

Overview

- My interest in African development
- The WiderNet Project
 - The Internet in Developing Countries
 - The Bandwidth Conundrum
 - The eGranary Digital Library



**Wellspring
Africa**









Internetworks in International Development



- Offered first in Summer of 1995
- Taught simultaneously with the University of Jos
- Correspondence students from three continents
- Providing students with first-hand, unmediated interactions with cohorts in developing countries
- Expanding the classroom beyond our campus

Fulbright Year – 1999/2000

- University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
- Teaching about computers and networking
- ICT internship program
- Interviewing university administrators throughout the country
- Saw a need for a coach/advocate

WiderNet

Coating a Wider Net

.Org



The WiderNet Project

- Since 2000, building capacity at African institutions for academic collaborations
- 8,000+ participants from 27 universities in Nigeria, Ghana, East Africa, and India (~40% women)
- Collected over \$2,500,000 in new & used hardware, software. Refurbished and shipped 1,600+ used computers for partner universities in Africa
- Volunteers have put in over 30,000 hours
- Focus on practical, cost effective solutions
- Helping to build a digital culture (best practices, user groups, student internships, gender equity...)
 "see one – do one – teach one"

The eGranary Digital Library

“The Internet in a Box”™





Seeking Passionate Partners

- A not-for-profit service project
- Believe that information access is important for all populations
 - Primary, secondary, tertiary education
 - Health care, legal services, public libraries
- Recognize that inexpensive information delivery is key
- Ready to contribute to serve the information poor

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A service program of SILS that conducts research and development into solutions for underserved communities, including the continued development of the eGranary Digital Library. Provides multi-modal training to library and information professionals worldwide, prototypes innovative hardware and software solutions, and disseminates research into best practices for global information access.



widernet
Casting a Wider 'Net.

A non-profit organization that manufactures and distributes the eGranary Digital Library and provides training and computer labs for subscribers.



Internet

Curb your Enthusiasm

