Multi-Media Library Proposal

A library ought to serve the purpose of allowing students to gain understanding through research while promoting their literacy through the content available at their fingertips. Attaining computer literacy should be a priority for any educational institution since knowledge and mastery of computer skills have become mandatory for any kind of meaningful career in the 21st century. Many students already have the requisite skills on which to build based on the many hours they already spend in front of a computer.

A new paradigm of literacy is taking shape which takes into account the transfer of written and spoken language into media such as film, video and web based content. At Cesar Chavez/Harriet Tubman High School our students will use the Multi-media Library to make themselves literate in every sense of the word.

Configuration

Students and teachers will have access to 6 IMac (20") workstations which will be permanently fixed to tables in the library. An additional iMac attached either to a kiosk or a separate table will serve as the instructor/lab supervisor's machine. This machine will be attached to an LED projector and could also project images on a 60", high definition monitor. The master controller iMac will require no additional hardware modifications, and can with its native software serve to monitor the other machines, and restrict access to secure sites within the existing firewall.

There are several advantages of the iMac over our existing, somewhat antiquated PC's. First, the superior clock speed of the processor (intel Core) in the iMac will make internet connectivity quick and seamless. Second, the video card in the iMac needs no additional installation and can make uploading and downloading of video through internet, firewire or USB a simple process. Finally, the iMac ships with an impressive software bundle ideally suited for multimedia presentations that includes: Powerpoint, Microsoft Word, iMovie, iWeb, iPhoto, iDvd and Garage Band. In other words, the iMac is ready to create a multi-media presentation as soon as you take it out of the box with no additional software installation necessary.

Cost

This estimate will cover only the computers and not the dual remote projection screens, projectors and other refitting which will take place in the library.

7 iMac 20-inch Computers @ $944 = $ 6,608
(order code ZOJT)

Included in this price will be, monitors (which house the CPU), keyboards and the aforementioned software bundle.

Narrative

Los Angeles is the home of a multi-billion dollar film industry. With mega blockbusters like "Avatar" and "Harry Potter" whose production is largely digital from pre-visualization through image origination and into post-production, Hollywood is now spending hundreds of millions of dollars each year on digital filmmaking.

As Eastman Kodak's West Coast Applications Specialist and a digital film artist who has worked on over twenty feature films, I witnessed the transformation of Hollywood into a center for digital filmmaking and saw many lucrative careers blossom as young people without much experience became well-paid technologists through hands on experience. The thought has often occurred to me that the kids of Compton could be every bit as skilled and productive at these jobs if they were given a chance and a little background knowledge.

A Multi-Media Library would provide students with the basics for digital origination of images (shooting), editing and compositing, (the layering of live action and computer generated imagery) that can be seen in big budget feature films and in television series, commercials and web based video. Digital music engineering and production could also be developed here. Since many of these skills overlap with the skills needed to build web sites, web design and authoring would be another skill taught at this center of empowerment for Compton youth.

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