



# 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

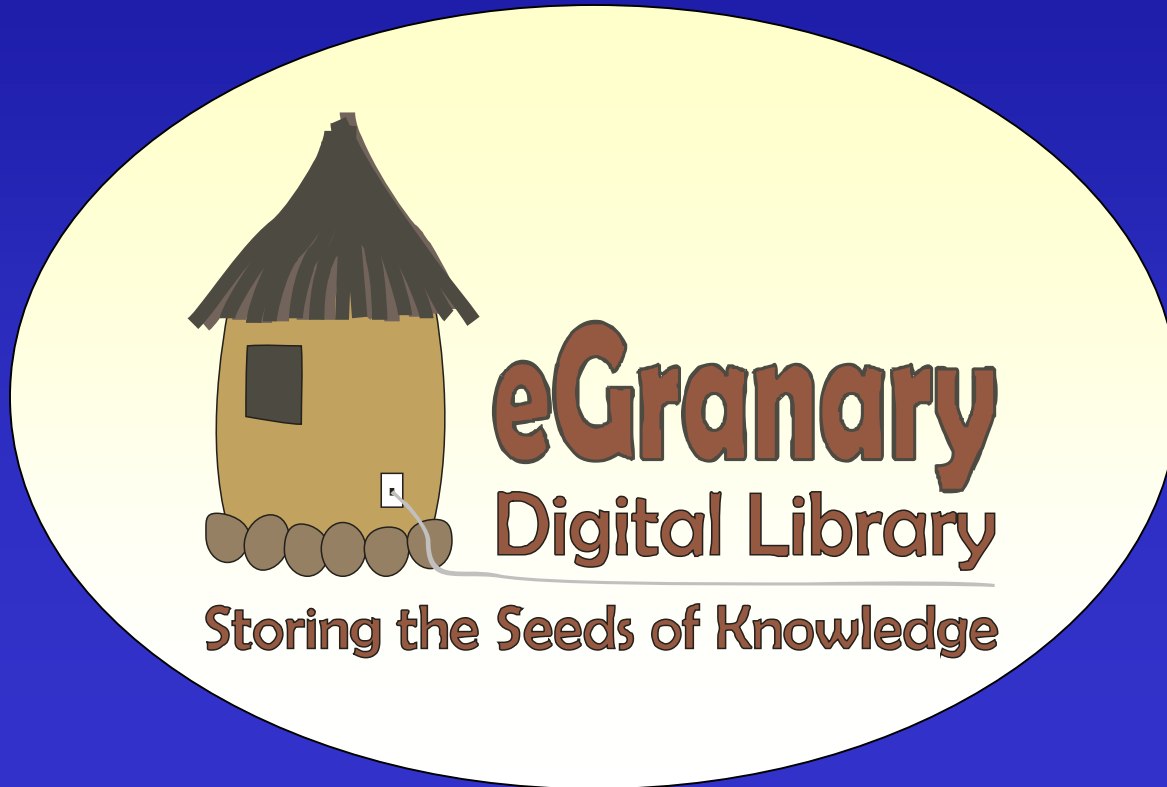


# WiderNet

- Since 2000, building capacity at African institutions for academic collaborations
- 10,000+ 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 80,000 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”

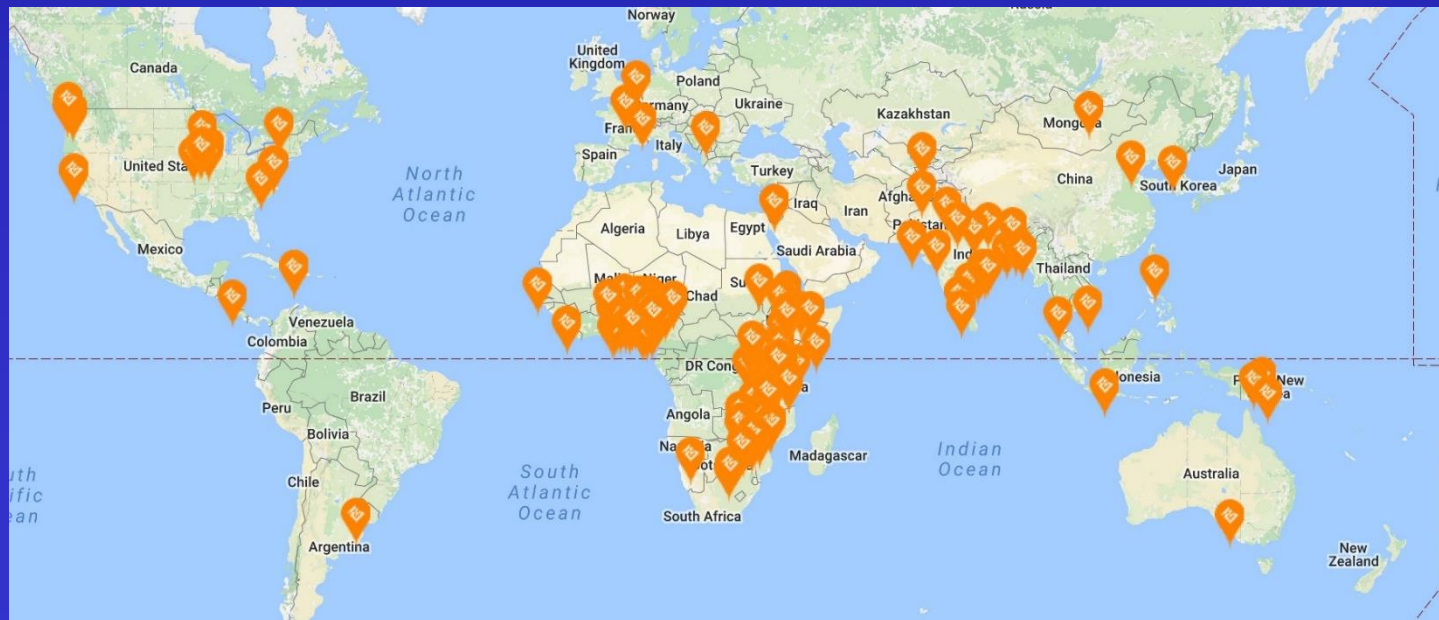
# The eGranary Digital Library

“The Internet in a Box”™



# The eGranary Digital Library

- Completely offline
- 12TB drive
- Latest “big grabs”: TED Talks, World Bank
- Over 2,000 installations worldwide
- 30 prisons in the U.S.





