **Digital Video Library Project.** The goal of the project is to establish campus-wide policies for the management of video collections as well as procedures for digitizing, managing, and utilizing digital video collections. The project will provide a test bed for digital library research and development. Additionally, collection development and management projects will provide an instructional laboratory for students in the School of Information. \$6,500.
2. **Document Cameras for Classroom Teaching Consoles.** This project will add document cameras to our teaching classrooms. \$7,500.
3. **Portable Usability Lab.** ISchool students and faculty will have access to state-of-the-art usability testing equipment for class projects relating to the Digital Knowledge Gateway, as well as student involvement in other usability research projects. \$20,000.
4. **Photo and Text Digitization.** This project will provide scanners for student use capable of batch processing both pictures and text artifacts. \$4,500.
5. **Network Attached Storage.** This project will provide iSchool students with access to a networked video storage repository to safely backup student video projects. \$20,000.
6. **Voice Recognition for Captioning and Accessibility.** Recent Federal requirements mandate the inclusion of synchronized captions for multimedia content. This project will purchase and evaluate the use of voice recognition software and digital voice recorders for use in automating the production of transcripts necessary to provide captioning for multimedia materials, particularly online tutorials and digital transcription of oral history materials. \$1,650.
7. **Sound Preservation Equipment.** SI continues to develop courses devoted to sound restoration and archiving. This project will purchase additional computers dedicated to sound preservation for student use, and the necessary hardware and software to support them. \$14,700.
8. **Wireless Network to CDL.** Upgrade switch and related hardware in CDL to accommodate wireless connectivity for students and faculty in the Preservation and Conservation Studies Program \$2,500.
9. **Film to Video Conversion Equipment.** Conversion of archival films to digital video for improved access and preservation is the focus of this project. SI will purchase and teach students how to do telecine conversion of a variety of film formats. \$15,000.