
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 12, 2004
TO: Mr. Kurt Moellering, English 302 Instructor
FROM: Adam Roszay (9:50 Section)
SUBJECT: **Research Proposal**

This memorandum will indicate why the proposed project should be carried out. One could vaguely describe my idea as a means by which to spread information. However, no justice is done for the depth of the concept by such descriptions. The creation of an organization is what I am proposing as the main idea here. In order to understand what exactly I mean by the creation of an organization, **understanding the deep implications and scale of this proposal is first required.** Taken out of this scale of context, the proposal cannot be understood; therefore many references are made to guide you along in understanding the abstractness of the proposed research request. I'll begin by briefly mentioning the attitude and structure of the proposed organization. The organization will be a **group of individuals dedicated to the uplifting of mankind.** With this attitude, the goal of the organization will be **to research the most efficient method of communicating humanities knowledge to other humans.** Without getting any further into the specifics, I will now truly introduce the scale of what I'm talking about so that you may get a better understanding of the purpose of this organization.

Introduction

Investigation into human history has pointed out specific advances that have raised the potential of communication among our species. The list of people that have contributed into the efforts of investigating humanities' past is quite exhaustive, and in this paper is assumed to be knowledge that is available in the public domain. Among the key advances that contributed to the rapid growth of human communication are the development of spoken language, the development of written language, the development of the printing press, and the development of digital information processing. Each advance effectively minimized the distance and time to communicate ideas between individuals and societies. We are at a point in time where technology communicates information from literally one side of the world to the other almost instantaneously. At no other time in human history have we been able to communicate with such speed as today.

With the introduction of the World Wide Web in 1996, humanity gained the means by which to transmit information in various forms on a global scale instantaneously. Global awareness is rapidly growing among human beings on a daily basis. This can be shown by the growing amount of publications which speak of global awareness available on the internet itself and available in published literature. The significance of the power in the level of communication that we hold today must not be taken for granted. The ideas of global awareness are not new to the human mind, yet what is new are **the means that we are able to communicate** these ideas.

I propose that **action must to be taken** to take advantage of our own evolution into global communication. Currently, the Lyndon LaRouche Youth Movement operates in an atmosphere that is suitable for such action. The group's purpose is to investigate the creation of a society that revolves around natural law. They do this by studying classically based ideas such as poetry, geometry, scientific investigation, and Socratic dialogue. They maintain the idea that leadership is a quality of thinking that can demonstrate to another human mind truth. Motivated by the love of mankind, the youth movement sees a need for a society that will allow for the communication of 'higher' thought. The current and emerging technologies are increasingly seen as necessary to further develop global communication in **understanding the nature of the universe**.

I propose that the current members of the LaRouche Youth Movement take advantage of the technological power available and **participate in serious investigation into uplifting mankind** to its fullest potential. Our capabilities as humans clearly advance on a daily basis, year after year records of previous human accomplishments are broken and therefore our abilities to have an effect in the universe increase. **I propose a framework/organization be established by the youth movement, where a formal evaluation of the techniques used to investigate the nature of the universe can be conducted.** I will talk more in depth on my proposal to research such a framework after I discuss some background and current issues.

Background Information - Literature Review

Research and investigations into matters of global awareness has made others aware of the need for a system where ideas and knowledge can be exchanged in a way that is prosperous to humanity. Authors of the paper "Knowledge Building Environments: Extending the Limits of the Possible in Education and Knowledge Work" by Marlene Scardamalia and Carl Bereiter clearly see the need for an **environment that promotes knowledge building**. The United States Navy even has a publication available on the web describing the upcoming turn of events and advancements in technology that will radically transform our world. The following excerpt is taken from *Technology for the United States Navy and Marine Corps, 2000-2035 – Becoming a 21st-Century Force - Volume 2: Technology*

"During the next three decades, revolutionary developments are expected in several areas of science and technology that will enhance human performance and significantly benefit the naval forces...Changes in technology are usually nonlinear and nonperiodic, whether evolutionary, revolutionary, or serendipitous; efforts to predict future developments are generally suspect...What cannot be anticipated, of course, are scientific and technological breakthroughs that accelerate the pace of change and redirect the course of future events...Within a decade, most of the world's population will have access to the Internet, and the Internet will access most of the major public databases in the world. This explosion of global information and rapid information availability is already altering, in very fundamental ways, the education process at the elementary, secondary, and college level...The coming age of global connectivity and accessibility will cause a reevaluation of traditional organizational structures that are shaped in part by the traditional means of communication among its members. People will become increasingly able to obtain and act on information individually without need of supervision or organizational infrastructure."

These statements are literally the observations that intelligence in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have gathered about the impact of technology on human performance. **The framework that I propose falls in the category of emerging technologies that this document describes.** However, there is a **fundamental flaw** in the purposes that the United States Navy and Marine Corps have in mind with the emerging technologies. For instance, the above mentioned article also describes:

“These developments will have a significant impact on the performance of naval personnel, including improved operational readiness, on-site/on-demand training, and enhanced quality of life. These advances, however, will be driven by commercial applications, independent of military interests, and it will be the responsibility of the Navy and Marine Corps to exploit the benefits of these developments and adapt them to suit their unique needs.”