# 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



# widernet@UNNC

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.



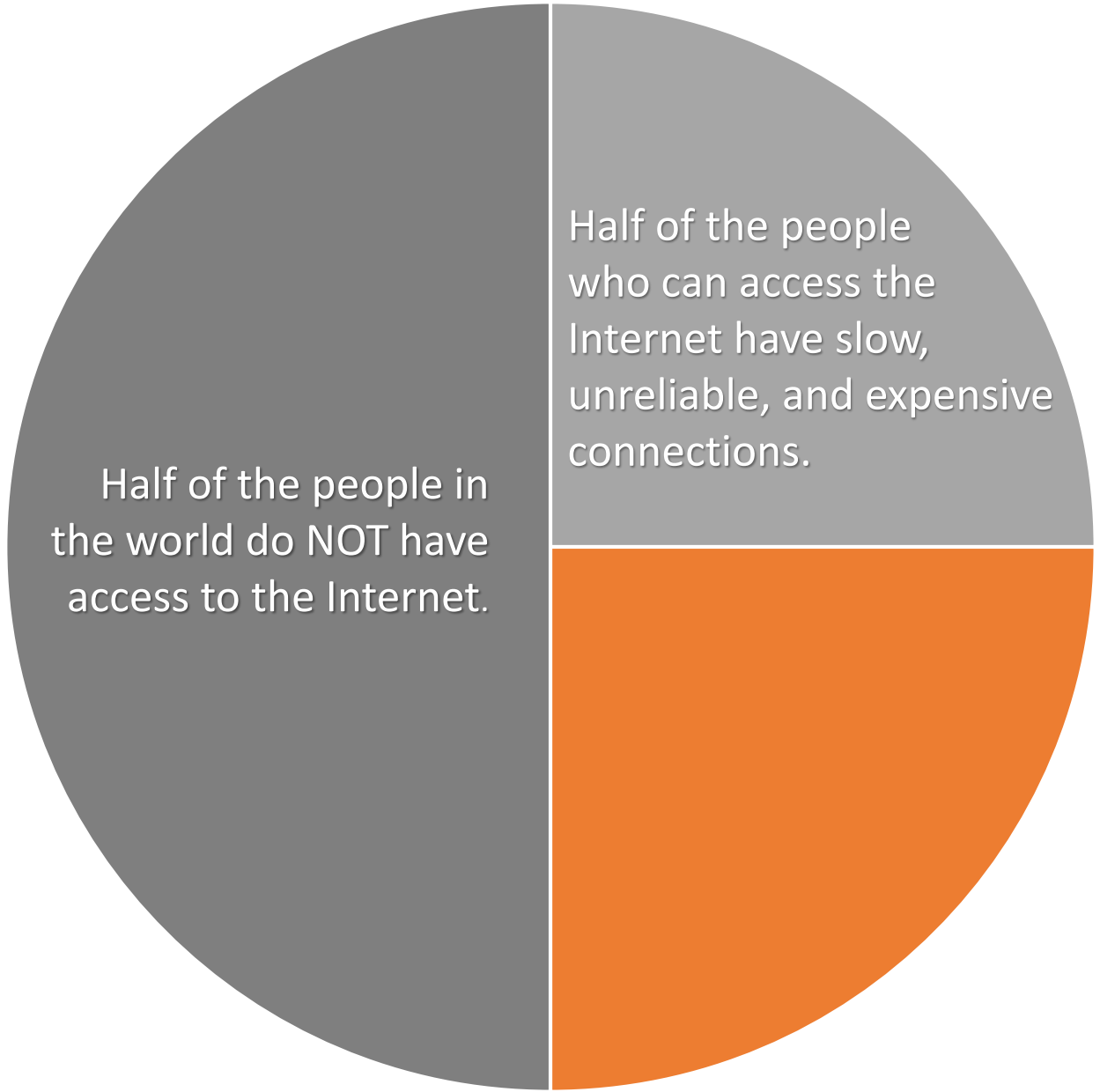
widernet™  
*Casting a Wider 'Net.*

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



**Internet**

**Curb your Enthusiasm**



Half of the people in the world do NOT have access to the Internet.

Half of the people who can access the Internet have slow, unreliable, and expensive connections.

# A 50/50 Proposition

- The Internet is 50 years old
- 50% of people in the world have access
- 50% of those who are connected find it expensive and slow
- The easy networking's been done
- We need new, affordable solutions to serve the poor

# Offline Web

## Two phenomena:

- Information, born digital or digitized, more affordable and sustainable
- Interconnected local area networks (Internet) makes it easier to broadly deliver digitized information
- A powerful marriage of technologies.
- Offline schemes utilize digitized information over local area networks. Same concept, but limited to a narrow range.

# It's All About the Data

- Tracking various sources of content
- Tracking publishers and permissions
- Managing processes (downloads, etc.)
- Wikipedia = terabytes of data to download and import into databases
- Search engine and custom catalog