It is publicly known information that the United States military is granted the biggest budget from all the divisions that get funding from the government. Why are technologies that can improve the quality of life for human beings constantly being used to engage in warfare among other human individuals? Why isn't there an **equal effort in the amount of resources spent in investigating human development**? The need to spend serious resources into the overall uplifting and stability of mankind on a global scale is ever increasing. The pre-defined purposes of the military are specifically counter-productive in the upbringing of the human condition. Humanity has been engaged in war from the dawn of time, and the recent onslaught of global terrorism is a sign that war merely breeds hate and more war. **A purpose other than war must be behind my proposed framework into the investigations of these awesome technologies.**

The scientific novel *The Living Energy Universe*, by Gary Schwartz Ph.D. and Linda Russek Ph.D., comments on such an observation, “What organization or person is going to fund serious research on universal memory and ancient languages, especially in today's scientific and financial climate? It will take a special calling of a dedicated person or group who understands and shares the vision, and is in a position to do something about it.” **I propose the youth movement be the dedicated group to take up this call and correctly steer scientific research in today's financial climate.**

Current Issue on the Table

To keep this topic within a scope that is relevant and **addresses the current state of affairs**, I will outline a few key issues that have been discussed in the current circles involved in the **emerging technologies that will be responsible for the uplifting of mankind**. I will start with an article on the founder of the Web, Tim Berners-Lee, who spoke at a technology conference at MIT which was covered by the September 30th, 2004 edition of the Boston Globe. The title of the article reads “Founder of Web envisions a new era – Key tech players urged to cooperate” and which briefly mentions Tim Berners-Lee's message and insights into the future technologies of the web. “Rather than merely navigating their way via Web links to information related to their interests, Web surfers should be able to manipulate it to intelligently steer them to data with specific meaning to that person, he said” This is one example of how the fundamental method of information retrieval (IR) on the Web will change. What is being proposed here is basically a way to assign meaning to an individual's search query, to the affect that **the information the individual receives is actually relevant** to him/her.

A comprehensive overview of the failures and problems in IR is studied in the technical paper *Information Retrieval and the Philosophy of Language* written by David C. Blair. He discusses the failures of description and the differences between description and discrimination in IR. He also goes through an in depth overview on the meanings of words and how that relates to information retrieval. **He centers his argument on the basis that a proper information retrieval system is needed to profoundly enable us to expand our abilities beyond the current levels. No such system exists today.** In his discussion on externalism and the philosophy of language, Blair says,

“If we do not have a paper and pencil handy, we quite literally, *cannot think*-the pencil and paper become a *sine que non* for thought itself. Today, we have many such tools essential for thought: computers, databases...and so on. None of us remembers everything he or she needs to conduct our daily affairs. Books, databases, and personal computers become necessary extensions of our memories. Without these implements, we would not be able to think the way we do.”

Blair points out an important connection between advances in communication and human behavior. **We should indeed take advantage of such powerful tools and apply it to efficiently share knowledge about the nature of the universe.** Blair warns however, that in order for the ‘extensions of our memories’ to work, they must “supplement, support, or extend our actual cognitive process.” For example, the current methods employed in searching the internet are designed to result in documents that do have the requested information within them. However, **these methods also fail in enabling the user to adequately keep the irrelevant information from being retrieved.** Therefore, how we think about retrieving information is determined by the system itself and not the human individual. **This needs to change so that the system actually assists the individual in their goals rather than hinder them.**

Another issue brought up in the technical paper, *The Concept of Information* written by Rafael Capurro and Birger Hjørland, is **how exactly is someone to go about defining what information is, in an all encompassing way that applies to all humans.**

“Because there are many kinds of release mechanisms developed in biology, in the human mind, in cultures, and in technologies, different sciences tend to work with different concepts and theoretical frames of reference. Information can and should thus be studied within a network of different disciplines, not just by “information science.””

This statement is made after an exhaustive review of the different historical aspects of information and how it has been defined and used in different fields of study. The significance of having a joint collective working on the problems of defining information is best understood in the authors’ conclusions at the end of the paper:

“What we regard as information should also be a reflection of the social role of the information system...Building networks is basically an interpretation process. Building a scientific network as a self-reflective activity presupposes the clarification of common concepts. One such concept is information.”

This shows the level of complexity in deciding how information should be defined. **The research that the proposed organization conducts will encounter this difficulty** and therefore will be an integral part of the organization itself.

Potential Ideas for Recommendations

Based on the works and ideas I mentioned above, there is due cause to solve those issues. **I propose investigation and research be conducted on two recommendations to assist in solving these issues.** My primary recommendation is to initialize an organizational structure by which evaluation of advancements in these problems can be effectively measured.

The following are the key concepts that are at the center of the organization:

- A ‘core group’ of individuals that assist in project management
- A unique evaluation procedure that assists in the evolution and evaluation of organizational goals
- A ‘lead by example’ mentality that will drive each individual’s contributions and also form the external structure of the organization

Further inquiries into the specifics of the organization and framework should refer to the object description I have attached to this proposal. **Understanding the reasoning behind the organization is of prime importance, rather than understanding the organization itself.** If the fundamental concepts are truly understood, then it is clear that **action must be taken to create an organization to research and invent a system that allows for efficient distribution of human knowledge. I propose the creation of such an organization. The details within the framework is something that can be discussed in the future and it should be made clear that my proposal has no intention to specifically define this organization as that is the exact problem that I propose requires research.**

The second recommendation’s nature springs from this organizational structure and its purpose is to investigate possible means of the emerging technologies in autonomous agents in assisting IR. The reason for targeting research in agent technology is basically the discovery of the unknown. Agent technology is at its infant stages and if investigated properly at this time, may yield profound insights into communicating human knowledge. Current research involving agents has led to some pretty remarkable results without exhausting the full potential of this technology. **Therefore, I believe under the supervision of the proposed organization that further research into the uses of agents in information retrieval will bring about the type of uplifting of mankind I discuss earlier in this proposal.**

This is a difficult concept to grasp and feedback would be greatly appreciated if I could clarify any confusing issues that remain. I can be reached by telephone at (617) 899-0599 or via e-mail at arosszay@coe.neu.edu. Thank you for your patience and open mindedness while reviewing this proposal.